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**MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS'
FORUM IN 2017**

HELD ON

28th June, 2017

AT THE

BANQUET HALL, ASO VILLA, ABUJA

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Hon. Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar	Zamfara	Governor
2	Senator Mohammed Jibrilla	Adamawa	Governor
3	Udom Emmanuel	Akwa Ibom	Governor
4	Kashim Shettima	Borno	Governor
5	Nweze David U.	Ebonyi	Governor
6	Ayo Fayose	Ekiti	Governor
7	Dankwambo Ibrahim H.	Gombe	Governor
8	Owelle Rochas Okorochoa	Imo	Governor
9	Mohammed Badaru Abubakar	Jigawa	Governor
10	Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai	Kaduna	Governor
11	Dr Abdullahi U. Ganduje	Kano	Governor
12	Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu	Kebbi	Governor
13	Yahaya Bello	Kogi	Governor
14	Abubakar S. Bello	Niger	Governor
15	Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu	Ondo	Governor
16	Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola	Osun	Governor
17	Senator Abiola Ajimobi	Oyo	Governor
18	Rt Honourable Simon Lalong	Plateau	Governor
19	Nyesom Ezenwo Wike	Rivers	Governor
20	Aminu Waziri Tambuwal	Sokoto	Governor
21	Rt Hon Ude Oko Chukwu	Abia	Deputy Governor
22	Nuhu Gidado	Bauchi	Deputy Governor
23	Comrade Philip Shuaibu	Edo	Deputy Governor
24	Cecilia Ezeilo	Enugu	Deputy Governor
25	Silas Agara	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor
26	Chief (Mrs) Yetunde Onanuga	Ogun	Deputy Governor
27	Engr Abubakar D. Aliyu	Yobe	Deputy Governor

S/N	NOTES/RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY
1.0	<p>COMMENCEMENT</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 9.15pm with opening prayers by the Governors of Rivers and Niger States.</p>	
2.0	<p>CHAIRMAN'S BRIEF</p>	
2.1	<p>The Chairman announced the passing of the former governor of Taraba State, Mr. Danbaba Suntai. Members observed a minute silence in honour of their departed former colleague.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. He informed them that the NGF Legal Committee constituted to resolve the fall-out and claims from the Paris Club refunds would present a preliminary report to the meeting. Also, he informed the meeting that the payment of the 2nd tranche of the refunds ought to have commenced and expressed surprise at the delay.</p>	
3.0	<p>CONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES</p>	
3.1	<p>The meeting reviewed minutes of the last meeting and the following amendments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening prayers were made by the Deputy Governor, Ogun State and not the Deputy Governor, Lagos State; • Governor, Niger State was present at the meeting but was omitted in the Attendance List; <p>In the absence of further amendments and observations, the Governor of Sokoto State moved for the adoption of the minutes and seconded by the Governor of Plateau State.</p>	
4.0	<p>REPRESENTATION IN THE TRIPARTITE NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE COMMITTEE</p>	
4.1	<p>The meeting was informed of a letter from the Presidency seeking the representation of the NGF in the National Minimum Wage Committee. Consequently, the Forum nominated the following members to represent it on the Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Governor, Osun State – South West ii. Governor, Rivers State – South South 	<p>Osun, Rivers, Imo, Kebbi, Plateau & Gombe States</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Governor, Imo State – South East iv. Governor, Kebbi State – North West v. Governor, Plateau State – North Central vi. Governor, Gombe State – North East 	
5.0	UPDATE ON POLIO	
5.1	The meeting noted the update in the meeting box but received assurances that a new anchor person would be introduced to the Forum at the next meeting. There would also be an oral briefing at the next meeting.	CHAIRMAN/DG
6.0	UPDATE ON MEETING WITH THE AG. PRESIDENT ON ETHNIC AGITATIONS	
6.1	<p>The Governors of Borno, Ebonyi and Imo States briefed the meeting on their meeting with the Acting President on ethnic agitations in some parts of the country. The Forum condemned recent occurrences in very strong terms and expressed faith in a united Nigeria with a common destiny.</p> <p>The Governors reiterated the imperative for recognising governors as the actual Chief Security Officers of their States. This would give them total control of the security within their domains.</p> <p>The Forum also decried the menace of the social media and its tendency to escalate situations and promote tensions.</p> <p>Some members also suggested inter-State visits as a means of dousing tensions across the country.</p>	
7.0	PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF LABOUR & PRODUCTIVITY	
	<p>The Honourable Minister for Labour, Dr. Chris Ngige briefed the Forum on the last International Labour Organisation (ILO) annual event comprising workers, employers and government delegations that took place in Geneva.</p> <p>He expressed gratitude to the Forum for the expeditious manner in which they handled the nomination of representatives to join the National Minimum Wage negotiating team. The Committee would be inaugurated on the 31st of July, 2017.</p>	

	<p>He informed members that the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) was demanding an increase in the minimum wage to N56,000.</p> <p>Regarding the allegation of non-payment of salaries by States, the Honourable Minister appealed to governors to ensure the prompt payment of the salaries of their workforce.</p> <p>The Forum thanked the Minister for his presentation but urged the Committee to be circumspect in the minimum wage negotiations having in mind the prevailing financial situation in the country as well as the capacity of States to implement the proposed scale.</p> <p>Members also frowned at the notion that States were not paying salaries and blamed it on the media for disseminating falsehoods and half-truths.</p>	
8.0	PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FINANCE	
8.1	<p>The Minister of Finance, Mrs Kemi Adeosun thanked the Forum for accepting her request to address them at short notice. She informed them of the launching of the Tax Amnesty Programme, the following day, 29th April, 2017 and enlisted their support for the initiative and presence at the launch.</p> <p>She confirmed that the 2nd tranche of the Paris Club refunds has been approved but the delay in disbursement was occasioned by agitations by Federal Government Labour Unions over non-payment of their outstanding wages and allowances. She however assured the meeting that the situation was being addressed and expressed hope that the payment would commence in a few days.</p> <p>The Forum nominated the governors of Borno, Rivers, Kaduna, Imo and Osun to speak on behalf of the Forum on the London-Paris Club and Budget Support at the NEC meeting the following day.</p>	Borno, Rivers, Kaduna, Imo & Osun
9.0	PRESENTATION ON ACTUARIAL AUDIT ACROSS STATES: WORKABLE SOLUTIONS	
9.1	<p>The Forum listened to a presentation by Trans Sahara Consortium led by the former Governor of Jigawa State, Alhaji Saminu Turaki.</p> <p>The Consortium informed the meeting that they have a tested formula for addressing the backlog of pensions across the country and requested States to key into the initiative. This would be done by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Conducting actuarial valuation to ascertain retirees' payment for 	

	<p>gratuity and pensions;</p> <p>ii. Determining past service liability of those under the contributory pension scheme;</p> <p>iii. Facilitating the issuance of State bonds to offset liabilities and keeping funds under management for past service liabilities;</p> <p>iv. Providing a smart payment system that will monitor all the employees to death.</p> <p>The Forum commended the consortium for the presentation but urged them to build on existing records rather than starting from the scratch. They were urged to liaise with the Secretariat in advancing the project.</p>	<p>NGF Secretariat</p>
10.0	BRIEFING BY THE CHAIRMAN, NGF LEGAL COMMITTEE	
10.1	<p>The Chairman, NGF Legal Committee briefed the Forum on the findings of the Committee as well as the progress made in the resolution of the controversies that arose from the Paris Club refunds.</p> <p>The final resolution of the crises had been stalled by pending litigations but efforts were being made to settle the issues.</p> <p>The Committee chairman informed the meeting that the most pressing at the moment was the case against the ALGON, NGF and others by Riok Limited in which a judgment was recently entered for the Plaintiffs. He informed members that ALGON had been invited to the meeting to brief the Forum on this development.</p> <p>In engaging ALGON on this matter, members were advised to be cautious as there may be other contracts awarded by ALGON. The example of Mathan Limited was cited as a case in point.</p>	
11.01	PRESENTATION BY ALGON	
11.1	<p>Representatives of ALGON made a presentation to the Forum on their relationship with Riok and it was made known in the course of the exchange that there was a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Riok and ALGON.</p> <p>The Forum also learnt that contrary to claims by Riok Limited, the 'contracts' were yet to be executed anywhere in the country.</p> <p>Regarding the judgment granting the alternative relief to Riok Nigeria Limited, the ALGON executives informed the meeting that they had concluded efforts to appeal the judgment but sought the support of the Forum. They also planned to address the media to put records straight.</p>	

	<p>The Forum thanked ALGON for its willingness to fight for the truth and encouraged them to continue with their internal processes.</p> <p>The Secretariat was asked to work with ALGON to ensure that the judgment in the Riok case was appealed.</p> <p>ALGON was assured that they would be given another opportunity to make a presentation to the Forum at the next meeting.</p>	<p>NGF Secretariat</p>
12.0	AOB	
12.1	<p>The meeting was informed of a letter signed by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) soliciting support for Police Television and Radio Initiative. It was agreed that the IGP should be given a slot to make a presentation at the next meeting.</p>	<p>NGF Secretariat</p>
13.0	ADJOURNMENT	
13.1	The meeting rose at 11.55 pm.	

**Honourable Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar
Governor of Zamfara State and Chairman,
Nigeria Governors' Forum**