



**MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE NIGERIA
GOVERNORS' FORUM IN 2013**

HELD ON

20TH MARCH, 2013

AT THE

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

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi	Rivers	Governor/Chairman
2	Mr. Peter Obi	Anambra	Governor/Vice Chairman
3	Vice Admiral Murtala H. Nyako (Rtd.)	Adamawa	Governor
4	Dr Obong Godswill Akpabio	Akwa-Ibom	Governor
5	Mallam Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
6	Senator Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
7	Chief Martin Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
8	Dr. Kayode Fayemi	Ekiti	Governor
9	Mr. Sullivan I. Chime Esq.	Enugu	Governor
10	Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo	Gombe	Governor
11	Alhaji Mukhtar Ramalan Yero	Kaduna	Governor
12	Dr Ibrahim Shehu Shema	Katsina	Governor
13	Capt. Idris I. Wada	Kogi	Governor
14	Dr Olusegun Mimiko	Ondo	Governor
15	Rear Admiral Gboribiogha Jonah (Rtd)	Bayelsa	Deputy Governor
16	Prof. Amos A. Utuama (SAN)	Delta	Deputy Governor
17	Alhaji Zannah Mustapha	Borno	Deputy Governor
18	Alhaji Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
19	Alhaji Ibrahim K. Aliyu (OFR)	Kebbi	Deputy Governor
20	Elder Peter S. Kisira	Kwara	Deputy Governor
21	Hon. Dameshi B. Luka	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor
22	Hon. Ahmed M. Ibeto	Niger	Deputy Governor
23	Otunba Moses Alake Adeyemo	Oyo	Deputy Governor
24	Alhaji Garba Umaru	Taraba	Acting Governor

APOLOGIES

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Chief T. A. Orji	Abia	Governor
2	Mr Gabriel T. Suswan (Esq.)	Benue	Governor
3	Commrade Adams Oshiomhole	Edo	Governor
4	Owelle Rochas Okorochoa	Imo	Governor
5	Engr. Rabi M. Kwankwaso	Kano	Governor
6	Mr Babatunde Fashola (SAN)	Lagos	Governor
7	Senator Ibikunle Amosun	Ogun	Governor
8	Engr. Rauf Argbesola	Osun	Governor
9	Dr Jonah D. Jang	Plateau	Governor
10	Alhaji (Dr.) Aliyu M. Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
11	Alhaji Ibrahim Geidam	Yobe	Governor
12	Hon. Abdul-Aziz Yari Abubakar	Zamfara	Governor

VISITORS

S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION
1	Justice M. L. Uwais	Chief Justice, Federal Republic of Nigeria (Rtd.), Chairman SPRM Steering Committee
2	Senator (Dr) Abubakar Bukola Saraki	Former Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum; Former Governor Kwara State; Senator, Kwara Central Senatorial District.
3	Mrs Ayo Obe	Chair Person, Board of Trustees, Goree Institute (Senegal), Former Chair, Civil Liberties Organisation (Nigeria)
4	Dr Shehu Sule	Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Health (Rtd.)
5	Professor Oyewole Tomori	President, Nigerian Academy of Science & Professor of Virology, Redeemer's University
6	Dr Ado Mohammed	CEO National Primary Health Care Development Agency

APOLOGIES

S/N	NOTES/RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY
1.0	<p>Commencement</p> <p>The meeting started at 20:40pm with opening prayers said by the Deputy Governors of Delta and Niger States.</p>	
2.0	<p>Minutes of the Last NGF Meeting</p>	
2.1	<p>The minutes of the last meeting was reviewed and following amendments were raised:</p> <p>a) Page 3, paragraph 2.1a – the conjunction ‘and’ should be added to the sentence.</p> <p>b) Page 3, paragraph 2.1d – The Governor of Plateau State’s name is Dr <i>Jonah</i> D. Jang not Dr <i>Jonathan</i> D. Jang, and this should be corrected.</p>	Secretariat
2.2	<p>The motion for adoption of the minutes was moved by the Deputy Governor of Oyo State, and seconded by the Governor of Katsina State.</p>	
3.0	<p>Chairman’s Brief</p>	
3.1	<p>a) The Chairman informed the house that another law suit has been filed questioning the legality of the NGF. This is the second law suit filed, and in order to stem the tide, it was resolved that:</p> <p>i. The cases should be actively followed up to get judgement which will settle the matter of the Forum’s legality once and for all.</p> <p>ii. Lawyers should be instructed to take necessary steps to have the two cases consolidated for ease of handling.</p> <p>iii. Members will contribute the sum of N1m each for legal costs related to the cases.</p> <p>b) The Chairman highlighted the increase in total amount for disbursement to the States from FAAC noting that the increase was due to some discrepancies in NNPC payments which was rectified.</p> <p>c) The Chairman also reminded the Forum that the May meeting of the Forum would be an election meeting. He</p>	All States

	said that the meeting may not be scheduled around the May NEC meeting as is the usual practice, and enjoined members to attend the meeting and come prepared for the election.	
3.2	<p>Review of Actions Log</p> <p>Actions and resolutions from the last meeting were reviewed as follows:</p> <p>a) The copy of the Supreme Court's judgement on primary school education could not be obtained from the Supreme Court. Secretariat was advised to explore other sources; in particular, Lagos should be contacted.</p> <p>b) All States with outstanding dues and contributions were again enjoined to make full payment as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>All states with outstanding payments</p>
4.0	Polio Leadership Challenge (2012)	
4.1	<p>Members of the independent judging panel for the 2012 Polio Leadership Challenge visited the Forum and presented the results and findings of the Challenge. The panel members in attendance were Dr Shehu Sule, Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Health (Rtd.); Professor Oyewole Tomori, President, Nigerian Academy of Science & Professor of Virology, Redeemer's University; and Dr Ado Mohammed, CEO National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA).</p> <p>a) The panel highlighted the process of the challenge and criteria for selecting winners, and noted that there were only two award categories in the challenge – <u>Best performing in each geopolitical zone, and the most improved state (excluding the 6 best performing States).</u></p> <p>b) The winners of the challenge were as follows:</p> <p>A. Best performing category</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South West – Ondo • South South - Cross River • North Central - Kogi • South East - Anambra • North East - Borno • North West – Zamfara <p>B. Most Improved category</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niger <p>c) The Governor of Akwa-Ibom State thanked the panel for their high level of commitment and commended them on.</p>	

the excellent report provided.

d) The Katsina State Governor noted that from the presentation, it appeared that some States with very high levels of commitment did not achieve commensurate outcomes, and asked for clarification on this finding.

e) The panel responded saying that the same states with high levels of commitment at the state level, recorded very low levels at the local government level. Hence outcomes could not be commensurate as it appeared some leakages were occurring at the grass root. *grass root*

f) Dr Ado *on behalf of the panel* thanked the Forum for their leadership and commitment in Nigeria's fight against Polio. He noted that *year on year* data showed that significant improvement had been achieved. The latest figures show that 8 reported cases as at March 2013, compared with 22 cases this time last year. This improvement he said has also been commended by the international expert panel on Polio. He congratulated the Governors and appealed that the high level of commitment should be maintained.

g) Dr Ado also raised some concern about the dwindling level of community immunity in the Southern States and increase in number of missed children. He encouraged the Southern States to make all effort to shore up immunity so as to prevent outbreaks due to migration of infected persons

h) The Chairman thanked the panel and commended their work. He announced that winners would be given their awards at an event in the week commencing 25th March 2013, and encouraged recipients to be present to receive their awards. *?*

5.0 **Peer Review of Anambra and Ekiti States** *Reports for*

5.1 Members of the Peer Review Steering Committee, Justice M. L. Uwais, Senator (Dr) A. B. Saraki, and Mr Ayo Obe visited the Forum to present *reports on* the peer review of Anambra and Ekiti States. *Reports for*

The Anambra State report was Presented by Mrs Ayo Obe, while that of Ekiti State was presented by Senator Bukola

	<p>Saraki.</p> <p>Both presentations highlighted the peer review process and events in each state, commendable practices identified, overarching challenges and recommendations.</p>	
5.2	<p>In response, the Governor of Anambra State welcomed and thanked the panel for their thorough work. He expressed his gratitude that the progress made since his assumption of office were captured, demonstrating the change being a turbulent state to one where there is peace and a good degree of stability. He noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regarding Local Government elections, delays had occurred due to an on-going court case preventing the state from conducting the elections. b) The Anambra Integrated Development Strategy (ANIDS) is aimed at achieving the MDGs, and promised to continue with the agenda. c) The issue of improving IGR was of concern to the State also, but business and potential tax revenue sources had erstwhile been controlled by powerful individuals, who posed a significant challenge to tax collection in the state. d) The return of schools to Churches in the State was a necessity as upon assessment, his administration found that the Churches had comparative advantage in the administration of schools. e) In the area of Public Financial Management (PFM) and budgeting, much was already being done in collaboration with DFID to address the issues highlighted. <p>The Governor promised to take the report away and improve work on the recommended areas.</p>	
5.3	<p>In his response, the Governor of Ekiti State also welcomed the report and commended the panel's efforts. In particular, he noted the objectivity of the report and commended its clarity and conciseness. He however noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Timing issues - Events have overtaken some of the findings recorded in the report as targets have now been met. Furthermore, given that his state had been reviewed within his first two years in office, this should have been reflected in the results as finding expectedly would significantly differ from a situation where the Governor 	

	<p>had been in office for much longer. This short coming in the review process design should be addressed.</p> <p>b) He agreed that the on-going merit based transformation of the public sector should be backed by capacity building and would look into this in future.</p> <p>c) Ekiti state was set for Local Government elections on the 4th of February 2011, when the State High Court granted judgement against the State, stopping the conduct of Local Government elections. The case is still pending in court, hence local government elections cannot be held.</p> <p>d) On the concerns raised about the independence of the state judiciary, the Governor noted that the above and other such judgements against the government are examples of the independence of the judiciary.</p> <p>e) He questioned the accuracy of the figures presented on IGR as a proportion of total revenue, and requested that the figures be verified before final publication.</p> <p>f) The Governor also expressed surprise that the State's Uniform Drug Revolving Fund which had become a national benchmark was not captured in the report.</p> <p>g) On industrial relations, he noted that resistance to change is usual where people are concerned. Being a mono-ethnic State, the seeming divides were probably not as deep or as common as was being reported, with good management would be adequately mitigated.</p>	
5.4	<p>The Akwa-Ibom State Governor welcomed the report and commended the Steering Committee on their work. He noted with concern their finding on the lack of local government elections on both States reviewed.</p> <p>The Bayelsa State Deputy Governor noted that the information on local government elections reported in the Anambra State report was not correct for his state. In fact, ISEC had already been established and LG elections have been held in Bayelsa State.</p>	
5.5	<p>a) The Chairman thanked the Steering Committee and requested that the issues raised, and in particular about the conduct of local elections by states should be addressed before final publication of the reports.</p>	Secretariat

Chairman also noted the SPRM budget was N175m and after deliberation the Forum resolved that the amount would be shared equally across the states. Each state will therefore pay the sum of N1m to the Secretariat for the SPRM program.

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6.0	<p>AOB</p>	
6.1	<p>The issue of State Investment in the Power Sector was raised. The Governor of Cross River State, Senator Liyel Imoke clarified that States made their initial investment in the hope of future profit. It was later proposed that when the investment matured, the interest would be re-ploughed into the project. Since that time, States have been unable to recoup the principal or interest on their investment.</p> <p>After some discussion it was agreed that this would be raised at NEC meeting (21st March 2013), and the position of the States, that their initial investment be first recouped should be made clear.</p>	
6.2	<p>The Chairman announced that the Forum would be publishing a book on Inaugural Speeches of past Presidents and Governors in April 2013.</p> <p>Members welcomed and commended the contribution to the narrative of Nigeria's history.</p>	
7.0	<p>Adjournment/Conclusion</p>	
7.1	<p>The motion for adjournment was moved by the Governor of Kaduna State.</p>	
7.2	<p>The meeting closed at 11:25pm.</p>	

Five million Naira (N5m)

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who moved it?

Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum
20th March, 2013

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ACTIONS LOG

MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

Ref no.	Date	Description	Action By	Time line	Status	Review Date
M13/04/001	20/03/13	Amendments to the minutes of the last meeting to be effected.	Secretariat			
M13/04/002	20/03/13	Each State is to contribute the Sum of N1M toward legal fees for the court cases on the legality of the NGF ✓	All States			
M13/04/003	20/03/13	Each State is to contribute the Sum of N5M towards the cost of the SPRM process ✓	All States			
M13/04/004	20/03/13	All States are to make full payment of all outstanding dues as soon as possible. ✓	All States			
M13/04/005	20/03/13	Secretariat to pursue other avenues to obtain a copy of the Supreme Court's judgement on primary schools. Follow up with Lagos state. ✓	Secretariat			

M13/04/006	20/03/13	Issues of inaccuracy of the data presented in the peer review of Anambra and Ekiti States should be addressed before final publication of the reports	Secretariat			
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4th Meeting in 2013

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayers;
2. Chairman's Brief;
3. Consideration and Adoption of the Minutes of the Last NGF Meeting;
4. Polio eradication initiative – 2012 Leadership Challenge:
 - Final report
5. Peer Review of Anambra & Ekiti States: Introductory remarks by Justice Uwais
 - Summary presentation of Anambra Peer Review Report by HE Donald Duke
 - Response by HE Peter Obi
 - Remarks from members of the Forum
 - Summary presentation of Ekiti State Peer Review Report by HE Senator Bukola Saraki
 - Response by HE Kayode Fayemi
 - Remarks by members of the Forum
6. Tabling of SPRM Work Plan & Budget for 2013;
7. A.O.B.



COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th MARCH 2013, AT THE RIVERS STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE, ABUJA

We, the Governors of the 36 States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at our 4th meeting of the year held today Wednesday 20th March, 2013 at the Rivers State Governor's Lodge, Abuja deliberated over a number of policy issues and resolved as follows;

1. Forum received the final report of the Nigeria Immunization Leadership Challenge on Governors' commitment to Polio eradication which involved recognition of the best performing state in each geo-political zone and the overall most improved state in the campaign for the eradication of Polio in Nigeria;
 - C. Best performing category
 - South West – Ondo
 - South South - Cross River
 - North Central - Kogi
 - South East - Anambra
 - North East - Borno
 - North West - Zamfara
 - D. Most Improved category
 - Niger
2. Forum received the Peer Review Reports of Anambra and Ekiti States. The main findings were presented by the Steering Committee led by the Chairperson, Justice M. L Uwais (rtd), during which many key findings and commendable practices were highlighted. The Steering Committee also outlined few areas that require improvement;
3. Finally, members renewed their commitment to the State Peer Review Mechanism process and directed the Secretariat to make the full reports of these States available to the public.

***Rt. Hon Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi
Governor of Rivers State
& Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum
March 20th 2013***

CONSOLIDATED ACTIONS LOG

MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

Ref. No.	Date	Description	Action by	Time line	Status (with Comment)
M12/09/001	22/08/12	Chair to brief the National Economic Council (NEC) on the Excess Crude Account litigation in the Supreme Court at the next NEC meeting scheduled for the following day, 23 rd August, 2012.	Chair	23/08/12	
M12/09/002	22/08/12	States that are yet to meet commitment of N9, 333, 333, 333 towards paying the legal and other professional fees as agreed by the Forum, to pay up so lawyers can file their cases in September.	Outstanding States		On-going
SM12/002	24/08/12	Minister of Finance to provide guidelines on how to access loans to NGF	Finance Minister		
SM12/003	24/08/12	A Special Meeting on the Railway Master plan to be convened	Secretariat		
M12/10/007	19/09/12	States with outstanding legal fees, annual dues and contributions to pay up	Relevant states		On-going
M12/10/009	19/09/12	To address interstate migration and security issues, states, in conjunction with State Inspector Generals of Police, should explore setting up check points at interstate borders.	All States		
M12/10/010	19/09/12	Issue of states repairing Federal roads that have fallen into disrepair to be raised at NEC meeting	Deputy Chairman	20/09/12	
M12/11/002	17/10/12	All efforts would be made to stamp out the issue of 'missed' children.	All States		On-going
M12/11/003	17/10/12	Chairman to meet with the leadership of NASS to ask them to stop engaging or inviting the Speakers to discuss issues concerning the states' politics	Chairman		
M12/12/004	31/10/12	Chairman called for all remaining contributions from the states towards the ECA litigation to be remitted to the Secretariat for onward transmission to the attorneys.	All States with outstanding dues		On-going
M12/13/002	27/11/12	Committee members to endeavour to attend all committee meetings to enable the work to progress in the different areas	All Committee Members		On-going

M12/14/001	10/12/12	States to pay all outstanding dues as a matter of urgency (including contributions for the new Secretariat building project)	All States with outstanding dues		On-going
M12/14/004	10/12/12	Finance Commissioners should push further and investigate the FAAC accounts for the past 5 years, to be supported by the Governor of Gombe State as necessary.	Chairman, Forum of Finance Commissioners/Gombe State Governor		On-going
M12/14/005	10/12/12	Chairman to contact the chairman of the house of Representatives committee for debt, and finance minister for further clarification on the national borrowing plan	Chairman		
EM12/003	17/12/12	Members to contribute N10m each to support the Yakowa family and fund the expert to be provided in support of the investigation into the crash.	All members		On-going
M13/01/001	28/01/13	Chairman to notify all members of his new phone number.	Chairman		
M13/01/002	28/01/13	Issue of Excess Crude Account to be raised at the next NEC meeting and Federal Government notified that Lawyers to the Forum have been instructed not to accommodate any further adjournment.	Chairman	29/01/13	
M13/01/004	28/01/13	All outstanding dues to be paid by states. Secretariat to also write each state regarding their outstanding payments	All States, Secretariat		
M13/01/003	28/01/13	Members of the building committee and the DG to accompany Imo State Governor to view and select a suitable piece of land for the Secretariat building project.	Imo State Governor, Secretariat Building Committee, DG	20/02/13	On-going, land viewed but decision on choice of location is pending
M13/01/006	28/01/13	Governors should return to leading the polio campaign in their States	All Governors	20/03/13	On-going
M13/01/007	28/01/13	A monthly campaign to be headed by Governors in all 36 states of the Federation to promote routine immunisation as well as promote healthy environmental habits should be instituted	All States		
M13/01/008	28/01/13	Presidential task force on Polio to be engaged. The task force to also be invited to address the Forum at the next meeting	Chairman; Secretariat		
M13/01/009	28/01/13	Chairman would speak to the Chairman of the Security Committee (Governor Suswan, Benue State) to ensure that the committee meets at the earliest possible time.	Chairman		
M13/01/010	28/01/13	2 day Forum retreat to be organised.	Secretariat		
M13/01/011	28/01/13	Governors of polio free States to support their colleagues by attending their state campaigns.	All States		

M13/02/001	20/02/13	Copy of Supreme Court judgment on Primary Schools to be obtained.	Secretariat		
M13/02/002	20/02/13	Federal Government to be engaged in pursuance of the supreme Court judgment on Primary Schools	Chairman		
M13/02/003	20/02/13	Justice Uwais to be invited to the next meeting to brief the Forum on plans for 2013	Secretariat		
M13/02/004	20/02/13	All states to make payment of outstanding dues as soon as possible	All States with outstanding dues and payments		
M13/02/005	20/02/13	Chairman to pick a date to fill vacancies the Forum leadership as soon as possible.	Chairman		
M13/02/006	20/02/13	Secretariat to write the vetting committee for the polio challenge to inform them of the Forum's resolution that deputy governors would lead the routine immunisation drives	Secretariat		
M13/02/007	20/02/13	Minister of Health to be invited to brief the forum at the next meeting.	Secretariat		
M13/02/008	20/02/13	A copy the NASS report on the natural resources fund to be provided by the Ekiti State Governor to the secretariat.	Ekiti State Governor/ Secretariat		
M13/03/002	25/02/13	Outstanding financial commitments of the Forum should be included in the Chairman's letter to the Forum on his submitted report.	Secretariat		
M13/03/003	25/02/13	A copy of the Supreme Court's judgement on primary school education should be obtained by the next meeting of the Forum	Secretariat	20/03/13	On-going
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