



**MINUTES OF THE 10th MEETING OF NIGERIA
GOVERNORS' FORUM IN 2018**

HELD ON

14th November, 2018

AT THE

NGF SECRETARIAT, MAITAMA ABUJA

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ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1.	Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar	Zamfara	Governor/Chairman
2.	Udom Emmanuel	Akwa Ibom	Governor
3.	Mohammed A. Abubakar	Bauchi	Governor
4.	Samuel Ortom	Benue	Governor
5.	Kayode Fayemi	Ekiti	Governor
6.	Mohammed Badaru Abubakar	Jigawa	Governor
7.	Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai	Kaduna	Governor
8.	Dr. A.U. Ganduje	Kano	Governor
9.	Abubakar Atiku Bagudu	Kebbi	Governor
10.	Yahaya Bello	Kogi	Governor
11.	Akin Ambode	Lagos	Governor
12.	Usman M. Durkwa	Borno	Deputy Governor
13.	Ezeilo Cecilia O.	Enugu	Deputy Governor
14.	Mannir Yakubu	Katsina	Deputy Governor
15.	Hon. Ajayi Agboola	Ondo	Deputy Governor
16.	Prof. Sonni Tyoden	Plateau	Deputy Governor

S/N	NOTES	ACTION BY
1.0	COMMENCEMENT	
	The meeting commenced at 6.12pm with opening prayers by the Governor of Jigawa and Taraba States.	
2.0	CHAIRMAN'S BRIEF	
	<p>The Chairman welcomed the Governors to the meeting and informed them that there was a letter from the Office of the VP stating that the meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) would not hold the following day, 15th November 2018.</p> <p>Regarding the new National Minimum Wage, the Chairman informed the meeting that there was a need to hold further discussions with the Federal Government (FG), especially as it concerns the N30,000 (Thirty Thousand Naira) recommendation.</p> <p>He informed the meeting that there have been positive signals from both the FG and the National Assembly (NASS) on the Infrastructure Refund and the refund would be effected by way of FG bonds. The NGF was engaging with the Debt Management Office (DMO) and the Ministry of Finance to work on it and bring it to a suitable conclusion. It was noted that some States had been omitted from the approval that was released from NASS and the Chairman assured that it would be addressed.</p>	Chairman/NGF
3.0	ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	
	The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Forum was reviewed and in the absence of any corrections or observations, the Governor of Kebbi State moved for its adoption and was seconded by the Governor of Kaduna State.	
4.0	UPDATE ON UN-ACCESSED UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION GRANT AND COUNTERPART FUND	
	<p>Following a meeting between the Director General of the NGF and the Executive Secretary of UBEC on Tuesday 18, 2018, the Forum was availed the details of States' un-accessed funds domiciled at UBEC.</p> <p>As at 31st August, 2018, total un-accessed funds stood at N87, 353, 475, 286. 53 (Eighty-Seven Billion, Three Hundred and Fifty-Three Million, Four Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand, Two Hundred</p>	

	and Eighty-Six Naira, Fifty-Three Kobo). A summary of the un-accessed Matching Grant and Counterpart Fund paid as at 31 st August 2018 was presented to the Forum for consideration.	Six Naira, Fifty-Three Kobo). A summary of the un-accessed Matching Grant and Counterpart Fund paid as at 31 st August 2018 was presented to the Forum for consideration.
5.0	UPDATE ON NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE	
	<p>The Governor of Kebbi State and Chairman of the NGF Sub-committee on the National Minimum Wage (NMW), HE Atiku Bagudu briefed the meeting on developments concerning the new NMW. Flowing from the Emergency meeting of the NGF held on 30th October 2018 and a subsequent meeting of the Tripartite Committee on the NMW, the Committee held the view that the NGF recommendation of N22,500 (Twenty Thousand, Five Hundred Naira) came in very late, after the Committee had already adopted the Federal Government (FG) position of N24,000 (Twenty Four Thousand Position) as one of the offers to be considered.</p> <p>In reaching the above conclusion, the Committee relied on an earlier meeting (of the Tripartite Committee) held on 5th September 2018. The Forum was reminded that the Chairman of the Sub-committee had attended the meeting but protested the holding of the meeting on a day that Governors were absent holding party primaries. Nevertheless, the Committee took the position that there were recommendations from the other parties in the Tripartite Committee (FG and Organised Labour). According to the Committee, the NGF did not send in any recommendation.</p> <p>After very extensive discussions, the Report of the Tripartite was signed by all except the NGF Representative because he did not have the authority of the Forum to sign it.</p> <p>In the light of the NGF's position, the Forum was invited to note that the Committee did not quite meet one of Mr. President's inaugural directives – that the Committee must reach a Consensus.</p> <p>Following the Sub-committee Chairman's Report and attendant deliberations by members, the Forum agreed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>That States are not able to pay N30,000;</i> 2. <i>To constitute a Committee that would meet with Mr. President and present their position with facts and figures;</i> 3. <i>In the alternative, amend the existing Revenue Allocation Formula giving States a larger share of the allocation to enable them pay the revised minimum wage.</i> <p>Consequently, the Secretariat was directed to collect and collate data from States to reflect these variables (Average Personnel Cost, No of People in employment and amount payable using the 3 minimum</p>	<p>Six Naira, Fifty-Three Kobo). A summary of the un-accessed Matching Grant and Counterpart Fund paid as at 31st August 2018 was presented to the Forum for consideration.</p> <p>The Governor of Kebbi State and Chairman of the NGF Sub-committee on the National Minimum Wage (NMW), HE Atiku Bagudu briefed the meeting on developments concerning the new NMW. Flowing from the Emergency meeting of the NGF held on 30th October 2018 and a subsequent meeting of the Tripartite Committee on the NMW, the Committee held the view that the NGF recommendation of N22,500 (Twenty Thousand, Five Hundred Naira) came in very late, after the Committee had already adopted the Federal Government (FG) position of N24,000 (Twenty Four Thousand Position) as one of the offers to be considered.</p> <p>In reaching the above conclusion, the Committee relied on an earlier meeting (of the Tripartite Committee) held on 5th September 2018. The Forum was reminded that the Chairman of the Sub-committee had attended the meeting but protested the holding of the meeting on a day that Governors were absent holding party primaries. Nevertheless, the Committee took the position that there were recommendations from the other parties in the Tripartite Committee (FG and Organised Labour). According to the Committee, the NGF did not send in any recommendation.</p> <p>After very extensive discussions, the Report of the Tripartite was signed by all except the NGF Representative because he did not have the authority of the Forum to sign it.</p> <p>In the light of the NGF's position, the Forum was invited to note that the Committee did not quite meet one of Mr. President's inaugural directives – that the Committee must reach a Consensus.</p> <p>Following the Sub-committee Chairman's Report and attendant deliberations by members, the Forum agreed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>That States are not able to pay N30,000;</i> 2. <i>To constitute a Committee that would meet with Mr. President and present their position with facts and figures;</i> 3. <i>In the alternative, amend the existing Revenue Allocation Formula giving States a larger share of the allocation to enable them pay the revised minimum wage.</i> <p>Consequently, the Secretariat was directed to collect and collate data from States to reflect these variables (Average Personnel Cost, No of People in employment and amount payable using the 3 minimum</p>

	<p>wage scenarios – N18,000, N24,000 and N30,000).</p> <p>The Forum selected eight (8) States for the scenario analysis and computation – Ondo, Katsina, Bauchi, Niger, Plateau, Enugu, Edo and Akwa Ibom States.</p> <p>The following States were co-opted into the Committee to visit Mr President on behalf of the Forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lagos 2. Kebbi 3. Akwa Ibom 4. Ebonyi 5. Kaduna 6. Plateau 7. Bauchi 8. Enugu 9. Zamfara 	
6.0	DISTURBANCES IN KADUNA STATE	
	<p>The Governor of Kaduna State thanked the Forum for the support they have shown over the unfortunate occurrence in his State. There were remote and immediate causes of the crisis. The remote causes lay in the fragile relationship between the Southern and Northern parts of the State. The immediate cause was a disagreement that began in the market and degenerated into a Christian/Muslim face-off and culminated in the kidnap of a Traditional Ruler. The Traditional Ruler was later murdered in cold blood triggering off another spate of unrest and ultimately the destruction of lives and property. To curb the fiasco, the Governor declared curfew on the State and about 93 persons had been arrested. Investigations were on-going, and the curfew was lifted on 13th November 2018. Things were returning to normal and there were regular security reviews.</p> <p>The Governor also expressed gratitude on the existence of a Military Command in the State and wondered what could have been the story had soldiers not stepped in to arrest the situation.</p>	
7.0	HEALTH UPDATE	
	<p>The NGF Health Consultant, Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab updated the Forum as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outbreak of Vaccine-derived polio virus in Katsina, Jigawa and Yobe States. There was however good response from the affected States and National Primary Healthcare 	

	<p>Development Agency (NPHCDA). State Governors were enjoined to continue to support Polio Eradication Initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outbreak of Yellow Fever. Confirmed cases in Kwara, Kogi, Kano, Zamfara, Kebbi, Nasarawa, Niger, Katsina, Edo, Ekiti, Rivers, Anambra, FCT and Benue States). Yellow fever campaigns conducted in Nasarawa, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Kogi, Kwara, Zamfara and parts of Borno State. The next phase of campaigns would take place from 22nd November – 1st December 2018 in Sokoto, Kebbi, Niger, FCT, Plateau and the remaining part of Borno State. States are expected to release counterpart fund. • Introduction of the Tax for Health Model (Increased tax compliance leading to Access and availability of better health services, increased fund allocation to health and increased IGR). 	
8.0	PRESENTATION ON ACCELARATING HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA	
	<p>The Forum heard a Presentation on Human Capital Development (HCD) by the Human Capital Development Core Working Group of NEC comprising Representatives of Mackenzie Foundation, Aliko Dangote Foundation and the World Bank. The sense of the Presentation is sumamrised thus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nigeria ranks as a country with a low human development, below sub-Saharan Africa average (across major indices); Health and nutrition, Education and labour force participation were identified as core thematic areas in this effort; Overall, health and nutrition are primarily a State level challenge with the lowest indicators in the Northern States; Stunting rates are highest in the Northern States which also have the highest poverty rates; <p>A number of key events have taken place on the HCD effort namely Health prioritisation, Education, Labour Force Participation and Visioning workshops. Others are World Bank Annual Meeting and Steering Committee meetings. They emphasised the need for a State Focal Person to ensure that HCD effort got the right level of attention and coordination. It was agreed that emails would be sent to States yet to appoint Focal Persons to remind them.</p> <p>The Forum thanked them for the Presentation and promised to give it due consideration.</p>	<p>NEC Human Capital Development Core Working Group</p>

9.0	ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING	
	<p>The Governor of Ekiti State moved for adjournment and was seconded by the Governor of Kano State.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7:48pm.</p>	

Honourable Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar
Governor, Zamfara State
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum

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