

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM
HELD AT THE KWARA GOVERNOR'S LODGE ON
WEDNESDAY, 18th JUNE, 2008.**

S/N	NOTES/OBSERVATIONS	ACTION
1.0	<p>COMMENCEMENT: The meeting started at 8.47pm with opening prayers said by the Governor of Kaduna and Ekiti States respectively.</p>	
2.0	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: In the absence of any amendments to the minutes of the last meeting, the Governor of Enugu State moved a motion for its adoption and was seconded by the Governor of Sokoto State.</p>	
3.0	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:</p> <p>A FORUM OUTSTANDING DUES: The Chairman noted that only eleven (11) states have fully paid their 2008 Forum Dues, while twenty-five (25) states were still to meet their obligation. He reiterated his earlier appeal to members to comply to enable the secretariat and indeed the Forum to be run effectively.</p> <p>B MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG) COMMITTEE REPORT: The Governor of Ekiti State, being the Chairman of the Forum's MDG Committee, informed the Forum that even though not much was achieved or done in their assignment, he had met the Senior Special Assistant to the</p>	



President on MDG and deliberated with her on the position of the Forum as regards the issues at stake, and she had promised to expedite actions on them. He further informed members that he would still meet the SSA on MDG in the course of his committee's assignment.

C RESOLUTION:

The Forum resolved as follows:

- A. The UBE Model should be adopted as the model for adoption and implementation.
- B. That the Forum's MDG Committee should once again see the Senior Special Assistant to the president on MDGs and inform her of the Forum's view and position.
- C. That the Forum should take advantage of the forthcoming National Economic Council (NEC) meeting of 19th June, 2008 with the Vice President and table the matter under Any Other Business (A.O.B).

D UPDATE ON NGF SECRETARIAT PROJECT

The Chairman of the NGF Secretariat Project briefed members on the state of the project as follows:

- A. That the development control unit of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) had granted the Forum's request that the Secretariat could go as high as twelve (12) floors.
- B. That the FCDA had, however,



directed that the building designs be re-planned to the main road, which by implication required a repeal of earlier preliminary works such as soil testing, which were almost at completion stage.

C. That six (6) weeks from the day of this presentation, the Committee intended to call for tenders.

D. That the ground breaking ceremony will be done after the award of contracts.

E FORUM'S INTERACTION WITH MEDIA EXECUTIVES

Regarding the Forum's interaction with Media Executives held in Lagos in May 2008 as part of the image branding efforts of the Forum, the Imo State Governor and Chairman of the Image Branding Committee, briefed the members as follows:

A. That the interaction with Media Executives was very successful.

B. That about 300 Media Practitioners attended the occasion.

C. That the participants were equally hosted to a lunch where awards and gift items were given out.

D. About 80 questions were asked. Answers and clarifications were given on a wide range of issues which included the Secretariat Project.

E. That the Committee was therefore recommending to the Forum that the event be made a quarterly affair.



F

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

It was resolved that the media interaction would be a quarterly affair and members were urged to hold similar sessions in their states.

4.0 FALL OUT OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT ON FOOD CRISIS

The Chairman reminded members of the meeting with Mr. President on the food crisis and noted that it was time to take stock and seek further ways of cushioning the hardship occasioned by the crisis.

OBSERVATIONS / SUGGESTIONS

- A. Members were of the opinion that the importation of rice was a rushed decision and ill-advised.
- B. It was also unanimously suggested that governments at all levels should embark on more concerted efforts rather than the stop-gap measures being used at the moment.
- C. That services and concerted efforts be placed on agricultural research as well as the diversification of the agricultural sector.

5.0 REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON EXCESS CRUDE FUNDS

The Forum's Technical Committee on the Excess Crude Funds have given the summary of their report as follows:

- A. That prior to the last meeting, the money for distribution to the states from the one trillion dollar



reserve stood at more than four billion dollars (\$4, 000, 000, 000).

- B. That 50% of this amount had already been shared: that subsequent to the payment of the Paris Club Debts, there was the issue of local governments to be credited to the tune of 50% and also the derivation states.
- C. That there was the need to disburse the balance of (\$2,000,000,000) two billion dollars.
- D. That the Forum should look into the role of the states in addressing the epileptic power situation in the country, as per their earnings from the excess crude funds.

OBSERVATIONS / SUGGESTIONS

Following extensive deliberations, members resolved as follows:

- A. That if the states would back Mr. President request then it should be conditional, considering the revelations coming from the Federal House of Representatives probe of the power sector activities. Mr. President should be empowered to directly supervise the power sector as well as implementations of the proposed power plans so that resources meant for the sector may not go down the drain.
- B. Members were also of the view that a technical committee be set up comprising competent hands as well as persons of proven integrity.



- C. That a proposal be made to Mr. President for the inclusion of states rural electrification projects.
- D. Members were unanimous that states contributions should be on the basis of equity only, that is, the projects will ultimately be sold and that money shared among contributing states.
- E. That since states' contributions were on the basis of equity, it was better to invest it in the power project, particularly generation, rather than to leave it lying in accounts abroad.
- F. That for states to recoup their investments, they must equally ensure that the process of the projects privatization is facilitated, that is, structures that would be put in place must be one to ensure accountability and transparency.

6.0 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF ATTORNEYS-GENERAL AND CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE SERVICE (FIRS) ON THE FIRS ACT 2007

The Chairman informed members that the report of the Forum's Committee of States' Attorneys-General and Chairman, Federal Inland revenue Service (FIRS) on the issue of FIRS Act 2007 which had generated constitutional concerns, was ready and copies of the report were distributed to Their Excellencies for necessary action.

7.0 PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK FORMAT OF THE 2007 GOVERNORS' RETREAT.



The Chairman presented to members a copy of book on the 2007 Governors' Retreat held in Abuja for their observations and comments.

OBSERVATIONS / SUGGESTIONS

A. Members expressed dissatisfaction with the overall quality and urged that necessary improvements be made.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The closing prayer was said by Governor of Kogi State and the meeting ended at 10.13pm.

Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki
Chairman,
Nigeria Governors' Forum

