

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 thirty six (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 of 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 Airlines 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 State and Federal Governments and as such the Federal Government alone has no discretion of its use;
3. The States have all agreed to facilitate one (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 eighteen (18) States. 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 has taken off with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by thirty two (32) States (including FCT) and the deployment of two thousand and two hundred (2,200) midwives to various communities. We note that the Scheme 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 States agreed to continue to partner with the Federal Government in achieving the MDGs.