



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

HELD ON

4th MARCH, 2012

AT THE

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

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Rt. Hon. Rotimi C. Amaechi	Rivers	Governor/Chairman
2	Mr. Peter Obi	Anambra	Governor/Vice Chairman
3	Murtala Nyako	Adamawa	Governor
4	T.A. Orji	Abia	Governor
5	Godswill Akpabio	Akwa Ibom	Governor
6	Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
7	Hon. Seriake Dickson	Bayelsa	Governor
8	Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
9	Adams A. Oshiomhole	Edo	Governor
10	Sullivan Chime	Enugu	Governor
11	Dr. Kayode Fayemi	Ekiti	Governor
12	Ibrahim H. Dankwambo	Gombe	Governor
13	Captain Idris I. Wada	Kogi	Governor
14	Olusegun Mimiko	Ondo	Governor
15	Senator Abiola Ajimobi	Oyo	Governor
16	Abdul-Aziz Yari	Zamfara	Governor
17	Rt. Hon. Aminu Musa Habib	Kebbi	Acting Governor
18	David Umahi	Ebonyi	Deputy Governor
19	Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
20	Dr. Abdullahi U. Ganduje	Kano	Deputy Governor
21	Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire	Lagos	Deputy Governor
22	Ho. Dameshi B. Luka	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor
23	Hon. Ahmed Musa Ibeto	Niger	Deputy Governor
24	I.D. Longjan	Plateau	Deputy Governor
25	Barrister Mukhtari S. Shagari	Sokoto	Deputy Governor

APOLOGIES

1	Gabriel T. Suswam	Benue	Governor
2	Shettima Kashim	Borno	Governor
3	Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
4	Owelle Rochas Okorochoa	Imo	Governor
5	Ibrahim Yakowa	Kaduna	Governor
6	Ibrahim Shehu Shema	Katsina	Governor
7	Abdulfattah Ahmed	Kwara	Governor
8	Ibikunle Amosun	Ogun	Governor
9	Rauf Aregbesola	Osun	Governor
10	Danbaba D. Suntai	Taraba	Governor
11	Ibrahim Geidam	Yobe	Governor

S/N	NOTES/RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY
1	<p>COMMENCEMENT The meeting started at 8.30pm with opening prayers by the Governor and Deputy Governor of Abia and Kano States respectively.</p>	
2	<p>Chairman's Opening Remarks The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting but expressed concern over the large number of papers and documents that the Forum was expected to review and deliberate on in the course of the meeting. It was agreed that going forward, in order to do justice to issues brought before the meeting, all papers and documents should be sent to members ahead of the meeting.</p>	
3	<p>Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings Members were reminded that they had agreed at the last meeting to review and adopt all the minutes of their past meetings. The meetings affected were those of:</p> <p>i) 11th October, 2011 Following the review of the minutes by members, it was adopted by a motion by the Governor of Enugu State and seconded by the Governor of Adamawa State.</p> <p>ii) 24th October, 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vice Chairman and Governor of Anambra State should be properly identified on the Attendance page on no. 2, page 2; • On No. 23, page 3 of the Attendance page, Deputy Governor and not Deputy Chief servant should be used in official documents and communications; • Paragraph 1 of page 3 should be re-couched to reflect that the Forum deliberated on the FAAC situation following a briefing by the Honourable Commissioner of Finance of Anambra State (on the directive of the Forum); <p>The minutes was thereafter adopted following a motion by the Deputy Governor of Niger State and seconded by Zamfara State.</p> <p>iii) 9th November, 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communiqués should come at the end of the meeting and the order of arrangement of papers should reflect this; • The Governor of Akwa Ibom State was erroneously captured as the Governor of Adamawa State; • 'Deputy Chief Servant' to be corrected in line with earlier resolution; • On No. 16 of the Attendance List on page 2, the Deputy Governor of Kano State is Dr. A.U. Ganduje and not A.M Ganduje; • Similarly on No. 10 of the 'Apology Section' on page 2, Ibrahim S. Shema of Katsina State was erroneously captured as the Governor of 	

Kano State;

- On item D, Page 3, the sentence should be re-couched to show that in addition to a State potentially winning \$1, 000, 000 (One Million US Dollars) which could be used to develop any primary health care priority of the Governor's choosing, the winning State would also get global recognition from the Bill Gates Foundation.

In the absence of further amendments and observations, the minutes was adopted by a motion by the Governor of Ekiti State and seconded by the Deputy Governor of Ebonyi State.

iv) 21st November, 2011

Minutes ought to have captured that members adjourned in order to meet the President at the Villa. The Minutes was adopted by a motion by the Governor of Zamfara State and seconded by the Deputy Governor of Niger State.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of 11th October, 2011

Update on Polio:

The meeting was informed that the President had recently inaugurated a Presidential Task Force on Polio and had set aside \$60 million to facilitate the fight against polio. A list of Polio high-risk States was presented to the meeting:

- Kaduna
- Kano
- Kebbi
- Sokoto
- Jigawa
- Borno
- Yobe
- Katsina
- Bauchi
- Zamfara

Ebonyi and Lagos States were similarly identified as being at risk of being infected by polio. Members sought clarification for some of the claims and this was provided by the NGF Polio Adviser, Dr. Zikrullah Giwa, who explained that the facts and figures were supplied by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Members resolved to intensify the efforts against polio.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of 24th October, 2011

o Illegal Deductions:

The Chairman noted that the Forum was yet to meet with the FG on how they arrived at the colossal sum of N888 billion. The matter was related to disagreements over ownership of signature bonuses, import duties and revenues from the FCT that were hitherto considered FG revenue. Members

recalled that a Committee had been constituted to look into the matter. Upon deliberations by members, it was agreed as follows:

- i) To request a copy of the Report from the Minister of Finance;
- ii) To invite the Ministers of Finance and Petroleum to brief members at the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting of 5th March, 2012 on how they arrived at the figures;
- iii) To engage a Consultant to review these figures and advise the Forum;
- iv) The Chairman would meet with the President to discuss the Forum's concern in this regard;

o **Countering Negative Publicity**

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had been on AIT to address certain issues over which governors had been attacked in the media. He assured members that more media events would be held to showcase the work being done by Governors. The meeting however noted that the perception of Governors had improved from what it used to be but conceded that a lot more needed to be done.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of 9th November , 2011

o **Matter before the Supreme Court in respect of accrued payments from the Excess Crude Account**

The meeting noted that the lawyers' fees were outstanding and they needed to be paid. An out of court Settlement had been reached in the case but members resolved to return to court if the terms of the settlement were not adhered to.

Briefing by Justice Muhammad Lawal Uwais, GCON on the State Peer Review Mechanism (SPRM)

The Chairman of the Steering Committee of the SPRM, Justice M.L Uwais briefed the Forum on the progress made so far in the implementation of the SPRM. Some of the milestones attained by the Steering Committee are outlined as follows:

- The appointment of Dr. Bukola Saraki as the vice Chair of the Steering Committee;
- The adoption of the Operating Procedures and Work plan of the SPRM for the first half of 2012;
- The Sensitisation/Initiation Workshop had been held in Anambra, Ekiti and Niger States with a plan commence the process in at least 12 more States;
- Jigawa and Rivers States have been scheduled to hold their Sensitisation/Initiation Workshops in the coming weeks;

The Steering Committee Chairman pointed out that the Sensitisation/Initiation Workshop was the first stage of the SPRM process and urged the Forum to

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	<p>commit to the MOU which they signed and show commitment to the process by dedicating more time and resources to it.</p> <p>Members expressed gratitude to the Chairman of the Committee for his dedication to the SPRM and assured him that they were committed to the success of the SPRM as a tool for fostering development at the sub-national level.</p> <p>The Forum however expressed concern over the 6 months period specified for the preparation and presentation of the State Self Assessment Report (SPRR) and the State Programme of Action (SPoA) and suggested 3 months as a more practical period to do the Reports.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare a time table for States showing dates for the Sensitisation/Initiation Workshops to enable the States identify suitable dates for the mission.</p>	Secretariat
5	<p>Review of the Draft Report on Constitutional Amendment</p> <p>Owing to constraints of time, the Forum was unable to deliberate over the constitutional amendment. It was agreed that a separate meeting would be convened to deal with the matter.</p>	
6	<p>Briefing by the Corps Marshall/CEO of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC)</p> <p>The Corps Marshall, FRSC briefed the Forum in the aftermath of the National Assembly Resolution forbidding the FRSC from producing and issuing the new license plates and drivers' license. He sought to set records straight and stated among others as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FRSC does not issue license plates and drivers license; ▪ FRSC only designs these in line with its statutory mandate; ▪ FRSC neither collects money from the public nor remit same to States. States collect their own money; ▪ Owing to the difficulties associated with these licences, especially those occasioned by touting, the FRSC approached the Joint Tax Board (JTB) in 2008 on the need to improve on them; ▪ The 36 States and the FCT approved the licences as well as their costs; ▪ Pricing was determined with the concurrence of the JTB; ▪ The new drivers licence is designed to meet international standard to forestall the embarrassing situation where Nigerian drivers licence is not recognized abroad; <p>While the Forum commended the FRSC on the initiative and assured it of their cautious support within the framework of the law and the Constitution. The need</p>	

	<p>for caution was borne out of the need to first review the Resolution of the NASS so as not to be seen to be opposing the NASS (without recourse to all the facts) over the matter. The Secretariat was directed to furnish the Forum with the NASS Resolution on the FRSC.</p> <p>Following a point of order raised by a member, it was resolved that going forward, members would be pre-informed before any stakeholder would be invited to brief the Forum. It was also agreed that all documents relating to any such briefing should be sent to members ahead of time.</p>	Secretariat
7	<p>Excess Crude</p>	
	<p>The Chairman informed the meeting that he had met with the Minister of Finance over the non-payment of the excess crude in spite of Mr. President's approval. It was noted that the sum of \$1 billion remained outstanding of the \$1.5billion approved. It was agreed that this matter was best approached in a structured manner and that it would be discussed at the NEC meeting scheduled for the following day, 5th of March, 2012. The Forum also resolved that it would discuss the situation with Mr. President.</p>	
8	<p>AOB</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) would address the Forum at its next meeting. ▪ The Forum commended the President for the national burial accorded Chief Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu and acknowledged the role played by the Governors of the South East led by the Governor of Anambra State. ▪ The Forum welcomed its new members: the Governors of Adamawa, Sokoto and Cross River States were welcomed back to the Forum and the new Governors of Kogi and Bayelsa States were welcomed to the family. ▪ Welcome/Induction packs for new Governors were presented to the Governors of Kogi and Bayelsa States. 	
9	<p>Adjournment</p>	
	<p>The meeting rose at 11.47pm.</p> <p>Right Honourable Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, CON Executive Governor, Rivers State Chairman, Nigeria Governors Forum</p>	