



**MINUTES OF THE 2ND MEETING OF NIGERIA
GOVERNORS' FORUM IN 2020**

HELD ON

WEDNESDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY 2020

AT THE

NGF SECRETARIAT MAITAMA, ABUJA

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Dr. Kayode Fayemi	Ekiti	Governor & Chairman NGF
2	Aminu Waziri Tambuwal	Sokoto	Governor & Vice Chairman, NGF
3	Okezie Victor Ikpeazu, Ph.D	Abia	Governor
4	Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri	Adamawa	Governor
5	Sen Bala A. Moh'd CON	Bauchi	Governor
6	Senator Diri Douye	Bayelsa	Governor
7	Baba Gana Umaru	Borno	Governor
8	Sen. Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa	Delta	Governor
9	Nweze David Umahi	Ebonyi	Governor
10	Nasir A. El-Rufai	Kaduna	Governor
11	Yahaya Bello	Kogi	Governor
12	Jide SanwoOlu	Lagos	Governor
13	Abdullahi Sule	Nasarawa	Governor
14	Dapo Abiodun	Ogun	Governor
15	Arakunrin Oluwarituimi Akeredolu, SAN	Ondo	Governor
16	Adegboyega Oyetola	Osun	Governor
17	Prof. Ivara E. Esu (OFR)	Cross River	Deputy Governor
18	M.D. Jatau, Ph.D	Gombe	Deputy Governor
19	Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna	Kano	Deputy Governor
20	Mannir Yakubu	Katsina	Deputy Governor
21	Engr. Rauf Olaniyan	Oyo	Deputy Governor
22	Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden	Plateau	Deputy Governor
23	Idi Barde Gubana	Yobe	Deputy Governor
24	Mahdi Mohammed	Zamfara	Deputy Governor

S/N	NO	ACTION BY
1.0	COMMENCEMENT	
	The meeting commenced at 8:20pm with opening prayers by the Governor of Osun State.	
2.0	ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
	The minutes of the previous meeting was reviewed. The Governor of Kaduna State moved for the adoption of the minutes and was seconded by the Deputy Governor of Yobe State.	
3.0	CHAIRMAN'S BRIEF	
	<p>The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and updated the Forum on the status of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd PAYE Disbursement: The Consultants had given assurances that the 2nd disbursements will be made in the following week and the concluded Report will be circulated to members of the Forum as soon as it became available. • Deductions for the Budget Support Facility: ₦152million had been fixed as the monthly deductions for all States as shown in the Report. He noted that the report also contained details of prior deductions made by the Ministry of Finance on the FAAC. • Seattle Declaration: Immediate Actions Required by Governors: The Chairman met with representatives of the BMGF and Dangote Group to identify how to engage in a further peer review to encourage States in their compliance with the Seattle Declaration. He referred to the NGF meeting with Commissioners of Finance and noted that all necessary actions were being taken on the Seattle Declaration. • Coronavirus outbreak: Members expressed concern over the coronavirus pandemic and its rate of spread. The Forum emphasized the need to ensure border monitoring and to put in place quarantine measures for people returning from affected countries. Members also noted the implication of the virus outbreak on falling oil prices which 	

	<p>has negatively affected allocation to States from FAAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of NEC Agenda: Members reviewed the NEC Agenda. The Governor of Kaduna State suggested that the Forum should at the NEC meeting scheduled for the following day, make a case for the extension of KPMG's mandate to conduct forensic audit, from 2015 to 2019. • Update on PHCOUR and other Health Matters: after members noted at the last meeting that the Basic Health Provision Funds were on lien, the Chairman wrote to the Minister of Health on the need for its implementation. The Chairman requested that being the States' resources, the funds should be disbursed to States who have met the eligibility requirements. After Members suggested that the Forum meet with the appropriate Senate Committee to address the issue of the lien on the BHPF, the Chairman opted to discuss the issue with the Senate Committee. • Update on NEDC Deductions: The Forum was awaiting further directive from the President following their letter to the President. The Chairman noted that the deductions had however been made in January and February to the North East Development Commission. Following concerns by the Governors of Borno and Bauchi States and after lengthy deliberations by members, the Chairman thanked members for their approach to this delicate issue and re-assured his colleagues, particularly the North East Governors that the entire NGF was committed to peace and security in the North East. It was important however to achieve these in line with constitutional provisions and efforts would be made to seek realistic and lawful ways to achieve peace in the Region. • Ownership of the Distribution Companies: The Governor of Kaduna State reported that the Committee was able to establish significant State ownership of the Distribution Companies and that the Report of the Committee would be ready as soon as all information was collated and compiled. He appealed to the members to support the Committee by providing information on the electricity investments undertaken by States between 2013 – 2020. He stated that one of the 	<p>Chairman, NGF/BHPF</p>
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	<p>recommendations of the Committee was that the NGF hire Consultants and the cost be borne by all States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that a lot of monies were being owed the States on ground rents on defunct MTEL and NITEL property and that recovery processes should be initiated. The Chairman asked that the Secretariat work with the Governor of Ebonyi State to work out a modality for the recovery process. The new Governor of Bayelsa State was welcomed into the Forum. 	
4.0	DIRECTOR GENERAL'S BRIEF	
	<p>The Director General (DG) briefed the Forum as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congratulated the Chairman and Governor of Kaduna on the celebration of their birthdays, presenting them with gift cards from the Secretariat to mark the celebration. Congratulated the Bayelsa State Governor on his inauguration and welcomed him to the Forum. Introduced the new Agriculture Advisor of the Secretariat to the Forum. The request by Samson Siasia for financial support to fund his arbitration proceedings. A proposal by the law firm of Alegeh & Co. to recover from the federal government, all sums expended by States on capital and recurrent expenditure of the judiciary. The letter from the Chairman of the Forum to the Minister of Health requesting the implementation of the Basic Health Care Provision Fund. Meeting with Captain Mohammed Jibril on removal of fees paid by State owned Airports to Federal Airports Agencies. The Forum resolved that the Governor of Bauchi State lead the discussions on the subject matter. Request by the Minister of Environment for State Governors' support in the planting of 25 million trees across the various States. 	<p>HE, Governor of Bauchi State</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA), the impacts and potentials of the agreement on States. • Letter from the Ambassador of France to Nigeria, inviting the Forum to the Africa-France Summit on Sustainable Cities and Territories, scheduled to hold in Bourdeaux, France from 4th – 6th June 2020. • The report on the inaugural meeting of the Nigeria National Steering Committee (NNSC) of the GRID3 project. He requested the presence of the 6 States nominated as members of the NNSC in subsequent meetings of the Committee. The 6 nominated States were to forward details of heads of their GIS agencies who will become members of the Nigerian National Technical Committee (NNTC) on the GRID3 Project. All States were also required to strengthen their States and Local Government Boundary Committees who will work with the National Boundary Commission (NBC) in the mapping of all wards and LGA boundaries. • On the legal matters involving ALGON, the Forum directed that the Committee on ALGON met to finalize on the issue. • On SFTAS, the DG informed the Forum that the initial disbursement will be made in the months of March and April. He highlighted the challenge from the Ministry on the changes that may likely impact future disbursements. The Chairman nominated the Governor of Edo State to work with the Secretariat to address the issue. • Members were encouraged to make good their commitment to the Forum by paying their annual dues and it was agreed that the outstanding dues and other commitments be deducted directly from the 2nd PAYE disbursements. The Forum directed that a letter to this effect be written to the appropriate authorities. 	
5.0	HEALTH UPDATE	
	The NGF Health Consultant, Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab updated the Forum on the status of the following:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seattle Commitments - Honourable Commissioners of Health onboarded; BMGF to launch a leadership challenge. • Disease Outbreak – Lassa fever in 26 states and the FCT, 103 deaths recorded so far. • Basic Healthcare Provision Funds Update – Disbursement discontinued until operational guidelines are reviewed. • State Social Health Insurance Scheme – 34 states have created their Health Insurance Agencies: Akwa Ibom and Rivers States outstanding. <p>He urged the Akwa Ibom and Rivers State Governors to facilitate the establishment of their SHIA.</p>	
6.0	PRESENTATIONS	
	<p><u>Report on the Utilization of Pension Fund</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEC had set up a Committee headed by the Governor of Kaduna State, to explore ways in which the Government can utilize the N10 Trillion in the Pension Fund Account. The Committee was first tasked with coming up with an immediate project to utilize N2 trillion from the funds and thereafter recommend key projects that can be actualized using the remaining N8 trillion. • The Committee after concluding its report, briefed the Forum on their findings. A video was presented to highlight the intended benefits of the Nigerian Narrow Gauge Railway Project, being one of the key projects recommended by the Committee. They highlighted the benefits of the railway project in enhancing road transport in Nigeria. • The Chairman appreciated the members of the Committee for the efforts put into the assignment. He noted that all Governors were enthusiastic about implementing the recommendations of the report. <p><u>Update on the GRID3 National Project by the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister of Finance, Zainab Ahmed updated the Forum on the progress of the GRID3 National Project. She stated that the project was designed to strengthen geo-spatial national data of the country. • The Vice President had in December 2019 inaugurated the National 	

Steering Committee (NSC) co-chaired by the Hon. Minister of Budget and National Planning. The NSC was also supported by the National Technical Committee.

- In seeking cooperation of the Forum to advance the project to different sectors of the country, she urged the Forum to:
 - i. Support the Steering Committee which had NGF representation by the Governors of Kwara, Kaduna, Gombe, Edo, Ebonyi and Ekiti States.
 - ii. Nominate the Heads of the States' Geo-spatial Agencies to be members of the Steering Committees.
 - iii. Inaugurate States' Boundary Committees/Geo-spatial Agencies to work together with the National Boundary Committee in the implementation of the Project.

The Chairman thanked the Minister and noted that the Committee representing the Forum will ensure States' commitment towards the objectives of the Steering Committee. He mentioned that although States have the Boundary Committees, there may be little resources to run the Agencies.

The Minister indicated that contact details of the GRID 3 Project Secretariat will be provided to the NGF Secretariat for ease of contacts and access.

Planting of 25million Trees by the Minister of Environment

- The Minister of Environment, Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar thanked the Forum for the opportunity to present to the meeting the need to plant 25million trees to combat the negative effects of the global warming which has metamorphosed into climate change, resulting in ecological problems.
- He noted that every time there was a decline in forest, the capacity to absorb carbon was weakened and the easiest way to absorb the carbon produced by climate change was the planting of trees. He reminded the meeting that the President made this pledge at the 2019 Climate Change Forum at the UN General Assembly.
- Highlighting the decline in forest cover over the years owing to increased deforestation and lack of rainfall, he noted that it was pertinent to improve Nigeria's forest cover by the planting of trees. He solicited the support of the Governors in releasing lands in their

States and also funding contributions as well as providing the human capital to help in the planting and maintenance of the trees.

- The Chairman thanked the Minister and stated the commitment of all Governors in supporting the Project. He however identified that funding may pose a challenge to the States, suggesting the enlisting of the Federal Government in funding the Initiative.
- Members also expressed concern over the implementation of the project and suggested adequate utilization of the rainy season for the planting of the trees. The Ministry should also identify the kind of trees that will thrive in the country given peculiar conditions of States.
- It was also noted that whilst the Ministry was harnessing the tree planting, other engineering mechanisms should be explored to salvage the impact of the climate change.
- On funding, members recommended that the Federal Government Ecological Fund be utilized to fund the project.
- On land, it was suggested that States acquire lands and gazette them as forest reserves to maximize protection of the forest. States should have designated forest reserves for the purpose of the tree planting.

The Minister thanked the Forum and reiterated his plea to States especially in respect of maintenance of the trees. He also suggested that the States/Forum can also request the Ecological Funds to be given to States for the funding of the project.

Progress on the Subnational Business Climate Reforms by the Enabling Business Environment Secretariat (EBES)

- The Special Adviser to the Vice President on the Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria updated the Forum on the progress of the sub-national business reforms undertaken by the team since 2017. The EBES commenced a National Road Show to all the geo-political regions in October 2019 in collaboration with Host States.
- In appreciating the States for their support during the road shows, she sought the support of the Forum in an upcoming project by the EBES Committee and the World Bank. She also noted that the World Bank expected States to nominate their Reform Champions and inaugurate their Ease of Doing Business Committee/States' Council for Ease of Doing Business. They also sought the support of all

States to engage in States' Peer Learning events.

The Chairman thanked the EBES team and acknowledged that the Forum will, as always ensure commitment with the projects of the Committee.

An introduction of the Mambilla Project by Hypertech Nig. Ltd.

- The Managing Director of the Hypertech Nig. Ltd., Project Development Consultant to the lead Company of the Mambilla Consortium CGGC (China Gezhouba Group Corporation) and Local Content Partner on the Mambilla HEPP, briefed the Forum on the Mambilla Project, its funding, scope, duration and implementation.
- He highlighted the challenge in respect of the Local Content requirements of the Mambilla Project implementation. He informed the Forum of the several steps that were required in order to kickstart the project, beginning from the human capital development which will guarantee participation of Nigerians in the project implementation.

The chairman thanked the MD and noted that the project is a huge one capable of impacting all States.

He further observed that it was important to invite the Minister of Power to brief the Forum on what was needed to prepare for the take-off of the project. The Chairman encouraged the Governors to seek out more information on the project for their valuable input.

Presentation by the Director General of NYSC

The Chairman welcomed the DG of NYSC to the Forum and the DG expressed his gratitude to the Forum for their constant support to the NYSC scheme.

His presentation solicited further support from the State Governors as well as their commitment in respect of the following aspects as provided by the NYSC Act:

- Appointment of NYSC State Governing Board by all States.
- Formation of NYSC Local Government Committees.
- Renovations of dilapidated NYSC State Orientation Camps.
- Improved welfare of corps members in areas of stipends, corporers' lodges and security of corps members.
- Farmlands for agricultural activities of corps members.

	<p>He thanked the Forum for their continued support to NYSC particularly in the areas of security and the health of corps members in their states.</p> <p>The chairman noted that States were interested in the welfare of corp members and NYSC in generally and noted that states will continue to support them and address the issues highlighted in the presentation.</p>	
7.0	CONCLUSION/ADJOURNMENT	
	The meeting rose at 11.30pm.	

Dr. Kayode Fayemi
Governor, Ekiti State
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum