

NIGERIA
GOVERNORS'
FORUM



THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AN NGF MONTHLY PUBLICATION

Vol.1. No. 12 June, 2019

1st

48 HOURS after governors Inauguration

Enter
Fayemi
Exit
Yari



Inside

How NGF
facilitated Fiscal
Restructuring for
states

Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal of Sokoto State (right) is NGF Vice Chairman

NFIU GUIDELINES: SO UNCONSTITUTIONAL



Acceptance Speech by His Excellency Dr. Kayode Fayemi, CON Governor of Ekiti State on the occasion of his election as the Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF)

PROTOCOLS AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Your Excellency the outgoing Chairman of the Nigeria Governors Forum, Governor, Alhaji Abdul-Aziz Yari Abubakar;
- Your Excellencies, Governors of states in the Federation;
- The Director General and other Executives of the Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat;
- Members of the Press;
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

THANK YOU

1. I must start by expressing my gratitude to all those who have contributed to the successful conclusion of today's exercise.

2. The transparent and credible outcome of today's exercise has further consolidated our credentials as an organised and progressive assemblage some of the finest minds in our public service – who differ in tribe, tongue, faith, and partisan affiliations, but are collectively united in our quest to contribute meaningfully to building a strong, peaceful, united, and prosperous Nigeria.

3. I must therefore thank all my other brother Governors – colleagues from all the states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Men of honour and service who individually and collectively bear the mandate of the people, and are critical actors in the cause of improving the lives and livelihoods of all Nigerians. I am deeply grateful for the confidence you have all reposed in me to lead this esteemed organisation at this crucial point in our national life, and I count on your continued support as we make progress on this journey together.

4. Indeed, we have come quite some distance on this journey. For our great country Nigeria, we have come a long way as we celebrate the anniversary of two whole decades of the unbroken practice of Civil rule exactly a week from today. Likewise, the NGF as an organisation has covered a lot of grounds since it was founded and evolved over the past many years.

6. Hence, I must not fail to recognise the contributions of those that came before us; eminent patriots who laid the foundations of the solid structure upon which we would be building – our distinguished former Chairmen of the NGF, H.E. Dr. Bukola Saraki; HE. Mr. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi; and Alhaji Abdul-Aziz Yari Abubakar. Gov Yari's tenure

has been a phenomenal success to the Forum and filling his shoes would be a great challenge to us even as we cherish the challenge.. Likewise, I thank present and former members of staff of the NGF secretariat, especially A. B. Okauru, Esq. and the rest of his team for their service.

7. Because of the diligent labours of these nationalists, today we have an NGF with a solid administrative structure that helps it to deliver on its mandate of deepening the cooperation between the states and the Federal Government, which has been reflected in greater consensus at meetings of the National Economic Council and other engagements on many key national issues. Without a doubt, the NGF has become a respected platform of collaboration irrespective of party differences.

8. It is important to note that we have been able to achieve very much of our goals because of the support so graciously given by the President, H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, together with Vice President H.E. Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, GCON, and for this we are grateful, and look forward to building on this in the future.

9. Likewise, we use this opportunity to express our appreciation to the development partners that have worked with us in the past in advancing our programmes, and we assure that you would always find in the NGF a veritable platform for productive collaboration.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

10. Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as we celebrate the past, we also look to the future with hope and faith. We look to a future in which the NGF would continue to advance our goals and objectives as a unified platform – where the leadership continues to be accountable; where every Governor continues to have an equal voice, and where the democratic principles of broad based consultation and consensus building are practiced in reaching key decisions.

11. We look forward to an NGF that would continue to build on the very cordial relationship we have with the Presidency and other arms of government at all levels, but would not shirk in our responsibility to constructively criticise, engage, lobby, and invariably use all means within the ambits of the law to influence the nature of laws and poli-



cies so that they have greater positive impact on the citizenry, and lead to greater peace and harmony in our great country.

12. As we all know, in the true spirit of federalism, and according to the principles of Subsidiarity, functions of government should be performed at the lowest level possible. In this regards, we would develop frameworks to support encourage states to domesticate the progressive programmes and policies of the Federal Government which would be better served with

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

THE TEAM

Director-General

Asishana B OKAURU

Executive Director (Fin & Admin)

Abubakar JIBIA

Executive Director (Res & Str)

Abdullateef SHITTU

Head Media Public Affairs

Abdulrazaque BELLO-BARKINDO

Snr. Publications Officer

Halima S. AHMED

NGF Health Advisor

Dr. Ahmad ABDULWAHAB

Agric Economist

Bunmi AKANBI

Researchers

Abdulaziz OLORUNISHOLA

IT

Bassi HEMAN

Ubong ESSIEN

Senior Economist

David NABENA

Photography

Saeed SANUSI

Legal Advise: Chijiok@CHUKU



NFIU Guidelines: So Unconstitutional

By Chijioke Chuku, HEAD LEGAL, NGF

The Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) recently issued Guidelines to anti-corruption agencies, the Banks and other financial institutions in Nigeria, which Guidelines were to come into effect June 1, 2019. The Guidelines provide inter alia that:

1. No transaction should be allowed on the State and Local Government Joint Account without first paying to the Local Governments, all sums due to them.
2. The amount standing to the credit of local government councils of a State shall be distributed among the local government councils of that State and not for any other purposes.
3. State Joint Local Government Account shall be reinstated as a Collection Account.
4. A minimum of N500,000 (five hundred thousand Naira) cash daily withdrawal limit from every Local Government Account and all subsequent withdrawals must be by approved cheques or electronic payment channels to promote registered transactions by all the local governments.

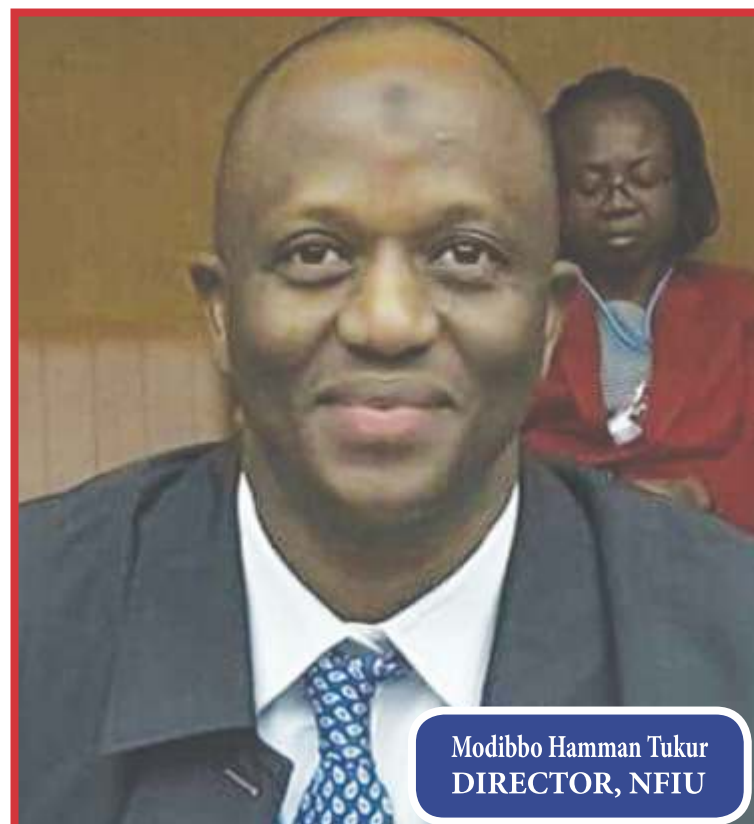
Powers of the NFIU under the NFIU Act, 2018

Nothing in the NFIU Act confers on the NFIU the power to prescribe to the States the manner in which Local Government funds can be disbursed. Any act of the NFIU which is outside its specified functions in the NFIU Act means that the Unit is exceeding its legitimate powers. In the light of the above, the NFIU has no legitimate powers to prescribe to States, or financial institutions the way Local Government Council funds are to be disbursed, neither can they prescribe to the Local Governments the manner of withdrawal of funds in the bank accounts belonging to Local Government Councils.

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Section 162 (7) provides that Each State shall pay to Local Government Councils in its area of jurisdiction such proportion of its total revenue on such terms and in such manner as may be prescribed by the National Assembly.

(8) The amount standing to the credit of Local Government Councils of a State shall be distributed among the Local Government Councils of that State on such terms and in such manner as may be prescribed by the House

The power to give the directive which the NFIU purports to issue in its Guidelines resides in the National Assembly and the State Houses of Assembly of the 36 States of the Federation and in doing this, the NFIU has acted in excess of its powers and in complete disregard to the constitution of the country



Modibbo Hamman Tukur
DIRECTOR, NFIU

of Assembly of the State.

A study of the NFIU Act, particularly Sections 3 and 4 will reveal that the functions and Powers of NFIU revolve around requesting, receiving, analyzing and disseminating financial intelligence reports on money laundering, terrorist financing and other related information to law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies and other relevant authorities. This functions, duties and powers relate generally to the storage, use and management of financial intelligence data/information, as it relates primarily to combating money laundering, the financing of terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and associated offences.

The power to give the directive which the NFIU purports to issue in its Guidelines resides in the National Assembly and the State Houses of Assembly of the 36 States of the Federation and in doing this, the NFIU has acted in excess of its powers and in complete disregard to the constitution of the country.

In effect, the purported adoption of the motion in respect of the NFIU Guidelines by the Senate has no bearing in law. The Guidelines remain unconstitutional, null and void until properly passed into law by both Chambers of the National Assembly and thereafter adopted by the House of Assembly of each State.



NGSF: A new initiative

Nigerian Governors Spouses Forum

By Halima S. Ahmed

Recently, the NGF induction of new and returning governors which held in Abuja delivered a new initiative bringing international personalities to hobnob with the governors as well as their spouses.

The event, which had in attendance the 36 state governors also attracted the country's First Lady Mrs Aisha Buhari and her predecessors to rob minds with the governors' spouses. The sharing of experiences and narratives gave verve to their reawakening to look deeper at their pet projects with a view to taking the welfare of their people, especially women and children more seriously than they ever did in the past. The arrowheads of this new thinking, of course included Mrs Bisi Adeleye Fayemi.

Incidentally, the induction ceremony, culminated in the official launch of the Nigeria Governors' Spouses Forum (NGSF), which had been in existence but in partial abeyance.

Mrs Asmau Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar, wife of the former Governor of Zamfara State and chairman of former Chairman of the NGF, Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar, vacated the seat following the end of the tenure of her husband. However, the emergence of Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti State as the new chairman of the forum automatically makes his wife, Mrs Bisi Adeleye Fayemi as the chairlady of the newly berthed NSGF.

Mrs Bisi Fayemi is a British-born Nigerian, writer and feminist, who was born on 11th June, 1963 in Liverpool, United Kingdom. She is a graduate of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Ile-Ife, sincerely an indication that in spite of her privileged background her heart remains not abroad but at home.

Mrs Fayemi is the co-founder of the African Women's Development Fund, which is the first pan-African foundation to support the work of women's rights organisations in Africa.

The new mantle of leadership, which requires the new NSGF Chairlady to reposition the role of women and children in states, will witness numerous improvement and achievement due to Mrs Fayemi's robust activism, creativity and wealth of experience.

This is the realistic expectation, even though the role of Governors' spouses has changed since the 90s and evolved considerably to a people focused affair. Governors spouses are now involved in political campaigns, running the domestic affairs in the government houses and championing social causes such as excursions, visitations, and sometimes they represent the governor at occasions. Governors' spouses have become so visible that they now publish their own memoirs which are viewed as not just additional information but very relevant anecdotes about their husbands' lives in office.

This is simply because the public is interested in their spouses' pet projects, even long after they have left office as their projects speak for them long after they are gone, when posterity sits in judgement. It is because of this that the NSGF under Mrs. Bisi Fayemi will be expected to undertake the following:

Learn about latest research, trends and activities in their areas of interest; Share experiences and advice with her colleagues about unique roles, responsibilities and their pet projects; Decide on meeting dates and venues; Matters affecting children, women and families which should be helped by the Ministry of Health/Developmental Partners (child mortality rate, pregnant women, tackling poverty childhood hunger/al-majiris, breast cancer awareness, cardiovascular diseases and different forms of mental illnesses.

This can eventually lead to the creation of the Office of Women's Health within states' Health Departments which will be targeted at lifting heavy burdens on families who yearn for good and affordable healthcare services and ultimately help win the trust of the citizenry as well as build diverse coalitions and share goals.



Bisi Adeleye Fayemi

These are all with a view to helping foster a public- private partnership amongst the states, which eventually will translate to peer review mechanisms between the Spouses of the governors.

Possible initiatives for g overnors' spouses

1. Ending Hunger.
2. Promoting Parenting Skills and Strengthening Families
3. Education and Literacy
4. Agriculture and Promoting Sustainable nutritional activities
5. Employment Opportunities for the less privileged or people living with Disabilities
6. Leadership and Well-being
7. Support for Military Families
8. Health and Well-Being
9. Healthy Lifestyles and Physical Fitness
10. Environmental and Open Space Conservation; and Family and Children's Health
11. Early Childhood Learning; and Substance/Alcohol Abuse Prevention
12. Domestic Violence and Abuse Prevention;
13. Arts in Education/Literacy
14. Early Childhood Development (Birth to Three)
15. Curbing Youth Violence.



access

SEE

LIKE

BUY

EXPERIENCE MORE WITH YOUR ACCESS BANK CREDIT CARD

*Benefits Include:

- Up to 40 days interest-free credit.
- Global acceptance on POS terminals free of charge.
- Discounted rates at over 55,000 hotels worldwide.
- Verified by Visa security for all online transactions.
- Supplementary card(s) available.

Foreign banks may charge cardholders
for the use of their bank ATMs.

SPEED SERVICE SECURITY



The Essence and Significance of the NGF HelpDesk

By Lanre Ajogbasile & Zubaida Abiola



The Nigeria Governors' Forum HelpDesk is a technical support programme launched in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in March 2017 to support States by providing just-in-time demand-based technical support (capacity building and advisory services) to States in Public Financial Management (PFM) and domestic revenue mobilization. The HelpDesk process has been modelled to be participatory, evidence-based, credible, consistent and reform triggering.

The overall objective of the programme is to increase internally generated revenue and strengthen PFM at the subnational level.

Programs, initiatives, Achievements and milestones Customized Just-in-time training and Advisory support:

Since inception, the programme has delivered capacity building training and advisory services on PFM and IGR related reforms to 18 States directly, training over 570 State officials across various MDAs including Ministries of Finance, Budget and Planning, Office of the Accountant General, Office of the Auditor General, Debt Management Office and States Internal Revenue Services. States supported directly include Cross River, Kaduna, Yobe, Benue, Katsina, Zamfara, Bauchi, Gombe, Plateau, Taraba, Nasarawa, Sokoto, Niger, Ogun, Kwara, Anambra, Ebonyi and Kogi States.

Regional training

The Programme delivered a regional training for the North Central States Internal Revenue Services – Benue State IRS, FCT IRS, Kogi State IRS, Kwara State IRS, Nasarawa State IRS, Niger State IRS and Plateau State IRS - on Human Resources Management (HRM) and conducting effective Tax Audit and Investigation. About 35 State officials including chairmen, directors of audit and audit staff of the various States internal Revenue Services were in attendance.

Learning Alliances and collaboration with Partner

Over the years the programme has collaborated with a large array of partners including DFID and the World Bank, delivering learning alliances such as a focus group discussion on the fiscal sustainability of States (2017), South-West & South-East learning alliance (2018), advocacy session with the forum of Commissioners of Finance on establishing Sub-National Fiscal and Economic Sustainability (2018) and regional workshops on the sensitization of States on the World Bank States Fiscal Transparency Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) programme for result (2018). The NGF Helpdesk also attends the quarterly meeting of the Joint Tax Board to influence tax policy and coordination at the subnational level. Since inception the programme has attended 7 JTB meetings and participated as a country representative for Nigeria alongside other JTB regional representatives at the technical conference of the Common Wealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) which held in Fiji Nadi (2018) to contribute to the discourse on improving taxpayer management and addressing base erosion and profit shifting between countries of the common wealth assembly.

Sequel to the success of the HelpDesk programme in delivering technical support to States, the NGF (HelpDesk programme) has been selected to support the Federal Ministry of Finance (Home Finance Department) Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) for the World Bank States Fiscal Transparency Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) Programme for Results to provide technical assistance and capacity building training to States over a 4-year period (2019 - 2022) focusing on three (3) key result areas (KRAs): increasing fiscal transparency and accountability, strengthening domestic resource mobilization and strengthening efficiency in public expenditure. Activities to cover will include Developing and disseminating guidelines, knowledge notes and templates; Just-in-time customized on-the-ground support (Individual State technical workshops and advisory support through mobile teams of experts); Peer Learning Events; Exchange Visits and State Reform Experience Studies to build States' capacity. The HelpDesk programme in the coming months will commence implementation of approved

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Inauguration: How new & returning governors addressed their states

Insecurity, the minimum wage saga, rising youth unemployment, debilitating national poverty index and a grueling economic downturn, pervaded Nigerians' expectations before, during and after the 2019 general elections. And governors at their inauguration on May 29th responded accordingly, even though some of the reactions from some states left much to be desired.

No matter who is at the helm of affairs at the subnational level of governance, the needs of Nigerians have practically remained the same - the provision of basic amenities, infrastructural development, a favorable and enabling business environment, adequate security, a stable economy, qualitative and affordable education, a vibrant and remedial health sector, amongst others are the things that the people desire.

So, when new governors were sworn in on May 29, many Nigerians were hoping to see them take off and address these issues, especially the basic ones. Though it is too early to begin to assess the governors, a good lot of them could be said to have hit the ground running in their quest to deliver the dividends of democracy to their people. At the Forum level, we followed their pronouncements and actions of the first 48 hours and here present our findings.

Whilst in Lagos State, for example, the new governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu saw the need to tackle the perennial Apapa gridlock, in Imo State, his counterpart Hon. Emeka Ihedioha was preempted by his supporters to dismantle the legacies of former Governor Rochas Okorocha by demolishing edifices and statues around the state capital. Ihedioha became the first to take-off with public denials of actions perceived by people around the country to be regime intolerance. Soon enough, Governor Ihedioha unveiled free healthcare and education for his people. Governor el-Rufai of Kaduna State also commenced his second term in office with an announcement on free medicare and an extended, precisely six-month long maternity leave for nursing mothers. He also capped it up with free and compulsory education for the girl-child to encourage them to attend school.

For Governor Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State, his first line of action was to terminate all political appointments made on or before March 28, 2019 by his predecessor, Governor Muhammadu Jibrilla. He is joined in this move by Governor Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State.

One thing is certain however, and that is, there is a revolution going on at the subnational level of governance, as the new and returning governors are jostling to dish out the dividends of democracy to their people.

Seyi Makinde (Oyo State)

Orders ex-political office holders to return official vehicles

Fresh from his inauguration as the Governor of Oyo State, Seyi Makinde, who in his speech promised the people that he would return the wealth of the state to them, ordered all former political office holders to return government vehicles and other assets in their custody with immediate effect.

Speaking in a statement signed by Chief Bisi Ilaka, his Chief of Staff, he observed that some former political office holders are still in possession of official vehicles attached to their offices in spite of the fact that they are no longer in the service of Oyo state.

He consequently directed that all former political functionaries who are still in possession of government vehicles to return the same to government transport pool within 48 hours.

Failure to do this, according to him, security agencies shall be directed to retrieve such vehicles from where they may be kept.

The State Government also said it would take all necessary steps to ensure that all assets illegally taken away by the former officials are returned to the state.

Bello Matawalle (Zamfara State)

Suspends Emir of Maru, District Head

Dr. Bello Muhammad Mutawalle approved the suspension of the Emir of Maru, Alhaji Abubakar Chika Ibrahim, and the District Head of Kanoma, Alhaji Ahmad Lawal, with immediate effect.

The duo were suspended after series of complaints on their alleged involvement in banditry and other criminal acts.

Matawalle said the emir and district head would remain suspended until the outcome of the first investigation panel.

He was directed to hand over official vehicles and all other government property in his possession to the most senior district head, while the suspended district head should hand over to the most senior village head.

The Zamfara State Governor Bello Matawalle also said work will begin on the proposed Gusau Airport within his first 100 days in office. The governor made the pledge when he paid an inspection visit to the proposed site of the airport.

A statement, signed by the Special Assistant to the governor on Media, Mallam Yusuf Idris, quoted Matawalle as saying that the construction of the airport was crucial to development and the opening of job opportunities. It said that government was committed to investing heavily in the economic sector and also initiating policies that would boost internal revenue.

"The governor promised to make the state more socially and economically viable; he also appealed to wealthy individuals to invest in Zamfara, promising lots of incentives". The statement said that Matawalle also visited the Gusau Hotel where he found out that most of its structures had become dilapidated. "The governor was embarrassed by the poor state of the facility, especially with many sections at the verge of collapse. He directed that it be reconstructed to meet international standards."

The airport project was conceived more than 10 years ago by former governor Mamuda Shinkafi. Budget estimates for the project consistently surfaced in various budget proposals during the eight-year administration of Matawalle's pre-



Makinde

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

...How Govs took off after May 29

decessor, Governor Yari, but no work started at the site up till when he left office on May 29, 2019.

Free healthcare for women, children

Governor Bello Matawalle also announced that his administration will offer free healthcare services to women and children in the state.

He made the declaration shortly after taking his oath of office at the Trade Fair ground, Gusau, said that the new government would be comprehensive.

"I am going to assemble enlightened, formidable and politically experienced persons, so that we take the state to better heights in the near future.

"Our women and children have gone through serious hardship in the past and we will reverse this situation for the better.

"The new administration will start with tackling the security challenges and everyone must live their lives within the provisions of the law.

"No one should think they will take the law into their hands and kill, kidnap, maim, or make life uneasy for others.

"We are aware that poor education, poverty, and unemployment are the causes of criminal activities and I want to plead with members of the public that within the next few weeks we will come up with practical ways of handling these starting with free education and scholarships," he said.

He added that under his leadership, the state government would work closely with the federal government and other relevant bodies to improve the livelihood of the people of the state.

He appealed to PDP supporters in the state to be respectful to leaders and to the Rule of Law as "I am now a leader of all".

Donates half of his salary to orphans

Governor Bello Matawallen-Maradun also showed that he is a leader that has come to ameliorate the sufferings of orphans in the state by dedicated half of his monthly salary to their.

Matawallen Maradun announced this when he visited the state's orphanage home in Gusau, the state capital. He said orphans are among the important personalities in the society, therefore they need to be given effective care and concern.

Nasir el-Rufai - (Kaduna State)

Devolves Kaduna to a welfare state for women and children

After His inauguration for a second term,

Governor Nasir El-Rufai of Kaduna State announced that female civil servants in the state would get six months as maternity leave.

The governor explained that the initiative was to ensure that children were adequately cared for, well-fed and received all the nutrients they would need within the first six months of their lives.

He also announced free medical care for children below five years in public hospitals in the state.

"In education and health, we have shown a commitment with investments to expand the access of ordinary people to these public goods," El-Rufai said.

He added, "Our commitment to universal health coverage will continue. Therefore, we shall accelerate the implementation of contributory health insurance scheme as a priority of this administration.

"Our state executive council approved six months of maternity leave for female public servants. This is to encourage the healthy development of infants

"Mothers in our state are also reminded that children up to age five get free medical care in our hospitals. They are entitled to free regular medical checkups in all public hospitals. Please, take advantage of this."

Free and compulsory education for girls

The governor also announced that his government has made free and compulsory education available for girls in the state.

"We took bold steps to improve the teaching standards. We have made basic education truly free in Kaduna state and we have made education free and compulsory for our girls up to the end of senior secondary school," he said.

He added, "We'll continue to fix existing schools and build new classrooms where necessary and support our teachers to deliver decent public education."

Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq - (Kwara State)

makes peaceful moves to reunite Kwarans from cracks occasioned by 'o to ge'

If there was any state where many commentators had expected instant roll back of certain actions or policies of the previous government, Kwara State probably ranked first on the list.

And not only are there many things some people might rightly expect immediate 'punitive actions' on, the new Governor, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq, has a huge political capital to pursue such actions without much consequences beyond the cries of witch-hunt by the affected parties.

If anything, he would be hailed for being so 'proactive' by most members of the public on account of some late-hour actions and decisions of his predecessor.

In his inaugural address, the governor went conciliatory by saying that his is a people's government and will operate as such. When everybody expected him to sound like a belligerent war general on the actions of the previous government, he made it clear that whatever inquiry made into the past would be to the extent that such effort will help the public cause he intends to serve. In saying this, Abdulrazaq was clear about the fact that he is not interested in running after



Kaduna Medical Facility



Matawallen



Abdulrazaq

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



The Essence and Significance of the NGF HelpDesk

work plan.

IGR Peer Learning

Since the inception of the programme, the HelpDesk has supported the conduct of a peer learning event once every year. The IGR peer learning event in 2017 focused on raising the IGR of States, examining the lessons and opportunities from the experiences of performing States. At the 2018 IGR peer learning event, States were provided contextual background on Nigeria's volatility cycle, successes in IGR, lessons for States, a practical approach to estimating IGR potential, effort and Space, budgeting and reporting IGR as well as a financing model that will increase informal sector tax compliance and raise additional funding for Universal Health Coverage (a form of Tax for Service). Commissioners of Finance, Chairmen States Internal Revenue Services were in attendance. Opening the 2018 session were the Governors of Kaduna State, Edo State and Kwara State who graciously chaired the session providing insights as to the required political support for effective tax administration.

Development of Knowledge Resources, Tools and Templates

To influence reform discourse at the subnational level and facilitate self-learning and domestication by States, the programme develops easy to use knowledge guides, tools, templates, policy briefs and State reform studies documenting reform domestication processes, States' experiences, lessons and opportunities for improvements. Since 2017, the programme has developed and disseminated 4 research papers across different areas including Revenue Generation (Practical and Effective Reforms to Improving Tax Administration in Nigeria: Appraising recent reforms across 7 States - Kaduna, Kwara, Kano, Akwa-Ibom, Ogun, Zamfara and Bauchi State and Raising the Internally Generated Revenue of States: Lessons and Opportunities), Revenue Potential (A study examining the IGR Potential of States: A Case Study of Kwara State), Estimating IGR (Budgeting and Reporting of IGR), States Integrated Financial Management Information System (Status of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) implementation in States including case study reports for Plateau and Kaduna State), Sub-National Fiscal and Economic Sustainability and the State Internal Revenue Service (SIRS) Website Review (Reviewing website structure, content, functionality and security).

Similarly, 3 Knowledge guides on various tax reforms necessary for effective tax administration have been developed and disseminated to States including Achieving Effective Tax Administration (Preparing for Autonomy, Managing High Net Worth Individuals, Tax administration for Informal Sector, Taxing Solid Minerals), Human Resource Management (Workforce Planning, Recruitment Management, Assigning Roles and Responsibilities, Training and Development, Performance Management, Reward Manage-

ment, Career Management, Workflow Management), Practical Approaches to Conducting Tax Audits and Investigations (Tax Payer Rights and Obligation, Audit Process, Conducting Interview Meetings, Best of Judgment Assessment).

Other guides currently being developed by the programme include Communication Planning for States Internal Revenue Services (Developing a communications plan, Stakeholder Engagement, Communication Methods, Monitoring & Evaluation of Communication Methods), Taxpayer Compli-



ance Management (legal framework for taxpayer compliance and compliance risk management), Taxpayer Enumeration (Taxpayer enumeration, taxpayer database management and complaints management), Developing a Taxpayer Charter (Articulating content of the charter, taxpayer rights, taxpayer Obligations, developing service standards, enlisting stakeholder support taxpayer feedback and grievances redress mechanism), Tax Legislation & Administration (Roles of Various Jurisdictions, Opportunities for Joint Administration), Taxpayer Management (Concept of taxpayer management, objectives of taxpayer Management and assessing taxpayer Management Operations). The HelpDesk also develop process maps and standard templates for forms, letters, notices, orders and Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) to easily implement the recommendations in these guides.

More recently, in collaboration with the JTB the HelpDesk developed and launched a 12-point States' Action Plan on Revenue Generation focused on achieving 6 objectives at the just concluded NGF Induction programme for New and Returning Governors. These include Ending double/multiple taxation; Making the most of the SIRS, Improving Taxpayer Compliance, Blocking Revenue Leakages, Unlocking New Revenue Sources and Improving Revenue Budgeting and Reporting.



As gobs respect the NGF Constitution: Nigeria's future firmly in Fayemi's palms



To be the Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum is a special baggage, all by itself. The Governors will rely on the chairman's outreach mechanism, the transgressing public servants will attempt to dribble him, his home state will miss your presence and the society in general will blame you for every states inability to provide one essential service or another. The powers that people repose in the Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum allow him to traverse every political terrain or podium in the country without feeling like fish out of water. It was therefore not unexpected that the election of the Chairman of the NGF which took place barely a month ago generated such gargantuan national interest. The deliberate misconceptions surrounding the NGF have given birth to several assumptions on the concluded election of the Forum, which Governor Kayode Fayemi clinched on a unanimous decision.

The NGF is a legally registered entity with the Corporate Affairs Commission CAC. It therefore has a constitution, and abides dogmatically, by it. Its secretariat on the other hand is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political development agency and so it has evolved over the years.

According to that Constitution, the Chairmanship of the Forum must rotate between the north south and only a second term governor is eligible to

lead the Forum. The two-term governor must also belong to the ruling party. The Governor of Ekiti State only just returned to an office he held until 2011. Technically, he is a second term governor and therefore a ranking member of the NGF. As things stand currently, Dr Kayode John Fayemi remains the only governor eligible to replace Governor Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar who vacated the chair on May 29th. And to most governors, so be it.

It would have been a different kettle of fish if Former Governor of Lagos State Akinwunmi Ambode had returned as Governor for another term. But he didn't. Indeed, there were speculations about some governors showing interest in the chairmanship of the Forum but that ambition soon took a back seat the moment it was explained to them that the constitution precludes them for certain obvious reasons. Moreover, knowing the political sagacity and dexterity of most governors, they would have attempted to test the envelop but each preached a respect for democratic ethos and sheathed their sword.

One Key disinformation however stood out; that Governor of Kaduna State Malam Nasiru el-Rufai, was favored by the presidency to run for the Forum's chairmanship, a fact that the governor himself debunked outrightly. In Fact, as a proof that this view is unfounded, the Kaduna Governor disclosed way before the election took place that he had encouraged Governor Kayode Fayemi

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Enter NGF Vice Chairman, Gov Aminu Tambuwal

Governor Aminu Tambuwal's emergence as the Vice Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) has attracted great applause because of the quality of leadership he is bringing to the table.

Elected to serve the Forum with the Chairman and Ekiti State Governor, Kayode Fayemi, he brings onboard a lot of energy, intelligence and astute political acumen.

Born January 10, 1966, Tambuwal initially became the Governor of Sokoto State after his election during the 2015 General Elections into the office and was re-elected after the 2019 General Elections.

He is a member of the People's Democratic Party and served as the 10th Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria, also representing the Tambuwal/Kebbe Federal Constituency of Sokoto State as an honorable.

He is a reputable lawyer with a suave, dogged, rugged, and quintessential political acumen. His uncanny ability to cultivate support from all quarters irrespective of political affiliation, will definitely boost the Forum's unity and development going forward.

His infectious humility and uncanny ability are remarkable qualities that will open a new page in the political trajectory of the Forum.

As the Forum gears up for the next level after an exciting and eventful tenure of former governor Abdulaziz Yari of Zamfara State, the combination of Fayemi and Tambuwal will definitely add more zest and direction to the already flying NGF.



As govs respect the NGF Constitution

to run in order to preserve the unity of the Forum and also show that Governors were not the sort of people that viewed the constitution in the breach.

True to type, on May 16th once the Director-General of the NGFS Mr Asis-hana B Okauru read out the rules, proceedings for the election took a convivial direction. If there were any dust, it had been blown away. Governor of Kaduna nominated the Chairman and was seconded by Governor of Delta. There were no other contenders. The choice of the Vice Chairman was also just as tranquil. The Chairman elect as he then was got the approval of the entire house to pick Governor Sokoto, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal as his deputy. The house again concurred.

The new NGF Chairman Governor Fayemi is known as a liberal leader, cerebral intellectual and progressive politician who has built bridges across all primordial and other sundry divides. He also has the privilege of being close to President Buhari. The peaceful manner of his election is a clear indication that the NGF has risen beyond party differences to see their association as a purely democratic pathfinder for the country. It is Nigeria's most informed gathering, as well as the most privileged.

Far from the uninformed presumption that it is a pressure group, the NGF and its secretariat has quietly warmed itself into the heart of governance in the country and a solid support for oiling the wheel of progress, even for the presidency, that many think it was built to oppose. As proof, the NGF has inched closer to the presidency, which explains its ability to dialogue and most of the time concur with each other at each one's hour of need. Even the States Peer Review Mechanism for which the Forum has been receiving a flak for its discontinuation, has remained relevant among governors who no longer need a drill sergeant visitation to adopt. Instead, Governors speak to each other at every meeting and replicate in the various states whatever seems to be happening right in one state. A typical example is the NGF HelpDesk, whose activities, like training states on new and modern ways of raising internally generated revenue, has caught all the states like wildfire. Today, NGF is arguably the strongest political unit in the country. The governors are united across party lines and they have used the NGF platform to bring good governance nationwide, the result of which is gradually seeping through different communities

across the country.

This amount of progress has also endeared the Forum not just to the President who listened carefully to governors and encouraged them to remain united each time they met him but also the Vice President Yemi Osinbajo who is usually amazed at the NEC with the level of cohesion the NGF has achieved since its troubled days of 2013. For this fete, the NGF persuaded President Muhammadu Buhari to approve the release of almost N2trillion to states, including N713.7 0b special intervention funds to states and infrastructure expenditure refund.

The immediate past chairman and Governor of Zamfara State governor might have had problems in Gusau, the capital of his state but he has offered exemplary leadership, and displayed appropriate conduct to the Forum. However, it is expected that Team Fayemi and Tambuwal would continue in the same vein. Many analysts look up to Fayemi who is a Development expert to rise above board and consolidate on what is already achieved to take the Forum to where there is healthy competition, development and self-sufficiency in states.

It is only realistic to expect that as a development expert, Governor Fayemi's tenure would witness remarkable progress in the half-a-dozen core mandate areas of the NGFS which include, but are not limited to education, health, agriculture, the economy, security and infrastructure development among others. In the past, the NGFS has provided invaluable service to the states, which are tailor-made, purpose driven and promptly delivered. It is expected that with Governor Fayemi in the chairmanship saddle, more states would find a good reason to solidify and promptly take ownership of the presence of the NGFS for quickfixes whenever they feel letdown by the robust civil service architecture that they inherit in their states.

It can therefore be said effectively and without fear of contradiction that the future of Nigeria, considering the strategic position that the NGF occupies, is in the hands of Governor Kayode John Fayemi of Ekiti State and Chairman of the Nigeria Governors Forum until 2021. The Chairmanship of the NGF is a two-year tenure except the members decide to unanimously allow the occupant of the seat to continue unchallenged, as it happened in the case of Governor Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar.



How NGF facilitated Fiscal Restructuring for States

by David Nabena

The last four years were eventful for the subnational level of the polity. This is especially so regarding the economy, where governors achieved a resounding victory and received the confidence of President Muhammadu Buhari. It is important to document the role of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, especially as this relates to the change of baton from Governor Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar of Zamfara State to Dr Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti State.

Just as he stated during his opening remark at the Induction of new and returning governors in the Banquet Hall of the Aso Rock Villa in Abuja, the last set of governors took the saddle of their governorship amidst troubled waters, or more precisely, virtually in the wake of the fiscal crisis caused by falling oil prices since mid-2014. The indefatigable leadership of the time, With Governor Yari Abubakar at the helm led the Nigeria Governors' Forum to hold a series of meetings with the federal government (including Mr. President) to find sustainable ways of addressing the crisis which had affected the day-to-day operations of State governments.

Fortunately, at its meeting of Wednesday 20th April 2016, Chairman of the Forum Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar led its members to unanimously agree to a Fiscal Restructuring Plan (FRP) to help ameliorate the effect of the fiscal crisis and stabilize government budget operations. An Aide Memoire (attached) was consequently prepared and sent to Mr. President. The FRP became necessary because previous interventions were only palliative and could not completely resolve the growing financial liabilities of States due to the large and cumbersome nature of inherited financial obligations.

The Fiscal Restructuring Plan detailed short, medium- and long-term measures which eventually kickstarted the national strategy to address fiscal sustainability issues in the country, including the release of bailout packages, the development of the fiscal sustainability plan and the budget support facility. Among measures recommended



The Fiscal Restructuring Plan detailed short, medium- and long-term measures which eventually kickstarted the national strategy to address fiscal sustainability issues in the country...

confidence that the President eventually reposed on its members. Zamfara state economy and its people might have bled for missing their governor, but the then Chairman of the NGF Governor Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar and his brother governors as they call each other, ran around, cajoling or bullying public officials whichever necessary to take back what belonged to states, that was denied them in the past. And a lot was achieved. Nearly N3tr was disbursed to the 36 states depending on their share or the enormity of their responsibility or liability at each stage. Apart from President Muhammadu Buhari who magnanimously approved all the releases, the only other entity that deserves any mention in facilitating this huge endeavor is the Forum Secretariat. This contribution has impacted immensely on the economy of states and their peoples.

were the reimbursement of Paris Club deductions to State and local governments that were not indebted to the Paris Club; moratorium and low interest rate on concessionary loans; full refund on federal government roads constructed/rehabilitated by State governments; restructuring of the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission; proposed direct intervention/restructuring grant for each State that falls below a sustainable threshold required to keep the government functional; as well as an immediate forensic audit of NNPC, including outstanding payments to the federation account among others.

The Forum had earlier moved for a resolution for a moratorium of two (2) years on all restructured debts of States, given the exposure of States to high Irrevocable Standing Payment Orders (ISPOs) at its meeting of Wednesday, 18th November 2015. A Committee was consequently instituted at the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting of January 23, 2016 to engage with the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

On the 2nd of September 2016 the Forum also intervened by requesting a one-year moratorium to States on liabilities for the excess crude loan facility, the FG salary bailout and restructured bank loans. All of these got the Forum busy and positioned it for the



...How Govs took off after May 29

anyone if such is not connected to the bigger Kwara dream.

From his inaugural speech to his first official functions, he embarked on fence-mending and confidence-building among critical stakeholders in Kwara State. He started with his party men just hours after he was inaugurated. And shortly after holding his maiden security briefing, met with the State's Council of Chiefs during which he took their advice and sought support for the new government.

He then met with over 300 thought leaders drawn from across the state and interests, where he made it clear that the era of 'I-Know-It-All' or a one-man show is over. Reflecting on his unprecedented margin of victory, he said he owed his mandate to the people and is ready to lead according to their consensus through constant consultations and open fora.

Ahamadu Umaru Fintiri - Adamawa State

Terminates Bindow's last-minute appointments

Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, in his first line of action after assuming office, dissolved all appointments made on or after March 28, 2019 by his predecessor.

In his maiden broadcast in Yola, Governor Fintiri announced the dissolution of all political appointments made by his predecessor, including 50 state development area councils, and boards of tertiary institutions.

He also suspended for review, all appointments made into the state's Judicial Service Commission, Planning Commission, Civil Service Commission, boards of Adamawa Health Insurance Scheme and the Jimeta Ultra-Modern Market.

His words were: "All appointments made into the state's Judicial Service Commission, Civil Service Commission, Planning Commission, and boards of the Adamawa State Health Insurance Scheme, chairmen and members of the Jimeta Ultra-Modern Market Board are hereby suspended.

"Equally, all appointments made on or after 28 March 2019 are hereby suspended on grounds of public interest. Also, all last-minute recruitments done on or after 28 March 2019 through mere waiver without observing the laid-down procedure, such as Federal Character, are hereby suspended."

The governor further announced the dissolution of all the chairmen and members of boards, and commissions, and asked the outgoing chairmen and members to hand over their organisations and public property to the most senior civil servants in their establishments.

Governor Fintiri said a committee would be set up to review all "hasty recruitments", stressing that there was a need to conduct "proper" exercises that will be open to all eligible citizens, including those affected by the suspensions and dissolutions.

Emeka Ihedioha - Imo State

Declares free health care in Imo

New Imo State Governor, Emeka Ihedioha announced the beginning of free healthcare for children and elderly people in the state.

The former House of Representatives deputy speaker, promised to reform the state's criminal justice system by domesticating the Criminal Justice Act.

He said: "We shall restore Owerri as the cleanest city in Nigeria. We shall digitalise Imo land registry for optimum delivery. We shall review all land allocations in Imo and where necessary revoke illegal land allocation."

He also promised to provide water and deliver quality projects.

The governor said, "We shall guarantee financial independence for the judiciary as provided for in the constitution. The four technical colleges shall be upgraded to be a great hub of technical manpower within my first 180 days in office."

He promised to establish the Bureau of Public Procurement to handle award of contracts.



Ihedioha

Prof Babagana Umara Zulum - Borno State

Announces 10-Point Agenda

The new governor of Borno state, Prof Babagana Umara Zulum, said that the restoration of peace, quality education and job creation would form parts of his 10-Point Agenda to reposition the state for the better.

He noted that the era of political thuggery which constituted a nuisance in the state is over as the present administration would come up with a robust entrepreneurship skills to engage youths who are the future leaders of tomorrow.

The new governor said apart from restoration of peace, education and job creation, his administration will have an inclusive government devoid of selfishness, political, religious or ethnic divides.

He solicited the unflinching support from the security agencies, traditional and religious leaders, and the good people of the state in order to move Borno to greater heights.

His words: "I want to thank God Almighty, President Muhammadu Buhari, former Governor Kashim

Shettima and the good people of the state for giving me the mandate to serve as governor on the platform of the ruling All Progressive Congress, APC.

"My focus is on improving the security of the state as insecurity is the major impediment that affected the lives of people.

"On food security, I will ensure the return of our displaced people to their farmlands to ensure national food security.



Zulum



Fintiri

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



...How Govs took off after May 29

"I will fight unemployment and poverty amongst our youths and embark on massive reconstruction of our destroyed communities so that people would return to their ancestral homes, while we seek more support from humanitarian agencies "I want to also state categorically that the era of political thuggery a.k.a. ECOMOG which constituted a nuisance in the state is over as the present administration would come up with a robust entrepreneurship skills to engage youth who are the leaders of tomorrow."

Bala Mohammed - Bauchi State Diversifying Bauchi economy

Former FCT Minister and new Governor of Bauchi State, Bala Mohammed has vowed to diversify the economy of the state through investment in education, agriculture and mineral resources development.

The governor made the declaration in his inau-



gural speech, after taking oath of office, whilst assuring the people that he would create an enabling environment for private sector organizations to take advantage of opportunities that exist on the global market for both unprocessed and semi processed agricultural products that abound in the state.

"Our state is blessed with abundance of unprocessed and semi-processed products that are in high demand all over the world. What is lacking is the capacity to tap into the treasure chest of our state. We shall promote and support value addition to empower our local farmers to eventually become competitive globally.

"My government will establish an industrial zone that will serve as one-stop investment mall for investors and business-minded people. We'll provide the needed engineering infrastructure, governance platform, tax relief and investment promotion office," he said.

The Governor added that he would revive the educational sector with emphasis on recruitment of more teachers, training and retraining of teachers, creation of vocational and technical education centres to facilitate skills acquisition, and boost computer literacy among youths.

"We will bridge the teacher/pupil ratio of 1:400 through recruitment of more teachers. We will also engage 1000 additional teachers to obtain higher training with collaboration with National Teachers Institute. "More so, we shall lay emphasis on vocational and technical education to facilitate skills acquisition and produce manpower for the industrial sector. Computer literacy will be incorporated in the curriculum to give our youths competitive advantage over their peers in other parts of the country."

Inuwa Yahaya - Gombe State Reverses Dankwambo's appointments

The newly-sworn-in governor of Gombe state Inuwa Yahaya, began his work by reversing all the administrative activities of his predecessor Ibrahim Dankwambo in the past weeks.

Yahaya suspended all appointments, contracts and allocations by the state and local government councils from March 10.

He announced the suspension during his inaugural speech in Gombe, stressing that there were a lot of illegalities by the immediate past administration, stressing that steps would be taken to address all illegalities and that perpetrators and illegal beneficiaries would be made to face the full wrath of the law.



Babajide Sanwo-Olu - Lagos State Vows to tackle minimum wage & Renew Lagos

New Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu met with civil servants on his resumption of duties, charging them to rededicate themselves to work whilst also vowing that he would rid the state of potholes, as well as tackle the issue of minimum wage.

The governor disclosed that his administration, anytime from now would make a pronouncement on tackling the issues of potholes and bad roads in the metropolis.

He said he was aware of the situation within the secretariat and that he would fix everything, adding that residents of Lagos would begin to see new things, even though there would be challenges.

Sanwo-Olu stated that civil servants could not afford to fail Lagosians now as they must brace up for the challenges ahead.

Jokingly saying that he had lost weight in the last couple of days since he assumed office because of the strains of running the state, Sanwo-Olu confessed that the demand and responsibility that comes with



...CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

...How Govs took off after May 29

the office were huge.

The governor said: "I dare say that I have lost weight and probably I will lose a little bit more but I think it's what the job entails and is to also ensure that you have the right team of people that would also support you.

"So when as a leader, you show that leadership support, then the message itself will trickle down and trickle down very well and that is why we have to take that very bold idea and you're going to see a lot."

Speaking on the Apapa gridlock, he said, "It's a work in progress. If you go to Lagos now, you will see that they have started clearing it. So for us, it's not just to do it but to ensure that we sustain it. So sustainability is critical.

"It's to build a model where it's sustainable and we are not also involving the big players we are also discussing with them – the shippers council, the shipping lines, NPA, NIMASA and all of them that are stakeholders in the conversations around port utility, we are settling it.

Mai Mala Buni- Yobe State

Pledges continuity

Yobe State Governor, Mai Mala Buni further solidified his relationship with his predecessor, Ibrahim Gaidam, and promises to continue from Gaidam stopped.

To prove it, they became inlaws barely 24 hours after taking the oath of office.

According to reports, the marriage was solemnised by Sheikh Abubakar Adam and took place at Sabon Fegi residence of the former governor in Damaturu, the state capital.



However, The Yobe Governor in his inaugural speech stated that his mandate will continue with the implementation of policies and programmes embarked

upon by his predecessor, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam towards making Yobe State achieve its full potentials to greatness through the policy of CONTINUITY AND CONSOLIDATION of legacy achievements recorded by Gaidam's administration.



Udom Emmanuel - Akwa Ibom State

From 5-point to 8-point agenda

Governor Udom Emmanuel of Akwa Ibom state has promised that his administration will continue its industrialisation drive, giving priority to Ibom deep seaport and industrial city projects in his second term. Emmanuel, 52, disclosed this in his second term inaugural speech.

He also promised that his administration will raise the bar of performance in all areas and lift Akwa Ibom state to an enviable height, to be the pride of the nation.

His words: "We will aggressively industrialise this state and continue to attract foreign investors, ensuring that the environment is made conducive for

investments. We hope to make Akwa Ibom the industrial hub of Nigeria. Ibom industrial City and Ibom Deep Seaport will be our signature projects this second term. "Akwa Ibom in my second term will move from a fast industrialising society to a great and rich society, and will witness an unprecedented growth in all spheres of development and capacity enhancement." Giving insights into his priorities for the second term, the governor said his major policy thrusts will be hinged on an eight point agenda, which are, industrialisation, aviation development, security, infrastructure, small and medium scale enterprises, human capacity development, agriculture, and rural and riverine area development. He said his administration's development agenda were expanded from five points in his first term to eight in the second term to allow proper consolidation on the achievements made in the first term. The governor stressed that remarkable achievements have been made under the five points agenda laid out in his first term.

His words: "To date, we have established over 16 industries, most are fully operational, while others are at various stages of completion. Our youths have been gainfully employed in those industries and the value-chain has ensured steady income to our people. Our state remains the destination of choice for foreign investors and comes second, only after Lagos in attracting the most Foreign Direct Investments.

"We have invested heavily in infrastructural expansion and renaissance as promised in our five-point agenda. To date, over 1000 kilometres of road have been constructed and commissioned while some are on-going. Areas long cut off have been linked, and these roads criss-cross the three senatorial districts.

"We have diversified our economy and placed a lot of premium on agriculture. Produce such as onions, tomatoes, and others which were thought not to be suitable for our soil have been produced in large commercial quantities."

The governor also called on his opponents in the last general election to join him in building the state. "The elections have come and gone and the people have made their choices known on whom to govern and represent them. The time then has come for the healing of our land. I extend again my hands of fellowship and bond of friendship to my brothers and sisters on the opposite side of the political divide. I call on them to join me in building a state that we all, irrespective of political affiliations, will be proud to call our home," Emmanuel said.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



Scenes from the Nigeria Governors' Forum election where Ekiti S



Kwara's Abdulfatah (left) and Lagos' Ambode



Lagos, Kaduna and Edo governors in banter



Yari s



Yahaya Bello wishes Chairman Yari the best in the future



Chairman Fayemi delivering his victory speech



Yahaya Bello congratulates Tambuwal, after emerging Vice Chairman



el-Rufai congratulates his nominee as Lalong, Chairman Northern Governors' Forum looks on with a smile



Kogi's Yahaya Be Akeredolu

PHOTOSPEAK

A NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM MONTHLY PUBLICATION

State Governor, Kayode Fayemi emerged chairman of the forum



shakes hands with Fayemi; the old congratulates the new



A cross section of governors at the meeting



New Chairman takes a bow



illo (l); Kaduna's el-Rufai (r) and Ondo's
reading the Executive Summary



Yari hands over to Fayemi



NGF staff at the hand over ceremony



The Smile ...

That special moment
when your child smiles
for the first time

...ensure your child
smiles bigger through life;
open a ZECA account today.

SPECIAL
Memories

ZECA
Zenith Children's Account

...How Govs took off after May 29



Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi – (PDP) Enugu State

To focus on security in second term

Enugu State Governor, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi promised to make security of life and properties his government's priority in his second term.

Ugwuanyi stated this in his inaugural speech after his swearing in for a second term in office.

Speaking further, the governor promised to continue to train and retrain members of the Neighborhood Watch to ensure efficient security in the hinterland.

This, he said he would do aside from providing support for the security agencies.

The governor further noted that investors and investment can only thrive in a secure environment, adding that his government had made law to ensure that the security of lives and property come to stay in the state.

"We have launched the Enugu State Security and Endowment Fund and inaugurated the Neighbourhood Watch in all communities in the state under the supervision of the security agencies," he said.

Ugwuanyi, who commended youths in the state for supporting his administration, directed all the elected chairmen and councillors to relocate to their various council areas and communities to ensure that peace and development were delivered to their local communities.

David Umahi – (PDP) Ebonyi State

Umahi vows to fight injustice, improve welfare of citizens

The Ebonyi State Governor, Chief David Umahi has reiterated his determination to safeguard, secure, protect citizens from injustice and improve the welfare of people of the state through socio-economic empowerment, good education and the improvement of healthcare in the state.



Gov Umahi made the declaration at the Pa Ngele Oruta township stadium Abakaliki Ebonyi State after taking the oath of office for the second tenure.

The State Governor noted that his administration needs to provide critical infrastructure that will enable the people to thrive and achieve their potential.

He noted that he has identified and embarked on simultaneous execution of priority infrastructure such as roads, electricity, water, reconstruction of schools and designation of model science schools, renovation and construction of 13 General Hospitals in all the 13 local government areas of the state in his first tenure and that he will be more aggressive on the infrastructures in second coming.

He stated that he will create economy that will be self-propelled, self-sustaining and self-reliant within 10 years to reduce over dependence on federal government allocations.

He said "our resolve to construct and complete the 198km Abakaliki ring road is one promise that must be kept through the ultimate grace of God. That special grace of the Lord has been made practically manifest by the recent approval by the Federal Executive Council of the loan facility from African Development Bank for the construction of the ring road. This road, which connects eight of the 13 local government areas in Ebonyi state, is both strategic and we intend also to design and build a new ring road for the remaining five local government areas in Ebonyi state.

"Our target is to completely solve the problem of infrastructure by 2023 when we shall be handing over to a new administration.

"We will create jobs for our citizens, most especially in the private sector, thereby addressing the current huge dependence on civil service employment and its clearly adverse implications for over-head costs.

"We will actively engage the Private Sector and build strategic partnership with International Development Agencies in our development programmes and thereby open up access to private capital and know-how for harnessing our rich endowments and making the state one of the top destinations for investors.

"We will create Sovereign Investments and Savings for the state and thereby allow the state to benefit from opportunities in the Capital Market and provide a bulwark for fluctuations in earnings and revenues".

Meanwhile the State Governor also at the inauguration venue dissolved the members of the State Executive Council except the Senior Special Adviser on Welfare and Religious matters, Rev Fr. Abraham Nwali.

The Governor also announced the immediate relocation of two major markets situated within the capital city. While the Abakpa market will relocate to the new Saint Margaret International Market, the building materials market will be relocated to yet an unknown place.

Okezie Ikpeazu - Abia State

The Abia State Governor, Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu said that his primary focus for the next four years would be consolidating on the gains so far recorded by his administration during his first term in office.



...CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



...How Govs took off after May 29

He assured that all ongoing projects scattered in parts of the state which were embarked upon by his government during his first term, would be completed.

Ikpeazu, who gave the assurance in his inaugural speech shortly after he was sworn in as Abia state governor for a second term by Chief Judge of the State, Justice K. O. Ogwe, held in Umuahia Township Stadium, said his administration was poised to creating job opportunities for the teeming Abia youths so as to enable them be self-sufficient.

Parts of the inaugural address read, "Beloved Abians, it is with a high sense of responsibility that I am therefore rededicating my services to you all my employers. And I stand here to pledge that I am ready to do more and I shall give my best to the service of this state. We have taken note of areas we fell short and ran an internal review of our processes with a view towards adjusting our systems to deliver better quality of service. We have noted areas we got it wrong and we are committed to make amends.

"We will continue to run on our 5 Pillars of Development and their Enablers and they will remain our guiding principle for our policy formulations and plans going forward. Let me also pledge that we will complete all projects that we started before our tenure ends in addition to all the new projects we are determined to execute this 2nd term.

"We will touch places we are yet to touch and directly or indirectly, substantial communities in Abia State will feel the presence of our administration before the end of our 2nd tenure.

"Abia State has become a better corporate citizen in the comity of States. We are now respected and appreciated as the SME Capital of Nigeria and even beyond as we have taken our advocacy to other African and Western Countries and they have all taken note. The World bank is collaborating with Abia State in the area of Water, Sanitation and Rural Infrastructure. This added impetus will begin to yield fruits before the end of 2019 and our people will be better for it. Even in Foreign Direct Investments, Aba and Abia State is the new prime destination".

Abubakar Sani Bello - Niger State

Vows to introduce whistleblowing policy

Niger State governor Abubakar Bello has promised to introduce whistleblowing policy to check corruption in the state.

Bello made the promise after he was sworn in as the governor of the state for the second term in office in Minna.

He urged people of the state to avail government with useful information that would expose any corrupt civil servant, adding that such persons would be handsomely rewarded.

The governor explained that this would expose some elements in the civil service who are bent on stealing the meagre resources accruing to the state.

Bello expressed appreciation to the people for renewing his mandate for the second term in office.

The governor, who promised to consolidate on his modest achievements, said his administration would not tolerate any act of abuse of public funds.

He promised to complete all the ongoing projects across the state and initiate



the overall development of the state.

Bello called on the people, irrespective of their political, religious and ethnic differences, to join hands to take the state to the next level.

He said that his administration would continue to accord priority attention to the education sector, to prepare excellent academic environment for the youth.

On health, Bello said the administration had provided state-of-the-art health equipment for the IBB Specialist Hospital and other tertiary hospitals in the state.

"We will continue to retrain our health personnel to enable them acquire more modern knowledge for optimal performance," he said.

Bello promised to provide employment for the teeming unemployed youths in the state to enable them contribute positively towards development.

"I commend Mr President for prompt and timely release of state allocations for the modest achievements recorded so far."

Bello promised to sustain the present synergy between the state and head of security agencies.

He called on residents to complement the efforts of the state government in fighting criminal elements.

The governor said that the low key inauguration was in solidarity with some states facing security challenges.

Dapo Abiodun - Ogun State Hints at probing predecessor

The new Governor of Ogun State, Prince Dapo Abiodun took his oath of office as the fifth democratically elected governor of the state, with the hint to probe the Senator Ibikunle Amosun - led immediate past administration.

In his inaugural address, Abiodun said his administration would not "hesitate to review any suspected misuse of the commonwealth and hold accountable any individual or organisation found culpable."

To achieve this, the governor disclosed his plans to set up, in few days time, an Assets

and Projects Assessment Committee, which would assess all on-going projects "with a view to determining the current status, percentage of completion, project costs, amount disbursed, and expected dates of completion."

According to him, membership of the committee will include, among others, relevant industry representatives, contractors, impacted communities and other stakeholders. He explained that the exercise was neither a witch hunt nor targeted at any administration or individual.

"It is important to emphasise that this exercise is neither a witch hunt nor targeted at any Administration or individual, rather it is to establish a baseline and determine priorities.

This Administration is focused on the present that positively impacts our people and a future that is even brighter. "Nonetheless, as the Trustee of the people, the Administration will also not hesitate to review any suspected misuse of the commonwealth and hold accountable any individual or organisation found culpable."

He promised to run a people-centred government, saying "The government



...CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



...How Govs took off after May 29

will be our government, not their government.”

The Ogun Governor also vowed not to run a family government, as he assured residents of the state of qualitative governance geared towards reversing every pains of the past.

Abiodun promised to serve with diligence, character and passion for the well-being of the people, insisting that his government would not be an affair of his families and cronies.

Ifeanyi Okowa - Delta State Vows to build more technical school

Delta State Governor Ifeanyi Okowa stated that he would use his second term in office to build a stronger state, since it was a renewed vote of confidence on him.

The Governor after taking an oath of office, berthing his second term stated that: “The oath of service I just took is more than an official function or constitutional requirement, it is a covenant between us, a covenant to build a stronger Delta in which we can freely and confidently pursue our dreams and happiness in a safe and secure environment.

“We shall remain mindful of the fact that whatever we do without laying a good foundation for our youths would be building blocks on quick sand, parents, guardians, teachers and community leaders must rise up to their duties,” he said.

Besides, he declared that his administration would establish 19 more technical colleges to make it one for each local government area and a fully functional vocational centre in each of the 25 local government areas of the state.

Okowa, who spoke on the past, present and future of his administration, said his renewed mandate was a massive vote of confidence for the work he has done in the last four years.

He pointed out that the entrepreneurship training programmes of STEP and YAGEP would be escalated and identified gaps corrected, to make them more robust and cost-efficient.

“The target is to double the number of graduate trainees and most importantly, strengthen the Directorate of Youth Monitoring and Mentoring to ensure that the enterprise support packages are put to good use for lasting success,” he added.

The governor, who also assured of developments in the agricultural, health and infrastructure sectors of the state, among others, however, solicited for sustained peace without which no meaningful development could thrive.



Okowa

Mohammed Badaru - Jigawa State

Sacks LGA Secretaries

Governor Muhammad Badaru of Jigawa State terminated the appointment of Council Secretaries of the 27 Local Government Areas (LGAs) immediate effect.

The governor directed the secretaries to hand over the affairs of their councils to the Directors of Administration and General Services of the respective LGAs

In the same vein, the governor relieved the Executive Chairman, Permanent Members and Part-time Members of the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) of their appointments.



Badaru

Aminu Bello Masari - Katsina State

to bequeath a secure and prosperous Katsina State

Governor Aminu Masari of Katsina State made 8-point pledge that will enhance security and develop the state to greater heights in the next four years. He said: “Specifically, I will like to solemnly pledge to you, our commitments to the following critical areas.

“The critical areas are: sustaining investment in education, increasing investment in agriculture, consolidating the gains of the health sector, and investment in water resources.

“We also pledge to facilitate wider political inclusion and youth engagement, entrench good governance, promote greater public-private collaboration, and bequeath secure and prosperous Katsina State.

“I submitted these pledges to you, we are committed to their realisation and I am assuring you that the hands that will be invited to join in ensuring this success are capable, dependable, reliable, competent and trustworthy.”

He said it was the only way to ensure the consolidation of the restoration gains and to guarantee quick results as the state moved to the next level.

Mr. Masari added: “I want to see a state that is secured from all manner of security threats, a state that is financially buoyant with a happy and prosperous populace.

“With my team, we hope to bequeath a Katsina State where the well-being of our people will not be measured by the rich, but the absence of poverty.

“This dream is not an impossible one, but its realization will depend solely on how dedicated we work in the next four years and



Masari

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



IG visits NGF Chairman K J Fayemi

IGP Mohammed Adamu is the first visitor to the NGF under Governor Kayode Fayemi. The significance of the visit cannot be under-looked. It underscores the fact that the new NGF Chairman takes the security of lives and property very seriously. It is hoped that this synergy will result in the curbing of banditry, insurgency and kidnapping that has dogged Nigeria.





NGF...In a nutshell



The Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization set up by the 36 State governors of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to enhance the development of governance at the sub-national level. The NGF is run by the secretariat which sets out clear programmes of actions and democratic governance percepts that define the philosophy of the NGF within a framework that is measurable, controllable, and realistic.

Amongst the key functions of the NGF through its enhanced technical capacity is the roll out of policy support and service delivery to States. This is evident in the facilitating of budget support funding and the Paris London Club refunds which were important milestones towards tackling liquidity problems and fiscal crisis at the sub-national level. The cooperation and the initiatives of the NGF are central to the numerous green results in agro-allied initiatives by the Federal Government. The NGF is central to the mainstreaming of the anchor-borrower's initiative, and the new model towards fertilizer distribution throughout Nigeria. Significant achievements were recorded in energy sector through the Nigerian Energy Support Program (NESP) and the Nigeria Mining Sector Reform Support. Considerable achievements were also recorded in many other areas including health and social inclusion.

The NGF is driven by five overarching objectives which are:

- i. Render assistance to States to better manage their economies;
- ii. Ensure convergence of efforts towards tackling insecurity;
- iii. Remain the anchor for peer learning, reflection and sharing of experience on sub-national issues;
- iv. Enhance communication with the Nigerian Public and other stakeholders; and,
- v. Strengthen the NGF Secretariat as a policy hub and resource center on matters of sub-national governance.

The NGF also considers the following sectorial priorities as apt in the actualizations of its goals and objectives, they are as follows:

- i. Agriculture;
- ii. Health;
- iii. Education;
- iv. Anti-corruption
- v. Infrastructure; and,
- vi. Economy/Public Finance.

The NGF remains a formidable, indivisible, not-for-profit organization that exists to deliver economic development and best governance practices in States and promoting equal opportunity for all Nigerians. For more on the NGF and its activities please refer to the NGF Strategic Plan (2017 – 2020).



...How Govs took off after May 29

even beyond.”

Mr Masari also commiserated with families of the bandits attack in some parts of the state, saying over 39 persons were killed and 200 sustained various degrees of injury during the attacks.

The governor said that was why the state government decided to make the event a low-key celebrations.

Atiku Bagudu - Kebbi State

Working for oily Kebbi

Governor Atiku Bagudu, in his inaugural speech, assured the people of Kebbi state that the state would soon join oil-producing states in the country.

“We have partnered with Nigerian National Petroleum Company, and we have started ethanol programme in Danko/Wasagu Local Government Area and other local government areas will soon join,” he said.

He explained that the fuel would not be crude oil but oil made through scientific methods.

However, the Kebbi State Governor also lamented lack of enough resources to do more in order to develop the Kebbi State capital, Birnin Kebbi.

He opined that even with his intention to see the state capital, Birnin Kebbi becoming one of the befitting urban areas in Nigeria, lack of enough resources did not accord him the opportunity to actualise it.



Bagudu



Sule

The governor also asserted that if a chunk of the resources were invested in only the state capital, other areas will suffer, given the resource challenge of his government.

Abdullahi Sule - Nasarawa State

Vows to tackle insecurity

Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State vowed to eliminate religious bigotry, ethnic chauvinism, and rumour mongering in his resolve to address security challenges facing the state.

Sule made the commitment in his inaugural address after assuming the mantle of leadership as the fourth democratically elected governor of the state.

He noted that security and peace constitute the very basic pre-requisite for the overall socio-economic development, hence the need to tackle the security challenges.

“As a matter of urgency, we shall place special emphasis on security of the state. Over the years there have been general scenario of recurrent security issues in some parts of the state.

“The situation has undermined the development of the state.

“In the absence of a secure environment, there will be no investment inflow, local or international, for the establishment of industries.

“Industrial growth is a valuable vista for the overall human development.

“Accordingly, we will consolidate on the existing community-based conflict resolution mechanism and continue to maintain effective synergy with all security agencies in the state,” he said.

Sule explained that development would only occur if there is an atmosphere of peace and security.

The governor also said that he would give attention to education and skills acquisition programmes in order to tackle unemployment and reduce youth restiveness in the state.

However, The Governor also stated that he will not be in a hurry to appoint his cabinet.

Engineer Abdullahi Sule said he met with some chairmen of local government areas and security agencies on the need to improve security in the state. He also encouraged residents across the state “to live in peace with one another.”



Ishaku

Darius Ishaku - Taraba State

Seeks refund of N22bn spent on federal roads

Taraba State Governor Darius Ishaku asked the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency refund the N22 billion the state spent on construction of federal roads in all parts of the state.

He pleaded with the Federal Government for the refund of the money, saying the state's decision to intervene on the federal road projects was to create easy movement of persons and goods in and out of the state and its overall economic development.

Samuel Ortom - Benue State

Signs State Anthem Bill, 3 others into law

The Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom, signed four bills into law on the day of his second term inauguration.

The bills included a bill to make provision for a state anthem.

Another bill signed into law was the bill for the establishment of Benue State Contributory Pensions Scheme in order to address the challenge of payment of pensions and gratuities of retirees.

Ortom also assented to the bill for a law to provide for the Administration of Criminal Justice in courts in the state and for purposes connected therewith.

The governor also signed a bill for a law to prohibit all forms of violence against persons in private and public lives, provide maximum protection and effective

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



...How Govs took off after May 29



Ortom

remedies for victims and punishment of offenders and for purposes connected therewith.

Ortom said his administration had taken it upon itself to domesticate laws that had positive impact on the state and enact those that would address challeng-

es confronting the state.

The governor said that the PENCOM law would help address the accumulation of pension arrears and boost the morale of those still in service.

Speaker of the state House of Assembly, Titus Uba, while presenting the bills to the governor for assent, said the Assembly passed the bills speedily as part of activities to wind down the Eighth Assembly so that the Ninth Assembly could start on a clean slate.

In his inaugural speech, Ortom said he was a governor of all people, adding that his second term of office was to compensate the people of the state for their support.

Abdullahi Umar Ganduje - Kano state

declares free education for physically-challenged persons and promises a better Kano

Kano state Governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje declared free education at all levels for physically-challenged today known as people living with disabilities persons in the state.

Ganduje, in his acceptance speech, shortly after being sworn in by the Chief



Ganduje

Judge of Kano state, Justice Nuradeen Sagir Umar, alongside his Deputy, Dr. Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna, also promised free and compulsory basic education for all school age children.

According to him, tertiary education for Kano indigenes will also be highly subsidised, adding that his government will consolidate on the achievements so far recorded on healthcare delivery.

Ganduje said his second term will record complete overhaul of the state water board, with the establishment of a new company known as Kano State Small Town Water Supply Agency to cater for the water needs of communities in the rural areas.

The Governor, who was obviously elated for the kind of support he enjoyed from the people, also promised to boost agriculture in the state, with major concern on raising the stakes of small-scale farmers.

He reiterated his administration's policy of zero tolerance to corruption, adding that his second term will ensure re-inveigoration of the state anti-corruption agency for better performance.

He also promised to run an all-inclusive government irrespective of party affiliation, pointing out that the era of politicking is over, just as he urged everybody to join hands with him to build a better Kano.

Aminu Tambuwal - Sokoto State

Wants to sustain viable, people-oriented projects

Governor Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto State promised to deliver a purposeful leadership and good governance as he extended hands of fellowship to groups and individuals across the state.

Tambuwal made the call after he was sworn-in for a second term whilst expressing appreciation to the people of the state for giving him another four-year mandate.

He said different programmes, policies and projects were initiated during his first tenure, which impacted positively on the lives of residents.

He added that all viable projects would be sustained with corrections made in areas that are needing alignments and assured of continued prudence and people-centred governance.

The governor solicited public support irrespective of political affiliation, noting that interest in progress of the state should be paramount.

According to him, his administration rehabilitated and constructed hospitals, schools, roads and other infrastructure across the state aimed at uplifting peoples' lives.

He said a committee for the implementation of newly approved minimum wage had been set up, while approval for tertiary institutions and health workers salary scale was made.

He commended traditional rulers, government officials, youths, women groups, politicians, community groups and others for their support that facilitated success in the last administration and hoped to extend same in the coming administration which is just beginning.



Tambuwal

Simon Bako Lalong - Plateau State

Promises New Beginning

Plateau State governor, Simon Lalong in his inaugural speech expressed appreciation for the additional mandate given to him to govern the state for another four years.

According to him, "Today's inauguration marks a new beginning for Plateau State, and reveals the limitless possibilities before all of us. On this occasion, we rise up to celebrate a new beginning and a day we set our course for greater

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



This Is The New Face Of Fidelity Bank

New Identity, Renewed Promise

Our new logo depicts two arrow tips.

Blue is the symbol of our rich heritage and reminds us of our past.
Green points to our future growth and the energy with which we will conquer new frontiers.
The white line in between combines them to reflect our upward trajectory.

Our new identity comes with a renewed promise; your aspiration may prove to be a tough job, but someone's got to do it.

We are committed to helping you do the tough job.

We're Fidelity, we keep our word.



Contact Us: +234(1)448-5252, +234 8003-433-5489 true.serve@fidelitybank.ng

WAYS TO BANK WITH US

Branch | ATM | Online Banking | Mobile Banking | True Serve

Fidelity Bank Plc
REG. NO. 2004001

FOLLOW US

www.fidelitybank.ng



...How Govs took off after May 29

future and prosperity.”

He stressed that: “This event also opens a new chapter in our march towards peace, unity and progress as it also signals another series of activities, developments and events which require all hands to be on deck in realising our collective aspirations in the task of leaving lasting legacies for the benefit of the present and future generations.

“It has always been my earnest prayer that I shall not disappoint the people of the state who have demonstrated their abiding faith in the APC-led administration in the state by voting for its candidates massively in the Presidential, National Assembly, Governorship and State Assembly elections.”

He said the path from 2015 to 2019 had not been without challenges, particularly in the area of security, adding that sporadic attacks on communities occurred in some local government areas, notably Barkin Ladi, Bassa, Jos South and Riyom, leading to deaths and displacements of people, destruction of houses, crops and livestock and mutual mistrust among community residents.

The governor pointed out that in line with his policy of ensuring peace, government did not relent in its efforts and promptly responded to these challenges the best way “we could by boosting security in the troubled areas and setting up Operational Security Bases in synergy with the federal government.”

Lalong further said, “We also introduced confidence-building measures and Roadmap to Peace, especially through the Plateau Peace Building Agency and stakeholders’ meetings. I had also signed into law various legislations dealing with administration of criminal justice, making it possible to decide certain cases in the state rather than taking them elsewhere.”



Lalong

Ben Ayade - Cross Rivers State

Orders former aides to relinquish official vehicles

The Governor of Cross River State, Prof. Ben Ayade ordered his former aides, including commissioners to surrender all the official vehicles still in their possession.

The governor asked the aides to return the vehicles within 78 hours to avoid embarrassment.

According to the statement, “All former commissioners, special advisers, special assistants and other former appointees of the Cross River State Government, including chairmen and members of commissions, boards, agencies, governing councils and Local Governments Security Council chairmen, who were issued official vehicles are hereby directed to return same to the office of the Chief of Staff to the Governor within 72 hours.”

The statement also said, “the affected persons are advised to promptly comply with the directive to avoid embarrassment by law enforcement agents.”

The governor also promised to appoint commissioners for defence and foreign affairs.

Nyesom Wike - Rivers State

Promises more projects, development

Governor Nyesom Wike in his inauguration speech restated his resolve to always place the state first in all his actions.

He said: “For us, in all things, it is Rivers State first; Rivers State is the measure; Rivers State before others.

“This is the essence of the political mandate and burden that we will bear for the next four years and we will not disappoint you.

“We will continue to stand up for Rivers State and defend her interest, no matter the challenges or what comes at us.”

The governor, who said that his administration was not opposed to the Federal Government, called for a partnership to move the state as well as Nigeria forward.

He said that since the people of Rivers were not “a conquered people” they would never surrender their respective freedoms “to anybody or entity, whether internal or external.

“We will, therefore, not accept to be subjugated to a headmaster and pupil power relationship; neither will we abandon the collective interest of Rivers State for the sake of political expediency.

“We are for the rule of law, democracy and mutual respect as autonomous state entities and co-building blocks of the Nigerian federation,” he said

Wike also commended the people of the state, especially the voters, for their trust and support that gave him the mandate to serve Rivers for another four-year-term.

“For us, everyone counts. We must not allow ourselves to be divided between upland and riverine considerations, but strive for common grounds, solidarity and work together towards achieving our common goals and aspirations.

“Our refrain at this time, and especially in the face of the social and economic uncertainties in our nation, should be: ‘ask what you can do for Rivers instead of what Rivers State can do for you.’

“The future of our state depends on us. It is up to us to renew, re-energise and advance the Rivers dream, to fight for what belongs to us, and to defend our right to exist in freedom, security and peace in our own nation.

“And if we do cooperate, think and act among ourselves with tenacity and unity of strength, purpose and commitment, then there is no mountain we cannot level; no river we cannot cross, and no goal we set for ourselves that we cannot achieve.”

He assured that his administration would, in the next four years, consolidate on his first term achievements to make Rivers the greatest state in Nigeria.

“Our economy is great, but it should be greater and made more beneficial to all.

“And so we will continue to grow our economy, expand our tax base, provide a friendly business environment and attract foreign and local investments to create more jobs and empower our people.

“We will continue on the economic trajectory of fiscal discipline, prudence, prioritisation of capital projects over recurrent and giving value for money spent in the delivery of services.”

Wike also promised to partner relevant national and international agencies and expertise to initiate and implement a 25-year Marshall Plan for economic transformation and development of the state.



Ayade





State of the states: A great opportunity

BY DONU KOGBARA

Mark Cawardine, the Financial Times (FT) newspaper's Co-Head of Emerging Markets in Africa & the Middle East, approached me at the beginning of 2018.

The FT produces several special supplements about various countries every year; and Mark, who has travelled to Nigeria on numerous occasions and is always telling anyone who will listen that Nigeria has enormous potential, wanted me to help him compile a report about Nigerian states.

I'm a great fan of the FT, which is one of the UK's most distinguished publications and famously printed on pink paper; and I absolutely loved the idea of an FT report that would reach an international audience and reflect the rich diversity of a country that stretches from the arid edges of the Sahara Desert to the lush farmlands of the Middle Belt and creeks of the Niger Delta.

There is no state in Nigeria that cannot overcome security and other challenges...and flourish socio-economically to the point where it can proudly offer multiple benefits to indigenes, settlers, visitors and the world at large.

And it was eventually decided that the proposed FT publication should become part of a bigger project that would include a conference and exhibition.

Scoff Sheldon, MD of CWC, a British company that has been successfully managing prestigious events in Nigeria for 2 decades, agreed to partner with the FT; and the NGF DG, Mr Asishana Okauru, kindly agreed to partner with the FT and CWC.

Thus was the STATE OF THE STATES project born.

The plan is for the publication, conference and exhibition to enable all of the governors to highlight their personal agendas and achievements as CEOs, showcase their states' inherent strengths and attract foreign investors.



Kogbara

The hope is that STATE OF THE STATES will become an iconic and productive event that is anchored by NGF's eminent members for many years to come.

If Houston can be celebrated for its annual Offshore Technology Conference (OTC), which attracts delegates from a dazzling array of nations, Abuja can be celebrated for its annual STATE OF THE STATES (SOTS) conference!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the State Governments taking the lead in implementation while the Federal Government facilitates and supports.

13. We look forward to an NGF that would contribute to ensuring no state is left behind on the development curve. An NGF that would encourage economic cooperation between states, especially within the regions, and engage development partners and other enablers as a bloc towards attracting more resources and technical assistance to achieve our developmental objectives.

14. We would strengthen the capacity of our secretariat to continue to support our states with technical assistance in the areas of Economic Advisory, Policy Advisory, Knowledge Management, and Public Financial Management, as well as build on our existing peer review mechanisms, while stimulating robust partnerships and productive rivalry between states.

15. Our secretariat would also continue to drive the activities of existing committees, such as the Constitutional Review Committee; Revenue Allocation Committee; and Security committees to make them more functional and productive, even as we explore creating more committees in keeping with the exigencies of the times.

16. We would also strengthen our capacity to be proactive and effective in Conflict Resolution and Mediation in matters of conflict between member states, and between our states and other interested parties. We shall also not fold our arms, but would put in all efforts within the limits of our mandate to promote peace and harmony in the country.

17. We are encouraged by the reach and influence that the NGF has earned over the years as a critical stakeholder in nation building, but are also constrained by our limitations, which inhibit our potential to do more for the country. We would therefore be examining ways in which the NGF can be formally recognised and achieve status as a bonafide actor in the body polity.

18. While we have our goals and objectives before set before us, and our mandate remains crystal clear, we shall remain flexible and adaptable to the times and seasons, and the peculiar challenges that would be thrown up within the course of our tenure. Our hope and faith remains in God to guide us and strengthen us to do right by our people, and use the mandate He has given us through the people, to restore our great country Nigeria to her pride of place, as the bulwark of peace and progress in Africa and beyond.



Produced by:



In Partnership With:



STATE OF THE STATES INVESTMENT

CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

26 - 27 NOVEMBER 2019

ICC, ABUJA, NIGERIA

MATCHING INVESTORS WITH OPPORTUNITIES IN THE STATES ACROSS NIGERIA



stateofstatesng.com

   #StateofStates



The Must-Attend Event for Building Partnerships and Identifying Opportunities for the Future

This 2 day annual Investment Conference and Exhibition will be focused on matching international and national investors with opportunities across the 36 States of Nigeria. In partnership with the Nigeria Governors' Forum, the State of the States Conference aims to grow industry and business within Nigeria with a focus on facilitating deals on individual opportunities and identifying the requirements of each state.

In Partnership With:



The Event will Bring Together:

- State Governors & Investment Teams
- Federal Ministers
- Heads of State Parastatals
- International & National Blue-Chip Companies
- Global Investors
- Local Suppliers & SMEs
- State Commissioners

Industry Sectors to Include:

- Natural Resources, Mining and Downstream
- Construction (of new cities, infrastructure, real estate & development projects)
- Mining
- Downstream Industry
- Power Projects & Independent Power Projects (IPPs)
- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Renewable Energy
- Technology / Telecommunications
- Healthcare
- Industrials (including waste management, environmental services and recycling centers)



This is an Incredible Opportunity for National & International Investors to:

- Hear keynote addresses from each Governor highlighting new & ongoing plans & investment opportunities in their State
- Visit the exhibition stand of each State to obtain more information on investment opportunities & meet the commercial teams
- Identify project opportunities across different industries
- Participate in tenders for contracts & investment opportunities
- Hear from legal counsels about investment procedures & legal requirements for doing business with Nigerian States
- Meet & hear from institutional investors, private equity firms & wealth funds
- Showcase their company's expertise, products & services in front of decision makers
- Form new partnerships & embark on new commercial ventures
- Present their experiences, best practices & success stories



stateofstatesng.com

#StateofStates



Get in Touch Today

Sponsorship & Exhibition Enquiries

Odiri Umusu
Vice President
Business Development

T: +44 207 978 0083
T: +234 813 893 8564
E: oumusu@cwcea.com

Jason Adjalo
Vice President
Business Development

T: +44 207 978 0096
T: +234 818 931 0910
E: jadjalo@thecwcgroup.com

Programme Enquiries

Wemimo Oyelana
Vice President

T: +234 813 893 8564
E: woyelana@cwcea.com

Firo Elhassan-Kaka
Programme Manager
Nigeria Governors' Forum

T: +234 09 2920025
E: Felhassan@ngf.org.ng

Marketing Enquiries

Sophie Nicklin
Senior Marketing Manager
CWC Group Limited

E: snicklin@thecwcgroup.com

State Government Enquiries

Scott Shelton
Managing Director (Joint)
CWC Group Limited

E: sshelton@thecwcgroup.com

Find Out More About the CWC Group

CWC Events Africa: www.cwcea.com
CWC Group: www.thecwcgroup.com



STATE OF THE STATES
INVESTMENT

CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

FOLLOW US:

   #StateofStates

stateofstatesng.com

A note from the FINANCIAL TIMES

By Mark Carwardine



The Financial Times (FT) Newspaper is acknowledged as the Number One international business newspaper in the World, addressing as it does the commercial and political elite across the globe - an influential audience of senior decision-makers, substantial investors and captains of industry. Each year we publish various African Reports - worldwide in print as well as online - that focus on specific countries, industries and social issues. All FT Reports, including our immensely popular annual “Investing In Nigeria” publication - include independent journalistic coverage from my editorial team and not only provide FT readers with important information and useful analyses but provoke significant responses from the global business community.

My job is to give Report participants a chance to highlight their achievements and communicate the unique opportunities they can offer foreign investors. This year’s “Investing In Nigeria” Report, which will be distributed with the main newspaper and published on November 15, will contain a special section dedicated to the states of Nigeria...to reflect an exciting new partnership between the FT and the Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF).

The aim of this partnership is to encourage Governors to promote their States and seek new international alliances, as well as to strengthen dialogue with existing partners within industries in which the states are already involved. The FT is more well-positioned than any other International Media Group to provide Governors with access to key decision-makers and the highly respected FT brand will add value to any messages from Governors

and the NGF itself.

The FT is also partnering with CWC, a British company that is organizing a conference and exhibition that will take place in Abuja in November, titled “State of the States”, and the conference and exhibition will, alongside the accompanying FT publication mentioned above, generate several print, online and face-to-face marketing opportunities for all 36 state governments.

The publication, exhibition and conference have been designed to create a momentum and allow State Governments to draw attention to the efforts they are making to attract inward investment and new international business partners. The FT has long had a strong relationship with Nigeria. In 2017, His Excellency, the Vice President, Prof. Osinbajo, was guest of honour at our Africa Summit in London. We have also personally engaged with NGF members such as Barrister Wike of Rivers State, Malam El Rufai of Kaduna; and I hope that we will form many more links with NGF members this year.

This year’s “Investing In Nigeria” Report will be tactically distributed at several elite events that take place in different locations - World Bank, IMF and World Economic Forum meetings in Washington and Davos, for example. The FT is an effective institution that is second to none. We hope you will come on board and become part of our story and our journey.

Mark Carwardine is Co-Head of the Emerging Markets for Africa and the Middle East.