



NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

The Secretariat

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www.nggovernorsforum.org

27th February, 2010

His Excellency,
The Executive Governor of Ekiti State
Government House
Ado-Ekiti

Your Excellency,

Minutes of NGF Meetings, Communiqués and related documents

We write in relation to the above subject matter.

We forward herewith a compilation of the minutes of meetings and related documents of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) from January 26th 2009 to February 4, 2010.

In 2009, there were a total of seven (7) meetings of the Forum, 5 of which were general meetings and 2 were emergency meetings. It is heart warming that YE recorded a 100% attendance in 2009.

Also, there had been 2 meetings so far in 2010 – 1 General meeting and 1 Emergency meeting.

Ekiti State has an outstanding commitment to the Forum of **N5, 000,000. 00**. We crave YE's indulgence to settle this amount to enable the Secretariat continue to pursue its programmes for the year.

Please, accept Your Excellency the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours Faithfully,


A.B. Okauru, Esq
Director General

RESTRICT

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PROFILE OF STATES' ATTENDANCE AT NGF MEETINGS IN 2009

S/N	STATE	DATE OF MEETING								% ATTENDANCE
		26/01/09	09/03/209	23/03/09	06/07/09	05/10/09	08/11/09	03/12/09		
1	ABIA	*	✓	*	✓	✓	*	✓	57%	
2	ADAMAWA	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	86%	
3	AKWA IBOM	*	✓	*	*	✓	✓	✓	57%	
4	ANAMBRA	*	✓	✓	*	*	✓	*	43%	
5	BAUCHI	(06)	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	86%	
6	BAYELSA	✓	*	*	*	✓	✓	✓	57%	
7	BENUE	✓	✓	✓	✓	(06)	✓	✓	100%	
8	BORNO	(06)	*	*	*	(06)	*	*	29%	
9	CROSS RIVER	(06)	✓	*	*	✓	✓	✓	71%	
10	DELTA	(06)	✓	(06)	*	✓	✓	✓	86%	
11	EBONYI	✓	✓	✓	(06)	✓	✓	(06)	100%	
12	EDO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
13	EKITI	✓	(AB)	(AB)	(06)	✓	(06)	✓	100%	
14	ENUGU	✓	✓	✓	(06)	*	✓	✓	86%	
15	GOMBE	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	*	✓	71%	
16	IMO	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	*	✓	71%	
17	JIGAWA	(06)	*	✓	(06)	(06)	✓	(06)	86%	
18	KADUNA	✓	*	✓	(06)	✓	✓	(06)	86%	
19	KANO	✓	*	✓	(06)	(06)	✓	*	71%	
20	KATSINA	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	*	71%	
21	KEBBI	✓	*	✓	*	✓	*	*	43%	
22	KOGI	(06)	*	(06)	(06)	*	(06)	(06)	71%	
23	KWARA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
24	LAGOS	(06)	✓	✓	✓	(06)	*	✓	86%	
25	NASARAWA	✓	(06)	✓	*	✓	(06)	✓	100%	
26	NIGER	✓	✓	(06)	(06)	✓	✓	✓	100%	
27	OGUN	✓	✓	*	*	(06)	*	*	43%	
28	ONDO	✓	(06)	✓	*	(06)	*	*	57%	

29	OSUN	✓	✓	(06)	*	✓	(06)	✓	(06)	✓	86%
30	OYO	(06)	✓	✓	*	✓	(06)	✓	(06)	✓	86%
31	PLATEAU	*	✓	*	*	✓	*	✓	*	✓	43%
32	RIVERS	✓	✓	*	*	✓	(06)	(06)	(06)	(06)	71%
33	SOKOTO	*	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	57%
34	TARABA	✓	*	✓	(06)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	71%
35	YOBE	✓	(06)	✓	*	✓	*	(06)	(06)	(06)	71%
36	ZAMFARA	✓	(06)	(06)	✓	(06)	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
	TOTAL ATTENDANCE	31	28	25	19	33	25	28			
	TOTAL ABSENCE	5	8	11	17	3	11	8			
	GOVERNORS IN ATTENDANCE	23	24	20	10	25	19	22			
	DEPUTY GOVERNORS IN ATTENDANCE	8	4	5	9	8	6	6			
	% ATTENDANCE	86.11%	78%	69.4%	53%	92%	69.4%	78%			78%

NOTES

1. The meetings held on 23 March, 2009 and 3 December, 2009 were emergency meetings.
2. All other meetings were the general meetings of the Forum.
3. Whilst ✓ represents States in attendance at the respective meetings, * stands for absent States.
4. (DG) signifies States that were represented by their Deputy Governors.
5. (AG) stands for acting Governor; only Ekiti State fell in this category in 2009.



NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD ON

26TH JANUARY, 2009

AT THE

**Kwara State Governor's Lodge
Asokoro, Abuja.**

ATTENDANCE

Their Excellencies:

S/No	Name	State	Designation
1	Dr. A.B. Saraki	Kwara	Governor/Chairman
2	Segun Oni	Ekiti	Governor
3	Adams Oshiomole	Edo	Governor
4	Timipre Sylva	Bayelsa	Governor
5	Martin N. Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
6	Murtala Nyako	Adamawa	Governor
7	Aliyu Akwe Doma	Nasarawa	Governor
8	Arc M. Namadi Sambo	Kaduna	Governor
9	Ibrahim Shekarau	Kano	Governor
10	Prof A. A. Utuama, (SAN)	Delta	Deputy-Governor
11	Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi	Zamfara	Governor
12	Sai'du N. Usman	Kebbi	Governor
13	Suswam, G.T	Benue	Governor
14	Olusegun Agagu	Ondo	Governor
15	Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu, OON	Niger	Governor
16	Hon. Chibuike Amaechi	Rivers	Governor
17	Ikedi Ohakim	Imo	Governor
18	Otunba Gbenga Daniel	Ogun	Governor
19	Danbaba D. Suntai	Taraba	Governor
20	Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy-Governor
21	Ibrahim S. Shema	Katsina	Governor
22	Mohammed Danjuma Goje	Gombe	Governor
23	Prince O. Oyinlola	Osun	Governor
24	Sullivan I. Chime	Enugu	Governor
25	Dr. Phillips O. Salawu	Kogi	Deputy-Governor
26	Alhaji Adamu Dibal	Borno	Deputy-Governor
27	Ibrahim B. Geidam	Yobe	Deputy-Governor
28	Garba Mohammed	Bauchi	Deputy-Governor
29	Mrs. Adebisi Sosan	Lagos	Deputy-Governor
30	Efiok Cobham	Cross-River	Deputy-Governor
31	Otunba C.A Alao-Akala	Oyo	Governor

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM
HELD AT THE KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE ON 26TH
JANUARY, 2009.**

	NOTES/OBSERVATIONS	ACTION
A	<p>COMMENCEMENT</p> <p>The meeting started by 10.24 pm with opening prayers said by the Ekiti State Governor.</p>	
B	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.</p> <p>The following amendments and observations were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Page 4, Line 1.0, the sentence should be re-couched. <p>In the absence of any further amendments/corrections/observations, the Kaduna State Governor moved for adoption of the minutes and was seconded by the Governor of Gombe State.</p>	
C	<p>MATTERS ARISING.</p> <p>MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG)</p> <p>The chairman of the Forum's committee on Millennium Development Goals (MDG) reported that he had been unable to meet with the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the President on MDG and so had no report. He assured that he would have a Report by the next meeting.</p>	
D	<p>GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS</p> <p>Members were informed that the President had taken a pro-active approach towards addressing the existing economic crisis by setting up a new Economic team. The Economic team included</p>	

two members of the Forum namely, the Governors of Kwara and Lagos States as members. In view of the attendant importance of the task of the Economic team, the co-operation of members towards the success of the team was enlisted.

E PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Members were reminded of the decision of the Forum to participate actively in the on-going Constitutional Review. Most members, it was observed, had set up committees to look into the process and come up with recommendations. It was then resolved that States were to consult with their Houses of Assembly to look into the issues.

1.0 BUDGET 2009, CHALLENGES AHEAD.

The attention of members was once again called to the challenges confronting the States as a result of the decline in revenue, due in most parts to the global economic crisis. Agreeing that the situation had dire implications, especially as it affects the implementation of the 2009 budget, members held intense deliberations on it. It was observed among others, that the current status of the Excess Crude Account which is exclusively managed by the Federal Government (FG) remained uncertain. This uncertainty had resulted in legal tussles between some members of the Forum and the FG.

The Forum then resolved as follows:

1. To enquire into the state and details of the Excess Crude Account.
2. To mandate the Forum's Committee of Attorneys-General and Commissioners of Finance to review the state of the pending suit between some members and the FG and then advise accordingly.
3. Consequently, the Forum expressed full

support towards their members who are in the Supreme Court with the FG over illegal deductions from the Federation Account and agreed that all the States will eventually join in the suit and going forward, States would join in litigations that affect members.

2.0 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS.

As part of the Forum's resolve to strengthen its activities and brace the secretariat for the challenges ahead, changes were made in the Secretariat's management. The Forum approved the appointment of the following:

1. Mr. A. Bayo Okauru-Director-General
2. Mr. Abdulateef O.T. Shittu - Executive Director (Research & Strategy).
3. Mr. Mohammed A. Jibia - Executive Director (Finance & Administration).

3.0 FUNDING OF THE FORUM'S PERMANENT BUILDING PROJECT.

An update Report on the progress of activities regarding the Permanent Secretariat was presented to the Forum.

The Forum agreed that since the list of outstanding contributions in respect of the Permanent Secretariat building showed that the dominant outstanding amount for most states was N70m per State, this amount would be paid in two tranches of N35m each payable by the end of February and March respectively.

4.0 PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH.

A team of officials from the Federal Ministry of Health led by the Honourable Minister of Health, Prof Babatunde Oshotimehin made a presentation to the Forum on the need for concerted efforts and Quality Healthcare System in Nigeria. There was

an emphasis on the threat of Polio epidemic in the country. The Forum expressed its gratitude to the Honourable Minister and his team for the brilliant and incisive presentation.

The Forum agreed to re-double its efforts in collaborating with the Ministry to ensure that polio is eradicated and primary health care improved.

A number of measures were agreed upon which include:

- A new motto – Keep my State polio-free.
- Promote strong leadership at State level and encourage Local Government Areas (LGAs) to provide leadership in waging the campaign monthly and providing monthly polio data at State Executive Council (SEC).
- The Forum agreed to partner with the FG on the midwifery scheme.
- The Forum also agreed to buy in the Community Health Insurance.

5.0 A.O.B

I SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AT GRASS ROOTS LEVEL.

The Forum was informed of a stakeholders meeting on sports attended by some members of the Forum including the Governors of Benue and Niger States on matters relating to the 2012 Olympics and measures to be taken to improve sports at the grass root level. Members were particularly called upon to improve sports at the schools level, which had proved to be a fertile ground for local talents.

II LABOUR AGITATIONS FOR WAGE INCREASE.

The attention of members was called to the increasing agitation by labour unions, particularly the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) for salary and

wage increase and the move by the House of Representatives to approve a minimum wage for public workers. Members were warned of the consequences of any such increase on the declining revenue of States.

Members agreed to take proactive steps to engage NLC in discussion with a view to stemming the consequences of the House of Representatives passing the Minimum Wage Bill into Law.

III THE RECENT PLATEAU CRISIS

Members were reminded of the recent crisis in Plateau State and the resultant face-off between the President and the Governor of Plateau State. Members were implored to take a serious look at the crisis and proffer solutions.

A committee was set up to examine the remote and direct causes of the crisis and make recommendations on the way out of the situation. The Committee consists of the Governors of the following States:

1. Adamawa - Chairman
2. Niger
3. Ebonyi
4. Kano
5. Rivers
6. Oyo – Secretary

IV FAREWELL TO THE OUT-GOING EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR

Following the Forum's approval of the appointment of a Director-General and two (2) Executive Directors to take over the helm of affairs at the Secretariat, the Chairman conveyed the appreciation of the forum to the out-going Executive Director on his seven (7) years service to the Forum and wished him well in his future endeavours.

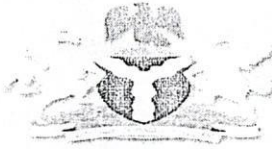
F	CONCLUSION The Governor of Ondo State Governor moved for adjournment of the meeting and was seconded by the Gombe State Governor. The meeting ended at 1.30 am with closing prayers said by the Governor of Katsina State. Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum	
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COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED AT THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM MEETING HELD
ON 26TH JANUARY, 2009. AT KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE.

1. The Forum acknowledged the challenges of instability of the crude oil price which further decline will critically affect implementation of states budget and agreed on the need to discuss this at tomorrow National economic council meeting .How do we manage these challenges ,the forum agreed on the need for more transparency on the management of Excess crude account
2. The Forum expresses full support towards their members who are in Supreme Court with the Federal Government over illegal deductions from Federation account and agreed that going forward all the states will eventually join in the suit and other matters that affect members.
3. The Forum adopted a Memorandum on the appointment of a Director-General Mr. Asishana Bayo Okauru as the Director –General of the Forum and two Executive Directors: Abdulateef O.T Shittu (Strategy & Research) and Mohammed Abubakar Jibia (Finance & Administration).

4. The Forum listened to a presentation by the Hon. Minister of Health on qualitative primary health and threat of polio epidemic .The Forum agreed to partner with the ministry to ensure polio is eradicated and primary health care improved-A number of measures were agreed upon which include: a new motto – Keep my state polio free, promote strong leadership at state level and encourage LGA to provide leadership to lead the campaign monthly and provide monthly polio data at SEC. The Forum agreed to partner with FGN on the midwifery scheme. Lastly agreed to buy in the community health insurance.



NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

MEETING AGENDA: 9TH MARCH, 2009

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Reading and Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on January 26, 2009**
- 3. Matters Arising:-**
 - a) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*
 - b) Proposed Constitutional Amendment*
 - c) Report of the Committee of States Attorney-Generals on Illegal deductions*
 - d) Eradication of Polio Campaign*
 - e) Plateau State Crisis – Committee Report*
- 4. Executive Briefs: Progress Reports**
- 5. Review of Excess Crude Account**
- 6. Discussion on Declining Revenue from FAAC**
- 7. National Union of Teachers'(NUT) Strike Action**
- 8. Permanent Secretariat Projects**
- 9. Any Other Business (AOB)**
 - a. Up coming events/News (Meningitis & Lassa Fever outbreak etc)*
 - b. Sports Development at Grassroots level*
 - c. NLC agitation for minimum wage*
- 10. Closing Prayer**

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

HELD ON

9th March, 2009

AT THE

**KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE
ASOKORO, ABUJA.**

ATTENDANCE

S/N	Name	State	Designation
1	Dr. A.B. Saraki	Kwara	Governor/Chairman
2	Aliyu M.Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
3	Orji, T.A	Abia	Governor
4	Ikedi Ohakim	Imo	Governor
5	Suswam, G.T	Benue	Governor
6	John M. Abdul	Nasarawa	Deputy-Governor
7	Chief Martin N. Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
8	Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu, OON	Niger	Governor
9	Abubakar D. Ali, MNSE	Yobe	Deputy-Governor
10	Otunba C.A. Alao-Akala	Oyo	Governor
11	Mohammed Danjuma Goje	Gombe	Governor
12	Alhaji Ali Olanusi	Ondo	Deputy-Governor
13	Jonah D. Jang	Plateau	Governor
14	Ibrahim S. Shema	Katsina	Governor
15	Rt. Hon. Tunji Odeyemi	Ekiti	Ag. Governor
16	Sullivan I. Chime	Enugu	Governor
17	Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN	Lagos	Governor
18	Murtala H. Nyako	Adamawa	Governor
19	Muhktar A. Anka	Zamfara	Deputy-Governor
20	Oshiomole, Adams Aliyu	Edo	Governor
21	Rt. Hon. C.R. Amaechi	Rivers	Governor
22	Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
23	Godswill Akpabio	Akwa-Ibom	Governor
24	Liyel Imoke	Cross-River	Governor
25	Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
26	Mr. Peter Obi	Anambra	Governor
27	Otunba Gbenga Daniel	Ogun	Governor
28	Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola	Osun	Governor

APOLOGIES

1. Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau Governor, Kano State
2. Arc. M.N Sambo Governor, Kaduna State

S/N	NOTES/OBSERVATIONS	ACTION
A	<p>COMMENCEMENT</p> <p>The meeting started at 8.40pm with opening prayers said by the Governors of Sokoto and Abia States respectively.</p>	
B	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 26th January, 2009 were read and adopted after the following amendments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On Page 3, item C, the designation of the chairman of the Forum's Committee on Millenium Development Goals (MDG) should be included. ▪ On Page 5, the parting gift to the outgoing Executive Director of the Forum's secretariat should be included. ▪ On Page 8, item F, line 2, the second reference to 'Governor' should be expunged. <p>In the absence of any other amendments, the Governor of Enugu State moved the motion for the adoption of the minutes and was seconded by the Governor of Rivers State.</p>	
C	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:</p> <p>i. MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG) COMMITTEE REPORT:</p> <p>Owing to the unavoidable absence of the Executive Governor of Ekiti State, the Forum appointed the Rivers State Governor as interim Chairman of the MDG Committee and he was mandated to co-opt two or three other members of the Forum into the Committee. The Committee was further urged to examine the relationship between the MDG and the States.</p> <p>ii. PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT</p> <p>Regarding the proposed Constitutional amendments, the Forum deliberated on the options before it - Whether to set up a committee to look into the issues relating to</p>	

the Constitutional amendment or leave it at the discretion of the States to handle the matter by setting up Committees.

It was resolved that the Forum would keep an eye on the process and would, at its meetings, regularly review events as they unfold until it (the Forum) was able to articulate a final position.

iii. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL (AGs) ON ILLEGAL DEDUCTIONS

The Report of the Committee of Attorneys General of States was presented to the meeting. The Committee had inter alia, agreed that:

- a. Without prejudice to any existing out of court settlement efforts, the States already in court would continue to pursue their cases to their logical conclusion.
- b. There was a need for representation on a geo-political basis.
- c. The next meeting of the Committee would be on the 26th of March, 2009.

However, some members observed that the desired support needed by some States in court with the Federal Government (FG) had not been given the prominence that it deserved. It was then agreed that favourable public image be created in the media.

It was also resolved that six (6) states not already in Court and representing each of the geo-political zones would be nominated to join the existing Committee.

The Forum also granted permission to the Committee to use the NGF secretariat as its protem Secretariat for proper co-ordination of the body's activities.

iv. ERADICATION OF POLIO CAMPAIGN

Members were reminded of the decisions reached at the last meeting on the eradication of the Polio epidemic. They were also reminded that the Forum had hosted Mr. Bill Gates of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation all in an

effort to eradicate this scourge.

Members were further informed that Mr. Gates had written to the Forum expressing his appreciation for the support shown by the Governors in their effort to eliminate the Polio epidemic.

It was noted that some States had already launched the eradication campaign and others were urged to do so. It was also noted that henceforth the Secretariat should be invited to any Programmes by States targeted towards Polio eradication to ensure that it is properly documented.

Finally, the Forum resolved that to underscore the importance of this exercise, members would set aside a day where all the States would participate fully in the eradication campaign.

The Secretariat would liaise with the Chairman and the Federal Ministry of Health (FMH) to work out an appropriate date to kick start the exercise.

**SECRETARIAT/
CHAIRMAN/
FMH**

v. PLATEAU STATE CRISIS

The Chairman of the Forum's Committee on the Plateau State Crisis, the Executive Governor of Adamawa State presented the Committee's report to the meeting.

The position of Plateau State on the crisis could be summarised thus:

- That Plateau State awaited the response of the Federal Government (FG) to the suit brought by it before the Supreme Court.
- That the matter before the Court was on the interpretation of the Constitution on whether the FG had powers to investigate the crisis.
- Any investigation into the role of security agencies in the crisis was a legitimate area of intervention by the FG.
- The Terms of Reference of the two Panels set up by the FG and Plateau State on the crisis were different but not contradictory.
- There was no need to merge the panels. Each could carry out its functions.

Following intense deliberations on this subject, the Forum agreed that it would continue to monitor the progress made in the matter.

The Forum also expressed its gratitude to the Committee for a job well done and to the Plateau State Governor for the clarifications made as well as his co-operation with the Committee.

D EXECUTIVE BRIEFS: PROGRESS REPORTS

The Director General (DG) of the NGF Secretariat presented progress report to the Forum. The Chairman once again introduced the new management of the NGF Secretariat to the meeting.

There were observations on the scope of the DG's mandate and a member expressed the view that the DG should not communicate directly to members and should not address the media on their behalf. However, after deliberations on the matter, it was resolved that the powers exercisable by the DG shall be as delegated and mandated by the chairman of the Forum.

E EXCESS CRUDE ACCOUNT

The Forum was presented with a comprehensive **ANALYSIS OF THE EXCESS CRUDE ACCOUNT (ECA) DISTRIBUTION OPTIONS.**

Upon intense deliberations on the issue of fuel subsidy, it was resolved that States would no longer fund the inefficiencies of the FG under the guise of petroleum subsidy. The Forum however expressed support for the measures considered by the FG to de-regulate the down stream sector and therefore requested the FG to refund the subsidy paid in 2008. The Forum also advised against any further deductions in whatever guise in 2009.

Regarding excess crude, it was agreed that the \$4.75billion in the reserve account be shared among the States to enable them cushion the effects of the global economic crisis.

The Forum agreed that these decisions must be

canvassed at the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting on the 10th of March as the position of the Forum.

F NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS (NUT) STRIKE ACTION

The Forum was reminded of the NUT strike in 2008 and the resultant intervention of the NGF. One of the agreements reached with the NUT was the addition of 27.5% to their basic salaries. Teachers were now insisting on the implementation of that Agreement and had downed tools to press home their point.

Members whilst expressing sympathy with the plight of teachers, however, expressed the unworkability of the Agreement in view of the present economic realities. They added that the Agreement reached in 2008 signified their good intention towards teachers and willingness to support them but did not anticipate the eventual decline in the economy.

It was resolved that owing to the decline in the revenue accruable to States and the current financial meltdown, the 2008 Agreement was not sustainable. A meeting between the NUT and the Forum's Committee on the NUT crisis under the chairmanship of the Governor of Kaduna State would be re-convened. The Governors of Edo and Lagos States were co-opted into the Committee.

**NGF
Committee
on the NUT
Strike**

G PERMANENT SECRETARIAT PROJECT

Members were of the opinion that this matter be stepped down pending the availability of funds from the Excess Crude Account. This was adopted as the Forum's position.

H A.O.B

- A member expressed his displeasure at the Chairman's omission to recognise him to express his views at the meeting and felt that members ought to be allowed to freely ventilate their opinion. The Chairman while assuaging the member's feelings assured him that the perceived slight was not intended.

- The attention of members owning properties on the Lagos Bar Beach Water Front was called to the development going on there. These properties were now dilapidated and run-down and in most cases put to untoward use by miscreants. Such members were urged to assist the Lagos State Government by rehabilitating these structures and putting them to acceptable use or disposing of them.
- The attention of the Forum was also called to the question of airport closure and its attendant hazard.
- Members decried the lack of adequate concern by the Forum over its welfare. They were of the view that the welfare of members should be of paramount consideration. A case in point was the recent demise of the former Governor of Yobe State. It was resolved that the Forum would make adequate provisions for the welfare of the family of its deceased member.
- The Secretariat was also mandated to make bye-laws that would govern the welfare and other matters concerning members.
- The Forum was informed of the death of the Kano State Governor's uncle. The Secretariat was directed to send a condolence message to His Excellency.
- The Forum was invited to the commissioning of the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina on the 19th of May, 2009.

Secretariat

Secretariat

CONCLUSION

I The Governor of Lagos State moved for the adjournment of the meeting and was seconded by the Governor of Rivers State.

The closing prayer was said by the Governor of Niger State and the meeting ended at 11.25pm.

Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki
Executive Governor, Kwara State
Chairman,
Nigeria Governors' Forum

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM
27th January – 9th March 2009

I. INTRODUCTION

Your Excellencies, I wish to thank you all for giving me this great honour and privilege to serve you, to serve my community and also to serve my country; I accept this opportunity with great pride, because of the confidence you demonstrated to hire me as Director-General.

I wish to assure you, Sirs, that by the grace of God, I will always discharge my obligations loyally and faithfully with great humility and grace to retain the confidence and trust bestowed on me.

Let me also quickly add, that I am especially grateful to His Excellency, the Chairman NGF and the Executive Governor of Kwara State, Dr. Bukola Saraki for the support and resourceful-insights which His Excellency has personally taken time to provide to enable us develop the concept of transforming the Secretariat in accordance with the vision of the Forum.

Your Excellencies, I appreciate the support and the encouragement we have received from you all. Going forward, may I briefly present you with our progress report as a brief preview to the overall transformation agenda for the Forum under the following sub-headings:

- Our Overall Vision and Strategic Objectives
- Progress Reports from the NGF Secretariat
- NGF Secretariat Building Project
- States Financial Obligations

II. OUR OVERALL VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In the short term, we hope to transform the Governors' Forum Secretariat into a strategic think-tank and a centre for leading best-practices that would provide innovative solutions to today's most pressing public policy challenges of the 21st century. As the first step, our deliverables within the next three (3) months will be to ensure that the Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat is in a position to distill and formulate ideas along two practical philosophical platforms:

- What works, what doesn't, and what lessons can be learned from other States grappling with similar issues, challenges and options for modern bureaucracies;
- Understand the power of value-added governance, in addition to providing up-to-the-minute information about what is happening locally and internationally.

III. PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE NGF SECRETARIAT

Since my appointment on the 27th January, 2009, the NGF Secretariat has worked on a number of issues. These include but are not limited to the following:

- a) Burial Arrangements:** The Secretariat participated in burial arrangements of H.E the Executive Governor of Yobe State, late Senator Mamman Ali (May his soul rest in prefect peace).
- b) Incorporation Certificate:** Completed the process of incorporating the NGF. We received the CAC incorporation instrument last week.

- c) **Hosting Mr. Bill Gates of the Melinda & Gates Foundation, U.S:** Your Excellencies may recall the visit of Mr. Bill Gates. I wish to thank you all for hosting Mr. Gates and also for the support given in making serious commitment as regards the efforts to eradicate Polio in Nigeria. Mr Bill Gates have since written to the Chairman of the Forum to express his appreciation for the support and political will shown by Executive Governors in Nigeria in the effort to eradicate the polio disease. In addition, the Foundation also requested a comprehensive feed-back from the NGF Secretariat on the progress made so far based on the statement of commitment issued by this Forum during his visits. We are happy to announce that we were invited by H.E the Executive Governor of Kwara State during the launching of the **"Kick Polio Out"** campaign in Kwara State. We also understand that Kano and a couple of some states have done similar campaigns. We wish to therefore request Your Excellencies to invite us to any program targeted towards Polio Eradication so that it is properly documented and forwarded to the Melinda & Gates Foundation as requested.
- d) **Website:** At present, we are developing a website for the NGF. This is expected to be a one-stop supermarket for leading best-practices in governance and sustainable development issues in Nigeria. It will also provide the most reliable, accurate and up-to-date information regarding States Government activities in Nigeria.
- e) **Library Development:** The framework of a cutting-age library is being developed that would provide both e-Library solutions and physical reference material research activities.
- f) **Stakeholders:** Preliminary discussions have begun with various local and international stakeholders; development

partners, NGOs and Federal Governments Agencies, which are of strategic importance to the Governors' Forum.

- g) NGF Strategic Rolling Plan:** As part of the transformation and restructuring process for repositioning the NGF Secretariat, we are at present working on a framework for a 3-Year Strategic Plan that will soon be unveiled for members to contribute.
- h) Renovation Works at the temporary NGF Secretariat:** As part of the transformation process, we have commenced some minor renovation works at the temporary Secretariat to give us a befitting operating environment pending the completion of the permanent Secretariat.
- i) Deregulation of the Downstream:** The Secretariat has also noted the proposed deregulation policy of Government as matter of national importance that needs serious considerations by Your Excellencies. The proposed policy is intended to remove subsidy as provided by the Petroleum Support Fund. We understand that the Minister of Finance will be making a presentation on this tomorrow during the National Economic Council Meeting.

IV. NGF SECRETARIAT BUILDING PROJECT

- a)** Construction consent for the contractor to take-over the site from Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) has been secured. The contractor, Messrs Segato Limited, have been notified and they are ready to mobilize to site.
- b)** Advance Payment Guaranty of **N1,743,833,301.00 (One billion, seven hundred and forty three million, eight hundred and thirty three thousand, three hundred and**

one naira only) has been received from SKYE Bank on behalf of Messrs Segato Limited.

V. STATES' FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

- a) **NGF Annual Dues:** Outstanding States obligations to NGF with respect to Annual Dues from 1999 – 2009 is about **N96,000,000.00 (Ninety six million Naira only)**. May I humbly crave the indulgence of Your Excellencies to kindly pay up all outstanding financial obligations to the NGF. This certainly will facilitate better service delivery. *(Please see States Financial Obligations for details)*
- b) **NGF Permanent Secretariat Dues:** Outstanding States obligations to the NGF with respect to the building project is about **N2, 335,250,000.00 (Two billion, three hundred and thirty five million, two hundred and fifty thousand Naira only)**. May I humbly crave the indulgence of Your Excellencies to please kindly pay up all outstanding financial obligations to the NGF. This will enable the Secretariat to quickly finalize discussions/arrangements with banks to partly finance the project as earlier agreed by the NGF. *(Please see States Financial Obligations for details)*

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY
NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM
9TH MARCH 2009**

We, the Executive Governors of the thirty-six (36) States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in a meeting held on 9th March, 2009 at Abuja hereby resolved as follows:

- 1) Considering the importance of the proposed Constitutional amendments, and bearing in mind our underlying constitutional responsibilities we have agreed that the issues, challenges and options arising from the proposed constitutional review needs to be articulated by every State starting from the grass root for more resourceful engagement at both States and Federal levels. Therefore we support and encourage the initiative of setting up Committees by various State Government for this purpose.
- 2) We recognized our commitment to the eradication of Polio in Nigeria and we further reaffirmed our earlier statement of commitment to eradicate the disease. In this regards we have agreed to declare one (1) day as a public holiday in all the thirty six States of the Federation to underscore the seriousness of the State Governments in fighting this epidemic.
- 3) We underscore the critical importance of resolving the Court case regarding the illegal deductions made by the Federal Government from State and Local Government on various revenue accrued to the Federation Account pending before the Supreme Court through settlement out of court, however we reaffirm that all States that are already in court should continue with their court cases in good faith

MEETING AGENDA: MARCH 23, 2009

1. Opening Prayer
2. Report of the Electoral Reform Committee
3. Any Other Business (AOB)
4. Closing Prayer

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

HELD ON

23rd March, 2009

AT THE

**KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE
ASOKORO, ABUJA.**

ATTENDANCE

S/N	Name	State	Designation
1	Dr. A.B. Saraki	Kwara	Governor/Chairman
2	Erelu Olusola Obada	Osun	Deputy Governor
3	Ibrahim Shekarau	Kano	Governor
4	Muhktar A. Anka	Zamfara	Deputy Governor
5	Suswam, G.T	Benue	Governor
6	Aliyu Akwe Doma	Nasarawa	Governor
7	Chief Martin N. Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
8	Hon. Ahmed Musa Ibeto	Niger	Deputy Governor
9	Otunba C.A. Alao-Akala	Oyo	Governor
10	Mohammed Danjuma Goje	Gombe	Governor
11	Olusegun Mimiko	Ondo	Governor
12	Danbaba D. Suntai	Taraba	Governor
13	Dr. Phillips Salawu	Kogi	Deputy Governor
14	Rt. Hon. Olatunji Odeyemi	Ekiti	Ag. Governor
15	Sullivan I. Chime	Enugu	Governor
16	Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN	Lagos	Governor
17	Murtala H. Nyako	Adamawa	Governor
18	Saidu N. Usman	Kebbi	Governor
19	Oshiomole, Adams Aliyu	Edo	Governor
20	Sule Lamido	Jigawa	Governor
21	Prof. A.A. Utuama, SAN	Delta	Deputy Governor
22	Arc. Sambo, M.N	Kaduna	Governor
23	Ibrahim Gaidam	Yobe	Governor
24	Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
25	Mr. Peter Obi	Anambra	Governor

S/N	NOTES/OBSERVATIONS	ACTION
A	<p>COMMENCEMENT</p> <p>The meeting started at 8.45pm with opening prayers said by the Governor of Adamawa State.</p>	
B	<p>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</p> <p>The Chairman began by welcoming the newest member of the Forum, the Executive Governor of Ondo State and congratulated him on his victory at the Tribunal.</p> <p>Members were informed that the meeting was meant to deliberate on the Report of the Electoral Reform Committee which would be the focus of the National Council of States' meeting on March 24, 2009.</p> <p>The Forum had the option of either reviewing the Report as presented in the National Council of States Paper or reviewing the recommendations. The meeting adopted the first option.</p> <p>On the issue of the appointment of the Chairman of Independent Electoral Commission (INEC), the consensus of members of the Forum was that this was an exclusive responsibility of the Executive and the President should be allowed to nominate the appointment of the Chairman while the National Assembly ratifies the appointments.</p> <p>However, following a member's submission that he would canvass a minority opinion at the National Council of States' (NCS) meeting on 24th March, it was resolved that members with divergent views on the issue could promote it without creating any impression of a division within the Forum. Members were assured that this would not be interpreted as an act of betrayal.</p> <p>The Forum also rejected the abolition of State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC) because this position clearly contradicted the fundamental principles of federalism.</p>	

The idea of holding elections on a fixed date was similarly rejected by the Forum as recent developments in the courts have clearly taken clear of this.

Whilst members agreed that following recent judicial pronouncements on the Governorship disputes that had had come before the courts, the issue of having staggered elections in respect of gubernatorial elections had become a fait accompli, they rejected a similar proposal to stagger other elections such as National and State Assemblies Elections.

Regarding the question of disposing of electoral disputes in six (6) months, the general position was to allow the Practice Directions of the Courts to resolve the issue by setting a time frame for determination of electoral disputes.

Similarly, after intense deliberations on the issue of stipulating time limits on disposal of electoral disputes, members rejected the proposal.

CONCLUSION

The meeting ended at 10.20 pm with closing prayers said by the Deputy Governor of Osun State.

Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki
Executive Governor, Kwara State
Chairman,
Nigeria Governors' Forum

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE MEETING OF THE
NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD AT THE
KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE ON MONDAY,
MARCH 23, 2009**

We, the Executive Governors of the Thirty-six (36) States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in a meeting held on 23rd March, 2009 at Abuja deliberated on the Report of the Electoral Reform Committee together with the White Paper released by the Federal Government and hereby resolve as follows:

1. That the appointment of the INEC Chairman is an exclusive responsibility of the Executive and the President should be allowed to nominate the Chairman while the National Assembly ratifies the appointment.
2. That we reject the abolition of the State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC) because this position clearly contradicts the fundamental principles of federalism.
3. That although we believe that recent judicial pronouncements on Governorship disputes has settled the issue of holding gubernatorial elections on a uniform date, we reject a similar proposal to stagger other elections into the State and National Assemblies' elections.

NGF MEETING AGENDA:

6TH JULY, 2009

1. Opening Prayers
2. Reading and Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on March 9, 2009
3. Matters Arising:
 - a. Report on Millenium Development Goals (MDGs)
 - b. Update on Proposed Constitutional Amendment
 - c. Update on the Report of the Committee of AGs on illegal deductions
 - d. Update on the Eradication of Polio Campaign
 - e. Plateau State Crisis
 - f. Excess Crude Account
 - g. National Union of Teachers (NUT) Strike Action
 - h. Update on Permanent Secretariat
 - i. Welfare of Members/Late Senator Mamman Ali's Welfare Fund
4. Report on the NGF working visit to the US
5. Brief by the Director General, NGF
6. Brief by the Chairman, Joint Tax Board on U-TIN Project
7. Any other Business (AOB)
8. Closing Prayers

MINUTES OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS'
FORUM MEETING

HELD ON

6th July, 2009

AT THE

KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE
ASOKORO, ABUJA.

IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Dr. A.B. Saraki	Kwara	Governor/Chairman
2	Aliyu M.Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
3	Orji, T.A	Abia	Governor
4	Ikedi Ohakim	Imo	Governor
5	Suswan, G.T	Benue	Governor
6	Ibrahim S. Shema	Katsina	Governor
7	Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN	Lagos	Governor
8	Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi	Zamfara	Governor
9	Oshiomole, Adams Aliyu	Edo	Governor
10	Mallam Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
11	Dr. Phillips O. Salawu, FCA	Kogi	Deputy Governor
12	Dr. Sikiru T. Lawal	Ekiti	Deputy Governor
13	Alhaji Sani A. Danladi	Taraba	Deputy Governor
14	Sunday C. Onyebuchi	Enugu	Deputy Governor
15	Elder Prof Chigozie N. Ogbu, OFR	Ebonyi	Deputy Governor
16	Hon. Ahmed Musa Ibeto	Niger	Deputy Governor
17	Abdullahi T.M Gwarzo	Kano	Deputy Governor
18	Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
19	Patrick I. Yakowa	Kaduna	Deputy Governor

S/N	NOTES/OBSERVATIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
A	<p>COMMENCEMENT</p> <p>The meeting started at 8.30pm.</p>	
B	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on March 9th, 2009 were read and adopted by a motion moved by the Governor of Abia State and seconded by Governor of Sokoto.</p>	
C	<p>MATTERS ARISING:</p> <p>i. MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG) COMMITTEE REPORT:</p> <p>Owing to the absence of the Chairman of the sub-committee on MDG, the Executive Governor of Rivers State, no report was presented to the meeting.</p> <p>ii. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL (AGs) ON ILLEGAL DEDUCTIONS</p> <p>The Director General of the NGF Secretariat reported to the meeting that the Committee met on 26th March, 2009 but the Chairman of the Committee of AGs and AG Kwara State informed the Secretariat that the session of 26/03/09 was not a proper meeting and no decisions were taken.</p> <p>iii. ERADICATION OF POLIO CAMPAIGN</p> <p>The meeting was reminded that the Secretariat had at the last meeting been mandated to identify a day for the Polio eradication campaign across the States. The Secretariat had sent out letters and questionnaires to the States suggesting Saturday, July 11 as the date for the exercise.</p> <p>The meeting was of the view that July 11 was not feasible and it was resolved that a new questionnaire be circulated suggesting three</p>	

<p>new dates, out of which one would be adopted as the date for the Exercise. This questionnaire would be circulated at the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 14th July 2009.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>
<p>iv. PLATEAU STATE CRISIS The Chairman of the Forum's Committee on the Plateau State Crisis, the Executive Governor of Adamawa State was not at the meeting and no Report was presented.</p>	
<p>The Secretariat was directed to write to all Chairmen of NGF Sub-Committees to update the Forum on their Committee's assignments.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>
<p>v. EXCESS CRUDE ACCOUNT The Forum decried the situation in the Niger Delta which had adversely affected the production of crude oil. The meeting agreed that the situation required urgent attention and expressed support for their colleagues in the Region. Members also threw their weight behind the efforts of the Federal Government and the States in finding a lasting solution to the situation in the area. Consequently, members agreed to access the Excess Crude Account (ECA) to augment the declining resources and cushion the effects of the economic downturn on the States. It was resolved that the first step towards a draw-down would be to get an Agreement in Principle. The second step would be for the Technical Sub-Committee to liaise with the Secretariat in finding out the details and balance in the account.</p>	<p>Technical Sub-Committee/ Secretariat</p>
<p>vi. NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS (NUT) STRIKE ACTION Although the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on NUT and Governor of Kaduna State was not at the meeting, the Forum noted that this matter had been overtaken by events and members were reminded that the decision at the last meeting was that States were to handle this matter based on their peculiarities.</p>	

vii. PERMANENT SECRETARIAT PROJECT

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the Permanent Secretariat and Governor of Kaduna State was not at the meeting but was represented by the Deputy-Governor, who informed the meeting that the Consultants who were to present the Committee's Report were unavoidably absent.

The DG of the NGF briefed the meeting on developments affecting the Secretariat project.

He emphasised the need to commence the Project and created three scenarios as follows:

- i) Construct the main building fully to only half-way (i.e 6 Storey) with full Structural provisions for a 12-Storey building plus all other proposed building works in the project, while floors 7-12 will only have the Structural provisions in place for future completion. This is estimated to cost about N5, 332, 738, 974.62.
- ii) Construct the Main-building fully to only half-way (6-Storey) along with all other proposed constructions works in the project. The 6-floor Storey Main Building will have adequate Structural provisions. Subsequent completion of floors 7-12 would come at a later stage. This option is estimated to cost about N4, 921, 494, 373.70.
- iii) Construct the concrete Structural carcass only through-out for all the buildings involved. The fencing however, will be constructed fully, less the wall painting and decoration. Completion of the rest of the Buildings would follow as the funds are available. This last option would cost an estimated N2, 656, 232, 294.42

He stated that whichever option was chosen, the least amount required for the project would be N2, 656, 232, 294.42 and the amount contributed so far was less than half of this amount.

He informed the meeting that the level of States' commitment was low and appealed for a renewed commitment towards actualising the Project.

It was agreed that the Forum would commit to settling the outstanding obligations and that States that were yet to meet their obligations should do so before the next meeting.

viii. WELFARE FOR LATE SENATOR MAMMAN ALI, FORMER GOVERNOR OF YOBE STATE

Members were reminded of their resolve at the last meeting held on 9th March, 2009 to make adequate provisions for the welfare of the family of their deceased member, Senator Mamman Ali, former Governor of Yobe State leading to the agreement to contribute N2M per State.

It was reported that only 11 States had complied so far, a situation which members agreed was disappointing. Members were urged to pay up this money within one week and that the cheques should be brought to the NEC meeting of 14th July, 2009. The Forum would then determine a suitable way to present the donation to the Late Governor Ali's Family.

D NGF VISIT TO THE U.S

The DG presented the Report on the last 5-day NGF working visit to the United States.

There was emphasis on the perception problems of the Governors by the international Community, which had adverse effect on the investment potentials of the Country.

Members were urged to study the NGA document enclosed in the meeting folder so as to identify areas that the NGF could adapt or adjust.

Members were reminded that a Sub-Committee on Image Laundering was previously set up by the Forum and the Report of that Committee was since ready. There was a need to revisit

NGF Sub-Committee on Image Laundering comprising *Imo, Enugu & Sokoto States*

this matter.

Members were of the view that there was a need for the Governors to encourage and learn from each other and that ultimately, the responsibility to positively change their image lay with them.

After intense deliberations on this matter, the Forum resolved as follows:

- i. The Report of the NGF Sub-Committee on Image Laundering should be revisited and re-presented at the next meeting for immediate follow-up action.
- ii. Strengthen the NGF Peer Review Mechanism by bringing out and sharing experiences. The current exercise by the Secretariat was a step in the right direction and would serve to highlight benchmarkable practices that would be presented to the Forum at the end of the familiarisation tour of the States.
- iii. Enhance and foster sustainability of the NGF and its organs by improving capacity of the Governors and the Secretariat.
- iv. Key Professionals from within and without the Country to be brought in to liaise with the Secretariat to hold the training sessions.
- v. A second Retreat for the Governors be held. The Secretariat would work out the modalities for the Retreat for presentation at the next meeting.
- vi. Explore the desirability of retaining a Specialist Group that would assist in building a favourable image for the Forum.
- vii. Set up Standing Committees to take care of different Governance areas such as: Energy, Healthcare, Education, Security, Natural Resources & Environment and Agriculture & Water Supply. The Secretariat was directed to put together an action plan for setting up the Committees.
- viii. Concerning the rotation of NGF meetings, any State that is ready to host a meeting of the Forum should indicate this desire

and the Secretariat should be notified in time so as to ensure adequate preparedness for the meeting.

E DG'S PROGRESS REPORT

The DG presented a Progress Report of the activities of the Secretariat since the last meeting of 9th March, 2009.

F PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT TAX BOARD ON THE UNIQUE TAX PAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (U-TIN)

The Chairman of the Joint Tax Board (JTB) made a presentation to the Forum on the Unique Tax Payer Identification Number (U-TIN).

The Forum learnt that UTIN was designed to identify and register tax payers in order to harmonise tax payer registration in Nigeria.

It aims among others, at closing the loopholes in the tax system in the Country, register all taxable persons or legal persons and provide a sustainable platform for revenue generation for the States and Local Government Areas.

The JTB Chairman prayed the Forum to facilitate the support and buy-in of the States in the Project.

The Forum expressed support for it and resolved to take the proposal back to their States for review before a formal position could be taken on it.

G. A.O.B

- Members expressed concern over the deteriorating relationship between the Governors and their predecessors. It was agreed that the way forward would be to meet and deliberate on the best course to adopt in stemming the tide. Members agreed to deliberate on this at the next NEC meeting.
- A member expressed dissatisfaction with

the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and its manner of disbursing Grants. The situation where the Commission insisted on 70% performance of old projects before accessing new grants was not in the interest of the States. He wondered why all the 36 States should have the same recipe for accessing the UBEC grants when these States have different peculiarities and therefore different challenges. The view was expressed that there should be flexibility in the distribution of the grants. The Secretariat was directed to hold a meeting with UBEC and obtain all the relevant information relating to the criteria for accessing the grants.

- The attention of the Forum was called to the N200 billion Agriculture Grant set aside by the Federal Government under the auspices of the Federal Government Commercial Agricultural Credit Scheme (CACCS) to assist Agricultural Cooperatives, Commercial and individual farmers. It was agreed that the Minister of Agriculture would be invited to make a presentation at the next meeting, so as to throw more light on this Scheme particularly as it affects the States.

H CONCLUSION

The meeting came to an end at 11.37pm with closing prayers said by the Governor of Zamfara State.

Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki
(Turaki of Ilorin)
Executive Governor, Kwara State
Chairman,
Nigeria Governors' Forum

6th July, 2009.

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, NGF

INTRODUCTION

Your Excellencies would recall that there were two meetings in the month of March 2009. There was a full meeting on the 9th March and on the 23rd March, 2009, there was a one-item agenda meeting. The singular item was the review of the Report of the Electoral Reform Committee which was to be the focus of the National Council of States' meeting scheduled for the 24th of March, 2009. Please, find attached minutes of the meeting of 9th March, 2009. Between then and now, there had been a number of significant events which I would want to update the Forum on.

1. COMPUTERISATION OF THE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AT THE SECRETARIAT

The whole accounting system at the Secretariat has been computerised to enhance efficiency and professionalism. The NGF is also up and running. The website address is www.nggovernorsforum.org.

2. VISIT OF THE SECRETARIAT TO STATES/DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK FOR PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

The Forum had directed that the Secretariat design a Framework for the development of a Peer Review Mechanism for the States. Pursuant to this directive, the Secretariat had on 3rd May, 2009 commenced a tour of the States to have a firsthand experience of the operations of the States. This would also facilitate a proper development of the Peer Review framework

The Secretariat had so far visited eight (8) States and the visits have been very successful. The knowledge garnered has been quite invaluable and the Secretariat would in due course prepare a time table on when the next visits will be scheduled. Coming out of these initial visits by the Secretariat is a number of unique governance practices that could be benchmarked across the States.

The Secretariat would at the end of the exercise compile a detailed and comprehensive Report of the Exercise for the consideration of members. Please, find attached the list of the States that have been visited so far.

The Secretariat has opened up communications with KPMG and has also enlisted the cooperation of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in developing a reliable and comprehensive framework for Peer Review Mechanism. They have both expressed a strong commitment to work with NGF in this regard.

In the same vein, the DFID had committed to assisting the Secretariat in developing a middle and long term strategic plan.

3. US WORKING VISIT TO THE STATES

Please recall the recent 5- day working visit of the Chairman, three members of the Forum: Governors of Akwa Ibom, Bauchi and Edo States and the Management Staff of the Secretariat to the United States of America.

The delegation held at least ten meetings with different prospective partners and collaborators. Please, find attached a summary of the visit. A comprehensive Report would be presented to the Forum.

4. **UPDATE ON THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT**

The Secretariat held meetings with the contractors and the Project consultants and it was agreed that there was a need to commence the Project. The Project consultants have expressed a fear that the land might be revoked if nothing was done on it soon.

The Secretariat has held several meetings with the Banks, Afribank and Zenith Bank and the banks have expressed some concern over the financial meltdown and its effect on the project.

The contractors had asked that 25% of the total cost be made available to them for the purpose of purchasing materials. They warned that time was of the essence and that the cost of materials was increasing daily. They would also require 45% of the total cost to finish the physical structure of the building.

Your Excellencies, it is important a definite decision is taken about the Secretariat project. There are a number of options:

- i) Construct the main building fully to only half-way (i.e 6 Storey) with full Structural provisions for a 12-Storey building plus all other proposed building works in the project, while floors 7-12 will only have the Structural provisions in place for future completion.
- ii) To construct the Main-building fully to only half-way (6-Storey) along with all other proposed constructions works in the project. The 6-floor Storey Main Building will have adequate Structural provisions. Subsequent completion of floors 7-12 would come at a later stage.
- iii) To construct the concrete Structural carcass only through-out for all the buildings involved. The fencing however, will be constructed fully, less the wall painting and decoration. Completion of the rest of the Buildings would follow as the funds are available.

It is obvious that whichever option is chosen, the least amount required for the project is N2, 656, 232, 294.42 and the amount contributed so far is less than half of this amount. We implore members to meet their commitments towards the actualisation of this Project. Please, find attached a comprehensive record of contributions on the Secretariat Project.

5. **STATES' FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS**

Please find below a break down of members' commitments to the Forum:

S/N	ITEM	TOTAL EXPECTATION	TOTAL ACTUAL PAYMENT	
1.	ANNUAL DUES	99-03	N36,000,000	N34,000,000
		03-07	N36,000,000	N34,000,000
		07	N72,000,000	N64,000,000
		08	N72,000,000	N56,000,000
		09	N72,000,000	N18,000,000
2.	SECRETARIAT PROJECT	N3,060,000,000,000	N928,791,667	
3.	SEN. MAMMAN ALI WELFARE FUND	N70,000,000	N22,000,000	

Please, find attached a comprehensive and detailed break down showing States' financial positions.

6. **WELFARE BYE LAWS**

At the last meeting of the Forum held on March 9, 2009, it was agreed that there was a need for a blue-print on matters affecting the welfare of members of the Forum. Consequently, the Secretariat was mandated to prepare bye-laws that would govern this as well as other matters affecting members. Please, find attached a draft Welfare Bye-laws for the consideration of members.

7. **POLIO ERADICATION CAMPAIGN**

Please, recall the directives given to the Secretariat to identify a common date for the launch of the Polio eradication in all the States. The Secretariat wrote letters and attached questionnaires to the States suggesting **Saturday, July 11** as the date for the exercise. Only 3 States (**Anambra, Delta & Kwara States**) have responded to the questionnaires.

8. **THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILLS**

Your Excellencies would recall that the National Economic Council (NEC) had directed that States should ensure the enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility and Public Procurement Bills, (FRB and PRB).

To determine the level of compliance, the Secretariat had on the 27th April, 2009 written to the Attorneys General (AGs) of the 36 States enquiring the Status of the Bills.

A summary of the compliance level of the States is as follows:

FRB: 11 States have passed; **22** States have the Bill at their respective Houses of Assembly and **2** States are yet to start the process.

PPB: 11 States have passed; 23 States have the Bill at the Houses of Assembly and 2 States are yet to commence the process.

Please, find attached a comprehensive report indicating States' compliance levels.

To increase public officials' awareness of the implementation of the Public Procurement Act, the Secretariat had facilitated the participation of States in the National Procurement Forum organised by the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) on the 29th and 30th of June, 2009 at the Lagos/Osun Hall of the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

9. TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION PROGRAMME (TIP)

The Secretariat held meetings with representatives of the National Board for Technology Incubation, led by its Director General, Professor (Mrs) Gambo Laraba Abdullahi on ways and means of enhancing Technology Incubation Programme (TIP) in the States.

They wish to make a presentation to the Forum on this subject and crave the indulgence of Your Excellencies to grant them audience.

Please, find attached a brief summary of their presentation for your kind consideration.

10. MEETING WITH STANDARD & POOR'S (S&P)

The Secretariat met with representatives of S & P, an international organisation involved in sovereign rating. Their rating was usually done at the Federal level and their previous contacts with the Country had been at the federal level but they had come to realise that there was a need to have published ratings of the States, hence the overtures to the NGF.

They have also expressed support for NGF programmes.

11. MEETING WITH UK DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)

The Secretariat had opened up communications with DFID resulting in several meetings with their representatives. They expressed a strong willingness to collaborate with the Secretariat in meeting the challenges ahead, particularly in the areas of developing a framework for Peer Review and capacity building for the Secretariat. They assured us that they would work with the Secretariat to develop a clear plan for its mid and long term strategy. This arrangement was to take off immediately.

12. MEETING WITH WORLD BANK

The World has committed to working with the NGF and expressed delight at the opportunity to work with the Forum. The Bank emphasised the symbiotic nature of the relationship being contemplated because the World Bank would, through the NGF, achieve those things that they had always sought to do with the States, thereby strengthening the States.

13. FORUM OF FEDERATIONS (FoF)

The NGF has always had a relationship of sorts with the FoF. We have advanced this relationship by re-opening communications with them. The Secretariat is currently holding talks with them on areas of collaboration.

14. PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AIDS REVIEW [PEPFAR]

Following a meeting held with the Deputy Chief of Mission at the United States Embassy on a more visible role for the NGF in the fight against HIV/AIDS, it was agreed that a role for NGF under PEPFAR would act as a strategic conduit to access and would assist States in their roles as Primary Healthcare Providers. The proposed partnership will be designed in a way to advance Nigeria's ownership of the fight against HIV/AIDS and the framework would be included in a 5 year Implementation Programme, which is currently being put together.

Consequently, to progress this platform and as part of the development of the National Strategic Health Development Plan (NSHDP) and the National Strategic HIV/AIDS Framework, the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) is establishing a Design Team to develop this Partnership Framework which will guide the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and the US Government (USG)'s HIV/AIDS efforts over the next five years.

NGF has been identified as a partner in this effort and would attend a meeting of the Design Team at the Sheraton Hotel on July 9, 2009 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The input of the States would be invaluable to this process and there is a need for the involvement of Senior Health Officials in the States in this Programme. We urge the Forum to name six States who would send their Senior Health Officials (Commissioner for Health or Senior Adviser) to be part of the meeting on the 9th of July.

For the kind consideration of Your Excellencies, please.

COMMUNIQUE
ISSUED AT THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM MEETING
HELD ON 6th JULY, 2009. AT KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE.

The Nigeria Governors' Forum met at the Kwara State Governor's Lodge to deliberate over a variety of issues and resolved as follows:

1. The Forum decried the decline in the production of crude oil resulting in the attendant fall in revenue. As a result, members agreed to access the Excess Crude Account (ECA) to augment the declining resources and cushion the effects of the economic downturn on the states.
2. The Forum agreed to set up Standing Committees to take care of varying areas of governance such as: Energy, Healthcare, Education, Security, Natural Resources & Environment, Agriculture & Water Supply in order to enhance good governance at the State level.
3. The Forum unanimously agreed to strengthen the governorship institution by building capacity for the governors via Retreats and other training programs both locally and internationally.
4. The Forum commended the Secretariat for the ongoing working visits to the states designed to develop a framework for peer review mechanism amongst the states for the purpose of benchmarking best practices and directed the NGF Secretariat to develop a formulae to communicate these best practices to all the states.
5. The Forum notes with delight the support and collaboration of development partners in helping to build capacity at the operational level of the Forum and their proactive intervention in public policy issues in the country.
6. The Forum after listening to a presentation made by the Chairman of the Joint Tax Board (JTB) on the Unique Taxpayer Identification Number (UTIN) Project expressed support for it and resolved to take the proposal back to their states for review before a formal position can be taken by the Forum.

7. The Forum expressed support for their colleagues in the Niger Delta Region and throws their weight behind the efforts of the Federal Government and the States in finding a lasting solution to the situation in the area.
8. The Forum noted with pleasure the achievement recorded so far on the UBEC program, but expressed desire for more flexibility with funds disbursement and project implementation.
9. The Forum commended the initial efforts of the states on their eradication of polio in the country. In addition, the Forum agreed to set aside a day in the near future to aggressively sensitize and mobilize the people to stamp out the disease.

NGF MEETING AGENDA: 5TH OCTOBER, 2009

1. Opening Prayers
2. Reading and Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on July 6, 2009
3. Matters Arising:
 - a. Report on Millenium Development Goals (MDGs)
 - b. Update on the Eradication of Polio Campaign
 - c. Excess Crude Account
 - d. Welfare of Members/Late Senator Mamman Ali's Welfare Fund
4. Presentation by Hon. Minister of Health on Presidential Health Summit/Update on Malaria Eradication Programme & Polio Eradication Campaign
5. Briefing by the Hon. Minister of Defence on the Niger Delta Amnesty
6. Update on UBEC/Presentation by the Executive secretary, UBEC
7. Benchmark for the 2010 Federal Budget
8. Management of Excess Crude Account
9. ASUU/Teachers' Strike
10. Presentation of Image Laundering Report by the Sub-Committee Chairman
11. Briefing by South South Governors on recent Niger Delta Amnesty
12. Any other Business (AOB)
13. Closing Prayers

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

HELD ON

5th October, 2009

AT THE

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

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Dr. A.B. Saraki	Kwara	Governor/Chairman
2	Aliyu M.Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
3	Orji, T.A	Abia	Governor
4	Ikedi Ohakim	Imo	Governor
5	Murtala H. Nyako	Adamawa	Governor
6	Ibrahim S. Shema	Katsina	Governor
7	Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola	Osun	Governor
8	Aliyu Akwe Doma	Nasarawa	Governor
9	Oshiomole, Adams Aliyu	Edo	Governor
10	Mallam Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
11	Ibrahim Gaidam	Yobe	Governor
12	Segun Oni	Ekiti	Governor
13	Danbaba D. Suntai	Taraba	Governor
14	Sullivan I. Chime	Enugu	Governor
15	Martin N. Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
16	Muazu Babangida Aliyu, OON	Niger	Governor
17	Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
18	Jonah D. Jang	Plateau	Governor
19	Arc. M.N. Sambo	Kaduna	Governor
20	Rt. Hon. Chibuike Amaechi	Rivers	Governor
21	Timipre Sylva	Bayelsa	Governor
22	Dr. Emmanuel E. Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
23	Otunba C.A. Alao-Akala	Oyo	Governor
24	Saidu N. Usman	Kebbi	Governor
25	Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
26	Abdullahi T.M Gwarzo	Kano	Deputy Governor
27	Alhaji Ali Olanusi	Ondo	Deputy Governor
28	Alhaja Salimot Badru	Ogun	Deputy Governor
29	Princess Sarah A. Sosan	Lagos	Deputy Governor
30	Chief Stephen Lawani	Benue	Deputy Governor
31	Alhaji Adamu Dibal	Borno	Deputy Governor
32	Muhktar Ahmed Anka	Zamfara	Deputy Governor

S/N	NOTES/OBSERVATIONS	ACTION BY
A	<p>COMMENCEMENT</p> <p>The meeting started at 9.00pm with opening prayers said by the Governor of Nasarawa State.</p>	
B	<p>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 6th July, 2009 was read and adopted by a motion moved by the Governor of Kaduna State and seconded by the Deputy Governor of Lagos State.</p>	
C	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:</p> <p>i. MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG) COMMITTEE REPORT:</p> <p>Members deliberated on the counter-part funding requirement of the MDG and the attendant challenges. In view of the lean finances of the States, the need for a waiver or reduction was explored. Some members felt that any waivers or reductions may detract from the projects and it was agreed that the way to go was to apply part of the Excess Crude Proceeds to meet the counter-part funding obligation of States.</p> <p>ii. EXCESS CRUDE ACCOUNT</p> <p>The meeting was reminded that N2 billion from the Excess Crude Account was shared in July 2009 and it was announced that a plan to distribute a further N2 billion would be presented for approval at the National Economic Council (NEC) scheduled for the following day, 6th October, 2009.</p> <p>iii. PERMANENT SECRETARIAT PROJECT</p> <p>The Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the Permanent Secretariat and Governor of Kaduna State reminded the meeting that building approvals had been obtained but warned that the time granted by the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) within which to develop was fast lapsing and they were already</p>	

threatening to revoke the allocation. Members were urged to pay for the secretariat project so that the contractors could move to site.

**iv. WELFARE FOR LATE SENATOR
MAMMAN ALI, FORMER GOVERNOR
OF YOBE STATE**

The Chairman urged members who were yet to contribute to the Late Governor Mamman Ali's Welfare to do so by the following day, 6th October, 2009 at the NEC meeting.

**D PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE
MINISTER OF HEALTH**

The Honourable Minister of Health, Professor Babatunde Osotinmehin updated the Forum on developments in the Polio and Malaria Eradication efforts of the Federal Government (FG).

As part of the FG's efforts to eradicate **malaria**, it was proposed that Nigeria would adopt the Cuban Model of Vector Control, which had been used successfully in Cuba since 1967 and replicated in various parts of South America and which was estimated to cost about \$78.68m for a first year malaria elimination plan for the whole country. The Forum was informed that Nigeria had signed a Letter of Intent with Labiofam, SA, a Cuban Government Pharmaceutical Company. It also learnt that the Rivers State Government had indicated interest to purchase the biolarvicides and establish a factory that would produce the chemicals and had already signed an Agreement to that effect. The meeting was also informed that Nigeria was part of an ECOWAS driven programme to adopt this malaria elimination model through the use of vector control and that there were preliminary arrangements by ECOWAS to source for funding for this project through a grant from the Government of Venezuela.

The Minister enlisted the support of Governors for this Malaria Eradication Initiative not only by supporting Malarial Control Programmes in the States but by making budgetary allocations to progress the Process.

The Minister also highlighted the success

recorded so far in the **Polio** Eradication Campaign. He traced the history of the Campaign to the joint efforts of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the NGF which resulted in the uniform Polio Eradication Exercise organised by States in August, 2009. The significant improvement in the distribution of the Polio scourge in 2008 and 2009 was underscored by the fact that in the three weeks preceding that meeting, only one Nigerian child had been paralysed by Polio. He expressed belief that if the tempo was sustained, Polio could be completely eradicated by 2010.

Whilst commending the commitment shown by both the FG and the States, he emphasised the ability of Nigeria to reach the 'missed' children and stated that more work needed to be done by the States.

The third item discussed by the Honourable Minister of Health was the Midwives Service Scheme. He emphasised the importance of midwives particularly in tackling infant and maternal mortality and urged the need for more skilled manpower. He introduced the Midwives Service Scheme (MSS), a platform designed to improve Maternal and Child health in Nigeria, through the distribution of Midwives at Primary Healthcare Centres around the country. The Scheme would provide details of the roles and responsibilities of the FG, the States and the Local Government Areas (LGAs) and to that end, triplicate copies of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) were distributed to the States. The MOU would on the one hand be entered into between the FG and the States and on the other hand between the States and the LGAs. The MOU would cover monthly supplementary allowances which responsibility would be taken over by States.

Finally, the meeting was informed that the President had approved a Summit on Health which would involve the States.

After the Presentation and incisive comments and observations by the Forum, it was resolved

that the Forum would give all the support and cooperation that the Ministry would require to succeed in its effort to improve health care in the Country.

E PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF DEFENCE ON THE NIGER DELTA AMNESTY

The Minister for Defence expressed his profound gratitude to the Forum for the opportunity given to him to address it. He informed the Forum that the offer of amnesty officially started on August 6, 2009 and ended in the midnight of October 5, 2009, the implication being that anyone caught with arms forthwith would face the wrath of the Law.

In his briefing, the Minister stated that Amnesty as a Process was broken into 2 Phases, as follows – i) Disarmament and Demobilisation and ii) Rehabilitation and Re-integration Process.

In the former, he commended the assistance of the South South Governors in reaching the numerous militants in clusters scattered around the region, which would have been impossible, but for their efforts. He particularly appreciated and commended the Bayelsa State Governor who was instrumental in getting 'Boyloaf' to surrender and turn in his arms. The resultant reception in Abuja triggered off the response received from the militants.

The Amnesty Programme had registered a considerable level of success as follows:

- Brigandage had reduced tremendously;
- Oil production had increased considerably;
- The oil industry had in the past 60 days recorded some respite from the spate of Pipeline vandalism;
- Generally, the Security Reports received so far had been quite encouraging.

He invited the Forum to note Mr. President's role in striking this Peace accord and added that the FG's refusal to accede to the plea from certain quarters to extend the Amnesty Period (beyond the 60 days given) was because it was

doubtful that this would have achieved any positive results.

In the latter Phase, the Minister stated that the most important element that would ensure the success of the entire programme was the exercise of good faith by the FG. He acknowledged that this Phase was the most testing, expensive and challenging aspect of the Amnesty Programme.

He further informed the meeting that the FG had managed funding by earmarking an estimated N11-N15 billion for the entire Programme, out of which about N2.8 billion had been released so far under the direct management of the President. Members also learnt that about N65, 000 was spent on each militant monthly covering feeding, stipends etc Funds were also spent on allowances to troops, Publicity, payments to informants and Traditional Rulers etc In this phase also, he reiterated the cooperation of the Niger Delta States.

The Minister identified some associated challenges which included activities of detractors, especially those who had benefitted from the status quo and some militants who may have hidden away some of their arms.

Finally, he outlined the Post 4th October, 2009 Activities thus:

- Constituting of a Re-integrating Committee that would include various Government Agencies who would bring their expertise to bear in rehabilitating the militants.
- Enlisting the support and co-operation of foreign developers in the Niger Delta.
- Mr. President would require extra-budgetary funding and the co-operation of the Forum was enlisted in this regard.

The Forum whilst expressing its profound appreciation to the FG and the Niger Delta for the Amnesty Initiative called on the FG to

extend the same amount of seriousness to Kidnapping which had assumed an alarming proportion across the Country.

Upon contributions and deliberations from members, it was resolved that the Forum would give support to the FG in its efforts to curb the ills in our Society and that it would boost these efforts by lending support to Mr. President in getting extra-budgetary funding to progress the Amnesty Programme. It also resolved to enhance job creation, which would reduce Youth restiveness across the Country.

Finally, the Forum agreed that as a mark of Solidarity to the Niger Delta Governors, its next meeting would be held in Bayelsa State.

F PRESENTATION BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION (UBEC)

The Executive Secretary in his Presentation to the Forum stated that it became necessary to brief the Governors because of signals suggesting the possibilities of the UBEC funds meant for the States being channelled to other Sectoral needs.

In relation to the provisions of the UBEC Act on accessing the Grants, he insisted that the provisions were clear and unambiguous and re-stated that funds were available under the UBEC Scheme for the States to access. To access these funds, States were expected to:

- i) Put in place a Board;
- ii) Have an Action plan; and
- iii) Provide Counter-part fund.

Once these pre-conditions were met, the funds would be accessed within 24 hours. He informed the Forum that there was N40 billion at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) that could be accessed upon the payment of counter-part funding.

In response, members frowned at the Newspaper Publication sponsored by UBEC

which cast them in bad light and gave the misleading impression that they not only refused to access these grants but were incapable of doing so.

A member also expressed his frustrations with his State House of Assembly which had refused to approve his Board appointments even though he had paid his counter-part fund, the result being that UBEC had withheld his State's funds.

G MANAGEMENT OF EXCESS CRUDE ACCOUNT (ECA)

The Chairman briefed the meeting on a Memo, **'Application of Part of Excess Crude Special Reserve towards a developmental Revolving Loan Scheme for Execution of Capital Projects in the States'** which he would present at the NEC meeting of the following day, October 6, 2009 and sought their support for the Memo. The Forum unanimously adopted the Memo.

H UPDATE ON NUT/ASUU STRIKE

Concerning the status of the Teacher Salary Scale (TSS), the Forum re-affirmed its earlier stand that States were to handle the matter based on their peculiarities. It also resolved that payment should comprise of Basic Salary and the TSS exclusive of any other additions. That represented the position of the Forum.

A member updated the meeting on the efforts towards resolving the 3-month old Academic Staff Union of Universities [ASUU] Strike and reported that negotiations with the ASUU team were over. He expressed the belief that the Strike would be called off by the morning of the following day, October 6, 2009.

The Meeting was further informed that the allusion to States in the ASUU Agreement had been expunged. The Forum noted Mr. President's role in the resolution of the stalemate and the fact that ASUU had exercised good faith by relaxing some of its rigid positions on the issue.

Owing to time constraints, items 7 and 10 on the Meeting Agenda namely *Benchmark for the 2010 Federal Budget* and *Presentation of Image Laundering Report by the Sub-Committee Chairman* were stepped down to the next meeting.

I CONCLUSION

The meeting came to an end at 1.30am with closing prayers said by the Deputy Governor of Ogun State.

Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki
Executive Governor, Kwara State
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum

COMMUNIQUE
ISSUED AT THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009. AT THE KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S
LODGE.

We, the Executive Governors of the 36 States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, at our 5th Meeting held on October 5th 2009 under the aegis of the Nigeria Governors' Forum at the Kwara State Governor's Lodge deliberated over a variety of issues of national importance and resolved as follows:

1. To support the Honorable Minister of Health in the implementation of a vector control programme designed to eradicate malaria. Members also noted funding options available for this programme and agreed to support efforts to source for funds from local stakeholders, the MDG, etc. Also noted was the ongoing success of the Polio Eradication Campaign (in the past three weeks, only one Nigerian child has been paralyzed by polio) Polio distribution in 2008 and 2009 have significantly improved. The Forum expressed support for the Federal Government's Midwives Service Scheme (MSS) under the Primary Healthcare Sector, which is designed to address maternal and infant mortality through the distribution of midwives at primary healthcare centers around the country.
2. After listening to the presentation of the Honorable Minister of Defence as well as the comments by the South - South Governors, the Forum resolved to commend the Federal Government and the Governors of the South-South States for the amnesty initiative. While noting this historic movement towards peace and reconciliation by the Federal Government which has resulted in the disarmament and demobilization, members called for support for the next phase of this process: rehabilitation and the reintegration. The Forum further more called on the Federal Government to treat kidnapping with the same level of seriousness it deserves. The Forum agreed that it would give support to efforts by the National Assembly to pass extra budgetary provision to help ex-militants in their efforts to be rehabilitated and re-integrated. As a mark of solidarity to the Niger Delta, members unanimously resolved to host its next meeting in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.
3. Furthermore, the Forum noted the clarifications made by the Executive Secretary to Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and agreed that the way forward is for every State to put in place the following: an action plan, the counterpart funding, and a functional board. Once all three requirements have been met, the States can access their funds within 24 hours.

4. After briefing by one of our members, the Forum commended progress made by the leadership of ASUU and the Federal Government, and expressed belief that strike would be called off shortly. While thanking Mr. President for his support in resolving the impasse and the ASUU for its role, the Forum expressed the hope that the strike would be called off before the end of the week. The Forum also noted that States are discussing the Teachers' Salary Scheme (TSS) and it is hoped that before the end of the year, all the States would begin to implement the TSS.

DRAFT NGF MEETING AGENDA: 8th NOVEMBER, 2009

1. Opening Prayers
2. Reading and Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on October 5, 2009
3. Matters Arising:
 - a. Update on Millenium Development Goals (MDGs)
 - b. Management of Excess Crude Account
 - c. Update on the Permanent Secretariat Project
 - d. Welfare of Members/Late Senator Mamman Ali's Welfare Fund
4. Presentation of Image Laundering Report by the Sub-Committee Chairman (Carried over from the meeting of 051009)
5. Briefing by the Director General, National Economic Summit Group
6. Presentation on 'The Ijaws, Post amnesty, Peace Security and the Niger Delta'-
Dr. A.W. Obianime, President of the Ijaw National Congress
7. Director General's Progress Report
8. Any other Business (AOB)
9. Closing Prayers

**DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR THE NGF MEETING HOLDING AT
YENAGOA, BAYELSA STATE**

Saturday, 7th November, 2009

- 1.00pm – 4.30pm - Departures from the Presidential Wing of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja for (For HEs departing from Abuja)
- 2.00pm – 7.00pm - Arrivals at Yenagoa Government House, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State
- 7.30pm - Cocktail at Peace Park
- 8.30pm - Banquet/Command Performance at Yar' Adua Square (Within the Peace Park)
- 10.00pm-11.00pm - Governors' quiet moment with HE, Governor Timipre Sylva

Sunday, 8th November, 2009

- 1.00pm - Lunch Buffet at the Venue of the meeting
- 1.30pm - Governors' Forum Meeting
- 8.00pm - Dinner and Relaxation

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

HELD ON

8th November, 2009

AT THE

**BAYELSA STATE GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
YENAGOA, BAYELSA STATE**

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Dr. A.B. Saraki	Kwara	Governor/Chairman
2	Aliyu M. Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
3	Godswill Akpabio	Akwa Ibom	Governor
4	Murtala H. Nyako	Adamawa	Governor
5	Gabriel Torwua Suswam	Benue	Governor
6	Ibrahim S. Shema	Katsina	Governor
7	Peter Obi	Anambra	Governor
8	Sule Lamido	Jigawa	Governor
9	Oshiomole, Adams Aliyu	Edo	Governor
10	Ibrahim Shekarau	Kano	Governor
11	Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi	Zamfara	Governor
12	Danbaba D. Suntai	Taraba	Governor
13	Sullivan I. Chime	Enugu	Governor
14	Martin N. Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
15	Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON	Niger	Governor
16	Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
17	Arc. M.N. Sambo	Kaduna	Governor
18	Timipre Sylva	Bayelsa	Governor
19	Dr. Emmanuel E. Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
20	Dr. Sikiru Tac Lawal	Ekiti	Deputy Governor
21	Dr. Phillips O. Salawu	Kogi	Deputy Governor
22	John Michael Abdul	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor
23	Erelu (Dr) Olusola Obada	Osun	Deputy Governor
24	Alhaji Taofeek Oladejo Arapaja	Oyo	Deputy Governor
25	Engr Tele Ikuru	Rivers	Deputy Governor

S/N	NOTES/OBSERVATIONS	ACTION BY
A	<p>COMMENCEMENT</p> <p>The meeting started at 4.40pm with opening prayers said by the Governor of Katsina State, His Excellency, Barrister Ibrahim Shema.</p>	
B	<p>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</p> <p>The chairman reminded members of their decision at the last meeting of the Forum held on 5th October, 2009 to show solidarity with their Niger Delta colleagues by holding the next meeting in the region.</p> <p>He expressed gratitude to his colleagues who made out time to attend the meeting in spite of their heavy schedule. He further thanked their host, the Executive Governor of Bayelsa State for hosting the Forum and commended him for his developmental efforts which were evident all over the State.</p>	
C	<p>ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</p> <p>The Agenda was unanimously adopted after the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Item 4 on the Agenda-<i>Presentation of Image Laundering Report</i> was expunged because of the absence of the chairman of the Sub-Committee on Image Laundering and Governor of Imo State who was supposed to present the committee's report. ii) Item 7 on the Agenda -- <i>Briefing on Technology Incubation Programme by the DG National Board for Technology Incubation</i> was expunged. 	
D	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 5th October, 2009 was read and the following amendments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) His Excellency, Godswill Akpabio, Governor of Akwa Ibom State was present at the meeting but his name was inadvertently omitted from the Attendance List. ii) On item Cii, Page 3, N2 billion should read \$2 billion. <p>In the absence of any further amendment or observation, the minutes were adopted by a motion moved by the Governor of Sokoto State and seconded by the Governor of Enugu State.</p>	
E	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:</p>	

i. Management of Excess Crude Account

The meeting was reminded that \$2 billion from the Excess Crude Account had since been distributed and members were further reminded of the memo titled, ‘**Application of Part of Excess Crude Special Reserve towards a developmental Revolving Loan Scheme for Execution of Capital Projects in the States**’ that was presented by the chairman at the last National Economic Council (NEC) Meeting. That memo would be deliberated upon at the next NEC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 10th November, 2009 and members were urged to throw their weight behind it in order to ensure its adoption by NEC.

ii. Update on the Permanent Secretariat

The Director General of the Secretariat presented the Permanent Secretariat Committee’s Report. He reminded the Forum of the chairman’s appeal at the previous meeting to members to update their contributions so that the project could kick off. Following the need for the project to reflect present economic realities, a decision had been reached to scale down its scope.

He further informed the meeting that the amount collected so far was **N1, 161, 291, 667.00** leaving an outstanding balance of **N1, 898, 708, 333. 00**. The meeting was however informed of a discrepancy between the amount contributed so far and the amount in the Project Account.

The meeting agreed that there was a need to investigate this discrepancy and the Secretariat was directed to furnish the Forum with a full Report at the next meeting with details of contributions so far, the actual amount in the accounts and any discrepancies. Members while stating that this directive should in no way interfere with the decision to kick-off of the project reiterated its earlier directive to proceed with the construction. The contractors should be assured that they would be paid their balance as the project progressed. Finally, the Forum directed that an alternative channel of funds be sourced from banks and other financial institutions and expressed the belief that more contributions would be realised once the project kicked off.

iii. UPDATE ON WELFARE FOR LATE SENATOR MAMMAN ALI, FORMER GOVERNOR OF YOBE STATE

The Chairman expressed dismay at the rate of response made by members on the Senator Mamman Ali’s welfare. He read out the list of the fifteen (15) States that were yet to pay and it was resolved that the outstanding amount be paid up by Tuesday, 10th November, 2009 at the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting.

F UPDATE ON THE PAYMENT OF SUBEB COUNTER-PART FUNDING

The Forum noted the progress made so far in the payment of the SUBEB counter-part fund but urged the States that were yet to

pay to do so. This would forestall the money being diverted to other usage.

G PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, NATIONAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT GROUP (NESG)

The Director General (DG) of NESG made a presentation to the Forum on its upcoming 15th edition of the Nigerian Economic Summit. Prior to his presentation, he thanked the Forum for the opportunity given to NESG to address the meeting and congratulated them on the historic meeting.

The NESG mission at the meeting was two-fold namely, i) To seek partnership with the NGF and ii) To seek the Forum's participation at its 15th Economic Summit (Summit 15). He outlined the advantages of a potential partnership in view of the opportunities provided by the NGF platform. He saw, in the relationship, a unique opportunity to transform the economic landscape of the country.

The meeting was informed that the event which was scheduled to hold between the **15 and 17, December, 2009** would take place at the **Transcorp Hilton, Abuja**. The theme of the Summit would aim at addressing the economic matters that needed to be looked into if Mr. President's Vision 20:20:20 was to succeed.

Participants at the Summit would include:

- The Governors – There would be an aspect of the event tagged the **Governors Forum**.
- Journalists
- Nigerians in the Diaspora

While emphasising the importance of Summit 15 in view of its content, the DG informed the Forum that the Summit would highlight the economic opportunities that abound in the country and would emphasise Private sector encouragement. The event would feature an Exhibition that would showcase some of the opportunities and products that were available in the country.

Finally, the DG-NESG expressed the hope that the relationship nurtured with the Forum and its Secretariat would go beyond the Summit and that ultimately, the ends of democracy would be served.

Members expressed joy that the NESG had given a major role to Governors to play in this year's edition of the economic summit thus underscoring their continuing importance in the socio-economic development of the country. They however sought to know the extent to which recommendations and resolutions from previous summits had been implemented and what States hoped to gain from the summit? They stated that the Forum would not be involved in a mere academic exercise and would not wish to

join a bandwagon for the sake of it.

In response, the DG-NESG informed the meeting that one area of difference between Summit 15 and the previous summits was that at the end of the former, a joint memorandum of recommendations by the National Planning Commission (NPC) and Honourable Minister of Finance (HMF) would be presented to the National Economic Commission for implementation. A similar model would be replicated at the State level. The Summit would look not only at what the issues were but what was being done about them and what challenges existed. Summit 15 was certainly not an exercise in speech making but about practical, relevant and implementable ideas.

In respect of an assessment of the previous summits over the years, the Forum learnt that a Presentation of Stewardship over the last 15 years was currently in progress. The ideas for the Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Public Procurement Initiatives had all emanated from some of the past recommendations of the NESG. Although development on some of the recommendations have been slow, they were definitely a work in progress.

Finally, they enlisted support of the NGF as follows:

- i) Financial;
- ii) Governors to act as chairmen of some sessions;
- iii) Deputy Governor, Sokoto State to join the discussions on the Civil Service

The Forum deliberated on the merits of the summit and resolved to partner with the NESG on their Summit 15 scheduled for December 15-17, 2009.

II PRESENTATION BY DR. A.W. OBIANIME, PRESIDENT, IJAW NATIONAL CONGRESS AND 'BOYLOAF', EX-MILITANT LEADER

The Governor of Bayelsa State and host of the meeting in his introduction of the President, INC informed the meeting that he felt the need for members to hear directly from some of the authentic voices of the Niger Delta, hence his invitation of the President of the INC, the umbrella body of all the Ijaws in the country.

The President, INC expressed delight at the decision of the Forum to visit the Region to have a feel of their plight and was particularly happy over their choice of the heartland of the region, Bayelsa State.

He commended the Forum at the freshness and insight it had brought to the Niger Delta Dialogue and traced the history of the Niger Delta troubles to 1914. In Bayelsa State, the Ijaws have

only 8 Local Government Areas and 3 Senatorial Districts and these are by no means enough.

He informed the Forum that one way of ensuring lasting peace in the Niger Delta was by granting the creating of the two (2) States that they were canvassing. Another way was by involving key Niger Delta leaders to the post-amnesty discussions so as to ensure wholistic peace. He appealed to the Forum to help the Ijaws by addressing these wrongs against them.

Members commended the President, INC for the maturity exhibited in his presentation and thanked him for the well-thought out paper. They thanked him and assured him that they would look into the issues raised.

The Forum invited Mr. Victor Ben (a.k.a. Boyloaf), a retired militant from Bayelsa State to make the next presentation and noted that he was the first militant leader that came out of the creeks to surrender. This singular act by 'Boyloaf' and the resultant reception in Abuja triggered off the response received from the militants culminating in the success of the first phase of the amnesty programme.

He thanked the Forum for the opportunity given to him to plead his case before them and also expressed gratitude to Mr. President and the Forum for their efforts in seeing that peace returned to the region. He bemoaned the destruction of their farm lands, the pollution of the Niger Delta waters resulting in the death of fishes and the dearth of educational infrastructures.

He called on Governors in the region to put aside their political differences as a first step towards a lasting peace and a sustainable development in the region.

The Forum thanked 'Boyloaf' for coming to see them at the meeting and assured him of the Governors' good intentions towards the amnesty process. They however urged him to assure his fellows that the amnesty programme was on course and that even though it may not always move at the desired pace, it was none the less progressing. The seeming slowness could be fund-related and the Forum appealed to them for their patience and understanding.

After extensive deliberations on the two presentations and the situation in the Niger Delta generally, the Forum resolved as follows:

- i) To recognise and appreciate the efforts of Mr. President, the Governors and leaders of the Niger Delta on the milestones achieved and urge them on the need to do more to ensure lasting peace in the region;
- ii) To fast track Federal Government commitment on

- capital projects;
- iii) To be actively involved in the post amnesty process;
- iv) To engage other Youth leaders;
- v) To establish specialised institutions to train and rehabilitate the ex-militants;
- vi) To hold wider consultations and dialogue with leaders of the Region;
- vii) That there was need for more stringent laws against oil illegal bunkering;
- viii) To commend those who have downed their arms while at the same time condemn those who were still engaging in criminal acts like kidnapping.
- ix) To visit Mr. President and discuss these issues;

Finally, to underscore the seriousness with which the Forum viewed the rehabilitation of the erstwhile militants, members expressed the need to engage them in skills acquisition programmes and the Governor of Zamfara State expressed his readiness to engage fifty (50) Niger Delta youths in the Skills Acquisition Centres in his State.

I DIRECTOR GENERAL'S PROGRESS

The Director General (DG) presented the Secretariat's Progress Report to the Forum.

Concerning the Secretariat's appeal for vehicles to facilitate its operations, the DG informed the Forum that the Secretariat needed about seven (7) vehicles to aid its work and would not make any demand for vehicles beyond this. He further informed the Forum that the Delta State Governor had donated two vehicles (a Toyota Camry and a Toyota Hilux) to the Secretariat and the chairman had donated an 18-seater bus. Members agreed that provision for vehicles should be made in the Secretariat's budget and the Secretariat was directed to present its budget for 2010 at the next meeting.

On the issue of the intrusive, disruptive and distracting activities of Law Enforcement Agencies in the States, the Forum attributed the development to the antics of political rivals and noted that the trend could increase as the elections drew near and that the time had come to stop the trend.

• N200 BILLION AGRICULTURE LOAN

The chairman updated the Forum on the N200 billion FG Agriculture loan and informed members that following a meeting he had with the Governors of Adamawa and Kaduna States, the Minister of Agriculture and the Central Bank Governor, it was agreed to return the money to the Central Bank and there was a proposal before NEC that banks that did not return the interest accrued from these deposits would be compelled to return it at commercial rates. Also, any un-disbursed fund would be allocated to five new banks that would be appointed by the CBN for the second tranche of the scheme.

- **POLIO**

The chairman also briefed the meeting on developments on the polio eradication efforts. While commending the Forum on the successes achieved so far, he informed them that there had been no case of paralysis (resulting from polio) in the three weeks preceding that meeting. The Forum resolved to continue in its efforts to completely eradicate polio in the country.

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- **Deregulation**

Members discussed the issue of deregulation of the downstream sector and examined related issues. They agreed on the benefits of deregulation and resolved:

- i) To show support for the process at the next meeting of NEC scheduled for Tuesday, 10th November, 2009, where the mechanisms of deregulation and other details would be discussed;
- ii) That there was a need for more enlightenment of the advantages of deregulation to stem the tide of misinformation making the rounds;

- **First Lady's Cancer Centre**

Members were reminded of their collective commitment to donate twenty million Naira (N20, 000, 000.00) each to the First Lady's Cancer Centre and it was agreed that the cheques for the amount would be collected at the NEC meeting on Tuesday, 11th November.

- **Inciting Comments in National Dailies**

The Forum frowned at the inciting comments made by well placed Nigerians on the pages of newspapers. A case in point was a publication by Buba Galadima in the This day of October 31, 2009, essentially calling for military incursion, which the Forum viewed as not only irresponsible but treasonable. Members condemned the publication in very strong terms and agreed it was a situation that required the attention of the authorities.

- **Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Allocation Committee (RMAFC)**

The attention of the Forum was drawn to the situation where resources meant for the Federation Account did not get there as well as the illegality of some first line charges.

- **Presidential Golf Tournament**

Members were informed of the Presidential Golf tournament coming up in Akwa Ibom State. They were urged to donate towards the event and generally support it.

▪ **Islamic Development Bank**

It was agreed that the Managing Director of the Islamic Development Bank would be invited to address the Forum on the activities of the bank. The Secretariat was directed to get the details from the Governor of Kaduna State to facilitate the invitation to address members at the next meeting.

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VOTE OF THANKS

The host of the meeting and the Executive Governor of Bayelsa State thanked members for the honour of holding the month's meeting in his State and expressed the hope that they would come to the State again in future.

On his part, the Chairman on behalf of the Forum expressed their profound appreciation to the Bayelsa State Governor for a very warm hosting. He also commended the Governor for all his achievements in the State which were very obvious as one went round.

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CONCLUSION

The Governor of Benue State moved the motion for adjournment and the motion was seconded by the Sokoto State Governor.

The meeting came to an end at 9.35 pm with closing prayers said by the Governor of Sokoto State.

Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki
Executive Governor, Kwara State
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum

8th November, 2009

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, NGF

Introduction

I wish to welcome Your Excellencies to this landmark meeting in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, convened primarily to solidarity to the people of the Niger Delta. May I once again congratulate Mr. President and the Governors of the Niger Delta for the Amnesty Initiative which has served as a major recipe for peace in the region.

I wish to use this opportunity to brief Your Excellencies on the activities of the Secretariat since my briefing.

1. Visit of the Secretariat to States/Development of a framework for peer review mechanism.

Your Excellencies may recall that in the past five (5) months, I have led a team made up of some Secretariat staff, policy analysts and professional journalists to visit States as part of a programme designed at one level to acquaint the Secretariat with the States and at another level to evolve a framework for developing a peer review mechanism.

The Secretariat has so far visited seventeen (17) States: Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Anambra, Imo, Enugu, Ebonyi, Abia, Benue, Plateau, Niger, Kwara, Nasarawa, and Kogi.

Our initial findings from the States visited is that a number of States are doing a number of things well and several States do have excellent unique practices that could be benchmarked across the country. In major areas like education, healthcare, agriculture, water, power, infrastructural development, governance, job creation and the capacity to grow internally generated revenue, the State governments have showed varied and innovative approaches to connecting and satisfying the yearnings of their citizens.

However, we have noticed a common trend in all the States visited which is that governors face similar challenges in the following three key areas: time management, capacity around the governors and weak/faulty feedback mechanism.

All these would be catalogued in our final report.

We project that this exercise would be concluded within the first quarter of 2010. Please, find below our next steps in respect of the peer review exercise:

- Conclude visits to States
- Prepare full report
- Develop peer review framework
- Obtain approval for peer review mechanism and implement
- Continuous review and improvement of mechanism

Finally, I want to state that the development partners have shown enthusiasm in the whole exercise and have pledged commitment in seeing to the success of the peer review exercise.

2. Update on the Permanent Secretariat

At the last meeting, the attention of members was drawn to a letter that the Secretariat received from the authorities of Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) on the risk faced by the Forum of losing the site of the permanent Secretariat if we failed to commence construction immediately. However, the total contribution of members to the project is less than what is required to get the project off the ground. The Secretariat is at present engaged with the Project Architects and all other stakeholders on all options to enable the take off of this project.

3. States' Financial Commitments

We must express our gratitude to the Forum for the support we have been getting from members but wish to state that the financial challenges confronting the Secretariat persist.

The matrix below shows total outstanding obligations by members on annual dues, payment for Secretariat project and to the family of late Senator Mamman Ali, former Executive Governor of Yobe State:

S/ N	Item	Total Expectation	Total Actual Payment	Outstanding	
1.	Annual Dues	99-03	N36, 000, 000	N35, 000, 000.00	N1,000,000
		03-07	N36, 000, 000	N34, 000, 000	N2,000,000
		07	N72, 000, 000	N66, 000, 000	N6,000,000
		08	N72, 000, 000	N58, 000, 000	N14,000,000
		09	N72, 000, 000	N36, 000, 000	N36,000,000
2.	Secretariat Project	N3, 060, 000, 000	N1, 161, 291, 667	N1,898,708,333	
3.	Senator Mamman Ali Welfare Fund	N72, 000, 000	N36, 000, 000.	N36,000,000	

We want to bring to the fore the challenges of transport that the Secretariat is experiencing at the moment. The Secretariat is in need of operational vehicles. This will certainly enhance our day to day operations. Meanwhile, I wish to express our profound appreciation to His Excellency, the Chairman of the NGF who donated a bus to the Secretariat last month. Also, His Excellency, the Governor of Delta State had earlier in the year donated a Toyota Camry saloon car and a Toyota Hilux pick-up truck to assist the Secretariat meet some of its transport needs. I wish to use this medium to plead with our principals to help the Secretariat with some vehicles.

4. **Malaria Eradication Programme**

Your Excellencies would recall that at the last meeting of the Forum, the Honourable Minister of Health made a presentation on the efforts of the Federal Government to eradicate Malaria from the country. The Minister in his update to the Forum proposed the Cuban model as part of the Federal Government's effort to eradicate **malaria**. This has been used successfully in various parts of South America and was estimated to cost about \$78.68m for a first year malaria elimination plan for the whole country. The Minister informed the Forum that Nigeria has signed a Letter of Intent with Labiofam, SA, a Cuban Government Pharmaceutical Company. The meeting was also informed that the Rivers State government had also indicated interest to purchase the biolarvicides and establish a factory that would produce the chemicals and had also signed an Agreement to that effect.

The meeting was also informed that Nigeria was part of an ECOWAS driven programme to adopt this malaria elimination programme through the use of vector control and that there were preliminary arrangements by ECOWAS to source for funding for this project through a grant from the Government of Venezuela.

The Minister enlisted the support of Governors for this Malaria Eradication Initiative not only by supporting Malarial Control Programmes in the States but by making budgetary allocations to progress this process.

The Secretariat was part of a delegation that visited Cuba. Our report is attached.

We wish to bring to YE's attention the presence of 27 out of 100 doctors who studied in Cuba and who owing to their brilliant performance were offered scholarships by the government of Cuba to pursue their post graduate studies. However, the scholarship was meant to cover tuition without more while the Nigerian government was supposed to take care of the rest. The 27 doctors currently in Cuba are there though their own efforts and are going through very challenging and difficult times to put themselves through school. We urge YE's help in alleviating the suffering of these doctors and ensuring that the remaining go back to complete their studies.

5. **Update on the Midwives Service Scheme (MSS)**

Your Excellencies would recall that the Honourable Minister of Health had at the last meeting also briefed members on the Midwives Service Scheme (MSS). This is a programme designed to improve maternal and child health care in Nigeria through the distribution of midwives at Primary Healthcare Centres around the country. To that end, he informed the Forum of the need for an MOU that would detail the responsibilities of the Federal Government (FG), the States and the Local Governments (LGs). The MOUs were circulated to members for execution by States.

11 States have signed and returned their MoUs while we await response from the other 25 States. Please find enclosed in the meeting file a status report of States that have signed MoUs and those that are yet to sign.

6. **Meeting with Development Partners**

Your Excellencies, at my last briefing, I stated that a number of development partners have expressed the strong desire to work with the States through the NGF Secretariat

especially in areas of capacity building. We are meanwhile developing an engagement framework for this.

The DFID through its State Partnership for Accountability, Responsiveness and Capability (SPARC) programme is assisting the NGF and the Secretariat in developing strategic and operational plans and would in the next three weeks be working on this effort. During this period, the team from DFID plans to interface with some members as part of the attempt to produce the strategic/operational plans. Whilst the Strategic Plan is for the Forum itself, the Operation plan would be designed for the Secretariat. The Plans would set out how the DFID intends to assist the NGF. The expectations are that the draft strategic and operational plans would be ready by the end of the week of 16th November, 2009.

Similarly, the Secretariat on October 15, 2009 met with the Country Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and his senior officials and they expressed a strong commitment to assist the NGF in its developmental efforts. The Country Director recalled on-going efforts to provide assistance to States in building their technical capacities to pass and implement the Fiscal Responsibility (FR) and Public Procurement (PP) laws.

The Secretariat was further represented at a recent UNDP-anchored meeting between development partners, the Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF), the Debt Management Office (DMO) and the Federal Ministry of Finance (FMOF) to deliberate on a proposal to provide coordinated assistance to the States for the discussion, passage and effective implementation of the FR and PP laws in order to achieve development outcomes through more transparent and accountable use of public resources.

A Committee/Technical Group (that includes representation from the NGF Secretariat) was set up to take stock of the status of the FR and PP laws, map development partner support to facilitate coordination of the exercise and work on an MoU that would guide the proposed project and generally progress the relationship. The MoU would be between the NGF, FMOF and the Development Partners. The Committee was mandated to turn in its report to the wider group by 30th November, 2009.

The committee held an initial meeting on Wednesday, 4th November and agreed amongst others that:

- i. The Department for International Development (DFID) will provide support to the NGF in developing an approach and a set of questions (to be included in a questionnaire) which would request: a) The current status of the FR and PP Legislations b) Whether there was a need for sensitisation of the States' Legislatures with regard to the laws c) Whether it would be useful to have support with an assessment of the States' capacities to implement the laws and d) Whether it would be useful to have support with capacity development to assist with implementation of the legislations.
- ii. The MoU would be drafted by the DFID and would outline the responsibilities of the parties in relation to the development of the FR and PP laws. The draft MoU being worked on jointly by the Committee members would be ready for discussions/comments on Tuesday, 10th November, 2009.

YE would recall the NGA last working visit to the United States. Prior to that visit, the Secretariat opened up communication with the National Governors' Association (NGA) which services all the 50 States and five U.S. territories (America Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands). As part of the NGA's commitment to working with the NGF, it has agreed to a mentoring programme for the management of the Secretariat in May 17 – 24, 2010 at the NGF headquarters in Washington, DC. The NGA has also agreed to officially invite six of our governors to their annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts in July 9 – 11, 2010.

7. **1st National Conference on Internally Generated Revenue (IGR)**

As part of the efforts by the Secretariat to fulfil its mandate to re-engineer the Forum and make it a one-stop Resource Centre, it has identified key policy areas that need the urgent attention and action of the Forum in order to enhance the entrenchment of an enduring democracy.

The Secretariat cognisant of the challenges confronting the States in the area of creation of revenue sought and secured the permission of the Chairman to organize a round-table conference on IGR.

This Conference has become very necessary in the light of the global economic meltdown. The theme is '**Surviving the Downturn: Refocusing on Internally Generated Revenue**' and will hold from **Monday 16th – Wednesday 18th, 2009** at the **International Conference Centre, Abuja**.

The event parades a roll-call of experts on IGR and governors would serve as both discussants and chairmen of sessions. We plan to cover the programme live on NTA and AIT.

8. **N200 billion federal government commercial agricultural credit scheme (CACCS)**

YE would recall the N200 billion Agricultural grant set aside by the Federal Government to aid commercial agriculture in the country. Part of this amount was deposited in two commercial banks, UBA and First Bank. Following delays in disbursing this grant and intervention by the Forum, the Central bank of Nigeria (CBN) called back the grants deposited in these banks.

The Forum is currently working with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (FMAWR) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in order to address the delay in the disbursement of the N200 billion Federal Government Commercial Agricultural Grant.

9. **Meeting with the Executive Secretary, Education Trust Fund (ETF)**

YE, as you probably already know, there are a number of Federal Government grants and facilities that are not being fully accessed by the States. Just like in the case of Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) grants, we found similar difficulties in accessing the ETF funds, hence our visit to the office of ETF.

The leadership of the Secretariat held very useful discussions with the Executive Secretary and gained a lot of insight into the mandate of the ETF as well as criteria for access to the ETF grants. For instance, we learnt that the sole criterion for access to the ETF grants is that States must account for previous grants before new grants could be released and that interest accruing from un-accessed funds was distributed to other States. Currently, the amount of funds yet to be accessed was said to be about N26 billion.

Meanwhile, please, find enclosed in the meeting file a Summary of ETF Allocations & Disbursement to Institutions Nationwide from 1999-2008 as it affects individual States

The above for YE consideration and, where appropriate, approval, please.

COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED AT THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2009. AT THE BAYELSA STATE GOVERNMENT HOUSE, YENAGOA.

In order to show solidarity to our Niger Delta colleagues on amnesty programme, we, the Executive Governors of the 36 States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, held a meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2009 at the Government House, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, met and deliberated over a number of issues of national importance and resolved as follows:

1. To partner with the NESG as one of the preeminent private sector led economic think-tank in the country and welcome the opportunity to participate in setting Nigeria's economic agenda together with the NESG and other stakeholders for the purpose of economic growth and development of the country.
2. Sequel to the presentation made by the President of the Ijaw National Congress, and ex-militant leader, Mr. Victor Ben (alias Boyloaf), the governors resolved unanimously to support both amnesty and post-amnesty initiative of government, and call on all the ex-militant leaders to continue to support the rehabilitation and reintegration process which is prone to delays because of checks and balances inherent in a democratic system.
3. Furthermore, the Forum agreed to appeal to the Federal Government of Nigeria to expedite action on all areas needing emergency. While information dissemination machine be improved and in order to properly, inform educate and enlighten the grassroot on what the FGN is doing on the post amnesty initiatives.
4. On the issue of illegal bunkering the Forum is of the view that people arrested engaging in this unwholesome venture must be decisively dealt with in order to act as a deterrent to others that may be interested in engaging in this type of economic sabotage and the names of the illegal bunkerers be made public while drastic measures must be taken against them, it was further resolve that there was a need to have more stringent laws on illegal bunkering.
5. The Forum have resolved to support the principles of deregulation of the downstream oil sector of the Petroleum Industry. However, members agreed on the need for sensitization of the public on the philosophy and benefit behind the process.
6. The Forum unanimously condemned in very strong terms seditious writers and third columnists and called on security agencies to be alert to their responsibilities.

**STATEMENT BY THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM ON THE
CALL FOR MR. PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION.**

The Nigeria Governors' Forum met today, 3rd December, 2009 at the Kwara State Government Lodge, Abuja. We noted with dismay the current debate in the media on the call for the resignation of Mr. President necessitated by a paid advert in the Leadership Newspaper of Wednesday December 2, 2009 by some people who purportedly signed the advert. It is gratifying to note that some of the people who were purported to have signed the advert have already dissociated themselves from such calls.

The Nigeria Governors' Forum therefore observes as follows:

1. We commend the sense of leadership demonstrated by the Federal Executive Council under the leadership of the Vice President. This demonstrates that government

at the federal level is alive to its responsibilities and is being complimented by the 36 governors;

2. Constitutionally, in the absence of any evidence of incapacitation on the part of the President, it is precipitate and diversionary to call for Mr. President's resignation. It is on this basis that the Nigeria Governors' Forum considers the call for Mr. President's resignation as a betrayal or a lack of respect for the Constitution and the system of government of this country.

3. On the basis of the foregoing therefore, the Nigeria Governors' Forum hereby restates our firm commitment to the peace, progress and stability of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We wish Mr. President, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR, quick recovery as he continues to lead our country.

COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD TODAY, JANUARY 11, 2010 AT THE KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE

We the Executive Governors of the 36 States of the Federation at our meeting held today, 11th January, 2010 at the Kwara State Governor's Lodge deliberated on a variety of issues of national importance and resolved as follows:

1. Recently, the US Transport Security Administration (TSA), an Agency under the Department of Homeland Security listed Nigeria as a "country of interest" alongside countries as Yemen, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan etc effective January 4, 2010 following the December 25, 2009 incident involving a Nigerian national Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab accused of attempting to bomb Northwest Flight 253, a US-bound flight to Detroit, Michigan. We note with dismay and grave concern the alleged attack and have resolved to publish a comprehensive press release on this matter.
2. Regarding the issue of excess crude, the Forum resolved that the fund belongs to both the States and Federation Government and as such the Federal Government alone has no discretion of its use.
3. The States have all agreed to facilitate 1 billion naira to small scale farmers. These are loans for which each state is expected to develop its own operational mechanism.
4. We noted the significance of the Peer Review Exercise which has been conducted in 18 states and we are happy to note the value addition recorded through the Peer Review especially in terms of information exchange of leading best practices/benchmarks.
5. We reaffirm our commitment to the Midwives Services Scheme (MSS) which have taken off by signing of an MoU by 32 States (including FCT) with the deployment of 2200 midwives already sent to various communities. This will impact heavily in reducing child and infant mortality.
6. Following a Presentation made by the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Forum agreed to continue to partner with the Federal Government in achieving the MDGs.

COMMUNIQUE OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH FEBRUARY, 2010 AT THE KWARA STATE GOVERNMENT LODGE, ABUJA

The emergency meeting of the Nigeria Governors' Forum was held today to discuss two issues: the Jos crisis and the state of the nation. As you all know, the 4-day crisis in Plateau State which began on Sunday 17th January, 2010 resulted in massive loss of lives and property.

A delegation of the NGF led by the Chairman, Dr. Bukola Saraki, visited Plateau State on Tuesday 26 January, 2010 to commiserate with the Governor, His Excellency Jonah David Jang and the people of the State. After full briefing by the Chairman of the Forum and exhaustive discussions of the Jos crisis by members, the finding of the Forum is that the crisis in Plateau State is not religious but ethnic and political.

Members condemned in very strong terms a situation where a Nigerian goes up in arms against another Nigerian and resolved that as Chief Security Officers, members will do everything to ensure that there is no future reoccurrence of this kind of crisis in their respective States. Members also vowed to enforce the rule of law in their States by ensuring that those who foment trouble whether political, religious or ethnic, are brought to book.

The Forum resolved to put together a Relief Fund and directed the Secretariat to procure relief materials for distribution to victims and displaced persons working in conjunction with officials of the State.

On the State of the nation, the Nigeria Governors' Forum appreciates the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) in relation to the Office of the President and Vice President. The Forum also identified with the judgement of the courts on the same and agrees that the position of Acting could be either verbal or written and the Vice President has been appropriately acting admirably.

The Forum calls on all arms of governments to continue to give full and total support to the Acting President until the President returns in the interest of our dear and beloved country, Nigeria.

The Forum also resolved to meet the leadership of the National Assembly with a view to urging them to pass a resolution to formally recognize the Vice President as the Acting President in the interest of the nation.

Nigeria Governors' Forum

Update on Total Outstanding Commitments as at January 31st, 2010 (in figures)

S/N	STATE	Subscriptions Due (N'm)						Sub-Total	Other Payments due (N'm)			Total Due (N'm)	Payment Ranking	
		1999-2003	2003-2007	2007	2008	2009	2010		Senator Mammam Ali Fund	Plateau Crisis Relief Fund	Permanent Secretariat Building			
1	ABIA						2	2				70	77	18
2	ADAMAWA				2	2	2	6	2	5	5	70	83	28
3	AKWA-IBOM						2	2					2	1
4	ANAMBRA						2	2		5	50	57	57	15
5	BAUCHI						2	2		5	85	92	92	33
6	BAYELSA			2	2	2	2	8	2	5	70	85	85	30
7	BENUUE				2	2	2	4		5	27.50	36.50	36.50	11
8	BORNO						2	2		5	85	92	92	33
9	CROSS-RIVER						2	2		5	77	84	84	29
10	DELTA						2	2		5	70	77	77	18
11	EBONYI							0		5		5	5	4
12	EDO						2	2		5	70	77	77	18
13	EKITI							0		5		5	5	4
14	ENUGU						2	2		5		7	7	7
15	GOMBE					2	2	4	2	5	70	81	81	26
16	IMO							0		5		5	5	4
17	JIGAWA						2	2		5		7	7	7
18	KADUNA						2	2		5	38	45	45	14
19	KANO						2	2		5		7	7	7
20	KATSINA						2	2		5	70	77	77	18
21	KEBBI			2			2	6	2	5	63.75	76.75	76.75	17
22	KOGI						2	2		5	35	42	42	12
23	KWARA						2	2		5	70	77	77	18
24	LAGOS						2	2		5		7	7	7
25	NASARAWA						2	2		5	70	79	79	24
26	NIGER		1				2	2		5	85	97	97	36
27	OGUN				2		2	2		5	78.50	89.50	89.50	32
28	ONDO						2	2		5	70	79	79	24

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		1999-2003	2003-2007	2007	2008	2009	2010	Sub-Total	Senator Mammam All Fund	Plateau Crisis Relief Fund		
29	OSUN						2	2			2	1
30	OYO					2	2	4	2	5	70	26
31	PLATEAU	1	1			2	2	6	2	Not Applicable	70	23
32	RIVERS						2	2				1
33	SOKOTO						2	2		5	35	12
34	TARABA						2	2			70	16
35	YOBE				2	2	2	6	Not Applicable	5	85	35
36	ZAMFARA			2	2	2	2	8	2	5	70	30
Total		1	2	6	12	26	66	113	14	155	1,724.75	2,006.75

Key

- Owing on Subscription for 2010 or on Plateau Relief Fund or both
- Owing on at least Permanent Secretariat Fund and 2010 Subscription
- Owing on every item
- Specific items outstanding

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S/N	STATE	Annual Subscriptions						Other Payments due			REMARKS
		1999-2003	2003-2007	2007	2008	2009	2010	Senator Mammam Ali Fund	Plateau Crisis	Permanent Secretariat Building	
1	ABIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
2	ADAMAWA	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	
3	AKWA-IBOM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	
4	ANAMBRA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
5	BAUCHI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
6	BAYELSA	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
7	BENUE	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	
8	BORNO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
9	CROSS-RIVER	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
10	DELTA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
11	EBONYI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	
12	EDO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
13	EKITI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	
14	ENUGU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	
15	GOMBE	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	
16	IMO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	
17	JIGAWA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	
18	KADUNA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
19	KANO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	
20	KATSINA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
21	KEBBI	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	
22	KOGI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
23	KWARA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
24	LAGOS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	
25	NASARAWA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
26	NIGER	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	✓	x	x	
27	OGUN	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	x	x	

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S/N	STATE	Annual Subscriptions							Other Payments due			REMARKS
		1999-2003	2003-2007	2007	2008	2009	2010	Senator Mammam Ali Fund	Plateau Crisis	Permanent Secretariat Building		
28	ONDO	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x		
29	OSUN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓		
30	OYO	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x		
31	PLATEAU	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	Not Applicable	x		
32	RIVERS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓		
33	SOKOTO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x		
34	TARABA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x		
35	YOBE	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	Not Applicable	x	x		
36	ZAMFARA	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x		

KEY

White(✓)

Fully paid

Yellow(x)

Outstanding