

**MINUTES OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE NIGERIA  
GOVERNORS' FORUM IN 2012**

**HELD ON**

**17<sup>TH</sup> October, 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	Vice Admiral Murtala H. Nyako (Rtd.)	Adamawa	Governor
4	Mr Gabriel T. Suswam Esq.	Benue	Governor
5	Senator Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
6	Dr E. E. Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
7	Chief Martin Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
8	Comrade Adams A. Oshiomhole	Edo	Governor
9	Dr. Kayode Fayemi	Ekiti	Governor
10	Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo	Gombe	Governor
11	Owelle Rochas Okorochoa	Imo	Governor
12	Engr. Rabiu M. Kwankwaso	Kano	Governor
13	Dr Ibrahim Shewu Shema	Katsina	Governor
14	Alhaji AbdulFatah Ahmed	Kwara	Governor
15	Alhaji (Dr) M. Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
16	Mr. Danbaba Suntai	Taraba	Governor
17	Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam	Yobe	Governor
18	Sagir Aminu	Bauchi	Deputy Governor
19	Alhaji Zannah Mustapha	Bornu	Deputy Governor
20	Mr. Sunday C. Onyebuchi	Enugu	Acting Governor
21	Alhaji Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
22	Muktar R. Yero	Kaduna	Deputy Governor
23	Alhaji Ibrahim K. Aliyu	Kebbi	Deputy Governor
24	Adejoke Adefulire	Lagos	Deputy Governor
25	Hon. Dameshi B. Luka	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor
26	Hon. Ahmed M. Ibep	Niger	Deputy Governor
27	Ignatius D. Longjan	Plateau	Deputy Governor

## APOLOGIES

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Chief T. A. Orji	Abia	Governor
2	Dr. Obong Godswill Akpabio	Akwa Ibom	Governor
3	Hon. Seriake Dickson	Bayelsa	Governor
4	Capt. Idris I. Wada	Kogi	Governor
5	Senator Ibikunle Amosun	Ogun	Governor
6	Dr Olusegun Mimiko	Ondo	Governor
7	Engr. Rauf Aregbesola	Osun	Governor
8	Senator Abiola Ajimobi	Oyo	Governor
9	Alhaji Abdul-Aziz Yari Abubakar	Zamfara	Governor

## Visitors

S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION
1	Senator Victor Ndoma Egba	Senate Leader
2	Senator James Manager	Senator
3	Senator Umaru Dahiru	Senator
4	Senator Ganiyu O. Solomon	Senate Minority Whip
5	Senator Abdul Ningi	Senator
6	Innocent Mebiri	Committee Clerk (SCRC)
7	Professor O. D. Amuefieazi	Lead Consultant (SCRC)
8	Murtala H.	???

S/N	NOTES/RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY
1.0	<b>Commencement</b>  The meeting started at 8.40 pm with an opening prayer said by the Governor of Ebonyi State.	
2.0	<b>Minutes of the Last NGF Meeting</b>	
2.1	Minutes for the last meeting held on the 19 <sup>th</sup> of September, 2012 were reviewed and the following amendments were made:  a) On Page 2, the spelling of Borno should be corrected. b) Minutes to fully reflect the required correction to the Imo state Governor's title as Owelle c) Ebonyi State governor should be addressed as Chief not Mr as stated in the minutes. d) It is the deputy governor, not the governor of Gombe State whose name should be correctly spelt as Tha'anda	<b>Secretariat</b>
2.2	Motion for adoption of the minutes was moved by Katsina State Governor, and seconded by the Sokoto State Governor.	
3.0	<b>Chairman's Brief</b>	
3.1	The Chairman recapped on the reasons for the delay in concluding on the issues of constitutional amendment noting that time is <del>now short so it is crucial to bring the deliberations to a close.</del> <i>new</i>	

*of essence and restated the need to bring conclude deliberations on the matter.*

the Devolution process

	<p>He reminded the House that some key issues for amendment had earlier been agreed at the Convention in Delta State. In particular it had been agreed that power should be devolved to the states as states are more active now and are better able to cope with the responsibility. In addition <del>funding and</del> the current position of the law that gives the President power to unilaterally send bills to the National Assembly should be <del>amended</del>. <i>reviewed</i></p>	<p>??</p>
4.0	<p><b>Presentation by Members of the National Assembly</b> Senate Committee on Constitutional review led by its Chair Dr. Ike Ekweremadu (Deputy Senate President) and Majority Leader, Senator Victor Ndoma Egba briefed the house on progress of the Constitutional review process.</p>	<p>✓</p>
4.1	<p>a) Deputy senate President thanked the house and the Chairman for the opportunity to come and address the Governors, and commended the governors' efforts towards reaching consensus on outstanding issues.</p> <p>b) He gave a summary of the history and development of the Nigerian constitution noting that the Nigerian system began as a <u>devolved</u> government but in the run up to civil war, power was taken away from the <u>devolved</u> administrations and centralized in a bid to assure the survival of a united Nigeria. The pattern continued through the military administrations but now it appears that the Nigerian people are ready for a change.</p> <p>c) He informed the forum of their activities in the execution of their mandate and noted in particular their retreat in Asaba, Delta State. He reiterated the goal of the committee is to keep the process <del>very</del> transparent and to carry all Nigerians along. <del>He put the forum on notice that the committee was still taking submissions and that the committee has held a National Public Hearing in Abuja and will go on the road to conduct Zonal Public Hearings simultaneously in all 6 geopolitical zones on the 15th and 16th November, 2012. There is also a plan to hold another retreat in January 2013.</del></p> <p>d) He noted that there are currently 16 items on the concurrent list (where responsibility is split between Federal and State governments). Some items currently on the exclusive list (e.g. Aviation, Fishing, Labour (including wages), Parks, Pensions, Prisons, Public Holidays, Taxation, and Police, Establishment of Certain Authorities, Annulment and Dissolution of marriages, Trade, wireless and broadcasting ) can be reviewed and re-assigned to the concurrent list through this review process.</p>	<p><i>which</i></p>

He informed the forum that the

	<p>e) In particular, he highlighted two main areas which the National Assembly and the Forum were in agreement that should be reviewed namely devolution of powers to the States, and State Police. On State Police, he noted various concerns (funding, abuse by governors, potential for cessation of wealthy states, or where wealthy states wield undue power over less fortunate ones), that have been expressed and advised that international evidence from other countries with federal systems should be considered in resolving the challenges presented. And suggested a middle ground where the National Assembly could be empowered to prescribe states that may create their own police force.</p> <p>f) He also noted that though assumed to exist, the current constitution does not provide for a residual list. This should be addressed and made explicit.</p> <p>g) Senator Ningi proposed that the list of outstanding areas be provided to the Forum for their consideration and subsequent feed back to the National assembly.</p>	
4.2	<p>a) The Forum expressed agreement in principle <del>to</del> <sup>to the</sup> devolution of power to the States.</p> <p>b) The chairman thanked the Deputy Senate Leader for his presentation, saying that a committee on constitutional amendment would be set up to collaborate with the National Assembly in order to reach agreement on the outstanding areas. <del>This committee will consist of:</del> <sup>has members drawn from the following states:</sup></p> <p><b>Constitutional Review Committee</b>  Rivers (chairman)  Jigawa  Lagos  Anambra  Bauchi  Akwa Ibom  Niger</p> <p>c) A number of other committees were also <sup>set up</sup> <del>to be set up</del> to look into areas of priority for the Forum:</p> <p><b>Security Committee</b>  Benue (Chairman)  Edo  Kaduna  Ekiti  Borno</p>	<p><i>from the following</i></p>

	<p>Abia</p> <p><b>Good Governance and Peer-Review Committee</b>  Kano (Chairman)  Sokoto  Kwara  Adamawa  Cross river  Delta  Rivers  Enugu  Zamfara  Osun</p> <p><b>Environment Committee</b>  Bayelsa  Kebbi  Yobe  Plateau  Oyo (Chairman) ✓  Imo  Kogi</p>	
5.0	<b>Update on FAAC: ECA Litigation in the Supreme Court</b>	
5.1	<p>Chairman informed the Forum that their attorneys are preparing to submit a Statement of Claims to the court in the legal matter brought against the FG covering the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. That oil subsidy deductions may continue, but this should not be done as a first line charge. Rather, all monies accruable should first and foremost be paid to the federation account. States should then be allowed to participate in the federation accounting process by being part of its management, which should include regular briefings. To this extent, there were discussions on the need to split the role and office of the Accountant General of the Federation (AGF). It was deemed that because the AGF is appointed by the President, it can be presumed that his primary responsibility and loyalty would be to the appointing authority. Therefore, there is a need for 2 offices - one for the Federal Government and one for the Federation).</li> <li>b. The lawyers require evidence to prepare a solid case and the Chairman encouraged members to come forward with any information at their disposal that would be of help to the lawyers.</li> <li>c. Appropriation 2013 <del>is</del> A summary of the proposed 2013 Appropriation Bill was <del>put</del> before the house <del>by</del>. Members raised</li> </ol>	

*put*

*in particular*

*referring*

	<p>various concerns <del>and in particular about</del> deficit financing. It was noted that the deficit of over 1 trillion naira is to be serviced by monies that are still in contention in court. This indicated the Federal Government's plans to continue to spend down the Excess Crude Account (ECA) contrary to assertions that more saving is needed to boost the savings up to a figure between \$10 and \$50b.</p> <p>d. Furthermore, concerns were raised about the variance between the crude oil benchmark price of \$75/barrel proposed by the FG, \$80/barrel by the House of Representatives and a further \$78/barrel counterproposal by the Senate. While noting that it does not make economic sense to under budget, the Forum agreed that a harmonized figure of about \$80/barrel should be reached.</p>	
6.0	<b>Update on Polio Eradication Initiative</b>	
6.1	<p>An increase in the number of reported cases from 84 to 93 since the last report with Katsina now topping the list with 23 cases was noted. The chairman requested an update from Katsina state.</p> <p>a. The Katsina state governor briefed the house on the stakeholder meeting held at the Aso Villa on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2012, where the target date for eradicating polio was brought forward to December 2013 as opposed to the previous 2015 date.</p> <p>b. The governor raised concerns about the influx of people from Niger Republic, but noted that steps were being taken to energise and fortify the teams, religious leaders engaged and money released to tackle the problem. <i>funding adequately</i></p>	<p><i>including enjoying the initiative.</i></p>
6.2	<p>The House resolved that all efforts would be made to stamp out the issue of 'missed' children. Furthermore, all states committed to taking the initiative seriously as just one case in an erstwhile polio free state would take away the free status for 2yrs.</p>	<b>All States</b>
7.0	<b>AOB</b>	
7.1	<p>The issue of State Assembly Speakers and their clamour for greater independence was raised. Governors were opposed to speakers' actions which <del>they deemed as</del> <i>viewed as</i> bordering on insubordination, <del>and dangerous as it could be viewed as</del> <i>the action</i> an indication that Governors have lost their bases and <del>so their</del> <i>also their</i> relevance as leaders of the party in their states.</p>	

*Furthermore the actions could be ~~viewed~~ an*

	It was agreed that <del>agreed that</del> the Chairman would meet with the leadership of NASS to ask them to stop engaging or inviting the Speakers to discuss issues concerning the states' politics.	<b>Chairman</b>
8.0	<b>Adjournment/Conclusion</b>	
8.1	The Governor of Yobe State moved for adjournment.	
8.2	The meeting rose at 11:37pm with a closing prayer by the Governor of Kano State.	

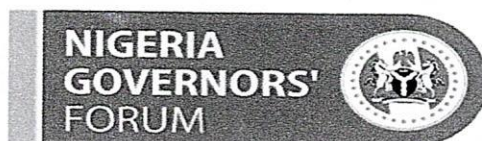
**Rt.Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi**  
**Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum**  
**17th October, 2012**



# ACTIONS LOG

## MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

Ref no.	Date	Description	Action By	Time line	Status	Review Date
M11/001	17/10/12	Amendments to minutes of the meeting	Secretariat			
M11/002	17/10/12	All efforts would be made to stamp out the issue of 'missed' children.	All States			
M11/003	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			



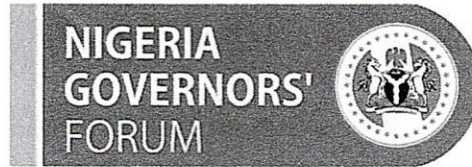
**NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM**

**11<sup>th</sup> Meeting in 2012**

**Wednesday October 17, 2012**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening Prayers;
2. Chairman's Brief;
3. Consideration and Adoption of the Minutes of the Last NGF Meeting;
4. 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria – Review of Proposed Amendment;  
— Presentation by Deputy Senate President;
5. Update on Polio Eradication Initiative;
6. Brief on the FAAC Distribution Template/Accessing the Ecological Fund – By Governor of Gombe State;
7. AOB.



## COMMUNIQUE

### ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2012, AT THE RIVERS STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE, ABUJA

We, the Governors of the 36 States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at our 11<sup>th</sup> meeting held today Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 at the Rivers State Governor's Lodge, Abuja deliberated over a number of issues and resolved as follows;

1. Forum held an exploratory meeting with the Senate Committee on 1999 Constitutional Review led by the Chairman and Deputy Senate President- Senator Ike Ekweremadu and constituted a 7- man committee (consisting of Rivers, Jigawa, Bauchi, Lagos, Niger, Anambra and Akwa-Ibom State Governors) to engage and collaborate with the National Assembly on the constitution review process.
2. Forum also constituted a committee on Good Governance and Peer Review (Kano, Sokoto, Kwara, Adamawa, Delta, Rivers, Cross River, Enugu, Zamfara and Osun State Governors), Security ( Benue as Chairman, Edo, Kaduna, Ekiti, Borno and Abia as members) and another on Environment (Oyo as Chairman, Plateau, Bayelsa, Kebbi, Yobe, Kogi and Imo) to organize a Security Conference and tackle flooding respectively.
3. Members of the Forum committed to pursuing integrated interventions towards eradicating polio by December 2013 instead of the initial 2015 deadline.

***Rt. Hon Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi***  
***Governor of Rivers State***  
***& Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum***  
***October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012***