

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 forment 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.