

COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED AT THE MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD TODAY, MARCH 2, 2010 AT THE KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE

We the Governors of the thirty six (36) States of the Federation at our meeting held today, 2nd 2010, at the Kwara State Governor's Lodge prelude to the invitation by the Acting President deliberated on the following issues and resolved thus:

1. That the ongoing constitutional review at the National Assembly in respect of the provision of Section 145 was at this time in our national history un-necessary. The Forum agreed unanimously to leave the Section 145 as it is.
2. With respect to ongoing efforts at reviewing the Electoral Act, members focused on the appropriate length of time between the conclusion of elections and the date for inauguration, having exhausted all electoral disputes arising therefrom and resolved to set up a committee of six representing each geo-political zone to engage the National Assembly on the issue.
3. On the State of the Nation, members:
 - a. Pledged unanimous support to the Ag. President;
 - b. Agreed that the Acting President is in charge and the buck stops at his desk;

- c. Noted that the Acting President is discharging his duties creditably and should be encouraged;
- d. Called on all citizens to downplay the overheated political environment;
- e. While emphasizing the need for love and care among all citizens, stated that we are a country known for high moral value and should not be seen as a country celebrating illness, death or ascendancy to power;
- f. Noted the need to caution the Minister of Information on some of the statements credited to her on television and other news media on the present political situation in the country particularly as it affects the health of Mr. President. Members took exception to certain unguarded utterances by the Minister of Information especially the reference to some of her colleagues as a cabal. The challenge of national stability must mean that she says less even in the face of such crises and must speak with maturity;
- g. Called on all Nigerians to continue to pray for the speedy recovery of Mr. President pointing out that anybody could fall ill and expressed delight that Mr. President has been able to return to his country;
- h. Reiterated that at the time the Forum acted, it was the right time - neither too early nor too late. The decision of the Forum was taken not because the President was away or ill but because the Forum felt it was the right thing to do at the time. There is therefore no cause to renew this position.

- i. Advised that the acting President should not give an impression that there is a vacuum by his actions and utterances. And similarly advised people in government not to give such an impression.
- j. Stated that there is no regional challenge whatsoever. What we are experiencing is a Nigerian challenge. And resolved to engage all stakeholders particularly the leadership of civil societies.
- k. Regretted that the report of the President's illness was badly managed, including the movement out of and return of the President into the country. And warned that there was a need to put a stop to the whole secrecy surrounding the President's illness.

Dated this 2nd Day of March, 2010

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