

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.