**GOVERNORS’ SPOUSES’ SUMMIT REPORT**

**TRANSCORP HILTON,**

**ABUJA, NIGERIA**

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**MAY 19, 2023**

# **1.00 GOVERNORS’ SPOUCES’ SUMMIT**

**Venue: Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, Nigeria**

Day 1 - 18th May 2023

The Opening remark was presented by H.E. Dr Mariya Aminu Tambuwal

**The highlights of her speech are as follows.**

* Congratulated the incoming governors and their spouses on their victory in the 2023 election
* Reiterated that the theme of the induction is titled ‘Partnership for impact. First ladies and subnational governance’
* Pointed out that the goal of the summit is to emphasize the importance of partnership and collaboration between first ladies, government agencies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to promote effective subnational governance
* She thereafter provided a rundown of the days agenda which includes
* Listening to goodwill messages from H.E. Hadiza El Rufai, H.E Mrs. Martha Udom, Mrs. Erelu Bisi Fayemi and Honorable Minister of Women affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen
* Keynote address by Governor of Sokoto state and Chairman of Nigeria Governors Forum H.E. Rt Honourable Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
* Welcome address by Guest of Honour, the First lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Her excellency, Dr Mrs. Aisha Buhari
* Vote of thanks to be given at the end of first session by secretary of the forum. H.E Amb. Dr Mrs. Olufolake, Abdulrazak, First lady, Kwara state.
* Listening to presentations from the Department security services, National drug law enforcement agency and the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) during the second session and
* Holding a roundtable discussion with donors, development partners and stakeholders during the last session of the day.

**The highlights of the goodwill messages of H.E Mrs. Hadiza El Rufai, Chair Northern Nigeria Governors’ spouses’ forum are as follows**

* Congratulated the spouses of the governors on the election success of their husband.
* Thanked outgoing members of governors’ spouses’ for ensuring continued effort towards national development.
* Noted that northern governors’ wives worked assiduously to reduce drug misuse and gender-based violence and concluded that the outgoing governors’ wives are always available to support the incoming spouses of the governors when called upon.

**The highlights of the goodwill messages of H.E Mrs. Martha Udom, Chair Southern Nigeria Governors’ spouses’ forum are as follows**

* Appreciated God for seeing the wives of outgoing governors through the four and eight years of their governance activities.
* Advised spouses of governors to work together irrespective of their political inclination.
* Commended the wife of the president for supporting the forum and appealed to the wives of incoming governors to continue to support the forum and make it functional.

**The highlights of the goodwill messages of Mrs. Erelu Bisi Fayemi Chair, Board of trustee, Nigeria Governors’ spouses’ forum are as follows**

* Appreciated outgoing and incoming wives of the governors for their support to Governors’ spouses’ forum.
* Noted that the board of trustee of governors’ spouses was established to guarantee the sustainability of the forum.
* Listed the key deliverables of governors’ spouses to include actions to stand against sexual and gender-based violence and noted that 35 out of the 36 states have domesticated the law against sexual and gender-based violence.
* Other deliverable of governors’ spouses is the support for cancer patient and assured that the trustee will continue to support the governors’ spouses.

**The highlights of the goodwill messages of Honorable Minister of Women affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen are as follows**

* Appealed to the governors for continued support to the governors’ spouses’ forum.
* Appreciated the Chair, Nigerian Governors spouses’ forum, Chair Northern Nigeria Governors’ spouses’ forum, Chair Southern Nigeria Governors’ spouses’ forum, secretary, Nigerian Governors spouses’ forum and Chair, Board of trustee, Nigeria Governors’ spouses’ forum, civil societies, and development partners.
* Congratulated wives of re-elected and newly elected governors and admonished them to work with women.
* Acknowledged that the Ministry of women affairs cannot succeed without effective collaboration with states and Local government.
* Admonished wives of incoming governors to lobby their husband to appoint more women in government and noted that governors’ wives are the mothers of the states and should identify with women and earn people’s respect in the state.
* Advised that governors’ wives should mourn with those mourning and celebrate with those celebrating.
* Showed appreciation to the governors’ wives for taking stands against sexual and gender-based violence, championing the course of the vulnerable and working to promote tourism and showcasing the uniqueness of their states.
* Advised the governors’ wives to promote education, network with each other to learn from one another and navigate political landscape and work effectively with their spouses.
* She noted the effort of Ministry of women affairs in developing education for the girl child through AGILE project and women through Nigeria for women project.
* Celebrated outgoing first lady, thanked them for their support and wished them a successful induction programme.

**Keynote address by Governor of Sokoto state and Chairman of Nigeria Governors Forum H.E. Rt Honourable Aminu Waziri Tambuwal. The highlight of the keynote address are as follows**

* Reminded the audience of the incredible power of the first lady to shape the polity and policy of the Nation.
* Admonished the governors’ spouses to continue to consistently make difference in the life of people around them as well as embrace opportunity to effect change.
* Promised that the Governors’ forum will continue to support governors’ forum wives and promised to use his position on the floor of senate to support the governors’ spouses.

**Keynote address by the First lady of the federal Republic of Nigeria, Her excellency, Dr Mrs. Aisha Muhammadu Buhari. The highlight of the keynote address are as follows**

* She considered the summit timely because it coincided with the transition period and congratulated the new governors, outgoing governors and their wives for victory achieved at the last election.
* Political differences of governors’ wives should not deter them from collectively serving Nigeria better.
* She noted that the support provided by wives of governors have helped governors in delivering on their promises.
* She submitted that building capacities of governors ‘wives help in finetuning their plans for nation and state development.
* Appreciates the contribution of wives of the governors to the first ladies’ foundation; the future Assured and the African. First Ladies peace mission (AFLPM), an organization she is presently serving as the President.
* Advised wives of governors to support their husband to deliver on their promises to people most especially by ensuring that Nigeria turn its current challenges to opportunities for creating a new Nigeria that is safe, secure, and sustainable.
* Advised on the need to transit gender policies to action and charged all to remain focused to help women and girl child to actualize their potentials and wishes.
* Urged wives of governors to translate the brilliant ideas generated from the summit to promote women’s right and empowerment

**Recommended Action/lesson learnt**

* Governors’ wives need to act in leading promotion of democracy and gender participation of women in politics and governance

Vote of thanks was said by H.E Amb. Dr Mrs. Olufolake, Abdulrazak, First lady, Kwara state.

**She specifically stressed on the following issues in making the votes of thanks**

* Achievements of governors’ wives depends on harmonious working together of governors, development partners, Ministry of women affairs, NDLEA and security agencies.
* Advised the wives of governors to acquaint themselves with guiding documents of governor’s wives.
* Thanked the first lady for her leadership and support to the forum which has further encouraged more women to participate in politics and congratulated the wives of the governors on the victory of their husband at the recently concluded election

**Security Matters. Address delivered by representative of Director General, Department security services. Highlights of propositions put forward during the presentation are**

* Department of security services must screen personnel working with the wives of governor to ensure safety of the first lady and the governor.
* Women and children are main targets of terrorist, however pet projects of wives of governors can reduce terrorism.
* Wives of governors must limit their public exposure, mind those they interact with and carry out background checks on those who work with them.
* The highlighted common treats are physical treat, cyber treat, reputation treat and kidnapping and ransom demands.
* The highlighted area of focus for wives of governors’ protection are personal security, family security, conducting security surveys and parcel screening.
* The listed roles of wives of governors’ security details are prevention of activities that embarrass their principals, protection of the first lady always, and conduct of risk assessment to determine treats.

**Recommendation actions/lesson learnt**

* Security details of wife of governors should not be made to carry bags of wife of governors.

Overview of strategic alliances- Address delivered by representative of Chairman, NDLEA- Asiwaju Lanre Ipinmisho.

**Highlights of propositions put forward during the presentation are**

* NDLEA intend to train the wives of governors on drug prevention, care, and treatment.
* Advised the wives of governors to collaborate with the drug control committee in their state to help them develop drug control masterplan, drug control policy as well as workplan based on each state’s peculiarities.
* Admonished the wives of the governors to build the capacities of frontline workers on drug.

**Recommended action/lessons learnt**

* Drugs makes people not to have human feeling therefore governors’ wives should make the project of fighting against drug their pet project to clean the Nigerian system of drug to reduce crime such as kidnapping

Overview of strategic alliances- Address delivered by representative of National Primary Health Care Development Agency.

**Highlights of propositions put forward during the presentation are**

* Primary Health Care institutions are key drivers of Universal health care that provides and promote health.
* Primary Health Care institutions are used to save life and improve maternal care.
* Highlighted roles of governors’ wives under Primary Health Care include funding of maternal care and childcare services, effective coordination of Primary Health care institutions and demonstration of strong political will in supporting Primary Health Care Institutions.
* Highlighted roles of National Primary Health Care Development Agency include revitalization of Primary Health Care institutions, encouraging healthcare workers to deliver their services effectively and eradication of polio and ensure enhanced vaccination

**Recommended action/lessons learnt**

* First ladies should champion the activities of National Primary Health Care Development Agency beyond ensuring proper funding, coordination, and demonstration of strong political will in supporting Primary Health Care Institutions

**Day 2 - 19th May, 2023**

 **Presenters**

* H. E Dr. Zainab Bagudu. First Lady of Kebbi State
* H.E Mrs. Betsy Obaseki. First lady Edo state

 **Panelist**

* H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mrs. Olufolake Abdulrazak
* H.E. Barr. Chioma Hope Uzodinma. First lady Imo state
* H.E. Ibijoke Sanwoolu. First lady Lagos state

**Moderator of Session**

H.E Mrs. Bisi Fayemi-Chair, Board of Trustees NIGWF

**Issues discussed at the Session**

The role of a 21st century First lady

* Code of conduct and operating principles
* Protocol and Etiquette
* Office and image management/ Etiquette
* Navigating the terrain and setting priorities (Case study-FLAC)
* Achieving impact

The opening remark for the session was said by the moderator, H.E Mrs. Bisi Fayemi-Chair, Board of Trustees NIGWF.

**The highlight of her remarks are as follows**

* Governors’ wives should take the forum seriously.
* Governors’ wives should study the handbook-learning on the job.
* Advised the forum to ensure that sitting arrangements of the governors’ wives should translate to good relationship and mentorship.

H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mrs. Olufolake Abdulrazak made presentations on Modus operandi of the forum.

**Propositions**

The following issues were raised during her presentation

* The Nigeria Governors Wives’ Forum has made inroads into ensuring that concerns for girls and women are assuaged through engagements with critical stakeholders and development partners.
* An attestation to the efforts of governors’ wives’ effort on girls and women is evident in the declaration of State of Emergency on Sexual and Gender Based Violence by Nigeria Governors’ Forum owing to the rise in spate of incidents during the lockdown occasioned by the outbreak of covid 19 in June 2020.
* The adoption of Violence Against Persons Prohibition act and other protective laws in States and creating sexual assault referral centers, shelters and providing survivors funds to support victims and survivors are main initiatives of Nigerian governors forum wives.
* Other major strides of the governors’ wives’ forum are promotion of women empowerment, eradication of drug abuse, mental health, nutrition, exclusive breastfeeding, and menstrual hygiene.
* Commended the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Her Excellency Dr. Aisha Buhari for her leadership and support to the forum and for encouraging members of the forum to champion causes that promotes the wellbeing and interest of women and children to compliment the effort of the governors.
* Commended the commitment and sacrifices of outgoing governors’ wives for their impact and immeasurable contributions to the development and successes achieved by the forum.
* The forum is duly registered, holds annual meeting physically and hold retreat for members every third quarter.
* The forum partners with UNWOMEN, NDLEA with members expected to pay annual due of One million naira.
* The publications of the forum are Handbook-Resource manual, SGBV directory, learning on the job and annual reports.

**Recommended actions/Lesson learnt during the session**

* Governors’ wives should acquaint themselves with the publications of the Nigeria Governors’ Wives Forum especially Learning on the Job, a handbook designed by the forum to guide the conducts of state First ladies

 H.E. Barr. Chioma Hope Uzodinma made presentations on Protocol and Etiquette.

**Propositions**

The following are some of the issues raised during her presentation

**Protocols**

* Governors’ wives should ensure that their protocol staff who are political appointees, understand protocol arrangements.
* Governors’ wives should sit on their spouse’s left side.
* In public, when your spouse enters a room, governors’ wives should stand as a mark of respect.
* Governors’ wives should stand when the President and First Lady of the country enter a room and when he/she rises to deliver a speech and finishes.
* Governors’ wives should stand when the Vice-President/Wife of the Vice-President enter a room and when he/she rises to deliver a speech and finishes.

**Etiquette**

**The following are some key issues that the wives of governors should be mindful of relating to etiquette**

* Comportment in private. For example, ensuring that domestic staff are properly treated.
* Comportment in public. For example, ensuring that you are punctual and aim to be no more than 15minutes late for an official event.
* Presentation skill. For example, ensuring you master the basics of public speaking.
* Working with the media. For example, ensure you have a well experienced and professional person as your media aide.
* Relationships with other first ladies. For example, all relationship with other spouses should be anchored on mutual respect and solidarity.
* While making gift presentation ensure you include product unique to your state.
* Healthy living. For example, eat well and wisely and prioritize regular medical checkup.
* Stress management. For example, manage pressure of office by identifying things to relax you such as games.
* Anger management. For example, moderate your reaction when provoked.
* Personal style. For example, do what works for you.
* Putting ward robe together. For example, understand what is appropriate for different assignment.
* Ceremonials. For example, special occasions outfits require head tie or hat.
* Having access to items through bigger bags not fit for your handbag is important while moving around.

**Recommended actions/Lesson learnt during the session**

* Governors’ wives should acquaint themselves with the etiquette and protocols of their office

H.E. Ibijoke Sanwoolu made presentations on office and image management.

**Propositions**

The following issues were raised during her presentation concerning the way first ladies manage office and image

* Must humble herself during official engagement
* Must be punctual to events
* Have listening ear
* Always maintain confidentiality. For example, not mixing family life with public life
* Appreciate staff and politely correct them
* Engage in philanthropic activities
* Ensure your staff screen all letters before they get to you
* Respect culture of other people you are visiting
* Be careful of what you post on social media
* Show empathy and be compassionate

**Recommended actions/Lesson learnt during the session**

* First ladies should use their offices to influence positive changes and opinion. For example, first ladies pet projects should work against drug abuse, encourage activities of Primary Health centres, security, and nutrition

H. E Dr. Zainab Bagudu. First Lady of Kebbi State made presentation on navigating the terrain and setting priorities (Case study-FLAC).

**Propositions**

The following issues were raised during her presentation concerning the way first ladies are to navigate the terrain and setting priorities.

* Always remember that you are complementing the role of their husbands
* Be sensitive to the need of people by having deep conversation with them
* Using the platform your pet projects to make speeches that will impact positively on people. For example, FLAC in Kebbi state use its platform to promote initiatives towards cancer care

**Recommended actions/Lesson learnt during the session**

* First ladies should not get carried away by trappings of office and should seek partnership to effectively navigate the terrain and setting priorities when they assume office

H.E Mrs. Betsy Obaseki. First Lady of Edo State made presentation on achieving impact, power of the first lady

**Propositions**

The following issues were raised during her presentation concerning the way first ladies can achieve impact in their states

* Most projects in the state states comes with great tokenism without making strong impact
* The Governor and the first ladies are expected to make impact in their respective states
* First ladies are not supposed to be a burden to the state but focus on child, women and vulnerable people’s projects that can make impact
* The use of strategic approach that takes into consideration identifying key issues and prioritizing them based on impact on girls, women and vulnerable, experimenting on certain issues that has to do with the project and creating passion around the project guarantee achievement of impact of projects

**Recommended actions/Lesson learnt during the session**

* First ladies should avoid wastage and rise above tokenism.
* First ladies should learn from each other and achieve impact in a noiseless manner.