



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NIGERIA
GOVERNORS' FORUM**

HELD ON

24th June, 2012

AT THE

**RIVERS STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE, ASOKORO,
ABUJA**

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Rt. Hon. Rotimi C. Amaechi	Rivers	Governor/Chairman
2	Peter Obi	Anambra	Governor/Vice Chairman
3	T.A. Orji	Abia	Governor
4	Kashim Shettima	Borno	Governor
5	Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
6	Emmanuel E. Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
7	Kayode Fayemi	Ekiti	Governor
8	Sullivan I. Chime	Enugu	Governor
9	Patrick I. Yakowa	Kaduna	Governor
10	Saidu N. Usman	Kebbi	Governor
11	Idris I. Wada	Kogi	Governor
12	Abdulfattah Ahmed	Kwara	Governor
13	Umaru Tanko-Almakura	Nasarawa	Governor
14	Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu, CON	Niger	Governor
15	Abiola Ajimobi	Oyo	Governor
16	Jonah D. Jang	Plateau	Governor
17	Aliyu M. Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
18	Danbaba D. Suntai	Taraba	Governor
19	Abdulaziz Yari	Zamfara	Governor
20	Bala James Nggilari	Adamawa	Deputy Governor
21	Thaamda J. Rubainu	Gombe	Deputy Governor
22	Jude Agbaso	Imo	Deputy Governor
23	Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
24	A.U. Ganduje	Kano	Deputy Governor
25	Hon. Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire	Lagos	Deputy Governor
26	Ali Olanusi	Ondo	Deputy Governor

APOLOGIES

1	Godswill Akpabio	Akwa Ibom	Governor
2	Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
3	Seriake Dickson	Bayelsa	Governor
4	Gabriel Suswam	Benue	Governor
5	Martin Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
6	Adams Oshiomhole	Edo	Governor
7	Ibrahim Shema	Katsina	Governor
8	Ibikunle Amosun	Ogun	Governor
9	Rauf Aregbesola	Osun	Governor
10	Ibrahim Geidam	Yobe	Governor

S/N	NOTES/RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY
1	<p>Commencement</p> <p>The meeting started at 8.30 pm with opening prayers by the Governor of Sokoto State.</p>	
2	<p>Consideration and Adoption of Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The Minutes of the last meeting held on 9th May, 2012 was reviewed and adopted by a motion by the Governor of Sokoto State and seconded by the Governor of Kwara State.</p>	
3	<p>Chairman's Opening Remarks</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting but lamented the irregular attendance of members to the meetings of the Forum. He encouraged members to take the affairs of the Forum more seriously as the strength of the NGF lay in its unity. He informed the house that he was considering meeting with Governors on zonal basis to discuss issues that would move the Forum to expected heights.</p>	
4	<p>NGF Secretariat Project</p> <p>The Forum was reminded that at its last meeting held on 9th May, 2012, the meeting had directed the Secretariat to furnish it with details of the Secretariat Project Account. Consequently, a Committee was constituted to amongst others, acquire a new plot of land and proceed with the construction of the NGF Secretariat.</p> <p>The members of the Committee are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Governor, Enugu State (Chairman) ii. Governor, Ekiti State (Secretary) iii. Governor, Akwa Ibom State iv. Governor, Taraba State v. Governor, Niger State vi. Governor, Zamfara State 	<p>Chairman/ Secretariat</p>
5	<p>FAAC Update</p> <p>The Forum decried the decline in the funds accruing to State governments and attendant delays in getting releases from the Federation Account. Following extensive deliberations on the matter, the Forum reiterated its earlier decisions as follows:</p>	

	<p>i. To meet with the Minister of Finance over the fuel subsidy, the FAAC releases and delays etc; ii. To Meet with Mr. President iii. As a last resort, go to court.</p>	
6	<p>EXCESS CRUDE</p> <p>The Forum was reminded that the National Economic Committee (NEC) had set up a Committee which included Governors, the Governor Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Minister of Finance on issues related to the Excess Crude Account. However members expressed frustration at the delay in holding the meeting. Upon discussions on the way forward, the Forum agreed that the Chief of Staff to the Vice President must be mandated to convene a meeting of the Committee in the first week of July, 2012 and a Report must be ready within a time frame of one (1) month.</p> <p>The meeting also agreed that they would meet with the Vice President over the matter at the NEC meeting scheduled for the following day, 25th June, 2012.</p> <p>In another development, members re-visited the issue of settling the outstanding legal fees to the lawyers handling the case at the Supreme Court. Following enquiries by the meeting, it was learnt that each lawyer would charge about One Hundred Million Naira (N100, 000, 000. 00) totaling Three Hundred Million Naira (N300, 000, 000. 00) for the three (3) lawyers.</p> <p>Deliberating on the best way to realize the money, some members argued that the money be distributed in a manner that ensured that 'richer' States paid more than the not so 'rich' States. It was subsequently resolved that the money would be distributed among the 36 States on the basis of equality of States and in this regard, each State would pay Eight Million, Three Hundred and Thirty Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Thirty Three Naira, Thirty Three kobo (N8, 333, 333. 33) towards the settlement of the legal fee. The Secretariat was directed to collect the money.</p>	NGF/Secretariat
7	<p>SECURITY</p> <p>The Forum expressed grave concern over the continuing state of insecurity in the country. Following contributions by members, particularly the Governors of some Northern States where there have been reported cases of violence, the meeting resolved as follows:</p> <p>i. A multi-dimensional approach to security issues should be adopted. This would include enhanced coordination and collaboration among security forces, effective use of technology and intelligence, value re-orientation, employment generation and sincerity of purpose; ii. Reiterated its commitment to convene an NGF Conference on Security in Nigeria;</p>	Chairman

8

- iii. To address the funding pressure on the State governments, the Forum called for a Special Intervention Fund from the Federal Government. This fund would ameliorate the funding challenges currently faced by States, especially those States that are most affected;
- iv. The imperative for State police was re-emphasised as a veritable strategy for combating the rising insecurity in the country.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the constitutional amendment process was currently going on and members were informed that the Secretariat on the directive of NGF had presented a draft memorandum containing amendments which the Forum was invited to consider and approve.

The Chairman particularly drew the attention of the Forum to the following areas:

i. Financial Autonomies for the State Houses of Assembly (SHAs) – Speakers of the SHAs were more resolute to achieve financial autonomy this time and members were urged to consult with their legislators to ensure that this item failed.

ii) Local Government Autonomy – Like (i) above, it was agreed that the status quo needed to be maintained.

iii) State Police – Some level of State Police would be agreed.

The Chairman would hold initial talks with the National Assembly (NASS) after which he would brief the Forum on developments. Further deliberations on the constitutional review would hold soon after the Chairman's meeting with NASS, hopefully at the next meeting.

Chairman

9

Adjournment

The meeting rose at 12.15 pm.

Right Honourable Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, CON
Executive Governor, Rivers State
Chairman, Nigeria Governors Forum