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**MINUTES OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE NIGERIA
GOVERNORS' FORUM IN 2012**

HELD ON

19TH September, 2012

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/Deputy Chairman
3	Chief T. A. Orji	Abia	Governor
4	Vice Admiral Murtala H. Nyako (Rtd.)	Adamawa	Governor
5	Dr. Obong Godswill Akpabio	Akwa Ibom	Governor
6	Senator Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
7	Comrade Adams A. Oshiomhole	Edo	Governor
8	Dr. Kayode Fayemi	Ekiti	Governor
9	Mr. Sullivan I. Chime	Enugu	Governor
10	Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo	Gombe	Governor
11	Capt. Idris I. Wada	Kogi	Governor
12	Alhaji Abdulfattah Ahmed	Kwara	Governor
13	Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN)	Lagos	Governor
14	Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu	Niger	Governor
15	Senator Ibikunle Amosun	Ogun	Governor
16	Senator Abiola Ajimobi	Oyo	Governor
17	Air Commodore Jonathan D. Jang (Rtd)	Plateau	Governor
18	Alhaji Danbaba Suntai	Taraba	Governor
19	Rear Admiral Gboribiogha Jonah (Rtd)	Bayelsa	Deputy Governor
20	Alhaji Zannah Mustapha	Bornu	Deputy Governor
21	Prof. Amos A. Utuama (SAN)	Delta	Deputy Governor
22	Engr. David Umahi	Ebonyi	Deputy Governor
23	Dr. Jude Agbaso	Imo	Deputy Governor
24	Alhaji Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
25	Alhaji Abdullahi G. Faskari	Katsina	Deputy Governor
26	Alhaji Ibrahim K. Aliyu	Kebbi	Deputy Governor
27	Hon. Dameshi B. Luka	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor

APOLOGIES

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Mallam Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
2	Mr Gabriel T. Suswam Esq.	Benue	Governor
3	Alhaji Kashim Shettima <i>Patrick Yakawa</i>	Kaduna	Governor
4	Engr. Rabiu M. Kwankwaso	Kano	Governor
5	Dr Olusegun Mimiko	Ondo	Governor
6	Engr. Rauf Aregbesola	Osun	Governor
7	Alhaji Aliyu M. Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
8	Alhaji Ibrahim Geidam	Yobe	Governor
9	Alhaji Abdul-Aziz Yari Abubakar	Zamfara	Governor

Visitors

S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION
1	Dr. Ado Muhammad	Executive Director, National Primary Healthcare Development Agency

S/N	NOTES/RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY
1.0	<p>Commencement</p> <p>The meeting started at 8.56 pm with an opening prayer said by the Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State.</p>	
2.0	<p>Chairman's Brief</p>	
2.1	<p>The Chairman briefed the house on the working tour to Germany in August 2012 which was organized by the NGF secretariat in collaboration with the German Development Agency (GIZ) and attended by 6 members of the Forum (Rivers, Niger, Plateau, Enugu, Katsina and Borno). He indicated that the trip was insightful and highlighted a few ^{three} novel programmes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The backbone and main spring of the German economy are the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that drive job creation and economic growth. These firms are actively promoted and supported by government so that they become a veritable source of taxation. b) Affordable housing project with costs as low as €10,200 and a delivery period of approximately 6 months. c) The German vocational training system, which is demand-driven and a combination of business theory and practice. A meeting has been set up for Rivers State to meet the training organizers on October 8th, and this was made open to all other states that want to participate d) The German Federal system consists of a central Federal Government and 16 federating states which are referred to as <i>Länder</i>, each headed by a Prime Minister. In general, administration in Germany in most cases is the responsibility of the States (<i>Länder</i>). These cover areas such as culture, education, environment and policing, with a number of shared 	

Structure of German Federal System

	<p>responsibilities with the federal government over legal and penal issues.</p> <p>e) The federal government and stronger/richer states provide support for strengthening weaker states and regions so that regional economic differences and disparities could be eliminated</p>	
2.2	<p>The Chairman also informed the Forum that the National Assembly has requested a meeting with him on the constitutional review process. However, he indicated the need to defer the meeting pending a consensus on key issues with Forum members. In particular regarding the issue of State policing, the chairman said that he is still in talks with colleagues noting key issues (jurisdiction, funding, structure etc.) which need to be resolved to ensure that a joint position is taken.</p>	
3.0	<p>Minutes of the Last NGF Meeting</p>	
3.1	<p>Minutes for the meetings held on 22nd and 24th August, 2012 were reviewed and the following amendments were made:</p> <p>a) Paragraph 5.1 – The word States at the end of paragraph should be removed.</p> <p>b) H. E. Ibrahim Geidam is Governor of Yobe and not Zamfara state</p> <p>c) The Governor of Gombe State's name to read Thaanda</p> <p>d) The title Barr should not be used, rather the names can be suffixed with Esq.</p> <p>e) Imo State Governor's, title should be corrected.</p> <p>f) Ebonyi State governor should be addressed as Mr. and not Chief.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>
3.2	<p>Motion for adoption of the minutes was moved by Kogi State Governor, and seconded by the Delta State Deputy Governor.</p>	
4.0	<p>Update on FAAC: ECA Litigation in the Supreme Court</p>	
4.1	<p>The Forum unanimously decided to head back to Court to enforce the Federal Governments' adherence to the constitution This is to be raised at the next NEC meeting the following day.</p>	<p>Deputy Chairman</p>
4.2	<p>The issue of disbursement of the Ecological fund was also raised. It was noted that the fund is currently being spent only by FG,</p>	<p>Deputy Chairman</p>

	instead of being shared with the states. This should also be raised ^{at the NEC meeting.} <i>Meaning Governor should bring this issue at the next meeting.</i>	<i>This issue it was agreed would be raised.</i>
5.0	Brief on Good Governance Tour	
5.1	<p>The Akwa-Ibom State Governor briefed the house on plans for the forthcoming good governance tour, under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of information, and National Planning Commission. Key points for States include:</p> <p>a) Governors are expected to guarantee security, feeding and accommodation, for 60 to 90 people including the press during the visit to each state.</p> <p>b) The tour will be commencing tomorrow, 20th September 2012, with States in the North Central Zone due to the rainy season in other parts of the country.</p> <p>c) There will be no scoring ^{ranking} but opportunity to highlight projects executed by each tier of government, and would give forum members a chance to showcase their achievements locally and internationally and interact with the public.</p>	<i>with FCT and</i>
5.2	<p>Concerns were raised regarding the appropriateness of the leadership of the tour; planning, and costs related to the tour. These included:</p> <p><i>Comments include</i></p> <p>a) Allowing the Federal Ministry of Information to lead the visit would re-enforce the perception that the Federal Government has supervisory responsibility for states and the implication within a federal system were raised.</p> <p>b) Rationale for asking States to foot the bill for such a large delegation during the visit.</p> <p>c) Correct identification of Federal and State projects would be important for show casing state vs Federal achievements</p> <p>d) Need for adherence to the set objectives of the tour.</p> <p>e) Convenience of scheduled dates for visits</p>	<p><i>Conflict of interest, and timeliness, and media strategy.</i></p> <p><i>media budget, and the inability to replicate the media exposure, and role between federal & state media outfits</i></p>
5.3	The Chairman reminded members that the tour was a resolution of the National Economic Council (NEC) and noted that the tour would still be a good opportunity for States. The NGF is well represented on the planning committee, so Governors' and State interests would be well protected.	
5.4	Following this it was resolved that:	

The Exercise does not allow for 'Ranking' of states performance, but ~~is~~ ^{is} designed to create an opportunity for each state to ~~also~~ ^{highlight} showcase ~~its~~ ^{its} achievements while also interacting with the public.

	<p>a) The decision to participate in the tour would be adhered to.</p> <p>b) Any required amendments such as dates and size of delegation should be passed through the Akwa-Ibom Governor to the tour planning committee.</p> <p>c) First state tour should be monitored closely, and an emergency meeting maybe called should any issues arise.</p> <p>d) DG NGF Secretariat to explore changing the date for the visit to Kogi state due to the flooding.</p>	<p>Governor, Akwa-Ibom State</p> <p>DG, NGFS</p> <p>DG, NGFS</p>
6.0	Update on Polio Eradication Initiative	
6.1	The increase in the number of reported cases from 77 to 84 since the last report and the fact that Nigeria is now the only country in the world with reported new cases were noted with alarm. Though there is a potential negative effect of current security issues in the country, polio is a national problem as no state can be isolated from its effects.	
6.2	<p>Various strategies for deepening the eradication programs were discussed with ideas and initiatives shared by States. These included:</p> <p>a) Meeting with the President to explore ways of improving and driving more effective education and public awareness campaigns particularly in the North; this could be supported financially by other states.</p> <p>b) The use of legislation enforcing immunization within states could be an important tool in ensuring compliance.</p> <p>c) In addition, incentives could also be introduced to encourage parents. Advocacy through those affected by polio, traditional and religious leaders should also not be neglected. In particular, incentives and initiatives employed in Borno were shared to encourage affected states.</p> <p>d) Inter-state border initiatives should also be deepened.</p>	<p>be adequately mobilised to spread the gospel about routine immunization.</p>
7.0	Presentation by Stakeholders	
7.1	The Executive Director of the National Primary Health Care Agency briefed the Forum on the battle against polio. In response to the Governors' concerns on border issues, he noted that Immigration problems are being addressed. 804 legal and illegal entry points had been identified, and Sanctuaries and prevention posts had been set up in 32 states, with more still in the pipeline. Work is	

The need for security agents and immigration officials to intensify inter state border controls to check influx of immigrants. Immigration not a issue as other

	ongoing in collaboration with local governments, and the Nigeria immigration service.	
7.2	The Executive Director raised the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Emphasized routine immunization as the most sustainable strategy. b. Need to encourage active participation of local government chairmen to ensure effective coverage of all children c. States to access free vaccines available from the NPHCDA to ensure quality and safety of vaccines in use. 	
7.3	The Chair noted that even with all that the agency was doing there still seems to be a lapse evidenced by the increase in the number of cases reported. He advised on the need for the agency to foster a relationship with the states so that all tiers including local government chairman may be properly integrated into the program.	
7.4	The Forum resolved to call an emergency meeting the following week (week commencing 24 th September 2012) of the Governors of the 13 states with reported polio cases Various strategies to deepen advocacy and administration of polio vaccines with a view to eradicating polio in the country would also be embarked on.	Secretariat to arrange
8.0	Payment of Legal and Professional Fees, and Contributions	
8.1	The Forum reviewed all outstanding financial commitments including: legal fees, annual dues, secretariat building fund, and support for bereavements and deceased members. The chairman again urged States to settle their accounts. The Secretariat was instructed to write each state a letter summarizing their outstanding payments and requesting payment.	All States concerned Secretariat
9.0	AOB	
9.1	Anambra State Governor raised concerns about interstate migration, citing a recent occurrence where a bus load of about 400 individuals arrived his state claiming to be from Lagos. It was agreed that while this was of obvious concern, and should be dealt with appropriately within the law, interstate migration should not be limited, as Nigerians must be able to move freely within their own country. In conjunction with State Commissioners of Police, check points could ^{should} be mounted at interstate borders to beef up security.	All States
9.2	Akwa-Ibom State governor issued a special invitation to all members for the celebration of the State's 25 th anniversary holding on Sunday 23 rd September 2012.	

already inquired by
 (d) The need for LGA chairmen to be fully involved in advocacy and to aggressively drive vaccine routine immunization operations and to ensure effective distribution of vaccines in

9.3	The Akwa-Ibom state Governor also raised the issue of federal roads that have fallen into disrepair. A request detailing a plan to repair the Uyo-Calabar-Aba road in his state was sent to the Federal Ministry of Works, but the request was denied. Other states also shared similar experiences, and it was decided that the issue would be raised at the next NEC meeting.	Deputy Chairman
10.0	Adjournment/Conclusion	
10.1	The Governor of Enugu State moved for adjournment and was seconded by the Governor of Kwara State.	
9.2	The meeting rose at 11:15pm.	

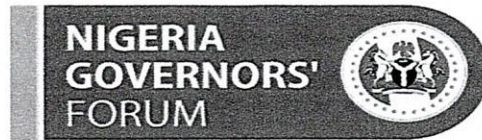
Rt.Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum
19th September, 2012

ACTIONS LOG

MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

Ref no.	Date	Description	Action By	Time line	Status	Review Date
M10/001	19/09/12	Required amendments to planned dates etc. of the good governance tour should be passed through the Akwa-Ibom governor to be tabled at the tour planning committee.	Governor, Awa-Ibom			
M10/002	19/09/12	To explore changing the planned date for the good governance visit to Kogi state.	DG, NGFS			
M10/003	19/09/12	Amendments to minutes of the meetings in August	Secretariat			
M10/004	19/09/12	Forum's decision to go back to court on the excess crude litigation case against the federal government to be raised at NEC meeting	Deputy Chairman	20/09/12		
M10/005	19/09/12	Issue of disbursement of the Ecological fund was also raised at NEC meeting	Deputy Chairman	20/09/12		
M10/006	19/09/12	Emergency meeting of the Governors of the 13 states with reported polio cases.	Secretariat	w/c 24 th Sept		
M10/007	19/09/12	States with outstanding legal fees, annual dues and contributions to pay up	Relevant states			
M10/008	19/09/12	Secretariat to write each state a letter summarizing their outstanding payment and requesting payment.	Secretariat			
M10/009	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	All States			

		can be mounted at interstate borders.				
M10/010	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		



NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

10th Meeting in 2012

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayers;
2. Chairman's Brief;
3. Consideration and Adoption of the Minutes of the Last NGF Meeting;
4. Update on FAAC: ECA Litigation in the Supreme Court;
5. Brief on Good Governance Tour of Federal and State Government Projects — By Governor of Akwa Ibom State;
6. Update on Polio Eradication Initiative;
7. Presentation by Stakeholders;
8. AOB;
9. Adjournment;
10. Closing Prayers

Annex 3:



COMMUNIQUE

**ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2012, AT THE RIVERS STATE
GOVERNOR'S LODGE, ABUJA**

We, the Governors of the 36 States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at our 10th meeting held today Wednesday 19th September, 2012 at the Rivers State Governor's Lodge, Abuja deliberated over a number of issues and resolved as follows;

1. On the Excess Crude Account, Forum unanimously decided to head back to Court to enforce the Federal Governments' adherence to the constitution.
2. Forum supports the upcoming Good Governance tours as conceptualized by the National Economic Council (NEC) and plans to use the opportunity to showcase achievements of the States in various areas of service delivery. The tour will be commencing tomorrow, 20th September 2012, with States in the North Central Zone.
3. Lastly, the Forum resolved to embark on various strategies to deepen advocacy and administration of polio vaccines with a view to eradicating polio in the country.

***Rt. Hon Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi
Governor of Rivers State
&, Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum
September 19th, 2012***