



THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING

ON

15TH JANUARY, 2008

AT

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

ATTENDANCE

Their Excellencies:

S/No	Name	State	Designation
1	Dr. A.B. Saraki	Kwara	Governor/Chairman
2	Alhaji. Aliyu Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
3	Segun Oni	Ekiti	Governor
4	Saidu N. Usman	Kebbi	Governor
5	Aliyu Akwe Doma	Nasarawa	Governor
6	Liyel Imoke	Cross-River	Governor
7	Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
8	Ibrahim Shekarau	Kano	Governor
9	Godswill O. Akpabio	Akwa-Ibom	Governor
10	Danbaba D. Suntai	Taraba	Governor
11	Jonah David Jang	Plateau	Governor
12	Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi	Rivers	Governor
13	Orji, T.A	Abia	Governor
14	Sunday C. Onyebuchi	Enugu	Deputy-Governor
15	Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
16	Elder Prof.C.N.Ogbu (OFR)	Ebonyi	Deputy-Governor
17	Sule Lamido	Jigawa	Governor
18	Arc. Mohammed Namadi Sambo	Kaduna	Governor
19	Omolade Oluwateru	Ondo	Deputy-Governor
20	Erelu Olusola Obada	Osun	Deputy-Governor
21	Otunba C.A Alao-Akala	Oyo	Governor
22	Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu (OON).	Niger	Governor
23	Babatunde R. Fashola (SAN).	Lagos	Governor
24	Professor Oserheimen Osunbor	Edo	Governor
25	Mohammed Danjuma Goje	Gombe	Governor
26	Ikedi Ohakim	Imo	Governor
27	Mahmud A. Shinkafi	Zamfara	Governor

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD AT THE KWARA GOVERNOR'S LODGE ON TUESDAY, 15th JANUARY, 2008.

S/N	NOTES/OBSERVATIONS	ACTION
1.0	<p>COMMENCEMENT</p> <p>The meeting started at 8.30pm with opening prayers said by the Governors of Oyo and Niger States.</p> <p>Declaring the meeting open, the Chairman called for a slight amendment to the agenda earlier distributed.</p>	
2.0	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</p> <p>In the absence of any amendments to the minutes of last meeting, the Governor of Sokoto State moved a motion for its adoption.</p>	
3.0	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <p>FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY BILL</p> <p>The meeting was informed that the committee's report on the Fiscal Responsibility Bill was not yet ready as the Committee's work was still going on.</p>	
4.0	<p>URBAN DEVELOPMENT BANK</p> <p>The meeting was informed that there were no developments as regards the issue of inviting the management of Urban Development Bank to brief the Forum on sundry issues of ownership structure and shareholdings of member States.</p>	

5.0 DIALOGUE WITH EFCC CHAIRMAN

On the issue of inviting the erstwhile Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Malam Nuhu Ribadu to dialogue with the Forum, the meeting was informed that the decision had been overtaken by events, as EFCC now had a new Chairman. It was generally agreed that this new Chairman be allowed to settle down first.

6.0 UPDATE ON NGF PERMANENT SECRETARIAT PROJECT

Members were informed that the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) had approved a piece of land in the Central Business District, opposite the Benue Plaza for the project. The size of the land is **1.05 hectares**, about **114 by 94 metres**. Of the **Forty-Two Million Naira (N42, 000, 000.00)** due as charges, **Twenty-One Million Naira (N21, 000, 000.00)** was payable immediately while the balance would be paid within the next 5 years. They were further informed that this allocation called for a review of the earlier designs submitted to the Forum because of the size of the land allocated to the Forum and FCT Development Control's Regulations which allows for a minimum height of Six (6) floors with one basement parking. Consequently, the cost of the project would now be revised to **Three Billion and Sixty Million Naira (N3, 060, 000, 000.00)** from the earlier estimate of **Eight Hundred and Eighty-Eight Million Naira (N888, 000, 000.00)**. The earlier idea of spreading the building was to meet the

budgetary allocation but the land allocated to the Forum necessitated a revise and review by the project committee. A Work plan which was prepared by the Committee was presented to the meeting. In view of these developments therefore, the Committee chairman informed the meeting that the financial implication is that the contribution of each state would be increased, and the committee needed the approval and clearance of the Forum.

Based on the presentation by the Chairman of the Permanent Secretariat Project Committee and other matters thereto, the following observations and suggestions were raised:

- a. The committee was commended for a job well done and it was further suggested that the project be made commercially viable due to its strategic location in the FCT. It was suggested that the committee could liaise and collaborate with interested firms to make the project ten (10) floors instead of the proposed six (6) floors.
- b. There was a suggestion that the floors be increased to a thirty-Six (36) floor building to make it symbolic of the Forum which membership is Thirty-Six (36) States.
- c. The Committee agreed with most of the ideas, observations and suggestions, but members were informed that raising the building to thirty-Six (36) floors will not get the approval of Federal Capital

Development Authority (FCDA)
Development Control Unit because
it is contrary to building
regulations in the Capital City.

The following arguments were put
forward regarding the desirability or
otherwise of an up-ward review of the
cost of the permanent secretariat
project:

- a. It was suggested, that based on
the **three billion Naira
(N3,000,000,000.00)** estimate,
members should consider
contributing about **Eighty- Five
Million Naira (N85,000,000.00)**
within Two (2) years i.e. **Forty-
Two Million, Five Hundred
Thousand Naira
(N42,500,000.00)** each year.
- b. Some members suggested a long
term borrowing for the project
rather than instant payments
which may take its toll on the
states' monthly allocations.

However, the general feeling was that
members should consider the project as
an enduring legacy and that no sacrifice
was too great. Any amount agreed
should include the N15, 000,000
already contributed by most members.

RESOLUTION:

At the end of the arguments on the
issue of funding, members unanimously
agreed thus:

- a. That each state would contribute
**Eighty-Five Million Naira
(N85,000,000.00)** in Two (2)
years i.e. **Forty-Two Million,**

Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N42,500,000.00) each in 2008 and 2009.

- b. That the Kaduna State Governor, being the Chairman of the project committee should explore the opportunities of liaising and collaborating with interested developers and banks as well as tackling other issues relating to the project that may arise.

7.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (A.O.B.)

A MEETING WITH MR PRESIDENT.

On the issue of the impending meeting between Mr. President and the Governors on electoral violence, it was suggested that holistic findings of political parties, security agencies, NGOs etc be made in order to ensure a common position on elections and electoral violence in the country. Members were informed that Lagos State was already working along those lines.

RESOLUTION

The Forum after deliberations on this issue accepted the above suggestion and it was agreed that it would form the basis of the Forum's position to be presented to Mr. President.

B RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INCUMBENT AND EX-GOVERNORS.

The attention of the House was drawn to the increasing strain in the relationship between some incumbent governors and their predecessors. An urgent solution was required to stem this trend.

RESOLUTION

Consequent upon exhaustive deliberations on the issue, members resolved that given the nature and peculiarities of these problems which vary from State to State, these issues be cautiously handled or allowed to take their natural course.

C**LETTER FROM GONG PUBLISHING**

The chairman brought to the attention of the Forum a letter written to it by Gong Publishing informing the Forum of the indebtedness to it by all the Local Governments in Nigeria for a pledge ALGON made on the launch of a publication on former President Olusegun Obasanjo. It sought the assistance of the Forum to recover the debt.

RESOLUTION

After analysing the issue, members resolved to have nothing to do with this matter and advised Gong Publishing to see ALGON to sort things out.

D**REQUEST OF SUPPORT BY NIGERIA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (NFA)**

Members were notified of a letter from Nigeria Football Association (NFA) seeking support and assistance to prosecute its activities in 2008, especially the Forthcoming Africa Nations Cup in Ghana kicking off on Saturday 29th January, 2008.

RESOLUTION

Members on their part acknowledged receipt of the same letter and most have started responding. It was

therefore, unanimously agreed that states should assist as much as they could.

E DWINDLING AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRIES IN NIGERIA.

The issue of the dwindling fortunes of the local automobile industries in Nigeria, particularly Peugeot Automobile (PAN) and Mercedes was raised for the Forum to look into, with the aim of proffering solutions. It was suggested that the Forum invite the Management of these industries to make presentations that would enable close collaboration by way of bringing up a policy that could be implemented to enable these industries operate at their optimum level.

RESOLUTION

It was resolved that the Governor of Kaduna State should coordinate and invite the automobile industries to make presentations at the next meeting of the Forum.

F DEDUCTIONS FROM STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTS

The meeting once more revisited the issue of illegal deductions made from States and Local Government allocations in the past eight (8) years.

RESOLUTION

The Forum noted that not much progress had been made in this area and agreed once more to pursue vigorously the refund of such deductions.

G POWER SITUATION IN NIGERIA

The Chairman called the attention of members to the growing epileptic power situation in the country and suggested a setting up of a committee at the level of the Forum on independent power plants towards finding solutions to this power crisis.

RESOLUTION

Members agreed that since the Minister of Energy was billed to address the National Council of State meeting coming up on 28th January, on the power situation in the country, the Forum should use that opportunity as a starting point towards contributing to its solution.

H IMAGE BRANDING

The House once again looked at the issue of image branding and expressed fears that this was not being given the attention it deserved. It was suggested that a letter of support be written to players of Nigeria Super Eagles preparing for the forthcoming Africa Nations Cup in Ghana later this month as part of the image branding project.

RESOLUTION

Members unanimously agreed with this position.

CONCLUSION

The meeting ended at 11.50pm.

Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki
Chairman