

Media Executive, Chairman Rivers State Publishers Forum: government has denied publishers the right to interact directly with the governor. They have taken their complaints to civil servants. He feels this government is very far from the people, they are not carrying people along.

Ambassador Prince Abdulazeez: looking for assistance to speak to the state government so that youths can go back to camp for training. Increase budget for security force in Rivers State (Army, SSS, and Police)

Lands Association Representative: they have a relationship with the government where quarterly meetings are held. However the instruments of communication are ineffective. The middle men have failed the system.

Representative of the Chartered Institute of Procurement, Rivers State Chapter: relationship with government has never been less than cordial because they raise issues of procurement. For example, based on the law, he wrote requesting for the State procurement proceedings, however the government wrote back stating the document was for the public not for them. They also wrote to the Rivers State House of Assembly requesting for certain amendments, so far there has been no response. The State hold public hearings as a formality, it appears as though the law is passed before the hearings take place. There is no relationship with government, it is simply for formality.

David President of the Physically Challenged Network: Rivers state has invested heavily in Education, Health and other sectors. However their organization has been grossly neglected. A survey conducted 4 years back, shows that only 2 out of 50 physically challenged graduates have been absolved. Persons with disabilities have no access to State buildings. Government has made accommodation for HIV victims, malaria victims, women, yet they have not created a platform for those with disabilities to be fully integrated into society.

Prof. Gboyega: urge you to write down your position and give it to the NGF Technical team before they depart tomorrow. This will be taken into consideration when the SPRM Technical Review team returns. We will check if your views have been taken into account by the government.

Chairman of the Chartered Institute of Taxation: we have in the past 4 years tried to meet with the government and it has not been possible. Letters have been sent, they have gone to offices, yet no meetings have been forthcoming.

Victoria, member of Women's Association: the governor set up a meeting with women after which he promised that the meetings will be held quarterly, however the meeting collapsed. Whoever is responsible should ensure that the quarterly meetings are held. The government should reopen interactive sessions between the government and the people

Constance, Media: Media has opportunities to interact with government, but this government reacts to criticisms. They have told the government about things that are not done right. SSG said avenues are open to communicate, however that is not the case, in fact she finds the military government more friendly

→ Promise of quarterly meeting to women's Association not met

→ Govt not responsive to criticisms

After all the comments were taken, Prof. Alex Gboyega made a presentation to non-state actors about the legal framework in existence for communication between government and citizens. He also spoke on the avenues of communication available to citizens.