

**RECORD OF THE MEETING WITH THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE, HIS EXCELLENCY, ASIWAJU AHMED BOLA TINUBU (ABT) HELD IN HIS RESIDENCE ON WEDNESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2009**

| S/N | NOTES/RESOLUTIONS  | ACTION BY |
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|     | <p><b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A.B.Okauru – Director General, NGF</li> <li>2. M.A. Jibia – Executive Director (Finance &amp; Administration), NGF</li> <li>3. A.T. Shittu – Executive Director (Strategy &amp; Research), NGF</li> <li>4. Chuku, C.C – Head, Legal, NGF</li> <li>5. Dr. Olu Ayewoh – NGF Policy Consultant (Education)</li> <li>6. Dr. Dale Ogunbayo – NGF Policy Consultant (Health)</li> <li>7. Dr. Philip Olomola – NGF Policy Consultant (Economy)</li> <li>8. Iliyasu Gashinbaki – NGF Policy Consultant (IGR)</li> <li>9. His Excellency, Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu – Former Governor, Lagos State</li> <li>10. Dele Alake –Former Commissioner for Information &amp; Strategy, Lagos State</li> </ol> <p>The Director General (DG), Nigeria Governors’ Forum (NGF) introduced his team to His Excellency, Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu (ABT), the former Governor of Lagos State. He informed ABT that the NGF team under his leadership was in Lagos State as part of an exercise to develop a frame work for peer reviewing the States. In recognition of his pioneering developmental efforts in the State, the team felt the need to pay him a courtesy call. He informed ABT that the team was quite impressed by the huge developmental strides in the State which had generated a tremendous amount of goodwill for the governor, Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN. It was also clear that the developments in the State would not have been possible but for ABT’s focused leadership and strong foundation laid during his administration (1999-2007). He assured ABT that from his conversations with the governor, it was obvious that the governor clearly acknowledged and appreciated the role of ABT in the good work going on in the State.</p> <p>The DG recalled recent media reports about political developments in the State, which in his view had the tendency to distract and destabilise the system. He urged ABT to continue to support the governor so that the foundation he laid in the State does not collapse.</p> <p>In his response, ABT thanked the team for coming to see him and apologised for keeping them waiting. He expressed satisfaction with the leadership of Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, the chairman of NGF. He recalled that he was part of the decision to form the NGF and the Secretariat as envisaged in the early days was a simple and small office for collection of mails and other sundry</p> |           |

activities.

Owing to the peculiar challenges of the time, particularly in the light of constant confrontations with an imperialistic president, the old Forum did not give much attention to policy issues. He was convinced that the team before him was capable of moving the Forum to great heights. He emphasised his belief in federalism and was of the opinion that in a true federalism, the country would not ground to a halt because the President was indisposed. He reiterated that in a country practising true federalism, the States were strong and autonomous.

Going down memory lane, he recalled the initial challenges of governing Lagos State. The State was bankrupt and the records were still there as proof. His fresh ideas and approach to governance elicited criticism and hostilities from the citizens. For instance, he remembered that the computerisation of the systems in the State revealed an alarming number of ghost workers and saved the State about N200m even though he had been abused when it was first introduced.

He borrowed N15b from the reserve fund to facilitate his programmes and upon exit from office left N22.7billion in the Fund. He built a lot of roads within the State and began the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) amidst a lot of hostilities and mistrust. He conceded a certain amount of pride at the foundation he had laid in the State.

Regarding the newspaper reports mentioned by the DG, he dismissed them as inconsequential and a non-issue. He assured the visiting team that there was too much at stake to allow fifth columnists and the opposition to destroy the good work that was going on. He described the State House of Assembly (SHA) as a zoo and the legislators and the Speaker as animals and curator respectively. Having said that, he warned that the events going on at the SHA should however not be ignored. He further expressed the view that anytime legislators united behind a common cause, it was not to be treated lightly but rather should be given the attention that it deserved. Their capacity for mischief should not be under-estimated. He also felt that the dust raised by the fiasco was meant to get his attention and now that they had succeeded in getting his agreement to intercede, everything would be fine.

Finally, he once again thanked the team for the visit and assured them that anytime he was in Abuja, he would invite them again for another chat where he would have more time to take them down memory lane on his experience as the Governor of Lagos State (1999-2007).

Chuku, C.C, Esq  
Secretary