

**NIGERIA
GOVERNORS'
FORUM**



REVIEWED

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SA/17/12

**MINUTES OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE NIGERIA
GOVERNORS' FORUM IN 2012**

HELD ON

31st OCTOBER, 2012

AT THE

**RIVERS STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE, ASOKORO,
ABUJA**

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi	Rivers	Governor/Chairman
2	Mr. Peter Obi	Anambra	Governor/Deputy Chairman
3	Chief T. A. Orji	Abia	Governor
4	Vice Admiral Murtala H. Nyako (Rtd.)	Adamawa	Governor
5	Dr. Obong Godswill Akpabio	Akwa Ibom	Governor
6	Mallam Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
7	Hon. Seriake Dickson	Bayelsa	Governor
8	Mr Gabriel T. Suswam Esq.	Benue	Governor
9	Hon. Kashim Shettima	Borno	Governor
10	Senator Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
11	Dr E. E. Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
12	Comrade Adams A. Oshiomhole	Edo	Governor
13	Owelle Rochas Okorochoa	Imo	Governor
14	Sir Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa	Kaduna	Governor
15	Capt. Idris I. Wada	Kogi	Governor
16	Alhaji Abdulfatah Ahmed	Kwara	Governor
17	Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN)	Lagos	Governor
18	Dr Olusegun Mimiko	Ondo	Governor
19	Air Commodore Jonathan D. Jang (Rtd.)	Plateau	Governor
20	Alhaji (Dr) M. Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
21	Engr. Nweze David Umahi	Ebonyi	Deputy Governor
22	Mrs Funmi Olayinka	Ekiti	Deputy Governor
23	Mr. Sunday C. Onyebuchi	Enugu	Acting Governor
24	Hon. J. R. Thaanda	Gombe	Deputy Governor
25	Alhaji Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
26	Dr. A. U. Ganduje	Kano	Deputy Governor
27	Alhaji Ibrahim K. Aliyu	Kebbi	Deputy Governor
28	Hon. Dameshi B. Luka	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor
29	Hon. Ahmed M. Ibep	Niger	Deputy Governor
30	Alhaji Garba Umar	Taraba	Deputy Governor

APOLOGIES

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Dr Ibrahim Shewu Shema	Katsina	Governor
2	Senator Ibikunle Amosun	Ogun	Governor
3	Engr. Rauf Aregbesola	Osun	Governor
4	Senator Abiola Ajimobi	Oyo	Governor
5	Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam	Yobe	Governor
6	Alhaji Abdul-Aziz Yari Abubakar	Zamfara	Governor

S/N	NOTES/RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY
1.0	<p>Commencement</p> <p>The meeting started at 8.42 pm with an opening prayer said by the Governor of Lagos State.</p>	
2.0	<p>Minutes of the Last NGF Meeting</p>	
2.1	<p>Minutes for the last meeting held on the 17th of October, 2012 were reviewed and the following amendments were made:</p> <p>a. Name of the Deputy Senate President was omitted from the list of attendees and should be included</p> <p>b. Paragraph 3.1 should read as "time is of <i>the</i> essence"</p> <p>c. First paragraph on page 4 should be reviewed to reflect that the required constitutional amendment is regarding the current provision of the law that allows the President to send laws to the NASS reviewing the revenue sharing formula</p> <p>d. Page 5, paragraph (e) last line, should also be rephrased.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>
2.2	<p>Motion for adoption of the minutes was moved by Sokoto State Governor, and seconded by the Niger State Deputy Governor.</p>	
3.0	<p>Chairman's Brief</p>	
3.1	<p>The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. He announced that the NEC meeting had been scheduled for the 1st of November 2012, and that the president had indicated his interest in attending the meeting. A key priority on the agenda for the meeting would be Education due to the observed deterioration in the quality of educational outcomes in recent years. He noted that more advanced economies spend less but have better outcomes; therefore a reform of the sector is needed.</p>	
3.2	<p>Chairman also informed the Forum of the inaugural meeting and fund raising event of the Aliko Dangote led Presidential Committee on Flood Relief and Rehabilitation on November 8, 2012. He entreated fellow Governors to ensure attendance and support.</p>	<p>All States</p>
4.0	<p>Security Issues</p>	
4.1	<p>The Chairman expressed deep concern about recent security breaches and the apparent rise in number of incidents in the country. In particular, he expressed concern about the impact of</p>	

these incidents on economic activities in the country. He commiserated with Borno and Kaduna States regarding recent incidents and invited them to update the house.

a. **Borno**

The Governor of Borno State informed the house about an incident in Borno that morning, in which one of the foremost businessmen in the state had been shot dead, and another incident in which a church was burned with one life lost. He reported that much had already been done to tackle the insurgents with many killed and others arrested, but noted that there was still a remnant which continued to pose a threat. All effort was being made to tackle the problem by reaching out to the groups to encourage them to surrender their weapon so that peace can be restored. He also noted that many criminals were hiding under the guise of Boko Haram.

b. **Kaduna**

The Governor of Kaduna State updated the house on the details of the attack on a place of worship in Kaduna with over 1000 worshippers present on Sunday 28th October. He said that he had visited the scene on Monday, 29th October, and noted that the victims were mainly women and children. Although the impact of the attack was minimised by the strong fence and walls of the building, 6 people died. Victims are in 5 hospitals spread over Kaduna, but the Nigeria Medical Society and the Nigeria Red Cross have been on hand to aid medical personnel. The Governor advised the Forum that the State Government was not resting on the matter and due to the measures taken; no attacks had been carried out in Kaduna metropolis for some time. However, there could be no guarantee that there would be no more attacks in future. He said any suggestions from the house on tackling the issue would be appreciated.

c. **Adamawa**

Noted that terrorists do not surrender arms, rather in Adamawa, an alternative strategy of disarmament had proved effective. Further work is now underway to detect and seize clusters of weapons, and to beef up security at places of worship, where people are searched and only allowed access through designated entry points, which despite the inconvenience, has met with the people's cooperation. He however noted that the strategy is very costly.

d. **Bauchi**

Noted that the insurgents are heavily armed, and agreed with the Governor of Adamawa state that criminals do not just surrender their weapons and stop being criminals. Even when

disarmed, they are so deeply indoctrinated that they cannot stop their acts of terror, so post disarmament de-briefs and reintegration to society is crucial. Furthermore, he suggested that a hitherto overlooked external component of the Boko Haram menace. Specifically, he pointed to Mali – as a country divided with several competing cells of the sect. To this end, he asked that the Forum should propose to the President that he should take the issue up with ECOWAS and even the AU.

e. **Abia**

Every state can initiate its own modality. Information is however essential and powerful in the tackling the issue. In Abia, an office was established in every Local Government Area and one in the office of the Governor, which coordinated the operation. Trusted people were chosen to run each office and recruit informants. Where useful information was provided, informants were rewarded and the incentive worked well. He suggested that the army and police needed to work together rather than to compete with each other. If the latter is the case, then it must be addressed to ensure that both forces work together effectively.

f. **Anambra**

Expressed concern at the development and the impact on the country's image to foreigners. Security is a police matter, employing different strategies and armed forces is not done anywhere else in the world, and the Nigerian Police need to be supported to tackle the problem. He suggested that the Forum should start having regular meetings with the police council to tackle this problem. At the meeting, proper discussions on funding and other key requirements of the police can be held. This he later clarified as not meaning a contribution of money to support police, but simply a forum for discussion and proffering solutions to key issues.

g. **Kwara**

Suggested that the Nigeria Police is in real need of transformation to address the lack of funding which is key to building modern infrastructure. He said the NGF should seek to play an active role in this transformation process.

h. **Lagos**

Noted that the issue is of concern to all as the impact though not direct in some states, is indirectly felt through social and economic channels. The threat is not just from Mali but also Niger as the evidence suggests that the insurgents tend to speak in Arabic which is often mistaken for Hausa by non-Hausa speaking states. Border control is a necessary first step to curb the influx of insurgents so that other local issues can be

dealt with. He suggested that the Forum should invite NSA to update them on the state of Security in Nigeria, before a plan of action is devised. Furthermore, he said that it appeared that there is a short fall in FG funding of the police, and the Forum may wish to contribute to a fund to support the police. The current inspector general of police could also be empowered, and given a mandate, resources and a timeframe to quell the problem. Governors need to be actively engaged in security even when things appear peaceful, they must remain innovative and resourceful, with conscious planning and decision making.

i. **Imo**

Notes that security is a global issue, but Nigeria seems particularly unprepared. State CEOs must take charge and personal responsibility, for security, but until the local people are fully involved it will not be effective. He suggested the creation of similar bodies to the National Guards, State Police and other security task forces that obtain in other countries.

j. **Delta**

Suggested that the NGF Committee on Security should meet immediately to formulate an agenda/action plan that they may push in front of the President. He also agreed with Lagos on the porosity of our borders. He lamented that there are at least 24 known private jetties in Delta State. Although these were illegal, they are seemingly operating on the basis of authorization given from Abuja (Federal). He is concerned that arms and ammunitions could very easily come through these cracks in our borders.

k. **Bauchi**

Agreed with Delta also informing the House of ^{his} ~~its~~ recent discoveries of illegal airstrips and helipads that were hitherto run by private individuals. X ?

l. **Edo**

Supported his colleagues who suggested a meeting with the President and heads of security agencies. He opined that the issue of State Police should be viewed as more long term and that it was not the solution to the more pressing insecurity concerns that the country is currently faced with.

m. **Bayelsa**

Supported the suggestion that the Forum should seek audience with the President and Security chiefs. He said that the Constitutional Amendment Committee should collaborate with NASS to explore a bill that will look into the administration of the police force in a manner that would not impinge on operations of the IG. ~~the~~

4.2	The Forum resolved that a meeting of the Security Committee should be convened as soon as possible after which the Committee will brief the house on possible next steps.	Security Committee
5.0	Update on Polio Eradication Initiative	
5.1	The Chairman registered his concern that although Polio has been a fixed agenda item at Forum meetings, the number of reported cases has continued to rise, increasing from 93 to 101 since the last report. He said that although the situation on ground seems to have improved since <u>the infusion by the President last month</u> , all hands should be on deck with all states' internal processes being channelled towards identifying and isolating the occurrences of Polio.	?
6.0	Update on FAAC: ECA Litigation in the Supreme Court	
6.1	<p>a. Chairman informed the Forum that there is an outstanding payment of N143bn from FAAC reimbursements before the President, all efforts are being made to ensure that the fund is released. Agreement has been reached that the fund should be disbursed by the end of November/1st week of December.</p> <p>b. ECA Litigation – The Chairman called for all remaining contributions from the states to the suit to be remitted to the Secretariat for onward transmission to the attorneys. He reminded the Forum of the total contributions due per state (N9.33m). He went on to list states with outstanding balances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adamawa Akwa Ibom Anambra Bayelsa Benue Borno Cross River Delta Edo Ekiti Imo Kaduna Katsina Kwara Niger Ogun Ondo Osun Oyo Plateau 	<p>the</p> <p>All States</p>

Sokoto
Taraba
Yobe
Zamfara

- c. The Akwa Ibom State Governor raised an issue with the Terms of Settlement (TOS) relating to this suit, which he suggested needed to be reviewed because of time that had elapsed, and disagreement regarding the nature of a loan which was purported to have been made to his state regarding Akwa Ibom Power (value \$80m) under the previous administration.
- d. The Chairman responded by providing background on the TOS in question, and advised that the terms were arrived at before his tenure as Chairman. He also added that even though there was no final approval of the TOS by then President Yar'adua before his demise, the same TOS were distributed to all Governors for review and agreement before moving forward with the agreement.

7.0 **AOB**

7.1 **Update on Governor Suntai's health following the air plane crash**

- a. The Chairman informed the Forum that Governor Suntai is in stable condition in a hospital in Germany. He especially commended the efforts of the Adamawa and Delta states Governors on the key roles they played in getting Governor Suntai the emergency assistance needed immediately after the crash and in airlifting him ultimately to Germany for further treatment.
- b. Both Adamawa and Delta States Governors also provided their own accounts of events following the accident, and advised that the Governor's ADC is now also in stable condition and is recovering sufficiently well.
- c. The Governor of Delta State suggested that a visit on behalf of the Forum to their colleague hospitalized in Germany should be planned.
- d. **The Governor of Imo State** decried the state of the country's healthcare delivery system; lamenting the fact that there are no functional trauma/accident response centres nor can the country boast of one air ambulance. He suggested that this is an area that the Forum needs to take a critical look at and come up with a proactive solution.
- e. Chairman resolved that a visit will be scheduled in coming

Chairman

Members	<p>weeks or at such a time as Governor Suntai would be able to receive visitors, and volunteered to convey selected members with his state's aircraft.</p>	
7.2	<p>Ondo State Gubernatorial Elections</p> <p>a. The Chairman on behalf of the Forum congratulated Governor Mimiko on his re-election, and expressed his confidence in continued cordial working relationship between Ondo State and the Forum.</p> <p>b. Governor Mimiko accepted the congratulations and also thanked his colleagues (Delta and Adamawa) for their comradeship towards Governor Suntai.</p>	the
7.3	<p>The Governor of Lagos State went on to raise the following issues:</p> <p>a. He suggested that critical attention needs to be given to the process of privatisation of the country's power assets (DISCOS). He used the experiences of the TELCOS privatisation process as a backdrop and pointed out that the monies collected from their sale have not yet been accounted for or brought to the public domain.</p> <p>b. He also raised the issue of the on-going fuel scarcity and its paralyzing impact on economic activities, and causing untold hardships to Nigerians due to hikes in transportation costs amongst others.</p> <p>c. Furthermore, he drew attention to problems in the aviation industry, pointed out that only 2 airlines were operating local flights currently. This means that the 2 airlines have had to bear the load normally shared by more airlines, and as a result, travellers have to waste a significant amount of time due to delays in scheduled flights.</p>	
7.3	<p>a. The Vice Chairman agreed with the Governor of Lagos State's assessment on the three issues raised, and said these should be raised at the NEC meeting on the following day as they are actually key issues with economic and social consequences that need to be addressed. This view was supported by the Plateau State Governor, while Kogi State lent support to the issue raised on aviation.</p> <p>b. Edo State Governor expressed dismay at the delays in disbursing monthly FAAC payments over the last few months. He said historically, disbursement occurred with two days of a FAAC meeting allowing for salaries to be paid before the end of</p>	

the same month. This is no longer the practice. Rather, the state in recent months has paid salaries late, sometimes not until the 1st week of the following month, or later. He said this was making governance almost untenable, and should be addressed.

- c. Cross River State Governor informed the Forum of statistics emanating from the aviation industry suggesting that every 1 in 10 air mishaps in the world occurs in Nigeria. He also offered that with regard to NIPPs, his colleagues need to know that most of the companies in question were not actually being privatised.
- d. Ondo State Governor drew attention to an item in the minutes of the last meeting which touched on the issue of NASS approaching or inviting the Speakers of the State Houses of Assembly for discussion on political matters. He suggested that the Forum holds a firm line and advise the NASS leaders to desist from such actions that could cause discord. Furthermore, he expressed concern that the Forum may be losing momentum on the constitutional Amendment process while all other stakeholders seem to be pressing on quickly.
- e. Benue State Governor stated that it is the severe lack of funds to meet the state's basic recurrent expenses that makes it seem like the state executive is not willing to augment their Speakers' funding. He said a state like his spends more than 2/3 of their allocation on settling wages with little or nothing left for anything else.
- f. The Vice Chairman re-iterated his view that:
 - i. Due to the financial constraints of the state, financial autonomy of speakers is impossible;
 - ii. Federating units of government must be left at only two;
 - iii. At the future NEC meetings, the Forum should be more actively involved in agenda-setting and in fact the Forum should request that the agenda for the meeting scheduled for the following day (1st November) be amended to accommodate the pertinent economic related issues that were raised at this meeting.

- 7.4 a. The Chairman reiterated the need to work as a unit on all matters of constitutional amendment. He highlighted the fact that the process was on-going and re-stated that the issue of Devolution of Powers was one area that the Governors were in agreement, and another area now appears to be that the recognised federating units in the country should be kept at 2 (Federal and state).

	<p>b. He resolved to summon all 36 speakers to a brainstorming session but cautioned that in order to convince them to stand down on their agitations for financial autonomy; Governors have to agree to substantially augment their speakers financially, as well as expose their books to them so that they are aware of the true state of their finances.</p> <p>c. He also directed that the Constitutional Amendment and the Good Governance and Peer Review Committees as duly constituted, should meet as soon as possible to formulate an action plan and revert to the full Forum. The Forum will then harmonise and pass same to the NASS.</p> <p>d. The Forum also resolved that the issues raised on Aviation, Fuel Scarcity, Security, and the Excess Crude Account should be raised at NEC meeting</p> <p>e. He tentatively scheduled the next NGF meeting for Tuesday, November 27th, 2012.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Constitutional Amendment, and Good Governance and Peer Review Committees</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>Secretariat</p>
8.0	Adjournment/Conclusion	
8.1	The Meeting rose at 12:47AM with a closing prayer by Ondo State Governor.	

Rt.Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum
31st October, 2012

ACTIONS LOG

MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

Ref no.	Date	Description	Action By	Time line	Status	Review Date
M12/001	31/10/12	Amendments to minutes of the meeting	Secretariat			
M12/002	31/10/12	All states to attend and support the inaugural meeting and fund raising event of the Aliko Dangote led Presidential Committee on Flood Relief and Rehabilitation on November 8, 2012.	All States			
M12/003	31/10/12	Security Committee should convene a meeting as soon as possible, after which the Committee will brief the house on possible next steps	Security Committee		Return	
M12/004	31/10/12	Chairman called for all remaining contributions from the states towards the ECA litigation to be remitted to the Secretariat for onward transmission to the attorneys.	All States with outstanding dues			
M12/005	31/10/12	Visit to Governor Suntai in as soon as he is able to receive visitors.	Chairman		Return	
M12/006	31/10/12	Meeting with all 36 State Speakers	Chairman		Return	
M12/007	31/10/12	Meeting of the Constitutional Amendment, and the Good Governance and Peer Review Committees as soon as possible to formulate an action plan and revert to the full Forum.	Good Governance and Peer Review, and Constitutional Amendment Committees		Return	
M12/008	31/10/12	Issues raised on Aviation, Fuel Scarcity, Security, and the Excess Crude Account to be raised at NEC	Chairman			

the

		meeting				
M12/009	31/10/12	Next NGF meeting for Tuesday, November 27th, 2012 (tentatively)	Secretariat			



NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

12th Meeting in 2012

Wednesday, October 30, 2012

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayers;
2. Chairman's Brief;
3. Consideration and Adoption of the Minutes of the Last NGF Meeting;
4. Security & other emerging crucial issues;
5. Latest on polio eradication initiative;
6. Brief on the FAAC Distribution Template/accessing the Ecological Fund - By Governor of Gombe State....outstanding;
7. A.O.B.



COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2012, AT THE RIVERS STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE, ABUJA

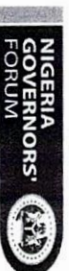
We, the Governors of the 36 States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at our 12th meeting held today Wednesday 31st October, 2012 at the Rivers State Governor's Lodge, Abuja deliberated over a number of issues and resolved as follows;

1. Forum extensively deliberated on the recurrent insecurity in the country and expresses deep regret over the recent acts of violence in Borno and Kaduna states, and consequently mandated the security committee of the Forum to commence work immediately with a view of finding a lasting solution.
2. On the current efforts to eradicate Polio, Forum commended the on-going efforts of members in their various states in the past six months and reiterated the need for renewed commitment to eradicating polio by December 2013 as agreed at its previous meeting.
3. Forum further expressed deep concern over the unfortunate Air craft accident involving the governor of Taraba State, Mr. Danbaba Suntai, who is presently receiving treatment in Germany. While extending best wishes to his family, prayed for his speedy recovery.
4. Upon comprehensive discussion on the present state of the Aviation industry, members of the Forum observed that there is need for a holistic approach to arrest the dwindling state of the Aviation sector and resolved to engage all stakeholders at the national level to address this challenge.
5. Forum congratulated the governor of Ondo State, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko over his recent re-election in the just concluded governorship election.

Rt. Hon Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi
Governor of Rivers State
& Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum
October 31st 2012

CONSOLIDATED ACTIONS LOG

MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM



Ref. No.	Date	Description	Action by	Time line	Status (with Comment)	Review Date
M9/001	22/08/12	Chair to brief the National Economic Council (NEC) on the Excess Crude Account litigation in the Supreme Court at the next NEC meeting scheduled for the following day, 23 rd August, 2012.	Chair	23/08/12		
M9/002	22/08/12	States that are yet to meet commitment of N9, 333, 333. 33 towards paying the legal and other professional fees as agreed by the Forum, to pay up so lawyers can file their cases in September.	Outstanding States			
SM/001	24/08/12	Committee was constituted to liaise with the NASS to facilitate the approval of the borrowing plan.	The Forum		Completed	
SM/002	24/08/12	Minister of Finance to provide guidelines on how to access loans to NGF	Finance Minister			
SM/003	24/08/12	A Special Meeting on the Railway Master plan to be convened	Secretariat			
M10/001	19/09/12	Required amendments to planned dates etc. of the good governance tour should be passed through the Akwa-Ibom governor to be tabled at the tour planning committee.	Governor, Awa-Ibom			
M10/002	19/09/12	To explore changing the planned date for the good governance visit to Kogi state.	DG, NGFS			