





NSGF

NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

LANDMARK
DECISIONS

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Vol. I

Compiled by

Mohammed Kuta Yahaya

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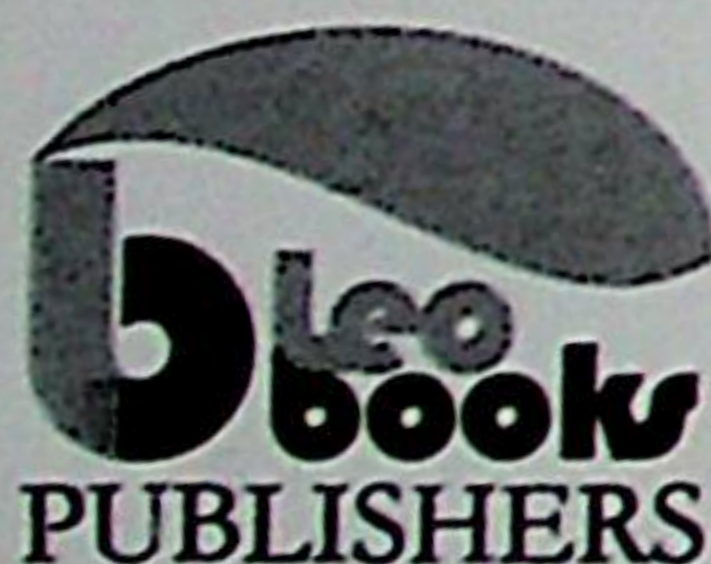
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NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS



His Excellency,
MURTALA NYAKO
Executive Governor, Adamawa State



His Excellency,
ISA YUGUDA
Executive Governor, Bauchi State



The Chief Servant
DR. MUAZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, CON
(Talban Minna)
Executive Governor, Niger State &
Chairman Northern Governors' Forum



His Excellency,
IBRAHIM H. DANKWAMBO
Executive Governor, Gombe State



His Excellency,
GABRIEL SUSWAN
Executive Governor, Benue State



His Excellency,
KASHIM SHETTIMA
Executive Governor, Borno State



His Excellency,
DR. SULE LAMIDO
Executive Governor, Jigawa State



His Excellency,
PATRICK IBRAHIM YAKOWA
Executive Governor, Kaduna State



His Excellency,
RABIU MUSA KWANKWASO
Executive Governor, Kano State



SEN. BALA MOHAMMED
Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja



His Excellency,
BARR. IBRAHIM SHEHU SHEMA
Executive Governor, Katsina State



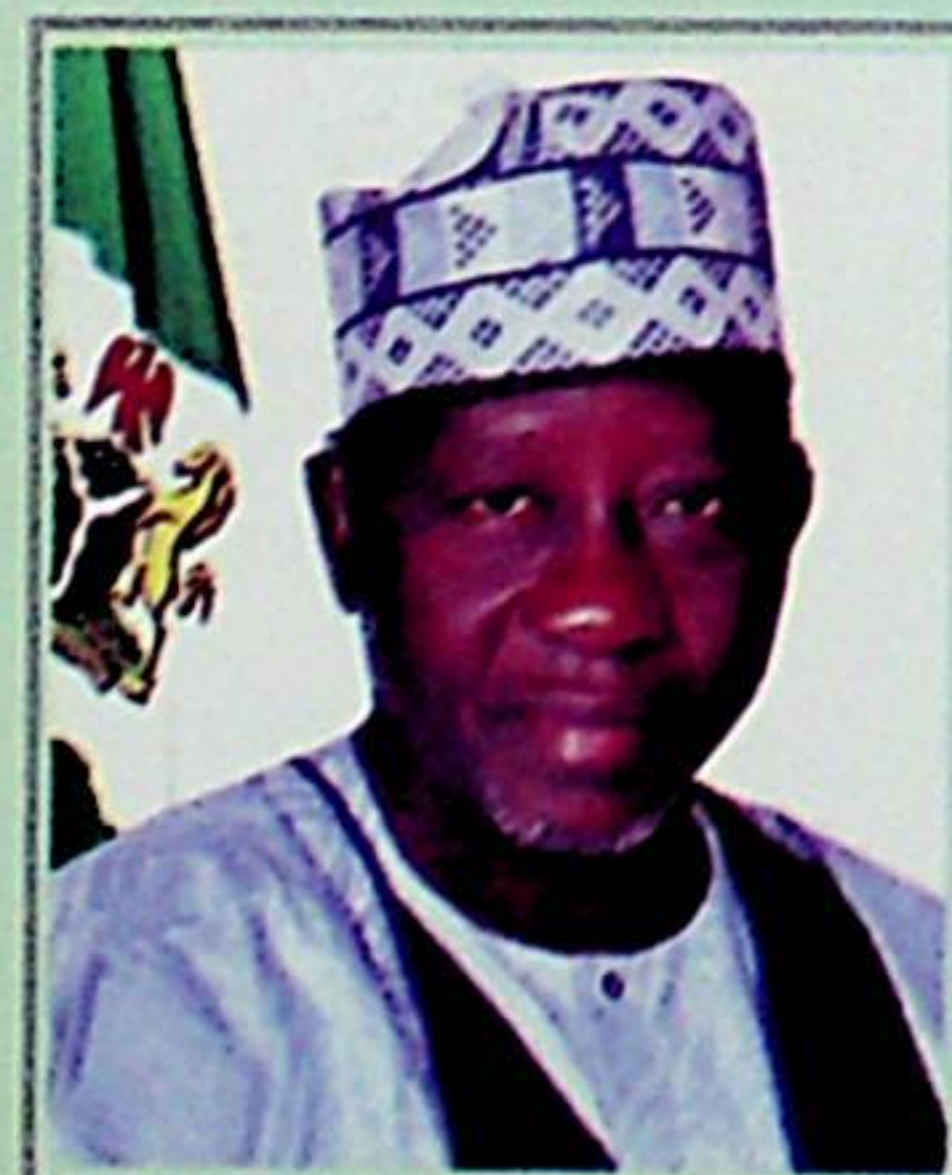
His Excellency,
SAIDU USMAN DAKINGARI
Executive Governor, Kebbi State



His Excellency,
CAPT. IDRIS WADA
Executive Governor, Kogi State



His Excellency,
ALH. ABDULFATAH AHMED
Executive Governor, Kwara State



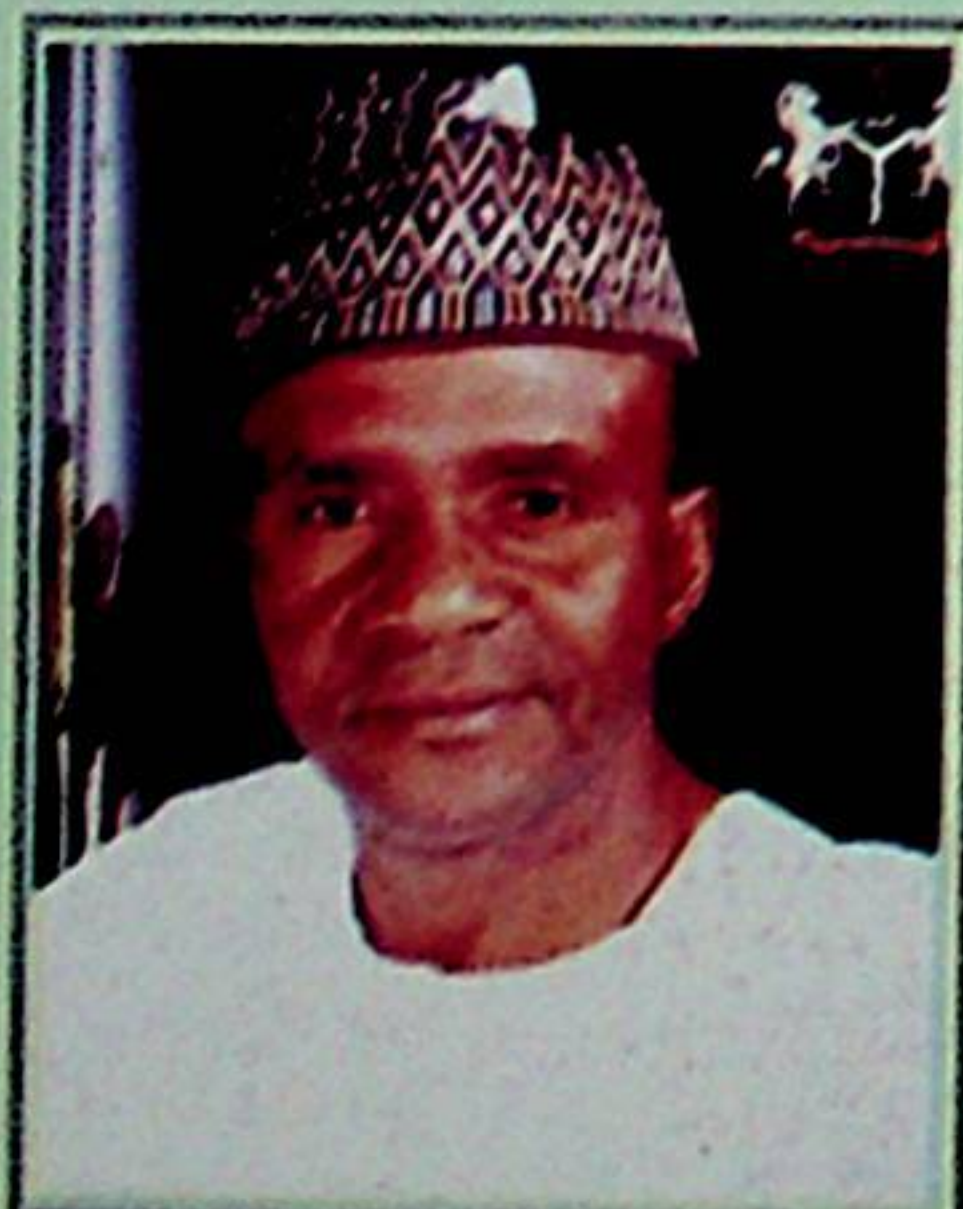
His Excellency,
UMARU TANKO AL-MAKURA
Executive Governor, Nassarawa State



His Excellency,
JONAH JANG
Executive Governor, Plateau State



His Excellency,
ALIYU MAGATAKARDA WAMMAIKO
Executive Governor, Sokoto State



His Excellency,
DANBABA SUNTAI
Executive Governor, Taraba State



His Excellency,
IBRAHIM GEIDAM
Executive Governor, Yobe State



His Excellency,
ABDUL-AZIZ YARI ABUBAKAR
Executive Governor, Zamfara State

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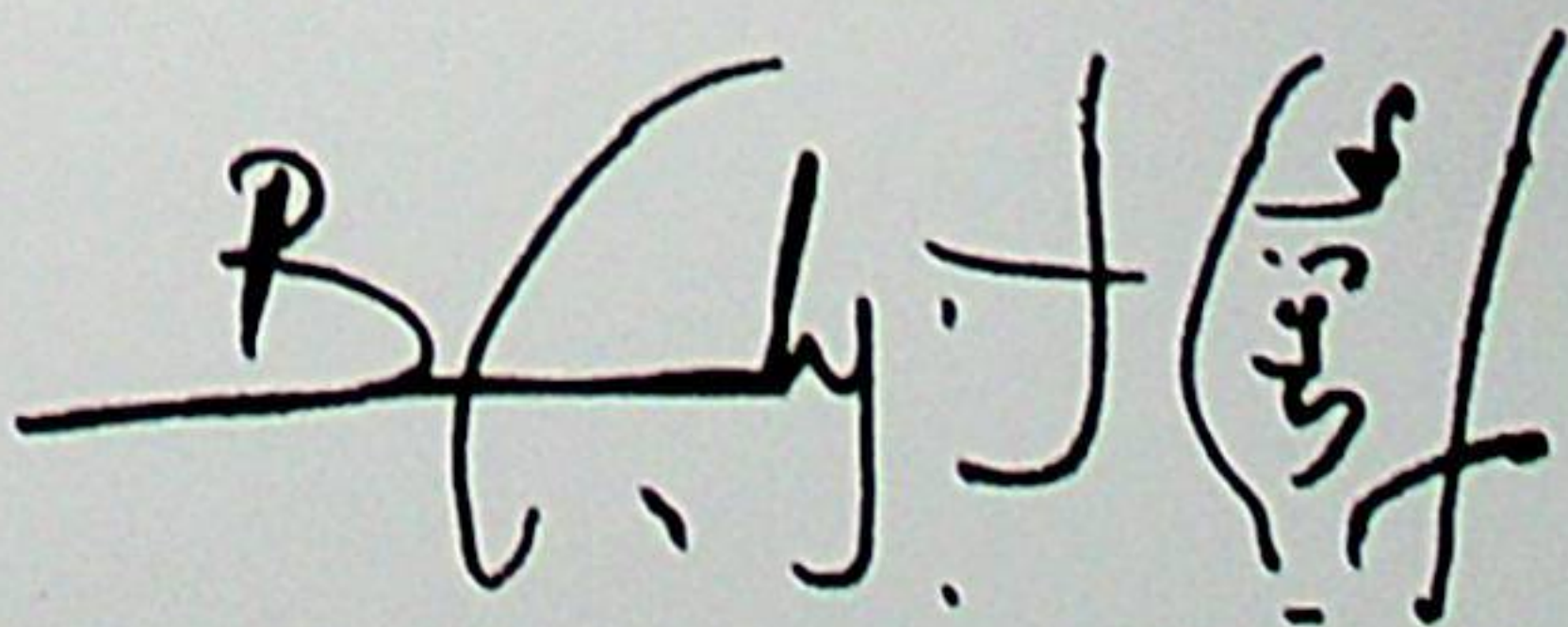
Introduction

Archival for future reference is a prime purpose for documentation, but printing *en masse* and publishing extends the purpose to public knowledge and the euphoria for deliberative democracy, a reason behind the Freedom of Information (FoI) Law. The forum could not have had better motives for assuming the task of documenting in a permanent form and distributing dossiers of its sessions, ranging from the plenary, special, regular to emergency, than to adhere to the principles of transparency, probity and accountability and in keeping with the basic tenets of participatory democracy.

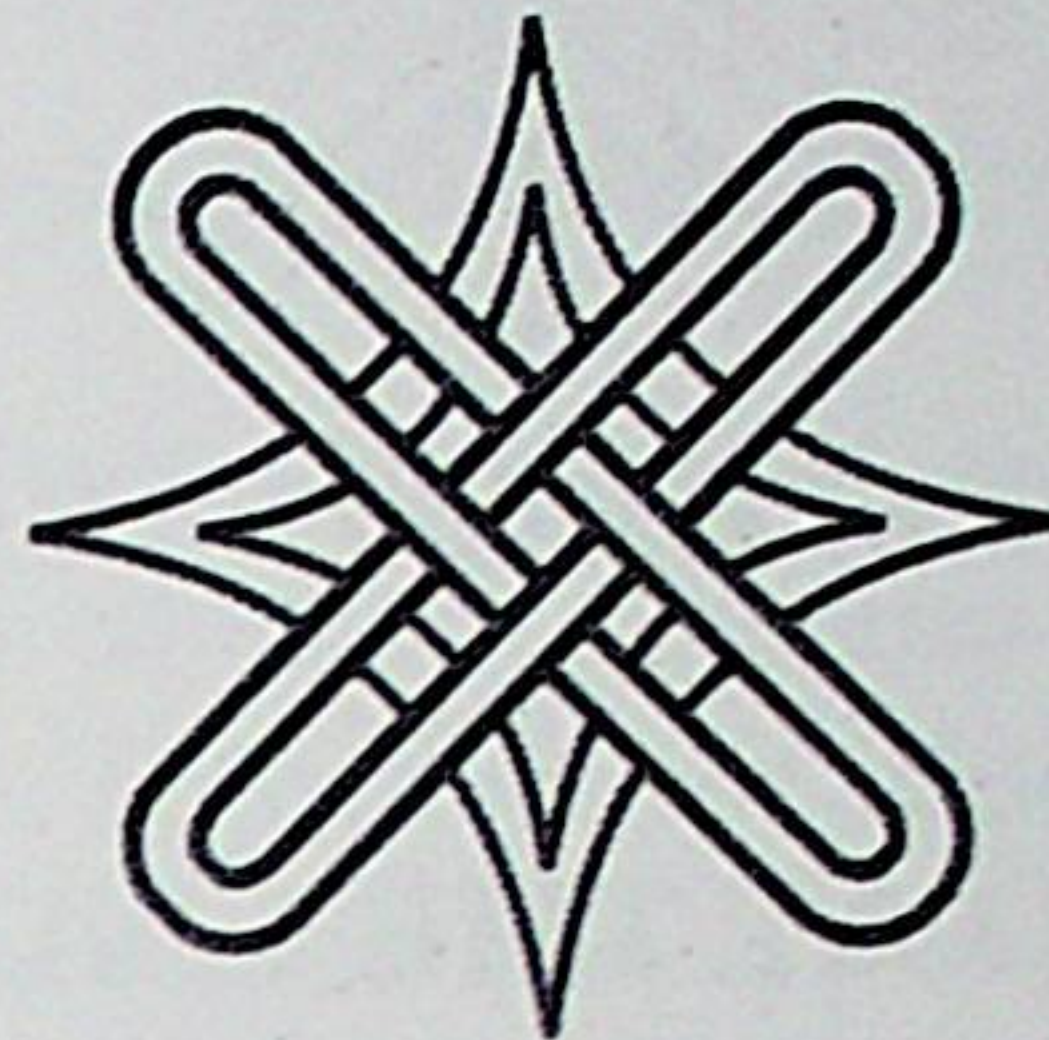
A reading between lines portrays an array of problems that are common in the region and a few that are endemic in states. Whereas in our common resolve we are committed to convene collectively under a single platform and tackle issues of common interest to better the living standards of our people, make lives secure in tranquility and chart a common mission, vision and structure for a region that is unarguably endowed with consummate potentials in human and material resources. We have nonetheless discovered that while certain problems eclipse totally in time, many more are systemic and will likely remain intractable for a long time to come except we re-channel our efforts and adopt more proactive and pragmatic measures as demonstrated in the last few years by members of the forum

Over time the forum has assumed multiple roles in socio-economic, security and political spheres in the overall interest of the region and for genuine concerns of the corporate existence of Nigeria as a whole.

It is therefore heartwarming to recommend this cherished document to the general public, historians, political scientists and policy analysts.



Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, CON, *fspsp*
(Talban Minna)
Forum Chairman



NSGF

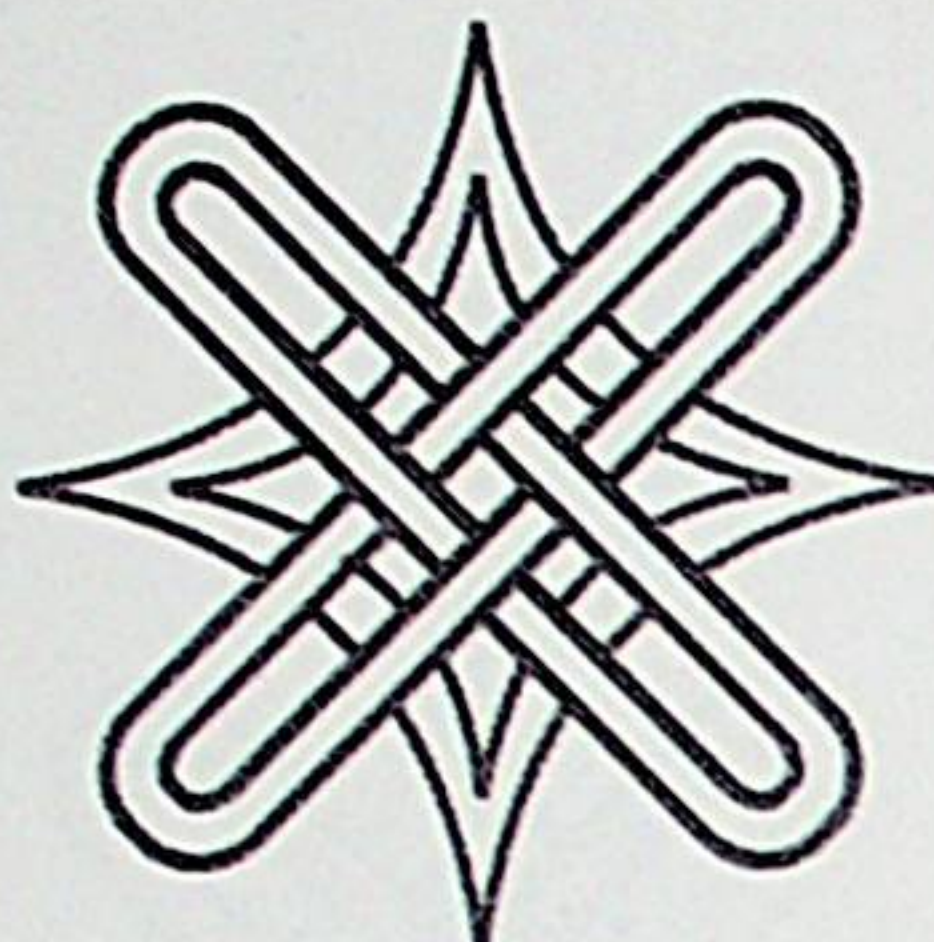
NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué

ISSUED AT THE
END OF REGULAR MEETING

Held On 30th August, 2007

At The Presidential Lodge,
General Hassan Usman Katsina House, Kawo – Kaduna



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' REGULAR MEETING HELD ON 30TH AUGUST, 2007 AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LODGE, GENERAL HASSAN USMAN KATSINA HOUSE, KAWO – KADUNA

The meeting was impressively attended by all the Northern States Governors and was presided over by the Chief Servant of Niger State, Dr Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON (Talban Minna). The forum recognises the focus attention on the critical areas of concern that are of collective into for the progress of the North as it relates to education, economy, health, agriculture, poverty reduction and elimination of destitution. The North as a union of values of solidarity, between a people of not just a common geographical expression but of common history, destiny, political economic aspirations. This is a clear testimony and affirmation of our union of purpose, as well as a demonstration that in our collective efforts and cooperation lie our individual strengths. The meeting discussed a range of issues common to the development of the region and the country in general. After exhaustive deliberations, the forum took decision as it affects the following issues:

1. **Unity Bank Plc**

The forum wishes to reiterate that it is not against the Central Bank of Nigeria circular on divestment of government holding in Banks. However, the forum approved Seven-Man Committee of Governors to engage the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Presidency with a view to getting extension of time to allow the forum take place appropriate steps to look into all the issues related to the circular.

2. **NNDC**

The forum appreciates the aggressive drive of the company's investments spanning practically all sectors of the economy particularly in the oil and gas sector. However,

the forum expresses desire to run it with due recognition of the contemporary economy realities.

3. **New Nigerian Newspapers Company Limited (NNNC)**

The forum noted the precarious financial situation of the New Nigerian Newspapers Company attributable to the huge liabilities that accrued over the last three decades while it was under the management and ownership of the Federal Government.

The forum agreed to approach the Federal Government to find viable ways of understanding the liabilities of the Company in order to enable the Company continue to achieve the noble objectives for which it was established. However, the forum acknowledge with concern its unique potentials in information dissemination, education and employment opportunities as well as capacity building for future generation of journalists.

4. **Common Security Approach for the North**

The crime rate and general insecurity in the region in particular and the country in general are increasingly becoming a growing concern. Therefore, the forum will collaborates effort with relevant stakeholders to establish and sustain a common security network in the region with a view to curbing crime rate for the general wellbeing of the people. In addition, concerted efforts will be made to address precipitating factors.

5. **Fertilizer and Farm Inputs**

The forum calls on the Federal Government to award contracts for the supply of Fertilizers and farm-imputes before the end of this year so that deliveries for the next cropping season would reach all the States latest February, 2008. However, States are encouraged to make alternative arrangements in conformity with established standards.

6. **Prices of Farm Produce**

The forum passionately call on the Federal Government to immediately activate the already established commodity companies to stabilize prices thereby encouraging farmers to increase production and boost the economy.

7. **Power Generation**

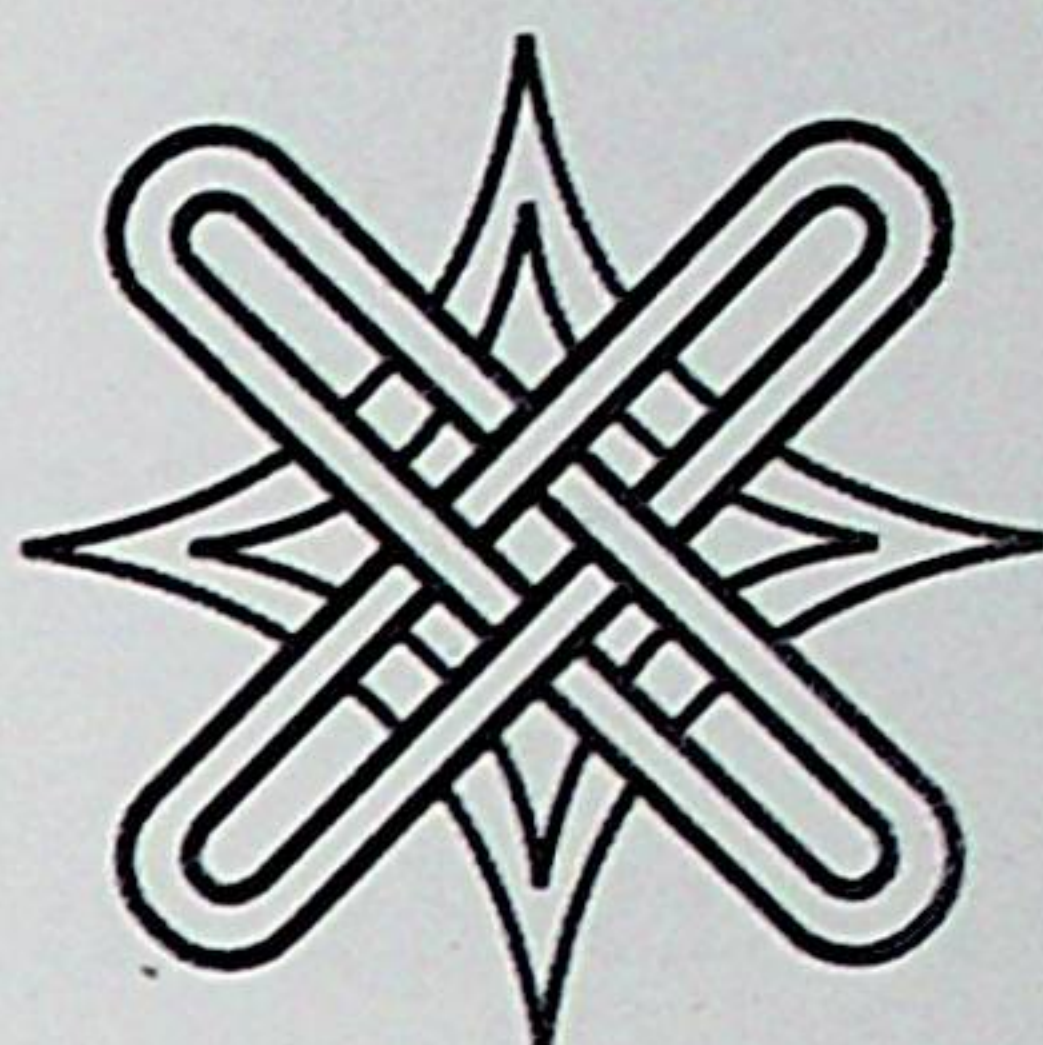
The relevance of steady power supply to the socio-economic growth of the region was considered. Member States have agreed to collaborateefforts and resources to generate electricity in order to attract investors, resuscitate ailing industries in the region.

8. **UNICEF**

The forum acknowledges with appreciations the efforts of UNICEF at improving the health and survival of children and their mothers against polio and other endemic diseases. Members of the forum urge UNICEF to closely work with all the State and Local Governments to realize the Millennium Development Goals on health, girl child education and other child rights and protection.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON
(TALBAN MINNA)

THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE
CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM



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NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué

ISSUED AT THE
EMERGENCY MEETING

Held On 17th April, 2008

At The Presidential Lodge, General Hassan Usman Katsina House,
Kawo – Kaduna



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM; HELD ON 17TH APRIL, 2008 AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LODGE, GENERAL HASSAN USMAN KATSINA HOUSE, KAWO – KADUNA

The Northern States Governors' forum held its emergency meeting today, 17th April, 2008 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Servant and Executive Governor of Niger State, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON (Talban Minna). The meeting was convened to ratify the recommendations of the Report of Committee of seven Northern Governors mandated by the forum to deliberate on issues of common concern to the North.

Some of the issues bordered on the constitutional role of traditional rulers in the North, fine-tuning Federal Government's policy on appointments, Unity Bank and New Nigerian Newspapers among others.

The following decisions were taken:

1. **Constitutional Role of Traditional Rulers**

The forum **NOTED** the importance of Traditional institutions not only in the North but the country in general. Consequently, individual states have been charged with identifying the roles of their Traditional Rulers in accordance with their peculiarities. However, the forum **AGREED** that Traditional Rulers be engaged in educational development, dispute resolution and to integrate the Institution into the administration of Local Government and Development Areas.

2. **Fine-Tuning Federal Government's Policy of Appointment for Geographical Balance**

The forum is not against the Federal Government policy on appointments based on Federal Character. However, it is called upon to fine-tune the policy with a view to ensuring geographical balancing.

3. **Development of Mega Cities in the North**

The forum **RESOLVED** on the need to set up Mega Cities in the North particularly in Kano and Kaduna States with a view to attracting investments for the socio-economic developments of the Region.

4. **Dredging of River Niger and Resuscitation of Railway Lines**

The forum **AGREED** that the dredging of River Niger and Resuscitation of Railways would boost the economic potentiality of the region and the country in general. Therefore, the forum call on the Federal Government is call upon to put measures in place towards actualizing this objective.

5. **Power Generation**

The forum after thorough deliberation **AGREED** that each State should set up Agency for Energy Development or State Committee on energy to compliment national efforts. It noted the on-going efforts by some States. And also, to constitute a technical Committee that will coordinate under the leadership of Kaduna State.

Therefore, member states are encouraged to establish small scale electricity projects to resuscitate the ailing industries in the North and provide employment opportunities to the army of our unemployment youths.

6. **Unity Bank Plc**

The forum **AGREED** to comply as soon as possible with the Central Bank directive to divest it shares in Unity Bank (within three months) in the interest of the Banking System in Nigeria, and to enable Unity Bank move along with other Banks in the industry. Consequently, the forum approved the engagement of New Devco a subsidiary of NNDC to advise the forum on how to prosecute Unity Bank proposal on the procedure for divestment of its share with professional responsibility.

7. **New Nigerian Newspapers Company (NNNC)**

The forum after exhaustive deliberation resolved to privatise the NNNC to enable the company operate in line with current best practices with engagement of Consultants to look at all the issues and advise the forum accordingly. However, the forum noted with appreciation Federal Government arrangement to enable the company's outstanding liabilities that will require a follow up.

8. **Kaduna Textile Limited**

After many years of crisis and dormancy of KTL, the forum has considered rational options towards resuscitating the company. In the interim, the forum would appoint

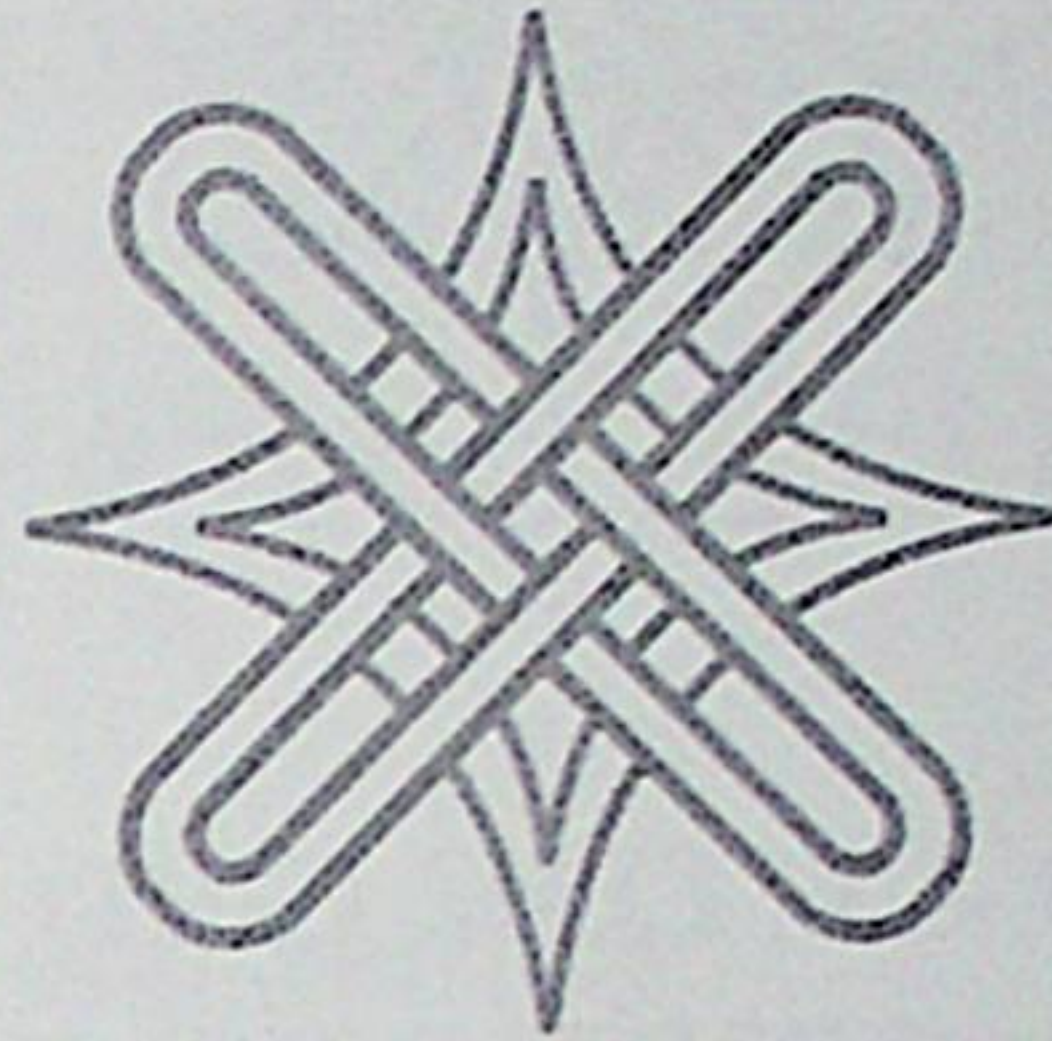
a competent Consultant to appropriately advise the forum on the possibility of public – private sector collaboration.

9. **Structure of the forum**

The forum is to have a Chairman and Deputy Chairman for a period of two years elected by the majority of members of the forum present effective from this meeting and renewable only once.

Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu of Niger State was elected Chairman and Governor Gabriel Suswan of Benue State as the Deputy Chairman for the next two years.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON
(TALBAN MINNA)
THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE
CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM



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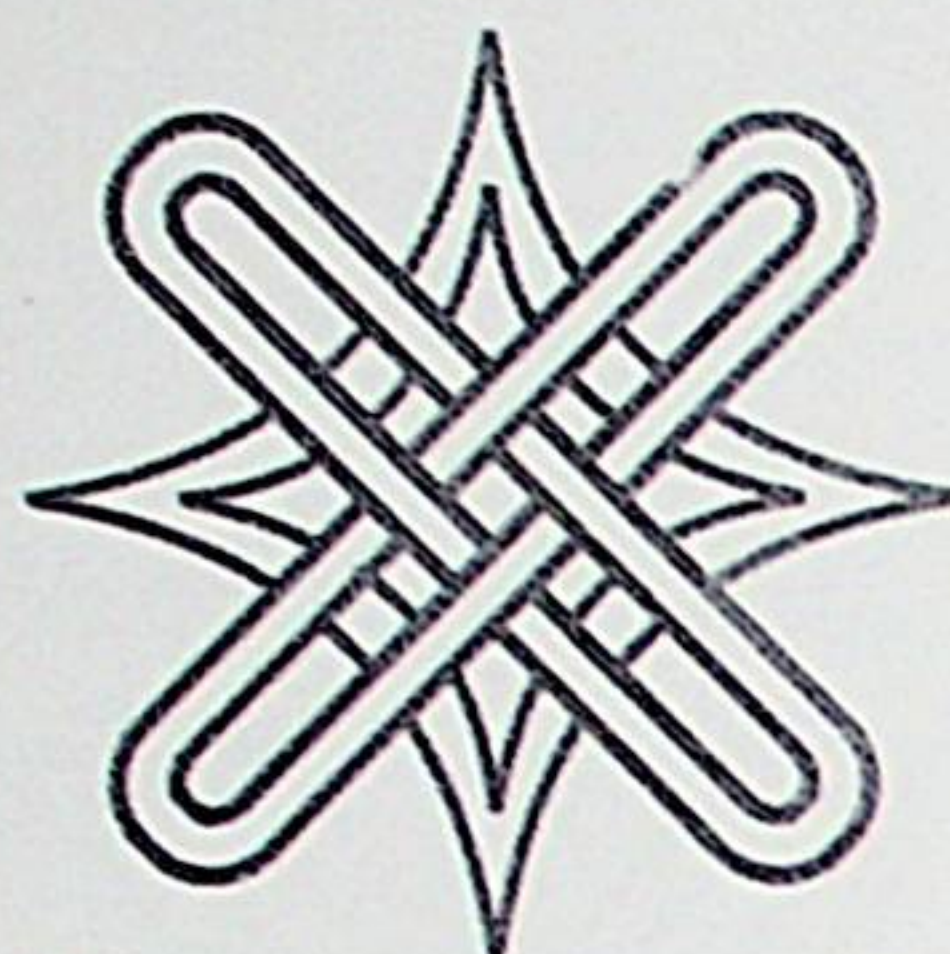
NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué

ISSUED AT THE
END OF THE MEETING

Held On 24th July, 2008

At The Presidential Lodge, General Hassan Usman Katsina House,
Kawo – Kaduna



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MEETING OF NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LODGE, GENERAL HASSAN USMAN KATSINA HOUSE, KAWO – KADUNA ON 24TH JULY, 2008

The Northern States Governors' Forum held its regular meeting today, 24th July, 2008 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Servant and Executive Governor of Niger State, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON (Talban Minna). The meeting is one of the regular meetings of the forum call to deliberate on wide ranging issues affecting the North in particular and the country in general. This is coming at a period when the forum is demonstrating to the world its determination to address the different phases of underdevelopment of the Northern States.

Subsequently, the following decisions were taken at the end of the deliberations:

1. Sir Ahmadu Bello Foundation

The forum **AGREED** on the importance of the establishment of a foundation after the late Premier of the Northern Region, Sir Ahmadu Bello the Sardauna of Sokoto as a way of sustaining his legacies for current and future generations.

The foundation is to replicate the values that the late Premier represents by bringing together people who were part of and share Sardauna's school of thought into a foundation to deliver the synergy of their individual abilities with a view to rebuilding the legacy of the Premier.

The foundation shall have a constitution which provides for Board of Trustees comprising the chairman of the foundation of the forum and three Governors each from the 3 geo-political zones of the North.

2. Approach to the Development of Agriculture in Northern States

The Forum after thorough deliberations on the important issue of Agriculture development in Northern States **AGREED** to adopt the proposal submitted by His

Excellency the Executive Governor of Adamawa State, Murtala Nyako as a veritable for Agricultural development in the North.

3. **Agricultural Summit**

The forum in line with its policy of given priority attention to all imputes on Agricultural development **AGREED** to support individuals and organisations with genuine interest in Agricultural development in the North. Hence, the need for the participation of all stakeholders in the Agricultural sector to participate in the summit actively.

4. **School of Basic and Remedial Studies**

The forum deliberate exhaustively on the school and **AGREED** to support the institution by the states paying all the arrears of contributions due to the institution in the interest of unity and educational development of the North.

5. **Privatisation of New Nigerian Newspapers**

The forum deliberated on the important issue of the privatisation of New Nigerian Newspapers taking all factors into account and **AGREED** on its privatisation and the appointment of a consultant who will give full brief of the matter to the forum.

6. **NNDC**

The forum deliberated on the issue of the NNDC and **AGREED** to appoint a consultant to look into all issues at stake.

7. **Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT)**

The forum appealed to the NUT to go back to classes for quality education.
ck to classes for quality education.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON
(TALBAN MINNA)
THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE
CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM



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NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué
ISSUED AT THE
END OF THE MEETING

Held On 6th November, 2008

At The Presidential Lodge, General Hassan Usman Katsina House,
Kawo – Kaduna



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MEETING
OF THE NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM
HELD AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LODGE, GENERAL HASSAN
USMAN KATSINA HOUSE, KAWO – KADUNA
ON THURSDAY THE 6TH OF NOVEMBER, 2008

The Northern States Governors' Forum held its regular meeting today, 6th November, 2008 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Servant and Executive Governor of Niger State, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON (Talban Minna). The meeting deliberated on wide ranging issues affecting the North in particular and the country in general.

Subsequently, the following decisions were taken at the end of the deliberations:

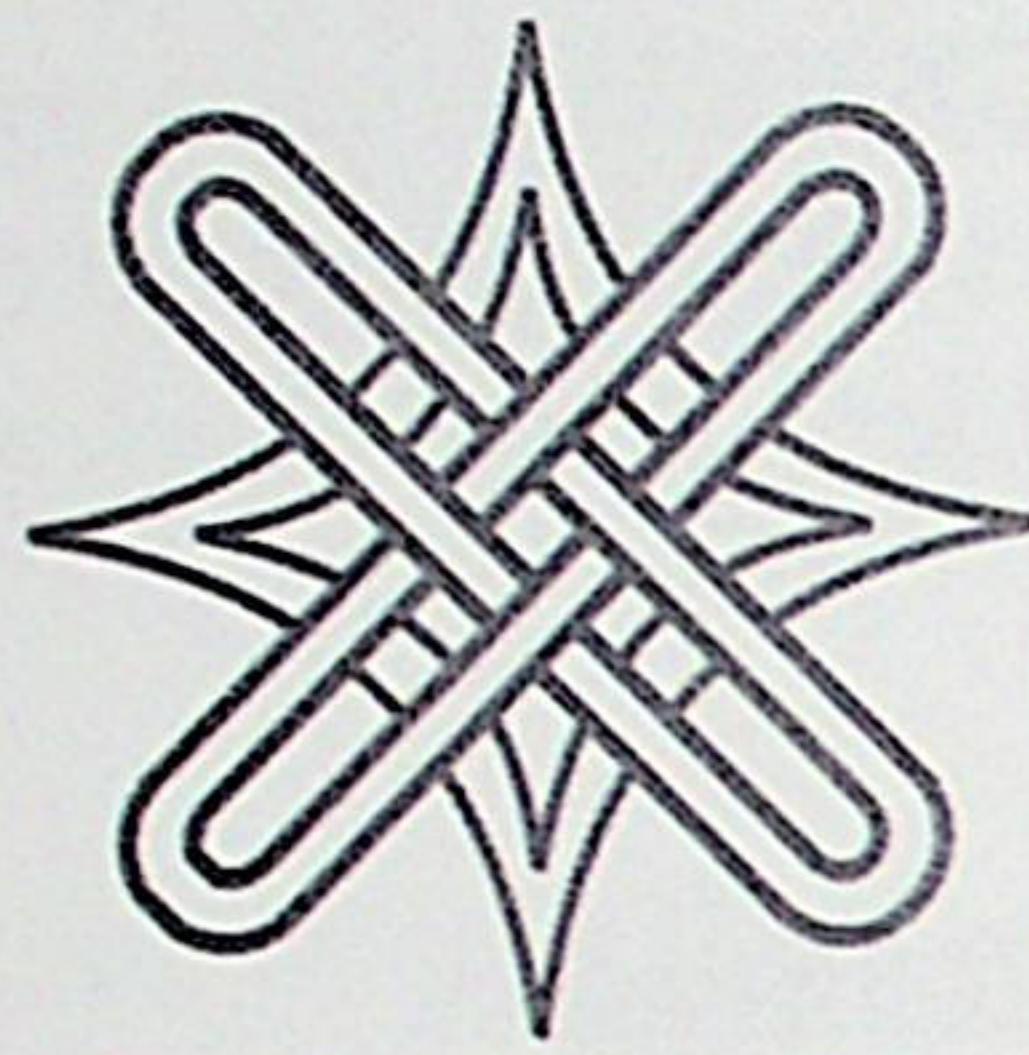
1. **Report of Conference on De-Industrialisation of the North by General T. Y. Danjuma (Rtd)**

The forum having received a presentation by the Committee led by its Chairman, General T. Y. Danjuma retired on issues such as agriculture, education and human development, finance and banking, position of women in the State and family, deliberated exhaustively and **AGREED** to do all within their powers to implement the recommendations raised by the committee. Meanwhile, States will individually exploit the potentials of the group.

2. **Briefing by Director-General, NIMASA on Seafarers Development Initiative**

The forum after deliberations on the issue of Seafaring and its potentials to provide employment as well as hard currency for the North and the country as presented by the Director-General **AGREED** to utilise the opportunity to send qualified indigenes of various States to the institution.

COMMUNIQUÉ On 6th November, 2008 At The Presidential Lodge, General Hassan Usman Katsina House, Kawo – Kaduna



NSGF

NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué
ISSUED AT THE
END OF THE MEETING

Held On 6th November, 2008

At The Presidential Lodge, General Hassan Usman Katsina House,
Kawo – Kaduna



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LODGE, GENERAL HASSAN USMAN KATSINA HOUSE, KAWO – KADUNA ON THURSDAY THE 6TH OF NOVEMBER, 2008

The Northern States Governors' Forum held its regular meeting today, 6th November, 2008 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Servant and Executive Governor of Niger State, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON (Talban Minna). The meeting deliberated on wide ranging issues affecting the North in particular and the country in general.

Subsequently, the following decisions were taken at the end of the deliberations:

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3. **Briefing by the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology on Establishment of Nigerian Science and Technology**

The forum deliberated on the importance and potentials of the establishment of Nigerian Science and Technology Park in States with the North and **AGREED** to support their establishment.

4. **Joint Discussion between the Northern Governors Forum and Steering Committee on the Establishment of Sardauna Foundation**

The Steering Committee on the establishment of Sardauna Foundation led by the Chairman, Justice Mamman Nasir briefed the forum on its activities. The forum had the opportunity of further exchange of ideas with the committee and **AGREED** to give its maximum support to the committee on the establishment of the Sardauna Foundation to enable it achieve the set objective.

5. **The 16th National Sports Festival (KADA) Games 2008**

The Chairman of the organising Committee of the National Sports Festival, the Kaduna State Deputy Governor briefed the forum on the preparations towards the competition. The forum after deliberations **AGREED** to support Kaduna State towards the successful hosting of the National Sports Festival.

6. **Fertilizer Procurement**

The forum viewed with serious concern the abhorring activities of a cartel in fertilizer procurement, distribution and marketing as well as the questionable quality of the commodity and its safety to both the people and their environment at large. It therefore **AGREED** to promptly and appropriately take-up the issue with the Federal Government.

7. **Desert Encroachment**

The forum discussed the enormous danger of desert encroachment, which is said to be moving inward at an average of 10km per annum, with erosion aggravated by deforestation, endless grazing and general farming activities. It **AGREED** to aggressively pursue the issue of alternative sources of energy, payment of counterpart funding to relevant agencies and involvement of the Private Sector in afforestation programmes.

8. **Communiqué of the Wives of Northern Governors**

The forum noted the communiqué of the just concluded meeting of the Wives of Northern Governors and **AGREED** to make conscious efforts and take practical

steps towards addressing issues that would achieve enhanced health status for the people, reduction in maternal mortality and VVF scourge as well as minimise the adverse effects of the dreaded HIV/AIDS especially among women and children.

9. **Communiqué of the Meeting of the Northern Speakers' Forum**

The forum noted the communiqué of the last meeting of the Northern Speakers' Forum, it **AGREED** that all States with International Boundaries should endeavour to liaise with the National Boundary Commission with a view to developing boarder areas.

10. **School of Basic and Remedial Studies Funtua**

The forum noted the report on the School of Remedial and Basic Studies, Funtua and **AGREED** that States that have not redeemed their financial pledges should do so. It approved the constitution of a committee of the SSGs to supervise its general operation for the effective administration of the institution.

11. **Communiqué of the Meeting of Heads of Service of the Northern States**

The forum noted the communiqué issued at the end of the meeting of Heads of Service of the Northern States in Minna and **AGREED** to adopt the recommendations therein.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON

(TALBAN MINNA)

THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE
CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUÉ On 7th May, 2009 At The Presidential Lodge, General Hassan Usman Katsina House, Kawo – Kaduna



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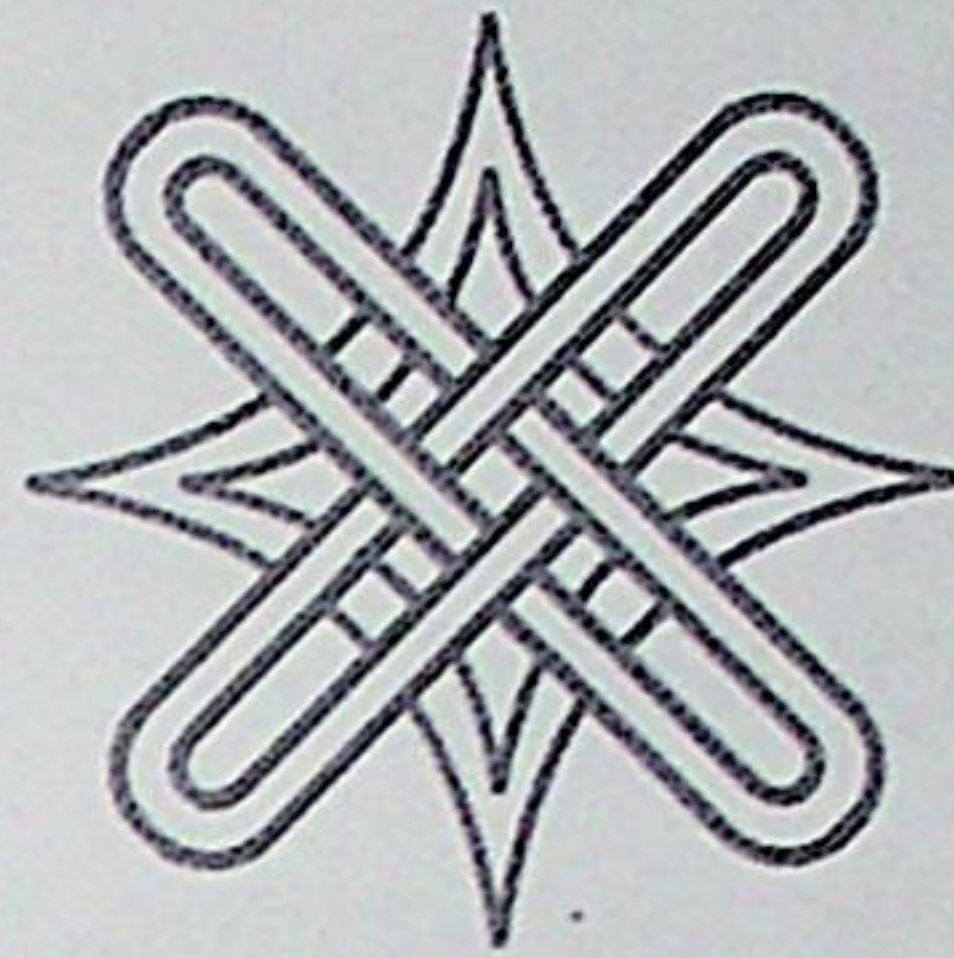
NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué

ISSUED AT THE
END OF THE MEETING

Held On Thursday, 7th May, 2009

At The Presidential Lodge, General Hassan Usman Katsina House,
Kawo – Kaduna



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY, 7TH MAY, 2009 AT GENERAL HASSAN USMAN KATSINA HOUSE, KAWO - KADUNA

The meeting recognised the harsh effects of the global economic crisis on our States and people. However, members expressed honest desire to co-operate with one another in order to come out of the doldrums of abject poverty in the region. It agreed that none of them had reason to disappoint one another in their quest to achieve the common goal through collective commitment to the genuine rebirth of the North and sustain the confidence of the people.

After exhaustive deliberations, members resolved as follows:

1. EXCHANGE OF VISITS

The forum RESOLVED to encourage members to continue to support and compliment one another especially through exchange of visits as well as rededicate themselves to the service of their people and the Nation.

2. SIR AHMADU BELLO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The forum RESOLVED to ensure the operationalization of Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation, in consistency with the values and legacies of the late Icon, scheduled for launching on the 4th July, 2009.

3. NNN PRIVATIZATION

The forum NOTED the progress made by the Kaduna State Government on the selection process for the engagement of Consultants in the ongoing privatization process of the New Nigerian Newspapers Ltd and RESOLVED that the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE) be included in the exercise in order to enable the company's retired workers to access their benefits;

It also AGREED to extend the tenure of the Managing Director of the organization by six (6) months to allow for the conclusion of the privatization process and allow for immediate retirement of workers so due to enable them participate in the verification exercise by PENCOM.

4. **DIVESTMENT OF UNITY BANK**

The forum noted with immense appreciation, the cooperation of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) towards successful divestment process of share holding in the Unity Bank.

It therefore RESOLVED that all Honourable Commissioners of Finance from the Northern States should once again meet with NEWDEVCO and the Management of the Unity Bank to proffer the most suitable solutions towards successful divestment process of the Bank in collaboration with Gamzaki as the newly incorporated Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the exercise.

5. **LAND REFORMS BILL**

The forum RESOLVED that each State should set up a Committee to look at the land reforms bill and its effect to the North and make recommendations where necessary in tandem with the Federal Government of Nigeria's Committee headed by Professor Mabogunje.

6. **AGRICULTURAL PROMOTION**

The forum RESOLVED to establish farming skill acquisition centre to teach, especially the youth, modern farming techniques as well as make available to farmers adequate inputs, markets and ware-houses and easy access to credit facilities.

Consequently, the forum ADOPTED that Honourable Commissioners of Agriculture of the nineteen (19) Northern States should meet in Jigawa by Wednesday the 13th May, 2009 and look at matters of urgent importance to the agric development in the region through:

- (a) to access CBN and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture's loans; (b) to create one stop-shop;
- (c) to effectively engage the youth in farming;
- (d) Challenge the glut and scarcity syndrome;
- (e) Cooperative regional strategy and individual approach for access both the CBN and Federal Ministry of Agriculture loans.

7. RELEVANCE OF CIVIL SERVICE

The forum deliberated on the relevance of civil service in the implementation of laudable policies and programmes of Governments of the Northern States.

It **RESOLVED** that the Heads of Service of the Northern States should fashion out ways of intensive capacity building, training needs and restoration of core values in the system.

It also **DIRECTED** the Heads of Service of the Northern States to meet regularly and brainstorm with a view to repositioning the civil service for efficient service delivery.

It also **RESOLVED** to encourage exchange of ideas through meetings of other relevant sectors of the service.

8. COUNTERPART FUNDING

The forum deliberated on the issue of counterpart funding and its attendant benefits in relation to execution of development projects, e.g. Education Trust Fund and **RESOLVED** that individual States should take adequate steps in exploiting available opportunities of accessing such funds in order to execute developmental projects and programmes.

9. DESERT ENCROACHMENT

The forum extensively deliberated on the enormous danger of fast encroaching desert to the region which is being exacerbated by indiscriminate felling of trees.

It **AGREED** to hold a preliminary meeting of Stakeholders of Forestry and Environment to include Honourable Commissioners of Environment, and Forestry, Directors of Forestry and Environment as well as Secretaries to the State Governments of the Northern States or their representatives in Jigawa State. Subsequently, a Summit would also be held at a later date to proffer critical measures to be adopted in line with International best practices.

Similarly, States are to embark on massive tree planting, a minimum of ten (10) million trees per annum as well as apply appropriate sanctions on excessive logging.

10. NEW NIGERIAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (NNDC)

The forum received the report from Bauchi State as submitted by the Consultant engaged to advise on the recapitalization of NNDC and **ACCEPTED** the report and immediately constituted a White Paper Committee consisting of Secretaries to the Governments of Bauchi, Zamfara, Kogi, Kebbi, Plateau and Yobe States to within four (4) weeks produce workable recommendations for NSGF's consideration.

In addition, it **DIRECTED** the present Governing Board to proceed with actions for immediate gains while the report should focus on medium and long-term development plans.

11. **ADDRESS BY THE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA CAN, NORTHERN CHAPTER**

The forum **NOTED** the presentation by the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Northern Chapter and **RESOLVED** to carefully study the observations raised.

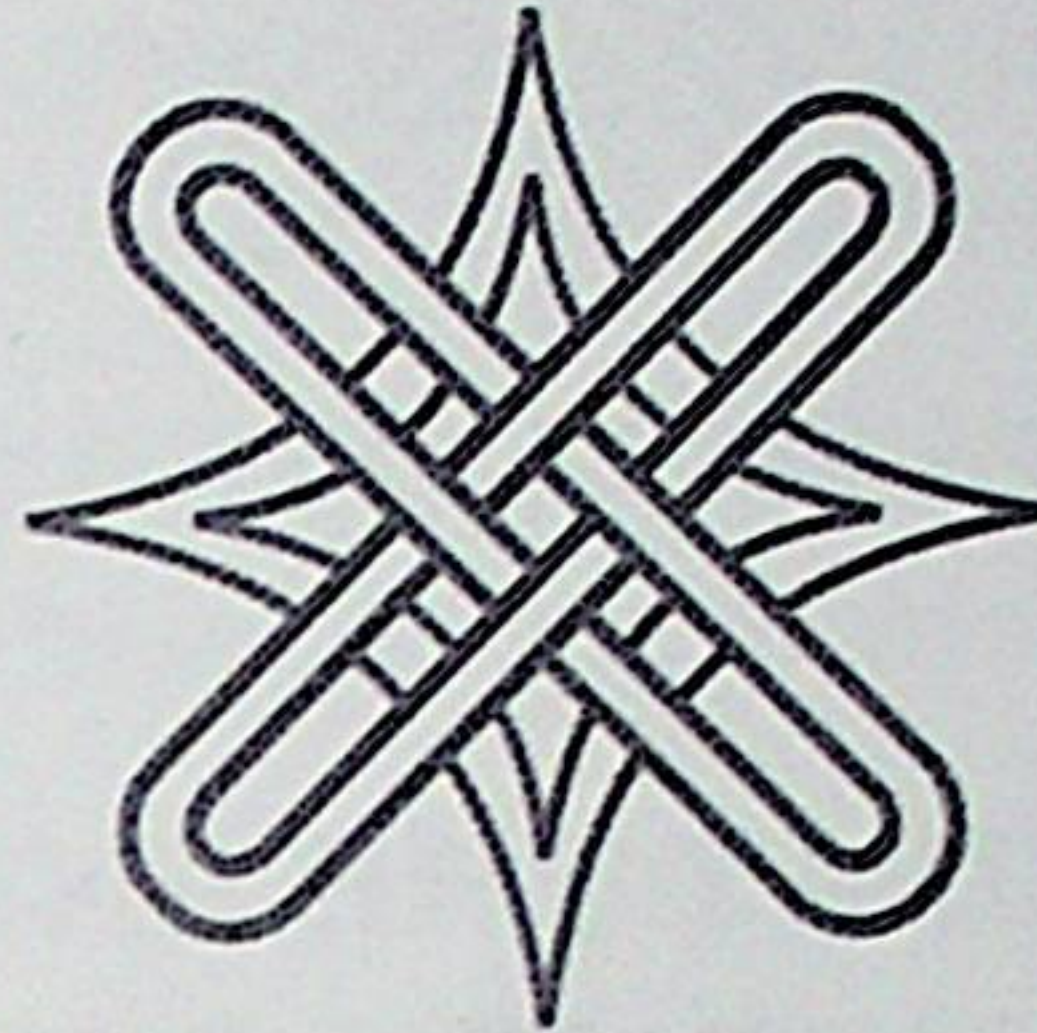
12. **BRIEFING BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, ABUJA SECURITIES AND COMMODITY EXCHANGE PLC**

The Managing Director, Abuja Securities and Commodity Exchange (ASCE) briefed the meeting on the ware-housing of farm products to improve cash flow and provide adequate storage to farmers.

The forum **NOTED** the presentation and **DIRECTED** the Managing Director to visit all the States ex-Niger and make individual presentation.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON
(TALBAN MINNA)

THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE
CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM



NSGF

NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué
ISSUED AT THE
END OF THE MEETING

Held On August 3rd, 2009

At The Presidential Lodge, General Hassan Usman Katsina House,
Kawo – Kaduna



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

**COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MEETING
OF THE NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM
HELD ON AUGUST 3RD, 2009; AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LODGE,
GENERAL HASSAN USMAN KATSINA HOUSE, KAWO – KADUNA**

A Special meeting of the Northern States Governors' Forum (NGF) was summoned to principally deliberate on two issues:

1. Progress attained on the launching of Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation and confirmation of the date for the launching scheduled for August 15th, 2009; and
2. Sectarian attacks by Boko Haram group in some Northern States.

On the issue of the Foundation, the forum took the following decisions:

- i) It ratified the decision of the Board of Trustees
- ii) Agreed to change the launching date from August 15, 2009 to Saturday, October 17th, 2009.
- iii) The immediate and constant media campaign to announce the new date as well as to mobilise and sensitise people to key into the initiative;

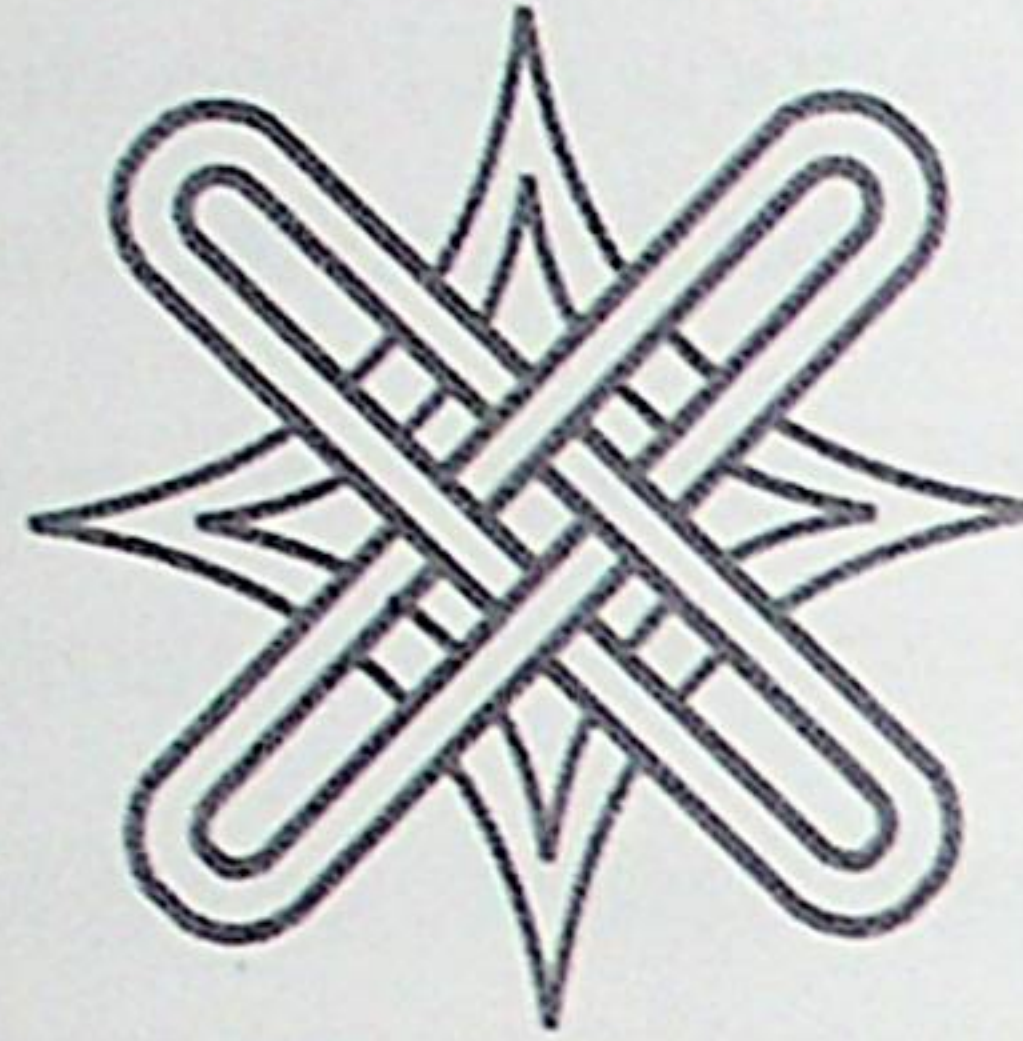
The meeting took briefs from the Governors of various States on the evolution and operations of **Boko Haram** sect using mosques as cover and how security agencies were invited to curb the insurgency.

1. The forum condemned in totality the sectarian activities of a religious sect called **Boko Haram** which caused mayhem in the States of Borno, Bauchi, Yobe and Kano.
2. The forum vowed to empower relevant agencies and ensure effective monitoring of people residing in their areas of jurisdiction.
3. It impressed upon the Mass Media to understand the issue and assist the Governments to report the situation of things properly.

4. The meeting appreciates Federal Government's high powered delegation led by the Chief of Defence Staff to the affected States and calls for the implementation of the report of findings.
5. It would empower Traditional Institutions to enforce relevant laws that guide and regulate the establishment and activities of religious groups/societies, places of worship and religious congregations and also directs them to complement relevant institutions in the registration of births and deaths in their domains.
6. In respect of Foreigners amongst the sect members, the Forum called on the Immigration Department to brace up and be more vigilant.
7. It also resolved that all Northern States to enact appropriate laws capable of curbing sectarian crises.
8. The forum urged States to take meeting of Security Councils at various levels very seriously as well as implementation of all the decisions reached.
9. It also called on States to establish Councils of Ulamas and the Imams/Pastors, especially those Imams of Juma'at mosques.
10. The meeting supported the call for more funding of security agencies in the country by the Federal Government.
11. The forum took cognisance of the current economic meltdown affecting every sector and resolved that the states should diversify and increase collection of their internally generated revenues and reduce over dependence on oil revenue.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON
(TALBAN MINNA)
THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE
CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUÉ On 4th February 2010 At Council Chamber, Sir Kashim Ibrahim House (Government House), Kaduna



NSGF

NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué
ISSUED AT THE
EMERGENCY MEETING

Held On Thursday 4th February 2010

At Council Chamber, Sir Kashim Ibrahim House
(Government House), Kaduna



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUE OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 2010 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIR KASHIM IBRAHIM HOUSE, (GOVERNMENT HOUSE), KADUNA

The Emergency Meeting of the Northern State Governors' Forum was held to discuss collectively the series of crises in Northern States, particularly in Plateau State resulting in great loss of lives and property. The Forum also discussed the current national situation.

In his address, the chairman of the forum and Chief Servant of Niger State, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON described the mayhem as unfortunate and retrogressive to the socio-economic development of the North and the country in general. He expressed immense gratitude to the Traditional Rulers Council and all others for their reconciliatory and peace building efforts in Plateau State, and prayed for the repose of the departed souls and the fortitude to bear the losses.

The forum prayed for the speedy recovery and good health of Mr. President, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua **GCFR**. The Northern Governors' Forum appreciates the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) in relation to the Office of the President and that of the Vice President. It also associate itself with judgement of the Courts on the same and agrees that the position of Acting could be either verbal or written and the Vice President has been appropriately acting admirably. The forum calls on all arms of governments to continue to give full and total support to the Acting President until the President returns in the interest of our dear and beloved country Nigeria.

- (1) The forum noted with grave concern the prevalent security challenges in the North, particularly the series of sectarian crisis in Jos, Plateau State, while it condemns in strongest terms the recent loss of lives and property. The forum established that the crisis was more political than religious.

- (2) The forum reiterated the need for sustained and deliberate campaign to abrogate settler/non-indigene syndrome in the overall interest of peace in the country and strictly abide by the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on citizenship.
- (3) The forum called for the strengthening of security apparatus by way of proactive and pre-emptive measures towards securing the lives and property of the people as a fundamental constitutional responsibility and to forestall future occurrence of such crisis in the country.
- (4) The forum also reiterated the need for sustained peace building mechanism and effective law enforcement for peaceful co-existence, while calling on Nigerians to embrace dialogue as a veritable tool for solving problems.
- (5) The forum further noted the concern and actions being taken by the Federal Government as well as Plateau State Government to nib the crisis in the bud in the interest of peaceful co-existence and development of the country. It also called on the Federal Government to direct the implementation of the recommendations of various Investigative Panels on the recurring crisis in Plateau State including the recommendations of Committee of Eminent Citizens co-chaired by Chief Solomon Lar and Alhaji Yahaya Kwande.
- (6) The forum further condemns the wrong information being perpetuated by some newspapers that Bauchi State House of Assembly has passed a resolution on the repatriation of Plateau State indigenes from Bauchi State and called for investigative and responsive Journalism.
- (7) The forum agrees to solicit for assistance from governments and individuals for the victims of the crisis.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON
(TALBAN MINNA)
THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE
CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM



NSGF

NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué
ISSUED AT THE
END OF SPECIAL MEETING

Held On Thursday 25th March 2010

At Sir Kashim Ibrahim House (Government House), Kaduna



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS'
FORUM MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25TH MARCH 2010;
AT SIR KASHIM IBRAHIM HOUSE
(GOVERNMENT HOUSE), KADUNA**

The meeting of the Northern States Governors' Forum held on 25th March, 2010 was declared open by the Chairman of the forum, the Chief Servant of Niger State, Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu, OON, Talban Minna.

In his remarks, he commended his colleagues for the high sense of responsibility for the genuine concern shown on the Jos crisis and sympathized with the victims and the people and Government of Plateau State, and called on leaders at all levels to confront security challenges with the seriousness they deserve without sentiments but as part of responsibilities of leaders at all levels.

The chairman reiterated that the nation is going through challenging times, requiring the forum's collective sense of patriotism, political maturity, dexterity and innovation in governance.

1.0 NEW NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS LTD (NNN)

The forum deliberated on the numerous problems and challenges of the NNN. It further and approved the request for a terminal leave and benefits of the former Managing Director of the company.

1.1 After due considerations, the forum took the following critical decisions in order to reposition the company for efficiency and effectiveness:

- (i) To provide a life line to the company to enable it settle some of its critical outstanding issues;
- (ii) the engagement of BGL Consortium as privatization advisors of NNN Ltd.

2.0 NEW NIGERIAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (NNDC)

The forum considered the recommendations of the Draft White Paper on the recapitalization of NNDC, and noted the unsatisfactory performance of the company attributable to deficiencies in its management structure, mission and vision. The meeting therefore resolved to reposition it through restructuring the general operations of the Company for efficiency and effectiveness.

2.1 The forum consequently, took the following far reaching decisions:

- (i) Approved the appointment of consultants with international repute to handle the issues of restructuring and management of NNDC in collaboration with a committee of four governors;
- (ii) the Board of NNDC must begin to function in accordance with by laws, and Article of Association of the company;
- (iii) a committee of four (4) Governors was appointed to give directions to the consultants in order to arrive at appropriate restructuring of NNDC management and operations in line with International best practices.

3.0 BEGGING AND PROSTITUTION BY NIGERIANS IN THE HOLY LANDS

The forum frowned at the menace of begging and prostitution by Nigerians at the Holy Lands. It noted that such nefarious activities are embarrassing to the image of the Nation and resolved to evolve far reaching steps towards halting these activities.

3.1 The forum therefore, appointed a committee saddled with the following responsibilities:

- (a) The committee is mandated to liaise with National Hajj Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Interior and other religious bodies such as Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI) and Christian Association (CAN) in every State with a view to articulating practical solutions to the issue;
- (b) the committee in liaison with Clergies and Traditional Rulers to organize a summit on the issue and articulate a Modus Operandi for the Forum towards eradicating the menace.
- (c) that State Governments should endeavour to provide conducive atmosphere and succor to Pilgrims in their respective States to ensure strict compliance with established standards during the Holy Pilgrimages. States were further advised to provide feeding for their Pilgrims in Muna.

4.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

The forum resolved to request all the Northern states to establish Primary Health Care Development Agencies to fight further Polio, Malaria and other communicable diseases aggressively and to monitor closely Local Governments identified to be more vulnerable to these diseases.

5.0 DESERT ENCROACHMENT, AFFORESTATION, LAND RECLAMATION

The forum noted the inherent danger of desert encroachment and afforestation to the country. This has assumed security dimension with attendant implications for food security.

5.1 It, therefore, resolved to impress on the Federal Government to establish appropriate Agency for Desert Encroachment, Afforestation and Land Reclamation in view of the enormity of the challenges of desertification. In addition, the forum called on the Federal Government to consider diverting River Congo to Lake Chad, and to check the activities of the Lake Chad Commission.

6.0 INCESSANT CRISES IN PLATEAU STATE

The forum expressed immense concern over the incessant crises in Plateau State which had led to colossal loss of lives and properties. It therefore, sees the Plateau State problem as giving the nation negative image. Hence, it agreed to find a lasting solution to the problem by collective engagement of the Government of Plateau State to achieve constructive and lasting solution to Plateau crisis and averting future occurrences there or elsewhere.

6.1 To this end, a special meeting is to be convened with all the 19 governors in attendance shortly.

7.0 KADUNA TEXTILE LIMITED (KTL)

The forum expressed immense concern over the numerous challenges of KTL. It therefore mandated the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, His Excellency, Arc. Muhammad Namadi Sambo to look into all the problems of KTL as well as the possibility of engaging the Bank of Industry and other major shareholders in proffering far reaching solutions toward resuscitating the company.

8.0 SIR AHMADU BELLO FOUNDATION

The forum received the report of the Technical Committee on Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation and directed it to conclude on other matters for discussion in details at its meeting scheduled for mid-May, 2010.

**9.0 ARREST AND DETENTION OF PROMINENT NIGERIAN SCHOLAR
IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

On the arrest of a prominent Nigerian scholar, Sheikh Ahmed Gumi by Saudi Arabia Authorities, the forum urges the Federal Government to demand for his immediate release.

10.0 The forum is to meet the federal government on the following:

- (a) Desertification;
- (b) Northern Power Master Plan – particularly the development of Hydro-Power Projects, Mambila, Zungeru, Gurara II, etc and other medium and small hydro power projects;
- (c) Access to Ecological Funds;
- (d) Chad Basin.

11.0 The forum commiserated with the people and Government of Kano State on the fire incident at Kwari Market.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON
(TALBAN MINNA)
THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE
CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM

UNIQUE On Thursday, April 22nd, 2010 At Government House (Rayfield), Jos, Plateau State



NSGF

NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué

ISSUED AT THE
END OF SPECIAL MEETING

Held On Thursday, April 22nd, 2010

At Government House (Rayfield), Jos, Plateau State



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM (NSGF), HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 22ND, 2010 AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE (RAYFIELD), JOS, PLATEAU STATE

INTRODUCTION

The Northern States Governors' Forum at its meeting in Kaduna on Thursday, March 25th, 2010, expressed concern over the incessant crises in Plateau State which had led to colossal loss of lives and properties.

To this end, it convened a Special Meeting OF THE 19 Northern Governors in Jos with a view to finding lasting solutions to the perennial problem by collective engagement of the Government of Plateau State and other Stakeholders to achieve constructive and lasting solution to Plateau Crises and averting future occurrence there or elsewhere.

The forum considered the crises in Plateau State as a problem affecting the socio-economic development of the region and must not be allowed to continue unchecked.

It, therefore, appealed to all the people in Plateau State, especially the aggrieved parties, to allow peace and tranquility reign.

OBSERVATIONS:

At the end of the meeting, members acknowledged:

1. That the Traditional Rulers have crucial roles to play in the restoration of peace in Plateau State;
2. That the violence that characterized the crisis in Jos has been erroneously manipulated to have religious conotation evident in cases where even petty quarrels

or localized disputes are accorded religious interpretation and blown out of proportions.

3. That the crisis in Jos has a great deal of propaganda in the print and electronic media by politicians, religious leaders, Ex-Military officers, etc.
4. That legally defined means of seeking redress are not considered when resolving disputes but rather communities unfortunately take laws into their hands.

RESOLUTIONS

1. To assist and support the traditional institutions in Northern States to discharge their onerous responsibility effectively in peace building/maintenance.
2. To engage all stakeholders in interface dialogue and re-orientation on the importance of peaceful co-existence.
3. To make concerted effort to ensure that unemployed youths in Jos and other parts of the region are gainfully employed.
4. To ensure that effective policies are put in place by both the federal and states governments for payment of compensations and to provide other palliative measures to genuine victims of the crises. The Plateau State Government agreed to set-up a committee to identify and assess the loses by the victims.
5. States will ensure the establishment of Ward/Community Security Committees to assist in crime reporting.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON
(TALBAN MINNA)
THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE
CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM



NSGF

NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué
ISSUED AT THE
END OF SPECIAL MEETING

Held On Thursday, July 1st, 2010

At The Council Chamber, Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE MEETING OF THE
NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM
HELD ON THURSDAY, 1ST JULY, 2010 AT THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, SIR KASHIM IBRAHIM HOUSE, KADUNA**

The meeting of the Northern States Governors' Forum was held to discuss, collectively, topical issues of national concern and those that have particular bearing on the socio-economic development of the North.

In his address, the Chairman of the forum, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON on behalf of members recalled the heart rending loss of the late President, Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR, whose demise occurred on 5th May, 2010, and commiserate with his family and Nigerians for the great loss, and prayed for the repose of the departed soul.

Furthermore, he on behalf of the Forum congratulated the President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR and the Vice President Arc. Mohammed Namadi Sambo, GCON on their elevation as President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria respectively. He then pledged the forum's total support and commitment towards ensuring the success of the administration. He also recalled the series of political challenges that may threaten the polity and called on political leaders at all levels to stand up to the challenges by displaying high sense of patriotism, nationalism and statesmanship in the overall interest of our dear country.

The forum after extensive deliberation took the following decisions:

- (1) The forum frowned at the enormity of problems and challenges being posed by desert encroachment and deforestation in the North. It therefore directed all Honourable Commissioners of Environment in the Northern States to attend a Desert Encroachment Summit to be hosted by Katsina State on 22nd July, 2010 to proffer far reaching recommendations towards ameliorating the unacceptable faster rate of environmental degradation.

- (2) The forum noted the need for the Federal Government to take urgent appropriate steps towards the immediate release of the Islamic Cleric Dr. Sheikh Ahmed Gumi held in custody in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- (3) The forum noted with delight the process adopted by the Technical Committee of the Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation in recruiting the underlisted three key members of staff for the Foundation and consequently ratified the appointments accordingly:
- (i) Dr. Shettima A. Ali as the Chief Executive Officer
 - (ii) Hajia Amina Ladan Baki as Director, Programme
 - (iii) Barnabas E. Omali as Director of Finance.
- (4) The forum extensively deliberated on the dire need to reposition the New Nigerian Development Company (NNDC) towards achieving the mission and vision for which it was established. To achieve this, the forum ratified the engagement of a renowned consultant, Messrs Accenture to restructure and manage the company in line with international best practices. Meanwhile, the Board of Directors of the company have been urged to articulate an update on the company to the forum.
- (5) The forum noted with concern the disparities in the remuneration packages for workers, particularly health personnel in the region which has contributed to unabated migration of scarce medical personnel from one State to another in search of better pay. The forum, therefore, resolved that the Secretaries to the State Governments, Heads of Service, Honourable Commissioners of Finance and related Ministries of the Northern States to articulate a harmonized salary structure for all categories of workforce in the North.
- (6) The forum constituted a committee of three (3) Governors to take up the issue of lands belonging to New Nigerian Newspapers Company (NNN) in Lagos and Abuja in order to expedite the process of retrieval of these properties before disposal. In addition, Kaduna State Government is to release title papers in respect of the 12 storey Nagwamatse House in Kaduna.
- (6.1) The forum also called on the Federal Government to ensure the payment of its Pension Liabilities owed NNN former workers to alleviate their ordeal.
 - (6.2) Finally, the forum confirmed the appointment of the Ag. Managing Director, NNN, Mall. Tukur Abdulrahman as substantive Managing Director.
- (7) The forum deliberated on the menace of examination malpractices in schools and approved that each State should individually devise means of eliminating it.
- (8) The forum noted the effort of the Federal Government towards the infusion of water into the Lake Chad from the Congo and resolved to approach the Presidency

on other environmental issues like desert encroachment and compensation for lead poisoning victims among others.

- (9) The forum resolved to **recommend** to Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation to consider organizing a Memorial Week in honour of the illustrious leaders of Northern extraction in view of their immense contributions to the development of the region and the Country at large.
10. The forum noted the visit to the Chairman of the forum by the former President of Mac-Arthur Foundation, Dr. Jonathan Fanton and appreciated the promise made by him to be goodwill Ambassador of the Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation [SABMF].
11. The forum noted that zoning was conceptualized in the best interest of Nigeria whereby presidential candidacy would alternate between the North and the South.
 - 11.1 Beyond zoning, the importance of this important endeavour is to produce competent and performing leadership for the country.
 - 11.2 The forum also noted and appreciated the need for discussion and dialogue on all matters concerning the unity and progress of Northern States within the context of a united Nigeria. As a result, the forum have resolved to provide leadership in consultation with key stakeholders. The forum listened to various groups and gave them time for dialogue and appealed to them to consult more so as to come out with a common position.
 - 11.3 Having also listened to various groups of the Northern Elders, the forum resolved that all Northern Governors should go back to their respective States to consult with Stakeholders on the above matter.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON

(TALBAN MINNA)

THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE

CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM



NSGF

NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué

ISSUED AT THE END OF
DESERTIFICATION & ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT
ORGANISED
BY THE KATSINA STATE GOVERNMENT

Held On Thursday 22nd July, 2010

At The Conference Hall, State Secretariat Complex, Katsina



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF DESERTIFICATION
AND ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT ORGANISED
BY THE KATSINA STATE GOVERNMENT UNDER
THE AUSPICES OF THE NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS'
FORUM; HELD AT THE CONFERENCE HALL,
STATE SECRETARIAT COMPLEX, KATSINA
ON THURSDAY 22ND JULY, 2010

1. Introduction

Highly disturbed by the rapid expansion and spread of desert-like conditions, land degradation as well as the dangerous and threatening consequences resulting from such precarious conditions particularly in the Northern part of the country. The Northern Governors' Forum resolved to accord high priority attention towards stemming the current trend. This was to be actualised by ensuring that concerted efforts were made to frontally attack the menace through cross fertilisation of ideas by all relevant stakeholders to proffer suggestions for lasting solutions with a view to ensuring sustainable Agricultural Development, Environmental Safety and reliable Water Supply.

Accordingly, as a follow up to the meeting of Northern States' Commissioners of Environment held at Dutse, Jigawa State on May 13th, 2009, the Katsina State Government was requested by the forum to host a Desertification and Environment Summit. In the light of this, the Summit was convened on Thursday 22nd July, 2010 at the Conference Hall, Katsina State Secretariat Complex with the theme "Desertification and Environment: The Way Forward".

2. Opening Ceremony

The Summit was declared open by the Chief Servant of Niger State, Dr Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON (Talban Minna), Sodangin Nupe) and Chairman

Northern Governors' Forum who was represented by his Deputy, Hon. Ahmed Musa Ibeto (Santurakin Kontagora).

The Opening Remark was preceded by a welcome address by Arc Ibrahim Sayyadi, Secretary to the Government of Katsina state. Keynote address by the Chief Host, His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Katsina State, Dr. Ibrahim Shehu Shema, *fnim*.

Goodwill messages from Alhaji Usman Gadi (National Chairman, Green Watch) and alhaji Ibrahim Abdullahi Yange of HAGEN & Co. Engineering on behalf of other National and International Donor Agencies.

Those who graced the opening ceremony included His Excellency, the Katsina State Deputy Governor, Barr. Sirajo Umar Damari. Others were Hon. Commissioners from the Northern States, Members of the State Executive Council, Members of the State Security Council, Members of the State House of Assembly, Permanent Secretaries, Local Government Chairmen, Chief Executives of Federal and State Parastatals, the Emir of Daura Alhaji Faruk Umar Faruk and representative of the Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Nuhu Abdulkadir (Kauran Katsina).

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by the Secretary to the Niger State Government, represented by the Hon. Commissioner of Environment and Forest Resources, Niger State, Mrs Salome F. N. Ndakotsu.

The Summit was attended by over 250 participants from the Northern States, International Donor Agencies, non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the Academia etc.

3. Technical Session

5 Papers all related to the main theme of the Summit were presented and thoroughly discussed with observations and recommendations arising there-from. The papers were:

- i) Desertification and its Impact
- ii) Climate Change and Agriculture: Impact and Adaptation in Northern Nigeria.
- iii) Afforestation Programme for Environmental Sustainability.
- iv) Alternative Source of Energy to Fuel wood: Indoor Solar and Energy crops as Alternative Sources of Energy to Fuel-Wood.
- v) Dry – Season farming (Irrigation) as Mitigant to Desertification: Case Report
●n Jibiya Irrigation Activities (Slide Presentation).

There were also Technical Reports from the States.

3.1 Notes

At the end of the deliberations, the Summit noted that:

- The current unwholesome land practices are playing a leading role in aggravating desertification and environmental problems in the Region.
- Lack of up to date data and land management tools like soil and land use maps etc which could serve as veritable tools for effective land use management.
- Desertification and environmental problems of the region are largely man made.
- Lack of enforcement of existing legislations dealing with environmental management and regular review to make such in tune with current realities.
- Need for joint action by all tiers of Government in the Region for a joint response to these problems.
- Lack of citizen awareness and education on natural resources utilisation, management and the negative effect this has on the environment.
- The pervasiveness of poverty in the Region is one of the factors that endangered the environment and its natural resources.
- Lack of a Regional Policy, Strategy and plan to deal with issues of Desertification and environmental problems, current individual efforts will not address them as these transcend State and Local Government boundaries.
- The problems of over dependence on domestic fuel-wood and its attendant's consequences on the vegetation cover of the region and the need for finding cheaper and affordable alternatives.
- Lack of utilisation of findings from our various Research Centres and Institutions.
- The important role Irrigation agriculture can play in increasing food production, food security and employment in the Region.
- The negative effect of climate on women by increasing their work load in domestic activities.
- Manpower is inadequate both in quality and quantity to meet the challenges.

- Some of the environmental problems of the Region were due to lack of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before the various projects were undertaken.
- Way and manner chemical fertilizer and other agro-allied chemicals are used or handled poses a lot of danger on the soil and water quality.
- Lack of market outlets and or agro-allied industries hampers development of small farmer irrigation scheme with their attendants' effects on boosting food production, income generation and employment opportunities.

3.2 Recommendations

After exhaustive deliberations, the Summit recommended the following among others:

- Need for strong Political will by Northern State Governments that will encompass peer review in evolving and implementing policies aimed at stemming desertification and its impacts.
- Partnership of State Governments, Research Institutes, Industry and Communities on affordable alternative sources of energy to fuel-wood.
- The development of a Water Master plan consisting of policy on exploration, exploitation and utilisation for various purposes.
- The institutionalisation of effective irrigation plans to increase food production, food security and employment in the region.
- Provision of up to date and land management tools that can serve as veritable means for effective land use management.
- Proper utilisation of research findings from various Research Centres/Institutions.
- Raising public awareness on the dangers of desertification and the need to adopt measures to checkmate it.
- Formation of a Northern States' Stakeholders Committee to address the impact of desertification and the replication of same at State and local levels.
- Environmental and sanitation policy encompassing sanitary inspectors should be developed and adopted by the Northern States.
- Appropriate legislations should be enacted with severe punishment for environment abusers and legislation regularly reviewed.

- Instituting a Regional Policy, Strategy and plan that will deal with issues beyond individual efforts.
- Mainstreaming women and other vulnerable groups in checking climate change effects.
- Provision of adequate manpower both in quality and quantity to meet the challenges of desertification, environment, water resources etc of the Region.
- As a policy, Governments in the region should institutionalise Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/environmental auditing for all development projects.
- Chemical Fertilisers and other agro-allied chemicals to be used only after ascertaining soil requirement.
- Markets to be provided for small scale irrigation farmers to dispose their produce in order to boost their production, income generation and employment opportunities.

3.3 Appreciation

Summit noted and appreciated the efforts of various Governments in the Region towards addressing not only the problem of desertification and environment but also other socio-economic and political challenges militating against the Region's development.

The Summit also wishes to place on record its appreciation of the effort of the Northern States Governors' Forum ably chaired by His Excellency, the Chief Servant of Niger State towards addressing the regions' concern.

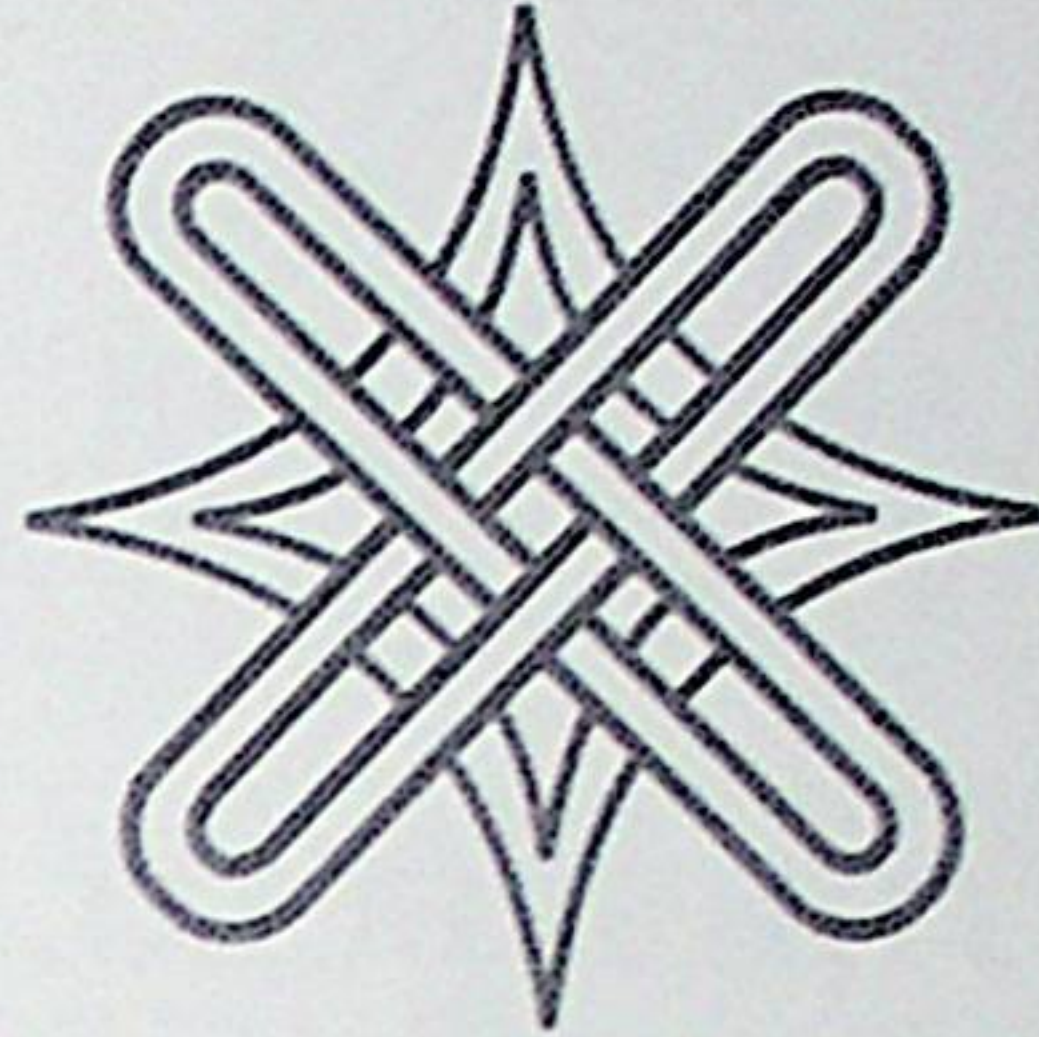
The Summit wishes to thank and appreciate the role of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Katsina State, Dr Ibrahim ShehuShemafnim, the Katsina State Government and people of the state in hosting the meeting.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON

(TALBAN MINNA)

THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE

CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM



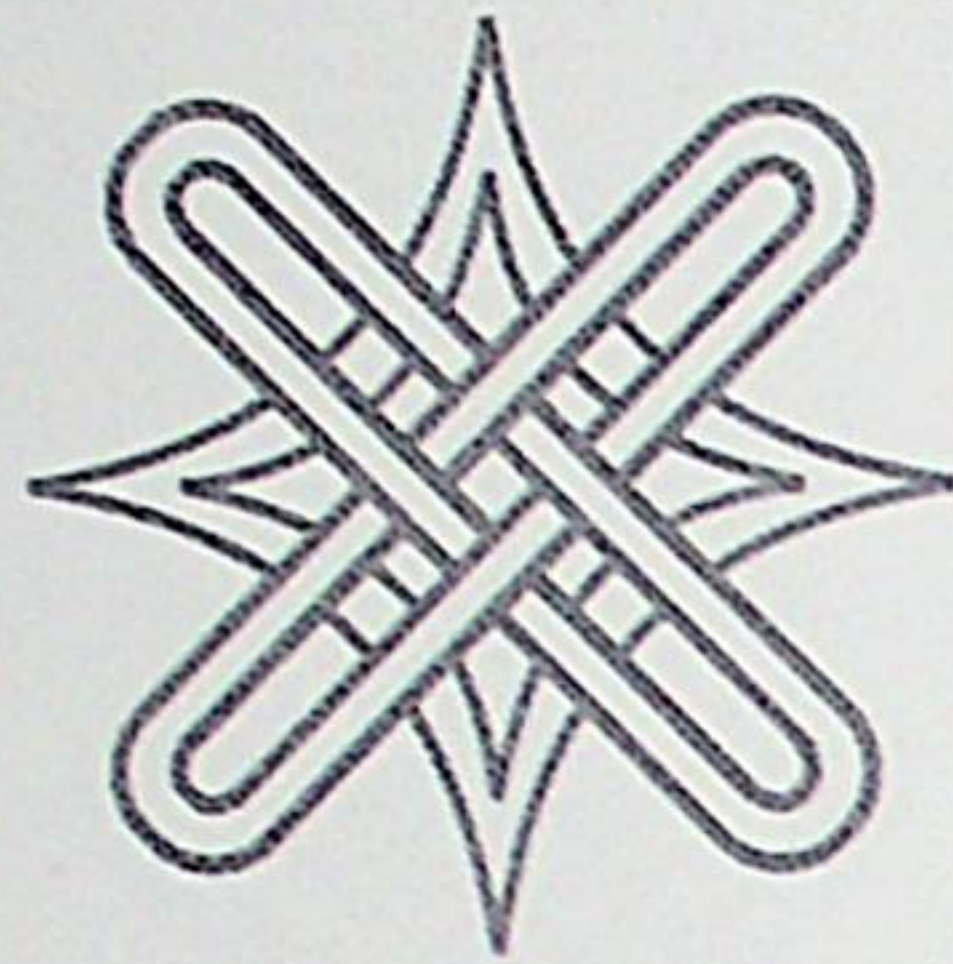
NSGF

NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué
ISSUED AT THE
SPECIAL MEETING

Held On 27th July, 2010

At The Council Chamber,
Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM
HELD ON 27TH JULY, 2010; AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
SIR KASHIM IBRAHIM HOUSE, KADUNA

The Special meeting of the Northern States Governors' Forum was held sequel to the resolve made during its meeting of 1st July, 2010 to allow members go back for wider consultation with stakeholders for the unity and progress of Northern States within the context of a united Nigeria on zoning of the position of the President before eventually taking a position on the matter.

The forum then noted that the desired wider consultation with stakeholders had taken place and various positions have been taken by respective states.

The Northern States Governors' Forum after collating the report from all the 19 Northern States and after exhaustive deliberation recognises the following:

- a) The supremacy of the 1999 Constitution as encapsulated in section one;
- b) The provision of section 131 of 1999 Constitution which states the qualification for election into the office of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Arising from the above, therefore, the forum acknowledges the right of President Goodluck Jonathan and indeed any other Nigerian to legitimately and constitutionally contest for the office of the President.

On zoning, the forum recognises the fact that the issue of zoning is a PDP affair as contained in section 7(2c) of the party Constitution. Therefore, in acknowledging the circumstances of force Majeure arising from the demise of late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua and subsequent ascendancy of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan to the Presidency.

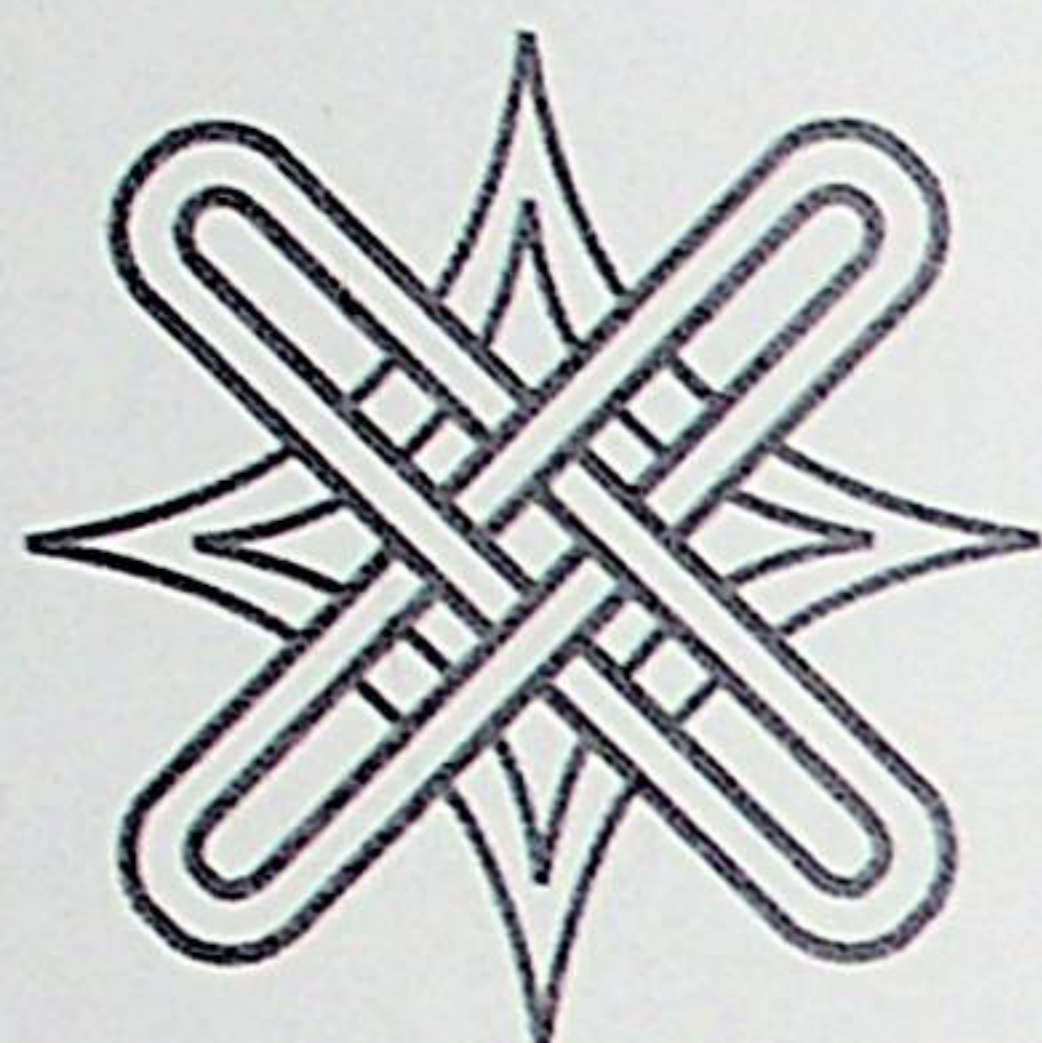
The forum resolves that wider consultations should continue at all party levels within the PDP with all stakeholders across the nation to address the concerns of all in the interest of peaceful co-existence and advancement of democracy in our dear country Nigeria.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON

(TALBAN MINNA)

THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE

CHAIRMAN, NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM



NSGF

NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué

**ISSUED AT THE
END OF SPECIAL MEETING**

Held On Monday, December 13th, 2010

At The Niger State Governor's Lodge
No.22, Jose Marti Crescent, Asokoro, Abuja



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD ON MONDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 2010 AT THE NIGER STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE, NO. 22, JOSE MARTI CRESCENT, ASOKORO, ABUJA

The Northern State Governors' Forum [NSGF], under the Chairmanship of the Chief Servant and Governor of Niger State, *Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON (Talban Minna)* convened a meeting of the Forum in Abuja, at the Niger State Governor's Lodge on 13th December, 2010 to deliberate on issues of common interest for the ultimate goal of achieving the socio-economic development of the Northern States and the Country in general.

2. In his remarks, the Chairman of the forum called on the political actors to be focused on issues that will engender national development and the consolidation of democratic gains in the nation, stressing that national interest should be the guiding principle. The forum called on people to be very vigilant, to protect and defend democracy and avoid political bickering that will give room for those who do not wish the nation well to take advantage of the differences and disagreements.
3. The forum explained that the meeting was held in Abuja out of convenience and not due to in-security in Kaduna as alleged in some national dailies. The decision was also in consonance with the forum's resolution to rotate its meeting among member States in alphabetical order, starting with Adamawa or any State that is readily prepared to volunteer to host members, while Kaduna remain the headquarters and the Secretariat as Coordinating Centre. This decision was taken in the spirit of brotherliness, experience sharing, unity of purpose and to enable members peer review the activities of one another and monitor the implementation status of the numerous decisions taken by the forum on diverse issues, such as Education; Health; Agriculture and Economic Summits. Meanwhile, the forum has agreed to hold the next meeting in Yola, Adamawa State on 27th – 28th January, 2011.

The Chairman, on behalf of members of the Forum commiserate with the Executive Governor of Edo State, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole and the good people of Edo State over the demise of his dear wife.

After extensive deliberations, the Forum took fundamental decisions on the following issues:

MEETING OF THE NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM [NGF]

The forum agreed to increase the frequency of its meeting in view of the prevailing circumstance in the Country. This is aimed at rejuvenating economic prosperity to foster the desired political development, peace, unity and progress of the North and Country in general.

NEW NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS LIMITED (NNN)

The forum expressed immense appreciation to the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) for the committee set-up to examine the issues surrounding the taking and handing over of New Nigeria Newspaper (NNN) by the Federal Government of Nigeria [FGN].

1. To further actualize this feat, the Forum *Resolved as* follows:

- (i) *The need for States that were yet to redeem their pledges of N15.0million to the Company to endeavour to address its immediate challenges;*
- (ii) *Approve the upgrading of the Legal Officer of the Company, Mallam Yusuf Onuh to the position of Acting Company Secretary on contract basis, for a period of two years with effect from December, 2010; and*
- (iii) *Confirm the appointment of four Editors who had been on acting capacity for over six months, namely:*
 - (a) *Bala Mohammed (Acting Editor New Nigeria);*
 - (b) *Sherrif Abdulra'uf Ahmed (Acting Editor New Nigerian Sunday);*
 - (c) *Andrew Fadason (Acting Editor New Nigeria Weekly);*
 - (d) *Nasiru Garba Tofa (Acting Editor, Gaskiya Tafi Kwabo).*

SIR AHMADU BELLO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION (SABMF)

The forum was briefed on the progress made by the Management of Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation [SABMF] and *Resolved* that member States that were

yet to redeem their pledges should do so to enable the Foundation maximize the opportunities to invest in the Federal Government Bond in the tune of N1.5billion.

- 7.2 Similarly, the forum directed the Management of SABMF to articulate a plan of executing its blue print for consideration at the next meeting of the forum scheduled to hold in Adamawa State.

8.0 **NEW NIGERIA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (NNDC)**

Members were requested to make contact with the Presidency and FCT Minister to consider re-allocating the revoked plots of land within the Central Area, Abuja back to NNDC.

DR. MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON
(Talban Minna)
CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE
AND CHAIRMAN
NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUÉ On Thursday, January 27th,, 2011 At The Conference Hall of Government House, Yola, Adamawa State



NSGF

NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué
ISSUED AT THE
END OF SPECIAL MEETING

Held On Thursday, January 27th,, 2011

At The Conference Hall of Government House, Yola, Adamawa State



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN
STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM
HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH JANUARY, 2011
AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
YOLA, ADAMAWA STATE

The Northern States Governors' Forum convened a meeting in Yola, Adamawa State to deliberate on topical issues of common interest for the speedy enhancement of the economic prosperity, and socio-political advancement as well as the security of the North and the Country in general.

2. In his remarks, the Chairman of the forum, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON (*Talban Minna*), charged the people in the region and indeed all eligible Voters in the Country to discharge their civic responsibilities by coming out en masse to ensure that they register with the Independence National Electoral Commission (INEC) to avoid being disenfranchised.
3. He further called on political actors and the people to be focused on issues that will engender national unity and development and, the consolidation of democratic gains in the nation, stressing that peaceful coexistence and National Interest should be of utmost concern.
4. He explained that the meeting was held in Adamawa State in keeping with the forum's decision at its last meeting in Abuja to enable members share experiences, peer review activities of one another and monitor the implementation status of decisions of Northern Governors' forum.
5. The Chairman, on behalf of members of the forum commiserated with the family and good people of Benue State on the death of their illustrious son, the former Secretary to the State Government, Dr. Audu A. Achigili, who lost his life on 31st December 2011 in a ghastly motor accident in Benue State. May the soul of the

deceased rest in perfect peace. The meeting also consoled the Government and good people of Jigawa State on the loss of the children of the Protocol Officer.

After exhaustive deliberations, the forum took the following far reaching decisions:

SIR AHMADU BELLO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION (SABMF)

- (i) The forum was briefed on the blue print of the foundation which touched on areas of Scholarship Award Scheme for the best students for Sir Ahmadu Bello scholars, Entrepreneur Skills development for women and youth specific medical services for the poor and leadership capacity building amongst others. Similarly, membership of Advisory Council of the Foundation was extensively deliberated. This was aimed at positioning the Foundation to operate in line with International best practices.

WAY FORWARD FOR THE REGION

After extensive deliberations on the state of the nation and the North's security and politics, hereby appeal to all politicians and religious leaders across the Country to stop using religion and/or ethnicity in the current political dispensation of our dear nation merely to advance the political interest of some candidates.

The forum also is determined to continue confronting the challenges of insecurity to lives and property, particularly, unemployment and ethno-religious upheavals in the North.

In order to mitigate these challenges, the Forum constituted a three (3) Man Committee with the Executive Governors of Kwara State, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, Benue State, Dr. Gabriel T. Suswan and Katsina State, Barr. Ibrahim Shehu Shema to articulate these challenges comprehensively and proffer far reaching recommendations.

After visiting project sites, the forum commended the Governor of Adamawa for his insight and good work on the ground with enduring legacies worthy of emulation. Meanwhile, the forum **agreed** to convene a Special Meeting on Monday, 7th February, 2011 in Abuja to further discuss security challenges in the region.

DR. MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON

(TALBAN MINNA)

**CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE AND CHAIRMAN
NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM**



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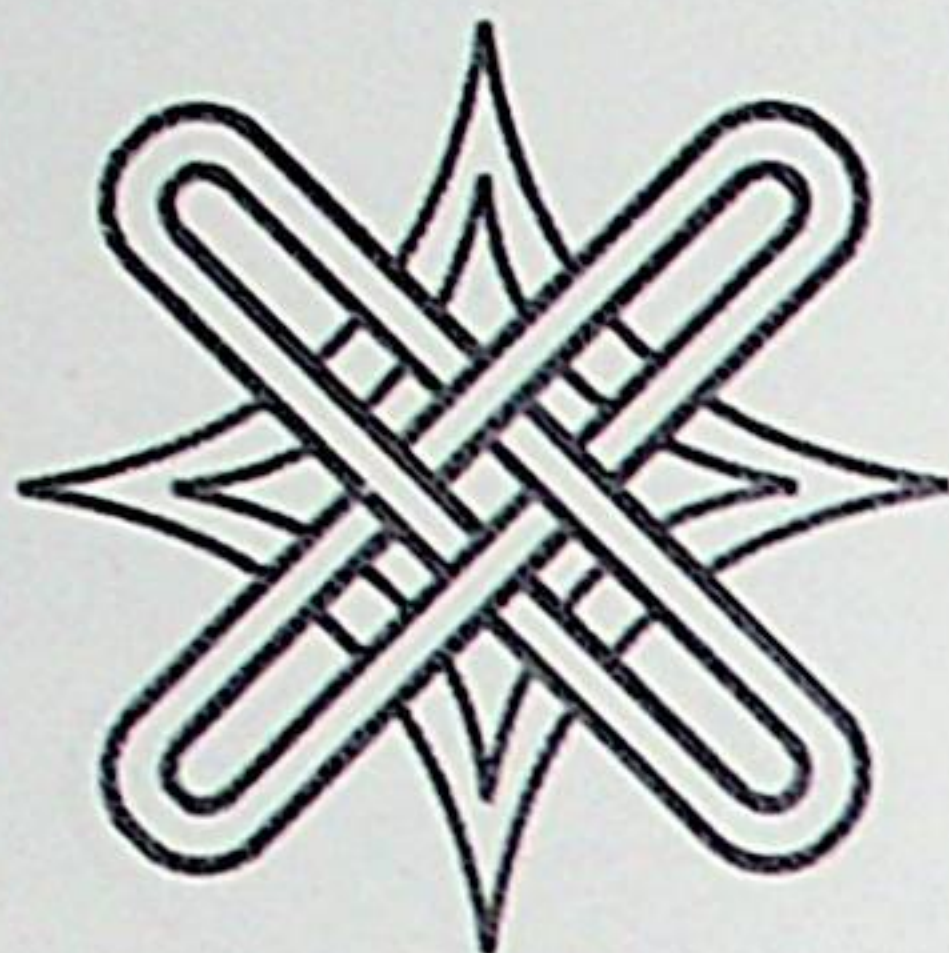
NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué

ISSUED AT THE
END OF SPECIAL MEETING

Held On Tuesday, February 8th, 2011

At The Niger State Governor's Lodge
No.22, Jose Marti Crescent, Asokoro, Abuja



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY, 2011 AT THE NIGER STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE, NO. 22, JOSE MARTI CRESCENT, ASOKORO, ABUJA

The Northern States Governors' Forum convened a Special Meeting in consonance with the decision taken at its last regular meeting held in Yola, Adamawa State on Thursday, 27th January, 2011 to discuss and share experiences on security challenges in the region, and consider recommendations of the 3-Man Committee comprising the Executive Governors of Kwara State, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki CON, Benue State, Dr. Gabriel T. Suswam and Katsina State, Barrister Ibrahim Shehu Shema.

2. In his address, the Chairman of the Forum, the Chief Servant of Niger State, **Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON (Talban Minna)** lamented over the alarming rate of insecurity in the region characterized by sporadic killings of law abiding citizens in cold blood, activities of certain faceless groups, ethno-religious conflicts and youth restiveness among others. He viewed the issue of security as the fundamental constitutional responsibility of leaders which informed their collective resolve to ensure protection of lives and property of citizens at all levels.
3. He called on politicians and religious leaders across the country for tolerance and understanding amongst adherents of both religions in the current political dispensation.
4. After extensive deliberations on measures that would bring the upheavals to an end for the overriding interest of the country, the forum identified security, poverty and youth restiveness as major causes of conflict in the region. It therefore **resolved** to implement the following among others:
 - (i) To promptly identify and address causes of conflicts particularly as may be economic, religious or politically motivated based;

- (ii) to support Plateau and Borno States over their security challenges using various strategies that are beyond physical means as well as addressing the perceptions and misinformation perpetrated for a long time now;
- (iii) States to take other measures in handling the constitutional provisions to tackle security challenges;
- (iv) Sustainable and effective youth engagement programmes and promotion of Agriculture and adopt best practices that has been demonstrated by some States.

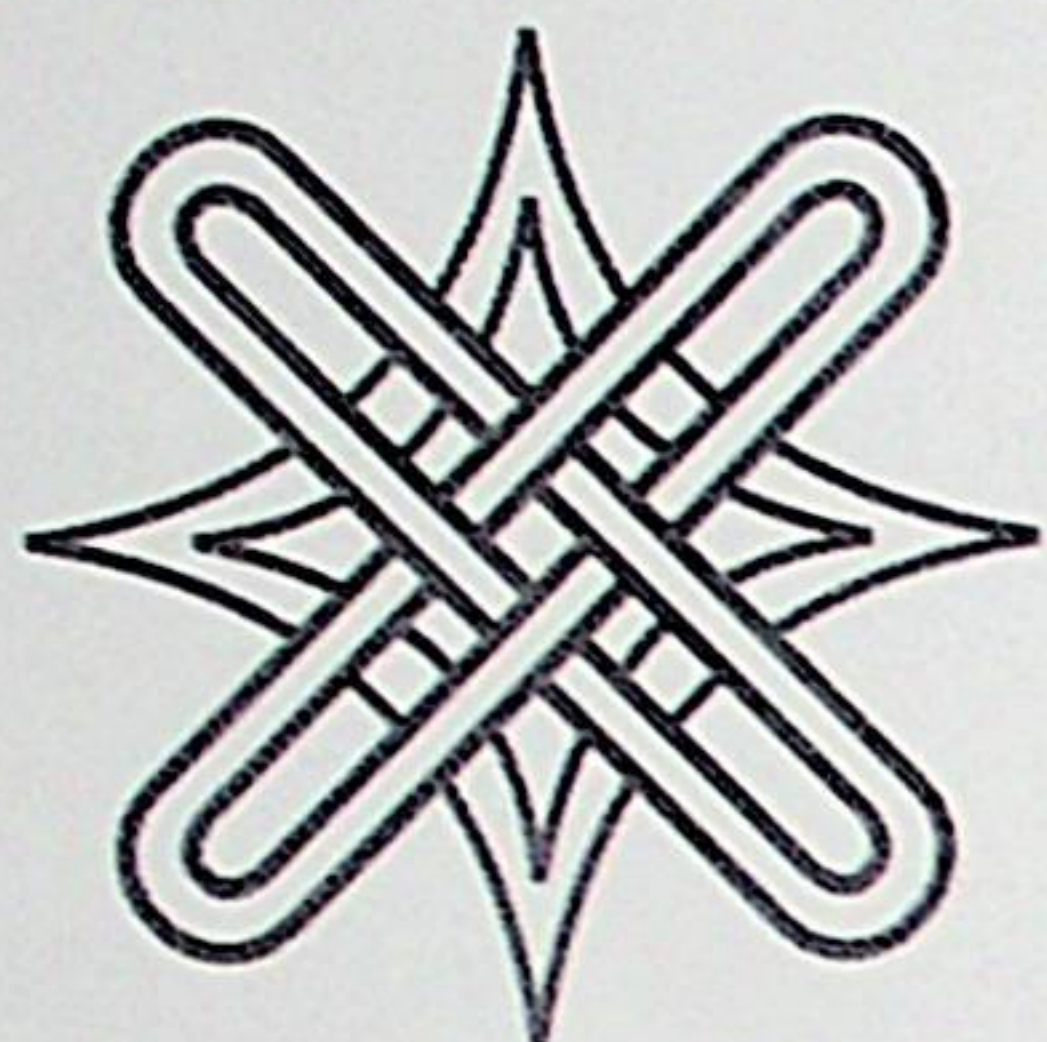
DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON

(TALBAN MINNA)

THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE

CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUE On May 10th, 2011 At The Niger State Governor's Lodge No.22, Jose Marti Crescent, Asokoro, Abuja



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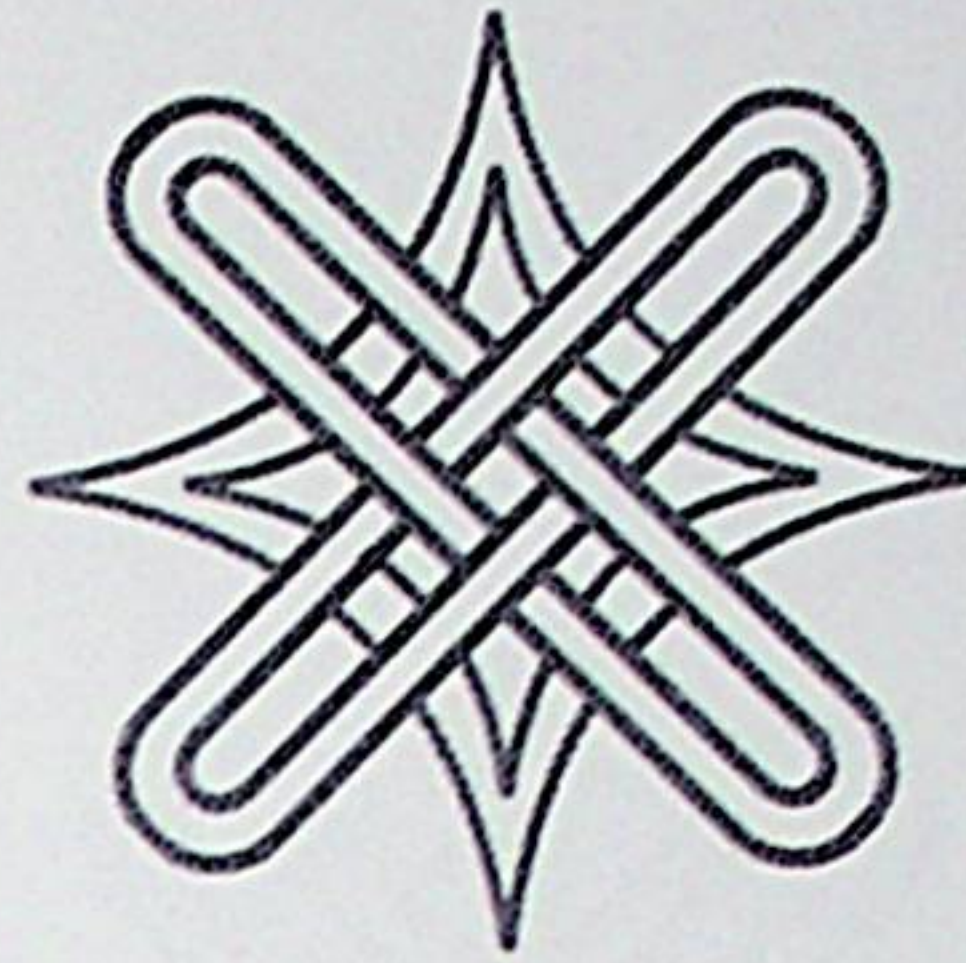
NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué

ISSUED AT THE
EMERGENCY MEETING

Held On Tuesday, May 10th, 2011

At The Niger State Governor's Lodge
No.22, Jose Marti Crescent, Asokoro, Abuja



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING
OF THE NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM
HELD ON TUESDAY, 10TH MAY, 2011
AT THE NIGER STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE,
NO. 22, JOSE MARTI CRESCENT, ASOKORO, ABUJA**

The Northern States Governors' Forum convened an Emergency Meeting for the first time after the General Elections which took place in the month of April, 2011 in the Country.

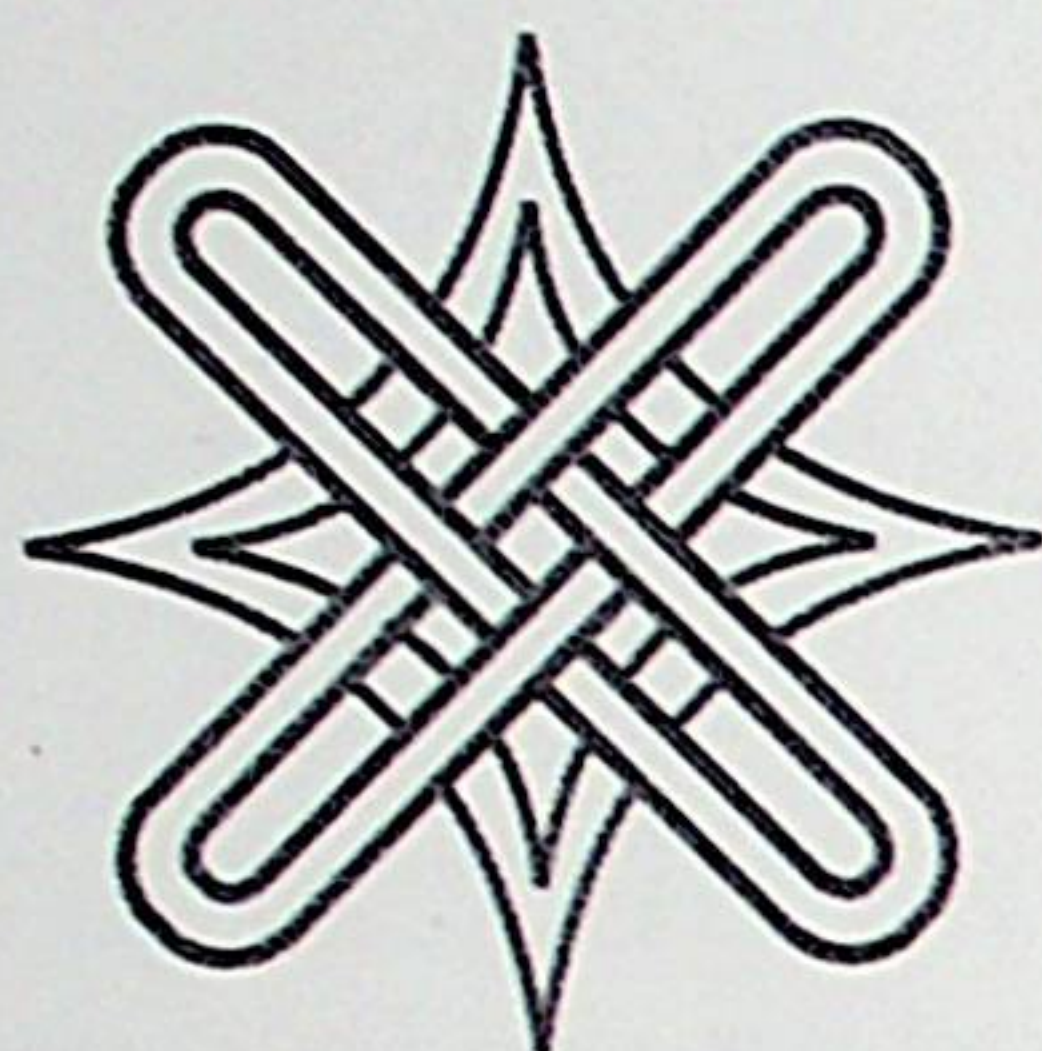
2. In his address, the chairman, on behalf of the forum, congratulated all winners at the April polls and thanked Nigerians for expressing their franchise. He further commiserated with losers and encouraged them to receive it as an act of God. Furthermore, he said the essence of the meeting is to look at the aftermath of the election and see how to properly situate the north in tandem with national aspirations.
3. It also condemned in its entirety the dastardly act of the post-election violence, sympathized with the affected people including the families of the Youth Corp Members who lost their lives and fervently prayed against its reoccurrence. The forum resolved to tackle the ethno-religious conflict in the region and vowed to use every available means at its disposal to stop such unwanted crisis. It further expressed all support for the administrative panel set up by the federal government to look into the crisis.
4. The forum enjoined all the incoming Governors to engender peace and progress in the region in particular and the nation in general.
5. Finally, the forum resolved to meet after the inauguration to discuss social issues and elite problems in the region.

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON

(TALBAN MINNA)

THE CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE

CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM



NSGF

NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

Communiqué
ISSUED AT THE
END OF SPECIAL MEETING

Held On Wednesday, September 21st, 2011

At The Niger State Governor's Lodge
No.22, Jose Marti Crescent, Asokoro, Abuja



NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM

COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING OF THE
NORTHERN STATES GOVERNORS' FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2011
AT THE NIGER STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE,
NO. 22. JOSE MARTI CRESCENT, ASOKORO, ABUJA

The Northern States Governors' Forum [NGF], under the Chairmanship of the Chief Servant and Governor of Niger State, *Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON [Talban Minna]* convened a meeting of the Forum in Abuja, at the Niger State Governor's Lodge on 21st September, 2011 to deliberate issues of common interest with the ultimate goal of achieving more mileage in the socio-economic development of the Northern states and the country in general.

In his address, the chairman of the forum observed that the region is witnessing unprecedented challenges in terms of social, political and economic problems, vis-à-vis the expectations of the people which continue to sour up. This forum, as we all know, is being looked upon by all and sundry to solve today's most pressing problems facing the North, even when the realities of today are quite different from the period the Forum was conceived.

He said members have been able to establish benchmarks in service delivery through their collaborative engagements and peer review, by which they are ensuring minimum standards in the implementation of policies in education, agriculture, health and poverty reduction amongst others. They have also ensured that some of the institutions which represent the legacies of the founding fathers and symbolise the unity of the North – NNDC, NNN, Unity Bank - were reinvigorated to continue to serve the collective interest of the people of their States.

early, they felt there is the need for collective effort to put in place an institution that would perpetuate the legacies and values of late Sir Ahmadu Bello, Sardaunan Sokoto for the socio-economic transformation of the region; hence the establishment of Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation, to which they have all shown commitment as the most significant unifying institution of this generation. A lot has been achieved in this regard as the Foundation is firmly in place and working hard to realize its aims and objectives.

The forum is facing new challenges, quite unprecedented with high rate of insecurity (sectarian violence, bombings, terrorism, kidnappings and general breakdown of law and order). It is very sad to note that because of these unfortunate new realities, a lot needs to be done to change the perception of the people, regain their confidence and trust in governance and government officials, in the discharge of their fundamental constitutional responsibilities.

The forum enjoined all member States to ensure the protection of lives and property of citizens which is the primary constitutional responsibility of every government.

After exhaustive deliberations, the forum took fundamental decisions on the following issues:

SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE NORTHERN REGION AND THE WAY FORWARD

The forum expressed deep concern on the security challenges in the region and the toll effect of such on its socio-economic development and the potential threat to national peace and harmony.

It, therefore, resolved to tackle holistically all issues of Security threats in the region through the following means:

- a) *Synergizing its Security Agencies and all Stakeholders involved in finding lasting solution to the threat in the region.*
- b) *Embracing policies and programmes that would encourage Community Policing in the region.*
- c) *To, as a forum, attend the forthcoming meeting of the Northern Traditional Rulers scheduled to hold on 24th October, 2011 with a view to interacting with the Traditional Rulers and finding lasting solutions to the problems from the grassroots.*
- d) *Visit the crises areas and dialogue with all Stakeholders.*

- e) *Member states to enact law(s) compelling communities that participated in the destruction of Government properties to reconstruct same properties through their local Government Statuary allocation.*

2. **MINIMUM WAGE**

The forum deliberated the issue of the N18,000 National Minimum Wage and resolved to pay the new wage in accordance with the law which does not stipulate increase across the board.

3. **NEW NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS LTD AND NEW NIGERIA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD**

The forum discussed the issue of New Nigerian Newspapers Ltd and directed the forum of Secretaries to the State Governments to thoroughly review the issue of the Company at their meeting scheduled for 10th October, 2011 where other issues affecting the NNDC would be discussed.

4. **SIR AHMADU BELLO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION [SABMF]**

The forum acknowledged and commended the efforts of the management of the foundation in ensuring the achievements of the goals of the organisation, particularly on the pledges collected, and investment of same into the federal government bond.

To accelerate the vision and mission of the organization, the forum approved the appointment of twelve (12) Advisory Council Members for the Foundation to assist the Board of Trustees in managing the affairs of the body.

5. **RESTRUCTURING OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM (NGF):**

The forum deliberated on the need to deepen and strengthen the unity of the region with a view to ensuring a healthy and beneficial relationship between states. It, therefore, resolved to discuss the issue at the next meeting..

6. **FEDERATION ACCOUNT**

The forum observed the indiscriminate deductions from the Federation Accounts due to states and local governments which was inconsistent with the provision of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It, therefore,