



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

HELD ON

15th JULY, 2011

AT THE

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

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Rt. Hon. Chibuike R. Amaechi	Rivers	Governor/Chairman
2	Murtala H. Nyako	Adamawa	Governor
3	Mallam Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
4	Godswill Akpabio	Akwa Ibom	Governor
5	Peter Obi	Anambra	Governor
6	Ibrahim idris	Kogi	Governor
7	Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
8	Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
9	Abdulfattah Ahmed	Kwara	Governor
10	Adams Oshiomhole	Edo	Governor
11	Rochas Okorochoa	Imo	Governor
12	Sullivan Chime	Enugu	Governor
13	Ibrahim Dankwambo	Gombe	Governor
14	Patrick I. Yakowa	Kaduna	Governor
15	Saidu N. Usman	Kebbi	Governor
16	Babatunde R. Fashola, SAN	Lagos	Governor
17	Umaru Tanko Almakura	Nasarawa	Governor
18	Ibrahim S. Shema	Katsina	Governor
19	Hon. Abdulaziz Yari	Zamfara	Governor
20	Zannah Mustapha	Borno	Deputy Governor
21	Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
22	Mrs. Funmi Olayinka	Ekiti	Deputy Governor
23	Sani A. Danladi	Taraba	Deputy Governor
24	Ignatius Longjan	Plateau	Deputy Governor

APOLOGIES

1	Chief T.A. Orji	Abia	Governor
2	Gabriel T. Suswam	Benue	Governor
3	Aliyu M. Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
4	Engr. Rabiu M. Kwankwaso	Kano	Governor
5	Timipre Sylva	Bayelsa	Governor
6	Senator Ibikunle Amosun	Ogun	Governor
7	Dr. Olusegun Mimiko	Ondo	Governor
8	Engr. Rauf Aregbesola	Osun	Governor
9	Senator Abiola Ajimobi	Oyo	Governor
10	Chief Martin N. Elechi, MFR	Ebonyi	Governor
11	Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu, OON	Niger	Governor
12	Ibrahim Geidam	Yobe	Governor

S/N	NOTES/RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY
A	<p>COMMENCEMENT</p> <p>The meeting started at 8.45 pm with opening prayers by the Governors of Delta and Lagos States.</p>	
B	<p>CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st June, 2011 was read. The Governor of Enugu State moved a motion for the adoption of the minutes and the motion was seconded by the Governor of Kebbi State.</p>	
C	<p>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</p> <p>In his opening remarks, the Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for attending the meeting in spite of the short notice. He informed them that in his interactions with the President, it was obvious that he was committed to the issues of removal of fuel subsidy and the amendment of the Constitution.</p> <p>The Chairman thought the ideal thing at this stage was for the NGF to constitute a Committee of Lawyers to review the constitution with a view to amending relevant portions. It was noted that Mr. Olisa Agbakoba, SAN and former President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) was already doing some work in this area and the Forum could avail itself of this work.</p> <p>Members recommended that a letter be written to Mr. Agbakoba craving his indulgence to share his initiatives with the Forum. The outcome would be circulated to the States Attorneys-General (AGs) for review. The review by the AGs would enable the Forum take a position on the matter.</p> <p>Also, the Secretariat was mandated to facilitate an appointment with Mr. President seeking a meeting with the NGF on Monday, 18th July, 2011 to discuss these issues.</p>	
D	<p>LABOUR AND MINIMUM WAGE</p> <p>The Chairman reiterated the decisions of the NGF reached at its previous meeting that the Forum was obliged to pay the minimum wage but was constrained by lack of resources to do so. He restated that there was a need to meet with representatives of organised Labour and the National Assembly as well as work swiftly to ensure that the revenue formula was amended.</p> <p>He advised on a need for a united stand on issues, especially in the light of recent pronouncements that some States were ready to pay the minimum wage. Responding to the issue of the States that were alleged to be ready to pay the minimum wage, the meeting was informed that the position of the Action</p>	

Congress of Nigeria (ACN) States which was dictated by the party's leadership was not inconsistent with that of the Forum.

The States involved were desirous of paying but like most other States were constrained by inability to pay. The meeting was informed that the media reports on the matter were exaggerated.

The issue of illegal deductions from the Federation account featured prominently and members decried the current practice by several Federal establishments notably the Nigerian National petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

After very intensive deliberations on these matters, the NGF resolved as follows:

- i) Consistent with its position on the new National Minimum Wage Act (The Act), the Forum reiterated its commitment to comply with the provisions of the Act.
- ii) In the light of this commitment, the NGF resolved to commence implementation modalities towards the payment of the N18, 000. 00 minimum wage and members were urged to implement the provisions of the Act having due regards to the peculiarities of their States.
- iii) It was also agreed that the NGF would meet with representatives of the organised Labour to convey this position and review matters that may arise therefrom.
- iv) There should be better coordination amongst States in the exchange of information so as to guard against misinformation.
- v) To take up the issue of illegal deductions during the proposed meeting with Mr. President and go to court, if need be.

E UPDATE ON POLIO

The meeting was reminded of the NGF decision to set aside one day in every quarter to hold sensitization campaigns in all the States to raise the level of awareness of the polio scourge.

Accordingly, the Forum ratified the following dates for the quarterly campaigns:

- 1st Exercise - Saturday, 13th August, 2011
- 2nd Exercise - Saturday, 12th November, 2011
- 3rd Exercise - Saturday, 11th February, 2012
- 4th Exercise - Saturday, 12th May, 2012

<p>F</p> <p>G</p> <p>H</p> <p>I</p>	<p>The Secretariat was directed to remind members at least one (1) week to each of these dates.</p> <p>SECURITY</p> <p>Upon briefing by the Deputy Governor of Borno State and a presentation by the Governor of Adamawa State on the state of security in the Northern part of the country, the Forum condemned the worsening security in Borno State and the attendant loss of lives and property. It also called on the leadership of the area to do everything to curtail the situation.</p> <p>SEND OFF FOR THE IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN</p> <p>In appreciation of the leadership and pioneering efforts of the immediate past Chairman of the NGF, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, members agreed to hold a proper send-off party for him. To that end, members agreed to contribute N500,000 each towards hosting the event.</p> <p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>The meeting rose at 12:09 midnight.</p> <p>Rt. Honourable Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi Executive Governor, Rivers State Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum</p>	
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