



NGF to NNPC: Improve Accountability, Transparency



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RUGA not 'a feel-good issue' – Fayemi



**SOUTHERN
GOVS
OBJECT,
NORTHERN
GOVS SUE
FOR CALM**

As the media euphoria on the RUGA continues unabated, the chairman of the Nigeria Governors Forum and Governor of Ekiti State, Dr John Kayode Fayemi has cautioned the nation to tread carefully on the matter.

The NGF Chairman made this declaration when four officials of DFID, led by the acting Head of Office, Mr. John Primrose visited him at the NGF Secretariat in Maitama, Abuja.

Dr Fayemi, himself a development agent and expert in civil-military relations, a field in which he has a doctorate degree, stated that the RUGA issue is not "a feel-good issue" to be promoted.

He however added that he was not

speaking on behalf of the Forum at that point because the matter had not been tabled before it.

The NGF Chairman, who told the DFID officials that he flew in from Ekiti purposely to receive them, engaged the group on several crucial national questions, particularly related to the DFID portfolio in the country. It was during the wide-ranging conversations that one of the DFID officials sought his formal position on the RUGA question.

Dr Fayemi stated that the ethnicization and politicization of the RUGA conundrum was inimical to the progress of the country and wondered why the obsession with such

a delicate national question. He suggested that a National Livestock Management Agency would have doused the tension that the issue was injecting into the polity.

John Primrose said we look forward to a more collaborative engagement and would welcome an opportunity to discuss areas of priorities with the new leadership of the NGF. Also, we would like to present the Donor Advisory Policy Notes that set out a consensus view, by donors operating in Nigeria, on topics that are central to Nigeria's economic and social progress.

Meanwhile the RUGA phenomenon continues to elicit a diverse shade of opinion among governors and their regional groupings. For example, Governor Darius Ishaku,

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of Taraba state, asked the Federal Government to abolish the RUGA initiative earlier proposed by Buhari-led administration, noting that the suspension of the initiative was not enough.

Speaking with newsmen at the Government House in Jalingo, Gov Ishaku described Ruga initiative as colonialism and urged the federal government to cancel it. "Ruga is colonialism; it is not about cattle; it is not even about grasses. It should not only be suspended, but it should also be cancelled completely. "The whole Ruga scheme should be canceled. You can't do a Ruga in the entire country. I don't accept it. It is not workable, and it will not work in Taraba state.

Similarly, the governors of the South East and South-South together rejected Ruga settlements in their domains, saying they never agreed concerning it in their zones.

They also claimed the agreement they reached with Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) had nothing to do with Ruga settlement.

Ebonyi State Governor, Dave Umahi, recalled that the agreement was that members of MACBAN would bring their cows to sell and take back grass in return to feed their herds.

It was the same for the governors of the South-South who said they were not part of the move and that they had no plans for such settlements in their zones. Their joint decision was contained in a statement issued by Governor Dave Umahi of Ebonyi state, through his media aide, Emmanuel Uzor, in Abakaliki.

The statement said the South East and the South-South governors were joining other political zones in the country to deny members of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) of Ruga settlement in their areas. The statement said Umahi asked the members of MACBAN to accept anti-grazing laws established by the Federal Government in the northern region long ago.

According to Umahi, the South East, being an agrarian region, is faced with limited landmass and cannot accommodate any Ruga settlement. The governor further charged the federal government to follow the recommendations reached by the technical committee on farmers and herdsmen clash carved from the Federal Economic Council.

"Umahi was the chairman of NEC sub technical committee on farmers and herdsmen clash and he toured the states of Benue, Taraba, Nasarawa, Adamawa, Zamfara and two other states where he made, in one of his



recommendations to the federal government, for revamping of grazing reserve in the north where all the cattle rearers in the south will take their cattle and rely on the grass that are grown in the south," the statement noted.

On their part, the Northern Governors' Forum called for calm concerning the project. The group, Coalition of Northern Group (CNG) therefore issued President Buhari a 30-day ultimatum to commence the implementation of the project across the country.

As part of the efforts to douse tensions, the governors urged the Coalition to exercise restraint, while the governors engage with stakeholders on better way forward. Chairman of Northern Governors Forum, Simon Lalong of Plateau state, in a statement issued in Abuja, called for total restraint from the coalition.

The governor also urged the coalition to allow the government handle the matter, assuring them that the government will come out with a solution that would better serve the benefit of all.

The statement reads: "With the ensuing development following the announcement of the suspension of the Ruga resettlement initiative by the federal government, it has become pertinent for me as Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum to make clarifications on the true position in order to calm nerves.

"We have acknowledged the varied responses that have been coming in throughout the hours after the announcement of the suspension which we see as part of the beauty of democracy which allows citizens to participate in shaping and moderating the functions of government with regards to matter of public interest.

"Meanwhile we urge all stakeholders and all shades of interested parties, especially from the North, to remain calm and air their views democratically and decently while allowing the government chance to handle the matter.

"In the meantime, we are happy to announce that we are reaching out in engagement with major stakeholders in the matter particularly in the North, after receiving the position of the leadership of the Coalition of Northern Groups with the hope of getting the public to fully understand the whole concept and the wisdom behind the decision by the government.

The South Eastern governors however urged the FG to pilot the scheme in the northern states, dismissing rumours that they had secretly earmarked land in the region for the Ruga settlement programme. They said they cannot earmark land for RUGA due to lack of enough land in the entire South East, whilst advising the FG to kick-start the programme in the northern states, promising their commitment to selling grasses and by-product of farms to support the initiative.

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MANAGING VOLATILITY IN NIGERIA

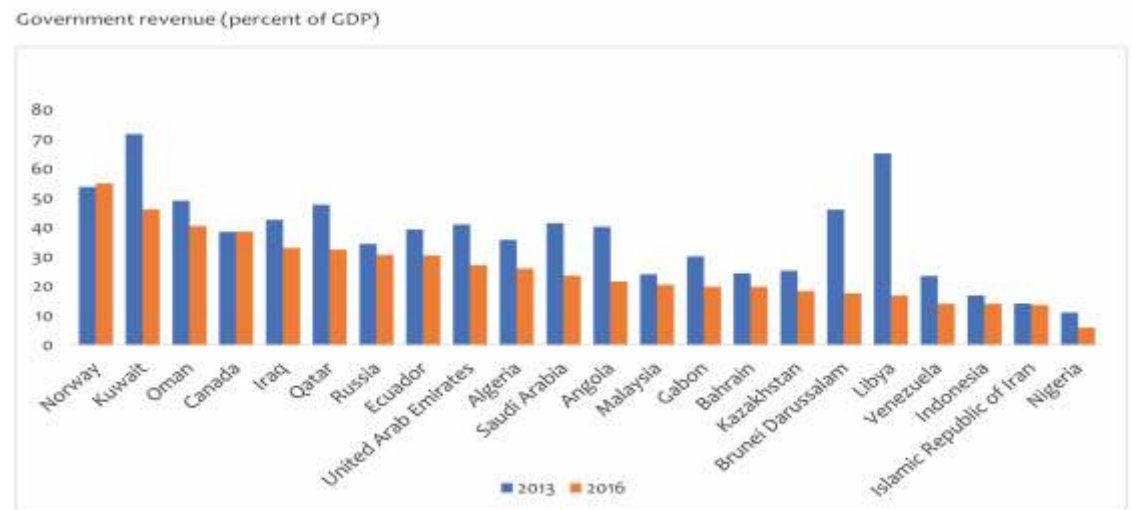
By David Nabena

The Nigerian economy is at the crossroads. Subdued oil prices since mid-2014 led to a slump in government revenues and ultimately, an economic contraction in 2016. Since 2014, government revenue to GDP declined by nearly half, from 11 percent in 2014 to 6 percent in 2016, before rising to 8.5 percent in 2018.

General government net debt (% of GDP) more than doubled from 9 percent in 2014 to 22 percent in 2018 (IMF, 2018), while government budgets were disrupted in the absence of a strong macroeconomic and fiscal base. This trend has continued to threaten fiscal stability in the country, and has highlighted the need for stronger governance, including rules and procedures that guide economic management. In 2018, the economy grew by 1.9 percent, achieving sustained growth since the 2016 recession, but the growth remains fragile to the oil volatility. The impact of the oil slump has been shaped by a combination of economic and political factors, including the economic structure and level of diversification, degree of dependence on oil exports, quality of macroeconomic fundamentals such as fiscal and external balances, fiscal buffers, and government policy responses.

For an oil-dependent economy, it is not unusual that falling oil prices would impact the economy

Figure 3: Most oil exporting countries recorded declining revenues, 2013 – 16



Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, 2017

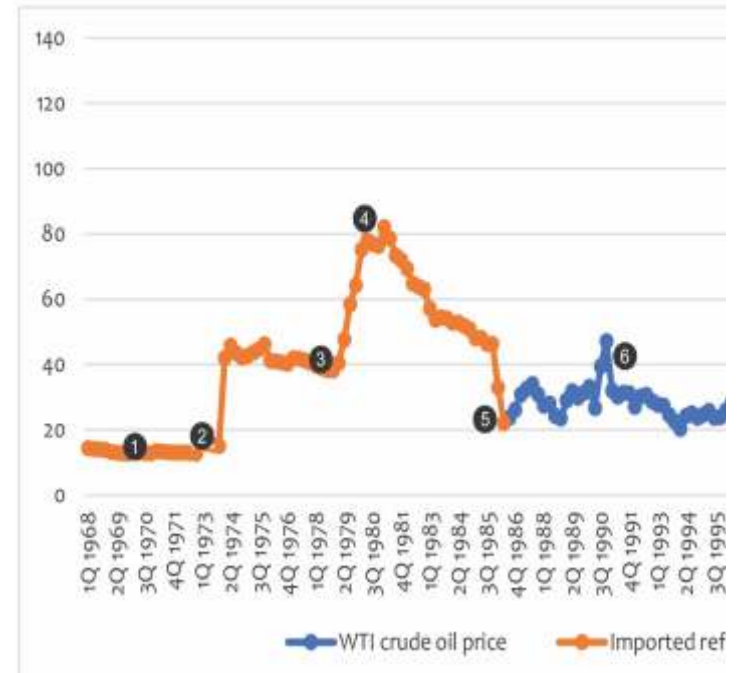
negatively and cause significant ripple effects, including widening fiscal deficits, eroding currency, and looming debt risks, but the magnitude was unprecedented (Jerome and Nabena, 2016).

Although the oil sub-sector accounts for less than 10 percent of Nigeria's GDP, it plays a 3 central role in the economy, accounting for 90 percent of exports

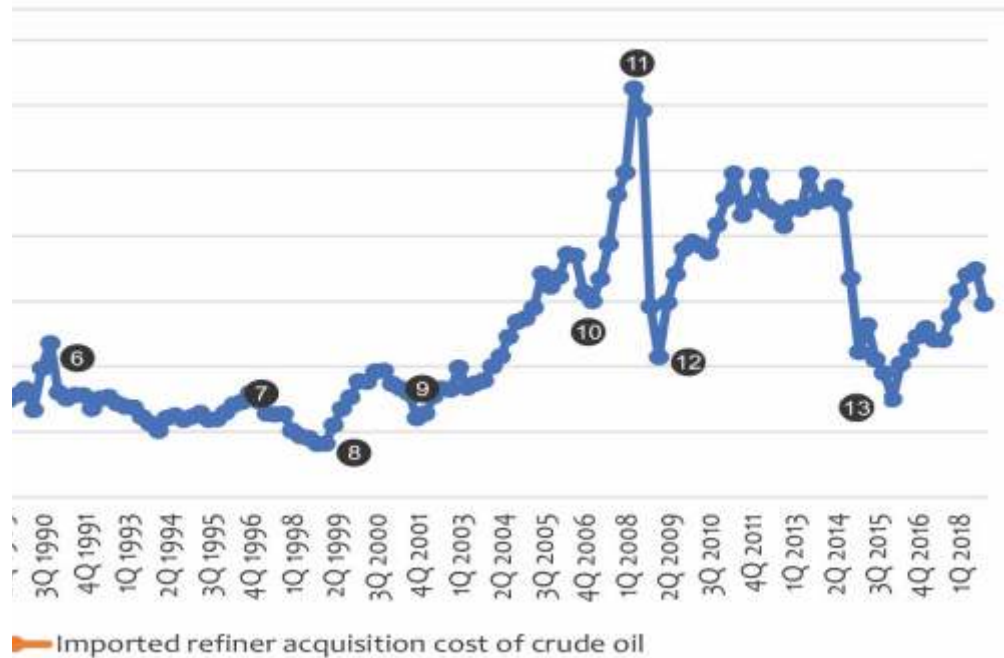
and 70 percent of government revenues.

Macroeconomic disruptions were also larger than fundamentals alone would have suggested, with the impact likely reflecting poor policy choices implemented to counter the shock (IMF, 2017), including the delay in implementing government budgets and the use of foreign exchange restrictions. This was

Figure 1: Like most commodities, crude oil prices react
Price per barrel (real 2010 dollars)



Prices react to economic and geopolitical events



Domestic crude production 10.1% 7.1% 3.
Oil exports 26% 46.8%
4. Oil revenue 41.7% 43%

States also operate a high degree of decentralised autonomy under hard budget constraints which is essential to spur development and fiscal stability. However, governance challenges and poor economic management has stifled prospects for meaningful growth.

The objective of this paper is to steer action and build consensus on the most desirable fiscal governance reforms, given the volatility effect on macroeconomic and fiscal conditions in the country. The volatility effect is not new and will not go away; but it can be turned into a blessing if better managed. This paper is prepared as an evidence-based analysis to provide an agenda for discussion by governments at

both the federal and sub-national level.

What is the volatility effect?

The impact of commodity prices on resource-dependent countries has shown broader scale impact than just on economic growth. The experience of these countries have been hinged on conditions such as an export boom, a price-inelastic tax system, public enterprise performance, increased expenditure created by political exigencies or administrative weaknesses, and worsening terms of trade (Tanzi, 1982), which tend to lead such economies into fiscal equilibrium when not properly managed.

The welfare implications of resource abundance can also be different from the growth implications, such that resource abundance may be good for consumption even if not good for growth and vice versa (Sachs and Warner, 1995).

The direct positive effect of resources on growth can also be swamped by the indirect negative effect through volatility, especially for countries that do not have a robust financial system that can withstand the large and sudden fluctuations in resource revenues (Van der Ploeg and Poelhekke, 2009).

Although many of these countries have aimed to use their vast resource revenues to finance diversified investments, the volatility effect has remained unswerving, and reflective in government fiscal balances and macroeconomic stability. The volatility effect is prominent in mono-exporting countries such as Nigeria, Venezuela and Algeria, compared to less oil-dependent and diversified economies such as Canada, Indonesia and Malaysia.

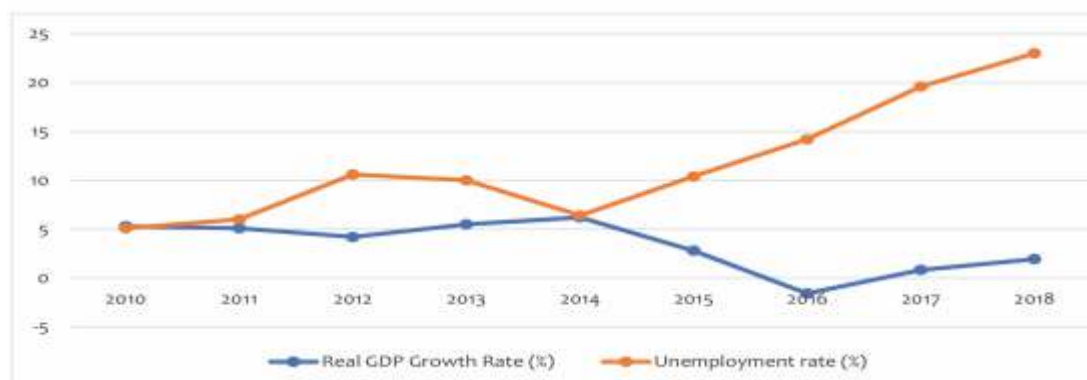
For an oil-dependent economy, it is not unusual that falling oil prices would impact the economy negatively and cause significant ripple effects, including widening fiscal deficits, eroding currency, and looming debt risks, but the magnitude was unprecedented (Jerome and Nabena, 2016).

Although the oil sub-sector accounts for less than 10 percent of Nigeria's GDP, it plays a central role in the economy, accounting for 90 percent of exports and 70 percent of government revenues. Macroeconomic disruptions were also larger than fundamentals alone would have suggested, with the impact likely reflecting poor policy choices implemented to counter the shock (IMF, 2017), including the delay in implementing government budgets and the use of foreign exchange restrictions. This was worsened by the rise in sabotage of oil infrastructure.

Domestic crude production 10.1% 7.1% 3. Oil exports 26% 46.8% 4. Oil revenue 41.7% 43%. Oil price volatility and fiscal crises: Nigeria has been here before Nigeria has experienced a combination of adverse fiscal and macroeconomic conditions

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Figure 4: Output and Unemployment have performed poorly since the mid-2014 oil slump



worsened by the rise in sabotage of oil infrastructure in the Niger Delta.

This challenge has also adversely affected governments' capacity to achieve inclusive and pro-poor growth, with the incidence of poverty worsened by rising unemployment and suppressed wages. The Nigerian federalist system has several positive features that can potentially support the country's development agenda, such as the fiscal federalism structure which consists of expenditure responsibilities and tax assignments, inter-governmental fiscal transfers, and a fiscal policy framework that seeks to ensure overall macroeconomic stability.



GOVERNOR IFEANYI OKOWA: HE IN WHOM DELTANS ARE WELL PLEASED CLOCKS

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"I HAVE NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT YOU (GOVERNOR OKOWA) HAS DONE VERY WELL. I CAN SAY THAT WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION, YOU HAVE DONE EXCEEDINGLY WELL. YOU HAVE HUMBLLED YOURSELF, GOD WILL UPLIFT YOU"

**FORMER GOV
JAMES IBORI**

As a policy, the Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat celebrates governors who attain certain life thresholds like their 50th and 60ths only in order not to trivialize the secretariats ovation or to take it for granted. But what happens when the person to be feted is also an outstanding performer and gentleman, who has also sworn to the Hippocratic Oath, the oath of ethics historically taken by physicians? (By the way, the Hippocratic Oath is one of the most widely known of Greek medical texts. In its original form, it requires a new physician to swear, by a number of healing gods, to uphold specific ethical standards.) it becomes a slam-dunk of achievements.

Delta State got lucky-in-dozens as Dr Ifeanyi Okowa cut his first political tooth as a grassroots politician in 1991 when he served as Secretary of the Ika Local Government council for three years. His humble disposition saw him through as Chairman, Ika North East Local Government Council and penciled him down for greater duties in the future.

In 1999, Chief James Ibori appointed Dr Okowa, commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources. A year after, he was moved to serve as a commissioner for water resources development. In 2003, Dr Okowa was moved to become Commissioner for Health where he brought his expertise to bear on the ministry as virtually all the hospitals and maternities in Delta had a feel of his Midas touch. In 2007, Dr Okowa served as Secretary to the Delta State government.

This position opened for Dr Okowa new vistas. He came face to face with the larger rudiments of state policy making as well as the challenges that constitute Delta State. Four years after, Dr Okowa was called upon by the people of Delta North senatorial district to represent them at the upper legislative chamber where his voice was heard, unequivocally spearheading the course of his people.

However by 2016, the urgency for Dr Senator Ifeanyi Okowa to tackle the enormous problems and deprivation of his people head-on, dawn on him. He contested the governorship election under his party of many years, the People Democratic Party (PDP) and won overwhelmingly. Upon his assumption of office, Okowa demonstrated the qualities of a true leader who has the vision and conviction that a dream can be achieved. His ability to inspire power and energy to get things done to represent what true leadership means. Attempts to put his vision in perspective shows that Dr Okowa represents the bridge across political learning and ethnic divides. The Governor has demonstrated in various ways that he is a detribalized leader through his evenly spread of infrastructural projects and political appointments in the three senatorial districts of the state. Governor Okowa's has made massive road construction the focal point of his administration around which development evolved. Through the SMART AGENDA, the Ika born administrator has recorded an unprecedented infrastructural and socio-economic development, including the provision of not less than (three hundred and eighty-seven) 387 ongoing and completed road projects and recently approved seventy road projects across the state. Apparently in an effort to checkmate youth restiveness and ethnic bickering, the Governor, through his empowerment programme under YAGEP/STEP, created over 17,000 jobs for youth.

No doubt, this was accounted for the relative peace enjoyed by the people of Delta state as there is no more idle minds for the devil to prevail upon. It would be recalled that upon assumption of offices



in May 29, 2015, the fourth executive governor of the oil-rich Delta state, Dr Okowa declared unequivocally, "my administration is hinged on the SMART AGENDA, which focuses on wealth creation, peacebuilding, security, urban renewal, affordable and quality health, agriculture and industrialization". There is no gainsaying therefore that from the inception of his administration, Governor Okowa has pointed out the beginning of his vision, direct the progress and his second coming as Governor of Delta would help to complete his vision. His keen understanding of Delta politics and Okowa's ability to grasp the body language of the people correctly and fundamentally would be more visible in his second term as machinery in motion showed that he, Governor Okowa would surpass the yearnings and aspirations of Deltans. No doubt, the Governor is working assiduously to consolidate on the gains of his first term, leave Delta State far better than he met it in order to live his footprints in the sand of time

The superfluous performance of Governor Okowa in Delta state is a very telling sign that the quality of governance and service delivery that the people are getting has evolved for the better. At 60, Dr Ifeanyi Okowa represents that powerful generation of Nigerians that are poised to relinquish to the youths a nation soaked in the second stanza of its national anthem. O God of creation, which goes thus; direct our noble cause, Guide our leaders right Help our youth the truth to know In love and honesty to grow And living just and true Great lofty heights attain To build a nation where peace And justice shall reign.

For his dexterity and substance, Okowa is revered by his predecessor including former Gov Janes Ibori who stated thus: I have no question in my mind that you (Governor Okowa) has done very well, I can say that without equivocation, you have done exceedingly well."

Like most governors in the current generation, Okowa is competent, capable, and knowledgeable and has the capacity to govern with the fear of God. His achievements are sterling.

James Ibori praised Dr Okowa thus: you have humbled yourself, God will uplift you'. Apparently, the message of Okowa's performances was not lost on different groups in the state. The Isoko people of Delta state under the umbrella of Isoko Development Union led by High Chief Idueh Amadhe endorsed the governor and explained thus: 'What is happening in Isoko has never been done by any man, Isoko people are not sycophants but, when we heard that you (Governor Okowa) are coming to Isoko nation, an emergency national conference was called; 19 traditional rulers are here, the president-generals of different kingdoms are here and whatever we have done today will be translated to all the villages in Isoko and It will be respected by our people.' The governor who was literally swept off his feet by the gesture, thanked the Isokos for the confidence reposed in him stressing that: 'Thank you for the partnership which will make me to relate more with the Isoko nation; a lot more will be done for the Isoko nation because, the Isoko people truly deserve it. Okowa's popularity is based on performance, not equity - Onuesoke

According to the royal fathers, they are so impressed with the performances of the governor that they could not keep sealed lips. In a meeting at the palace of the Obi of Owa, HRM Obi Emmanuel Efeizomor II, about 60 traditional rulers under the aegis of Delta North Traditional Rulers Forum passed a vote of confidence on the governor. The traditional rulers in an address read by the Ogene of Ibedeni, HRM Jonathan Kanegede observed: 'We are not surprised that your massive people oriented programmes are being recorded and appreciated by many through numerous awards and since you are not tired of seeking the people's wellbeing and progress, we unequivocally pass a vote of confidence on you Governor Okowa and your administration. We the royal fathers, the sixty-three traditional rul-

ers representing the various groups in Delta North, on behalf of our chiefs and the entire people are happy with your SMART AGENDA, the massive road construction across the state, Youth Agricultural Entrepreneur Programme, and many others too numerous to mention.

Even the secondary schools teachers in the state are very much impressed with the performances of the governor in the educational sector and supportive of Okowa. Speaking on behalf of secondary schools teachers recently, the chairman of Academic Staff Union of Secondary Schools, Comrade Kenneth Okoh stated that all teachers were solidly behind him. Okoh rolled out the benefits of the Okowa administration: The lips and tongues of unbiased, intelligent, objective and progressive Deltans have been incessantly busy with emission of the fact that Deltans have never had it so good.

The voice of Okowa's achievements has become so loud that you hear elements in the opposition saying "he worked very well but he used Paris refund". His Excellency, Senator (Dr) Ifeanyi Okowa performed so well in road construction that he earned himself the praise name ROAD MASTER. There is no local government in Delta State that cannot point at multiple road constructions going on or executed simultaneously.

Come to Secondary schools in Delta State, as the State Chairman of Academic Staff Union of Secondary schools, I had the opportunity to travel round the three senatorial districts and I discovered that there has been no time that classrooms and administrative blocks so "magically" grew up in school premises as during Okowa's first tenure.

Okowa's other achievements include regular payment of salaries, prompt promotions, and not-surprisingly, payment of promotion arrears has been restored. Principals of Secondary Schools are happy running schools since Okowa restored regular payment of subventions to schools. Prior to this positive feat, principals have been running schools with their personal fund. Okowa's time is a period when every Deltans has a feel of dividends of governance in the administrative history of Delta State.

When I look at the man Okowa, I see in him a man who has a greater plan for Delta. I am talking about job creation and human empowerment of which some of the programs include the Youth Agriculture Entrepreneurship Program (YAGEP), the Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Program (STEP) and so many others which are driven by the need to diversify the economy of Delta State and explore other potentials aside oil. On these platforms, young people are trained to acquire skills in animal husbandry and crop production. The

STEP program for instance is an entrepreneurial avenue where vibrant men and

women are trained to own, manage their businesses and be employers of labour. These government programs have created more than 30,000 jobs and with every sense of pride, I dare to say that these are our strength. Talking about infrastructural developments, despite the fact that this government came at a time when the funds from the centre were very lean, we were able to produce much juice from the rock. Today, we have massive infrastructural development in roads construction evenly spread across the three senatorial districts of Delta State, thanks in all honesty to the Roadmaster.





SOUTH WEST: GOVS ACHIEVEMENTS & POLICY THRUST IN AGRIC

Experts in the agriculture sector opine that the agrarian policy thrust of most states revolve around food security, job creation and economic diversification.

From this edition, NGF's in-house agronomist Bunmi Akanbi serializes those policies by geo-political zone, beginning with the South west.

The other geo-political zones will feature in subsequent editions of The Executive Summary.

By Olubumi Akanbi

The South West zone is one of the six geopolitical zone in Nigeria. The other five are the South-South, the South East, North Central, North East and the North West.

The Yoruba are the predominant group in the South West, which is made up of the following states: Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo States among which agriculture is a mainstay.

Agriculture is key to long-term economic growth and diversification. Among the various sectors of economic development in Nigeria, agriculture comes out on top as the most profitable and largest employer of labour. A lot of Researchers/Analysts called this sector a gold mine, awaiting to be fully harnessed and explored. Development partners such as World bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and so on, have invested in the agricultural sector of this country and are still doing so.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and their Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) has been approved since April 3rd, 2012 and the duration is 2012-2020 with the total

project cost of US\$235.42million.

IFAD programme area covers Niger, Nasarawa, Kogi, Benue, Taraba, Ebonyi, Ogun and Enugu State. Ekiti and Ogun state are already in partnership with IFAD on Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP).

Also, the World Bank, through the FADAMA III Additional Financing (AFII) Programme currently targeted 5,916 youth in 23 states to improve the



country's agricultural production. The states are Abia, Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba and Zamfara states. In addition, the World Bank also have project on Agro-Processing, Productivity Enhancement and Livelihood improvement support in 6 state namely: Kano, Kaduna, Cross River, Enugu, Lagos and Kogi State.

Comparative advantage to maximize production is important in the agrarian policy, therefore the policy thrust of most states is on food security, job creation and economic diversification. However, the State government specific policy thrust/achievement on agricultural sector are discussed below:

Ekiti State

The mission of the state is to facilitate the expansion of private sector participation in the State's Agricultural sector by creating enabling environment for agribusiness to thrive and to offer such support as would create an agribusiness culture in the agricultural sector.

Some of the projects the State embark on to help achieve its agricultural policy objectives includes:

1. Youth in Commercial Agriculture Programme and Technical and Agriculture College to ensure consistent line of mid-level manpower.
2. Establishment of cocoa clonal gardens at Ado, Eporo and Iye.
3. Provision of Silos for food storage
4. Partnership with Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and implementation of FGN/IFAD Value Chain Development (VCDP)
5. Partnership with World bank/FGN on Agro-Processing Productivity Enhancing and Livelihood Improvement Support Programme (APPEALS).

Lagos State

1. Tackle food insufficiency,
2. Provide employment, empowerment of the youth, and women through partnership and networking with relevant stakeholders.
3. Stimulate relevant business and industrial value chains and fuel accelerated socio-economic growth and development.
4. Seeks to inspire healthy competition and expand mutually rewarding agro-economy collaborations, not only in the states of



the Western Region, but in all other states in the country.

5. Lake Rice Initiative: Lagos and Kebbi state collaboration.

For rice sufficiency in Lagos and for prosperity to her and other collaborating states, Lagos state targets all arable lands in Nigeria. "Lake Rice" initiative is a fine example of strategic collaboration, where comparative advantages of partners are combined to produce impressive yield.

Lagos was also collaborating with Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ekiti, and Ondo states in the area of rice production to ensure that adequate rice was supplied to the 32 metric tonnes per hour rice mill, adding that the rice mill would provide over 200,000 jobs across the rice value chain.

6. Agric-YES: This involves training of youth and practicing. At the end of their training, loan facility, resources and technical support will be given. It also focus on socio-cultural realities of the region with agricultural opportunities to maximise gains, by strengthening people's bond with their lands, building alliances with the people promoting entrepreneurship and other economic value chains and encouraging friendship of the people. For example, Badagry and in Soghai, Benin Republic.

7. Coconut Initiative: Coconut has more than 300 derivatives, and in the past, coconut was a major export earner of the State, hence the Coconut Initiative is an area where Lagos still has massive comparative advantage. The state established community-based processing centres in three coconut producing communities; Ajido in Badagry, Magbon-Alade in Lekki and Irewe in Ojo

8. Commercial Agricultural Development Project (CAPD) initiative – 315 women were trained, 51 of whom were empowered in poultry, rice and aquatic value chain;

9. Agric-Input Supply Initiative and Rural Finance Institution Project (Rufin)-aimed at strengthening the capacity of farmers while increasing access of poor rural farmers to financial services – Agric Programme (SAP).

10. Cage Culture System: There is Oyo Cattle Fattening partnership in Ejio to address the beef needs of Lagosians.

11. Agricultural Estate initiative: promotion of vegetable production using greenhouse technology, cage and pen culture in fisheries production, strengthening of farm settlement, empowerment of farmers to further improve agricultural development and food security.



GOVS ACHIEVEMENTS & POLICY THRUST IN AGRIC

ogun s tate

1. To enhance self-sufficiency in food production, provide raw materials for agro-based industries, generate employment opportunities, as well as obtain desirable levels of exports in order to improve the country's foreign exchange earnings.

2. Youth Empowerment Programme: Owowo Model Farm Estate and Green House Technology Programme

3. Cassava Revolution Programme (CRP): This is a programme of the state government with the goal of making Ogun the leader in Cassava revolution. Currently, CRP engages in cassava cutting multiplication and cassava value chain promotion.

4. Fadama III Additional Financing (FADAMA III AF) Project: FADAMA III AF is a World Bank assisted project to reduce poverty among Nigerians through boosting of agricultural production. One of the objectives is to increase the incomes of users of rural lands, and water resources in a sustainable manner. FADAMA III AF engages in capacity building, farm advisory services on cassava and rice, and

Agriculture is key to long-term economic growth and diversification. Among the various sectors of economic development in Nigeria, agriculture comes out on top as the most profitable and largest employer of labour

livelihood enhancement.

5. IFAD Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP): VCDP is an FG/IFAD initiative on improving cassava and rice value chains. At present, the programme runs in five Local Government Areas - Obafemi-Owode, Yewa North, Ifo, Ijebu North-East and Ijebu East - of Ogun State.

ngoing Projects in ogun state

1. Cultivation of 550Ha of Rice farm for the production of Ogun State branded Rice MITROS at Eggua.
2. Cultivation of 1,000Ha of Cassava Farm at Owowo.
3. Fertilizer intervention programme between the Federal Government and Ogun State (Procurement of 20,000 metric tonnes of 20:10:10 NPK Fertilizer).
4. Establishment of 3 Fish farm estates using Eriwe Model.
5. Construction of 70 Fish cages to produce Tilapia.
6. Set up of poultry demonstration farm at Odeda Training Institute.
7. Production of 100Ha of Tomato farm.

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Managing volatility in Nigeria

that have exerted strong pressures on the fiscal sustainability of its national and sub-national governments. Between 2014 and 2016, the cost of crude fell to its lowest levels in the last 14 years.

This was largely driven by headwinds generated by slow growth in advanced economies, several years of large upward swings in oil supply (including OPEC's refusal to cut production, oil exports from Iran, and the rise of US shale production); China's slowing demand; unwinding of geopolitical risks that had threatened production; structural changes in the global economy and the appreciation of the U.S. dollar (Baffes et al., 2015).

The oil bust is similar in magnitude to the decline between 1985-1986, when OPEC members reversed earlier production cuts, and in 2008-2009, at the outset of the global financial crisis. The slump has stirred new macroeconomic restructuring across oil dependent countries, including the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to shore up public finances and find alternative sources of revenue, amidst economic indications that many of its members did not do enough to reduce their dependence on the commodity.

In 2018, the price of oil settled at US \$71 pb, higher than the previous 3 years, but lower than over US\$100 pb recorded between 2011 and early 2014. Nigeria's merchandise exports structure has not changed over the last 5 decades. Exports have been dominated by primary products which make up 98 percent of products exported annually.

In 2017, mineral fuels accounted for 92 percent of merchandise exports. This dominant role of oil, coupled with the poor management of oil revenues during periods of windfall and the tertiarization of the economy, has exposed the economy to the oil market volatility.

In 2017, OPEC members controlled approximately 82 percent of the world's total proven oil reserves and 56 percent of the world's total oil supply.

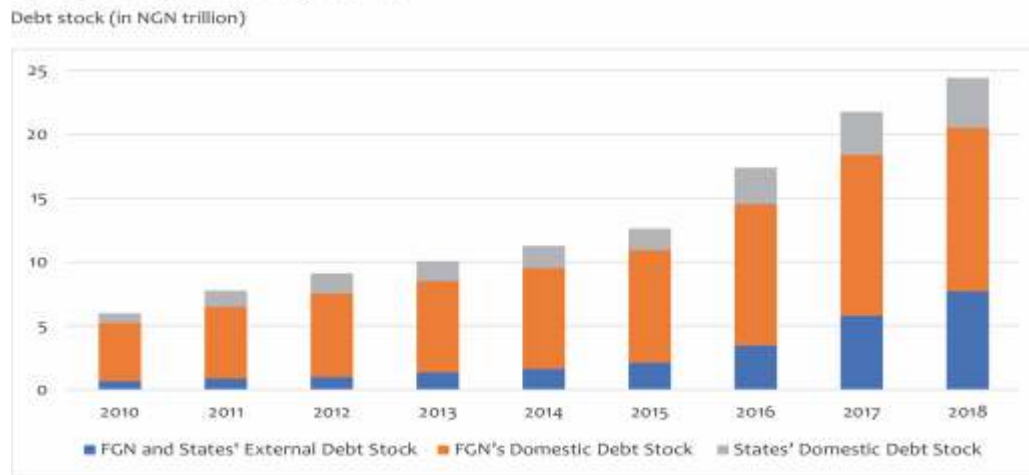
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2018. Merchandise trade matrix - product groups, exports in thousands of United States dollars, annual shows the historical volatility of oil price, domestic crude production, oil exports and oil revenues in Nigeria for the period 2000 - 2017 (also see appendix).

Although local crude production stabilized through the period, oil price volatility rose significantly (much of it explained by the 2009 and mid-2014 oil price collapse), creating heightened instability in oil exports and revenues. Oil price volatility increased from 23.5 percent between 2000 - 2010 to 33.2 percent between 2010 - 2017. This led to a rise

in the volatility of oil exports from 26 percent to 46.8 percent, while oil revenues fared even worse, from 41.7 percent to 43 percent.

There is growing potential for Nigeria's domestic crude refining. Raising Nigeria's current production capacity of around 2 million bpd will help consolidate government revenues even when oil prices fall.

Figure 5: Rising public debt, 2010 - 18



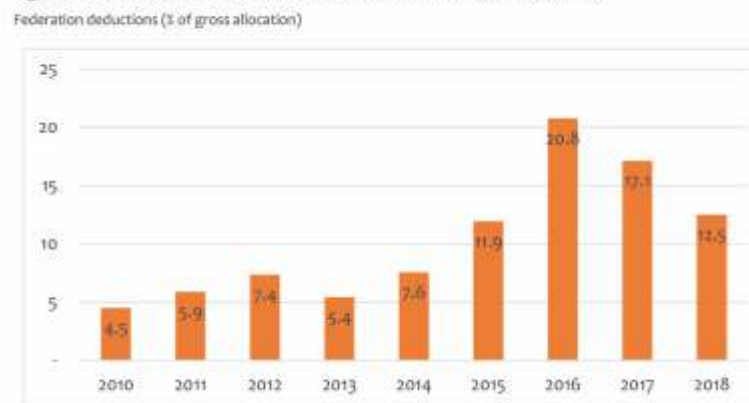
Source: Debt Management Office (2019)

outlook: What is on the horizon?

Oil price is expected to rebound slightly in the medium-term. Renewed sanctions on Iran and political instability in Venezuela are major factors that are stripping oil supply from the market and pushing prices back up.

The world economy is however recording slow growth, contributed in part by the trade war between China and the US. China's US\$14 trillion economy recorded declining growth in the first quarter of 2019 at around 6 percent, compared to an average of 10 percent since 1980. In the EU region, growth is also slowing, amidst tensions from Brexit and declining exports in Germany. Brent crude averaged US\$71.19 pb in 2018, up from US\$54.15 pb in 2017, but the US Energy Information Administration's estimates prices will slide to US\$62.78 pb in 2019 and US\$62 pb by 2020.

Figure 6: Rise in deductions from Federation transfers to States, 2010 - 18



Source: Office of the Accountant General of the Federation (2019)

The government plans to issue licenses to modular refineries across the country, some of which have the capacity of as little as 1,000 bpd. Modular refineries have been estimated to provide an additional 700,000 barrels per day to the country's domestic crude output (Bloomberg, 2018).

Of the 40 modular refineries registered, 10 are in advanced stages of development and could be refining fuel by 2019, a year before Dangote's 650,000 bpd



Managing volatility in Nigeria

refinery becomes operational.

This move will expand Nigeria's crippled refining capacity and help reduce the country's US\$9 billion annual fuel import bill, and foreign exchange pressures. The volatility effect will be more pronounced. Fiscal and economic stability remains uncertain.

Nigeria's economic problems tend to ratchet up following each cycle of oil volatility, given that governments' expenditure commitments stay on a linear growth path, and as fall in oil prices and revenues force the real economy to contract to a low equilibrium state. This is especially pronounced for governments that have in the past raised their permanent expenditures in response to temporary 17 Subsidy cost are set to destabilize the oil market recovery.

Nigeria recorded one of its lowest cost of subsidy in 2016 when oil traded at an average of US\$48.11 pb - the lowest since 2004. Cost of subsidy in that year was N28.6 billion according to NNPC reports, but the amount increased to N219 billion in 2017 and N345.5 billion by half year 2018 as the price of oil and domestic PMS consumption increased.

At accrued oil price of US\$70 per barrel, the open market retail price of PMS per litre is estimated at N187, N42 above the retail price ceiling of N145. NNPC estimates show that where the price of oil rises to US\$ pb, the unit subsidy cost will reach N61 per litre and higher as oil prices continued to rise, reaching over 60 million litres in the first half of 2018 compared to an average of 35 million litres in previous years. Arbitrage across the West Africa sub-region has fuelled cross-border smuggling, bringing serious threats to energy security and economic stability.

The volatility effect will be more pronounced. Fiscal and economic stability remains uncertain. Nigeria's economic problems tend to ratchet up following each cycle of oil volatility, given that governments' expenditure commitments stay on a linear growth path, and as fall in oil prices and revenues force the real economy to contract to a low equilibrium state. This is especially pronounced for governments that have in the past raised their permanent expenditures in response to temporary 17 Subsidy cost are set to destabilize the oil market recovery. Nigeria recorded one of its lowest cost of subsidy in 2016 when oil traded at an average of US\$48.11 pb - the lowest since 2004. Cost of subsidy in that year was N28.6 billion according to

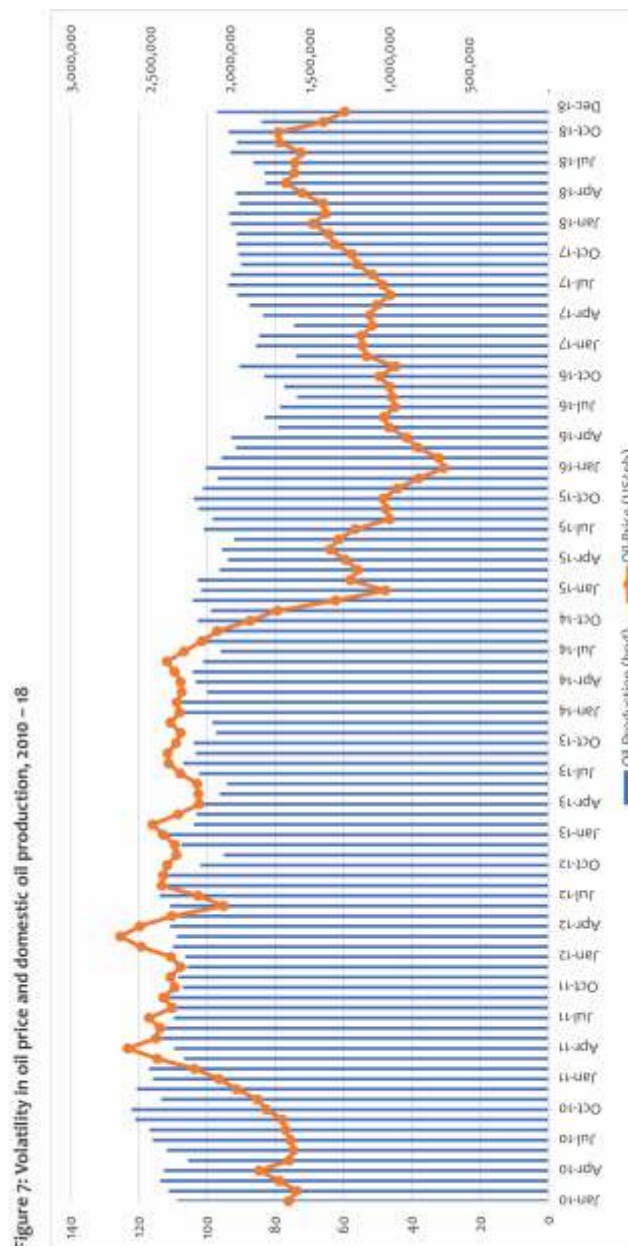


Figure 7: Volatility in oil price and domestic oil production, 2010 - 18

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reaching over 60 million litres in the first half of 2018 compared to an average of 35 million litres in previous years. Arbitrage across the West Africa sub-region has fuelled cross-border smuggling, bringing serious threats to energy security and economic stability. windfalls. The volatility effect has continued to diminish governments' capacity to manage macroeconomic, exchange rate and fiscal policies. The role of development partners in fiscal governance is rising. In June 2018, the World Bank introduced a hybrid fiscal operation with two components to support Nigerian States. The programme consists of a performance-based financing component of US\$700 million to be implemented as a performance-for-result (PforR) to eligible State governments; and a capacity building component of US\$50 million for State governments and national-level institutions. The programme was designed to become operational in the first quarter of 2019 to support sustained implementation of a subset of reforms from the FSP and the OGP20 . 8. Looking ahead: what reform options could be considered in the aftermath of the 2019 election? In March 2019, Nigeria consolidated its democratic process with a general election which saw incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari winning a second term with 56 percent of the votes.

Governorship elections also took place in 29 of the 36 States. The new governments will be confronted with a fragile economy, subdued revenues amidst downside pressures from a new minimum wage that will raise the income of the least-paid worker from N18,000 to N30,000. In a sign of high voter apathy, the election was tarnished by pocket of violence and tardiness in the way it was run. But with the elections over, Nigerians are expecting new governments both at the national and sub-national level, to do new things and to do more with less.

The following are recommendations to cushion the volatility effect. They are by no means exhaustive, nor are they mutually exclusive. Nigeria must disentangle itself from the dependence on oil for exports and foreign exchange. The government must take the diversification agenda seriously to achieve the transformation required in its trade structure, including the number and type of products exported. The country must reduce its export concentration 21 and diversification 22 indices which is around 0.76 and 0.86 currently, to around 0.24 and 0.54 respectively - the average

...CONTINUE D ON PAGE 12

Managing volatility in Nigeria

for transition economies. This can only be achieved by expanding its agricultural and manufacturing base like other oil-exporting peers such as Indonesia and Malaysia.

The manufacturing sector has been the main engine of growth and catch up, and successful cases of catch-up were countries which were successful in industrialization. Value addition in the agricultural sector and innovation-based manufacturing will help diversify the country's export base and source of foreign exchange.

State governments must also play a more active role in addressing the infrastructural deficit, by taking a view on regional infrastructure projects. In a world where services trade matters as much as goods, they must also focus on harmonizing regulations and standards to strengthen the integration of value chains across the country.

Realigning the social contract between the government and citizens to consolidate and diversify tax revenues. Nigeria depends on 1% of its population and around 20% of its labour for tax revenues, largely because over 70 percent of the population are in the shadow economy. Governments must reduce the incentive for businesses to remain in the informal sector by improving formal public service delivery and providing services for taxes.

Better governance, transparency and accountability must be pursued to deliver better access public services (including healthcare, quality education and social safety). This must be accompanied by a sensible strategy to expand the limited revenue base and measures to strengthen institutions that administer tax, especially at the sub-national level.

Developing the financial sector will help cushion the volatility effect. The government must take measures to improve the lending capacity of financial institutions by reducing the cost of borrowing and improving financial deepening and intermediation for households and businesses. Reducing the financial sector's dependence on yields

from government debt instruments, attracting external finance flows (including remittances) and incentivizing private sector lending will help build a diversified financial intermediation system that can withstand the effect of the volatility. d. Establishing independent fiscal institutions to provide or scrutinize macroeconomic forecasts for budget prepara-

“watchdogs” are in place. Independent fiscal institutions are non-partisan public bodies, other than the central bank, government or parliament that promote sustainable public finance management through various functions, including monitoring compliance with fiscal rules, production or endorsement of macroeconomic forecasts for the budget, and/or advising the government on fiscal policy matters. They can also assess whether fiscal measures are appropriate in terms of respect of rules, sustainability of public finances, and stability-oriented fiscal policies.

Streamlining government recurrent expenditure.

Managing and stabilizing public spending has been a challenge in Nigeria. Even during periods of economic contraction, recurrent expenditures continue to rise at the expense of capital spending. Addressing this challenge requires that governments do not expand permanent expenditures (especially the scope of entitlements) in response to temporary windfalls.

Nigeria is also facing an overvaluation of public capital as a result of inefficiencies and corruption which lead to higher cost of implementing government projects than technically feasible. This phenomenon accounts for the rise in capital expenditure amidst lower returns on capital.

Nigeria may need to consider a new deal on how its fiscal federalism works. Major fiscal issues to be reassessed include the revenue sharing formula for the three tiers of government, the expenditure roles and responsibilities of governments and the capacity of governments to absorb the full cost of subsidies. For sub-national governments, this consideration is important in the light of

the varying level of economic production and consumption and factor endowments.

APPENDIX

Figure 8: Volatility of oil price and domestic oil production

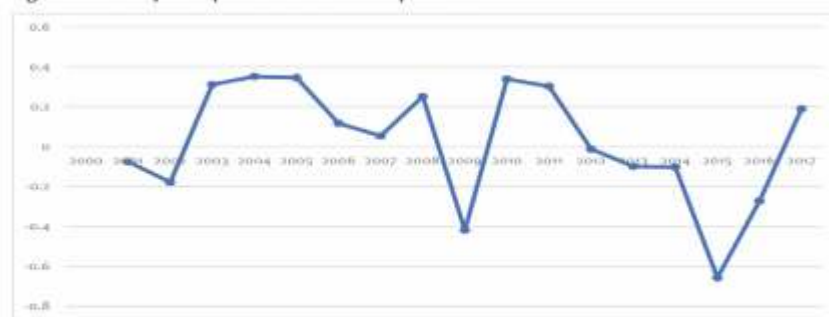


Figure 9: Volatility of oil exports

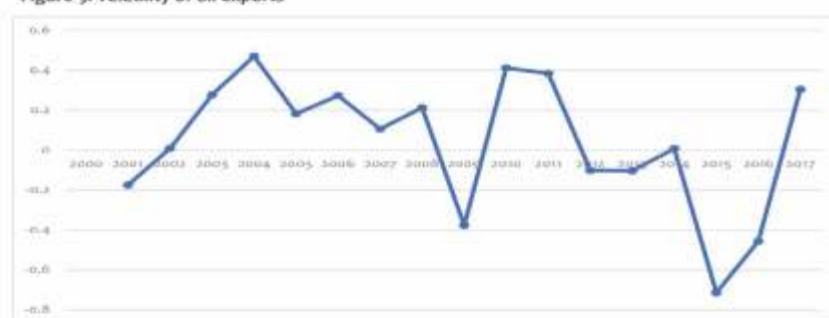


Figure 10: Volatility of oil revenues



tion. Fiscal governance can best be achieved with strong political commitment or when appropriate



Govs achievements & policy thrust in agric



8. Construction of semi-mechanized abattoir at Ogere-Remo.
9. Procurement of 5 heavy duty harrow (Rome Harrow) for land clearing at Eggua.
10. Youth and women empowerment project.
11. Purchase of 20 Bulldozers.
12. Raising of Cocoa seedlings for Cocoa farmers in the State.
13. Raising of 20,000 point of cage pullet at four (4) different locations in the State (Ijebu-Igbo, Ilaro, Ajegunle and Kotopo).

Proposed Project(s) in Ogun State.

1. Establishment of Civil/Public Servant Agricultural Scheme to encourage about 30,000 public/civil servants into cluster farming through Civil/Public Servants.
2. Farming Scheme with allocation of at least one hectare for arable and less for livestock farming.
3. Establishment of Greenhouse facility across the State to promote all year production of vegetables and spices.
4. Establishment of two-double roller cotton ginnery that will employ 1,500 staff and create over 1000 indirect employment.
5. Establishment of 15,000 hectares of Cassava farms.
6. Establishment of 3,000 hectares of Rice enclave.
7. Establishment of 7,000 hectares of Maize

- farms.
8. Establishment of 10,000 hectares of Cotton Plantation at Iwoye-Ketu.
9. Establishment of Fish farm estates in 500 (twin) earthen ponds to produce 1 million table size fish at Imasayi and Ayerose (Ajebu).
10. Fix existing irrigation systems to enhance rice production.
11. State-wide Farmers registration
12. Youth and Women Empowerment Project

Ondo state

The main features of Ondo state's agricultural policy include the development of strategies that will bring about improvements in the levels of technical and economic efficiency of food and tree crop production. Ondo state offers tremendous potential to increase agricultural output. It is the largest producer of cocoa in Nigeria, accounting for about 60 percent of cocoa production, therefore the state has a program called Cocoa Revolution Project. The state embarks on different programs to help achieve its agricultural policy objectives, including (1) youth in agriculture, (2) input delivery, (3) food crops development, (4) tree crops development, (5) irrigation agriculture, (6) livestock production, (7) fisheries development, (8) sustainable forestry development, (9) agriculture extension services, and (10) rural development. The State also partner with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) on cultivation of

hectares of banana plantation in the state. The state is also into Farmers Business School Programme in collaboration with German International Cooperation (GIZ).

Osun state

To achieve its agricultural development objectives, the State of Osun has designed and is implementing the Osun Rural Enterprise and Agriculture Program also known as O-REAP. The state agricultural policy thrust includes 1) Food security 2) Job Creation and Youth Empowerment, 3) Economic Transformation Using Agriculture as a Key Driver, 4) Wealth Creation.

Oyo State

To restore, transform and reposition Oyo State Agriculture as the foremost industry that positively drives the state economy, to provide adequate food security and be a sustainable platform for wealth creation for the people., the state embarks on different programs to help achieve its agricultural policy objectives, such as 1) Oyo State Agricultural Development Program (OYS-ADEP), 2) Partnership with Dangote in rice production, 3) Commence Pacesetter Farms in Awe, Oyo State, a replica of Songhai Farm, 4) Cassava Adding Value for Africa (CAVA II), 5) Cassava weed management project, 6) Green Innovation centre for Agriculture and food sector, 7) Inauguration of 33 excavators to boost agricultural production and 8) Purchase and donation of 320 tractors.



NGFS visits NIPC





NIPC partners NGF

To co - operate on state of the state conference & others



The Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Investment Promotion Council, NIPC, Yewande Sadiku also addressed the NGF at its last meeting where she solicited their cooperation in showcasing the states' various potentials to attract Foreign Direct Investment to the country.

An investment banker of consummate pedigree, Yewande Sadiku has been working assiduously to ensure that she lifts Nigeria out of poverty and invites enough foreign investment to Nigeria.

In line with those aspirations, Ms Sadiku was also easily available to meet with a team of members of the NGF led by the Executive Director Research and Strategy Alhaji Abdullateef Shittu on a mission to solicit the cooperation of the NIPC to partner in the forthcoming State of the States Conference in November this year.

In tow with the NGF to visit the NIPC were two officials of CWC Wemi and Odiri. One of the takeaways from that meeting is the 2018 rating of the ease of doing business in Nigeria.



EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN NIGERIA, 2018: HOW THE STATES STANDS

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1st Kaduna | 14th Bayelsa | 27th Delta |
| 2nd Jigawa | 15th Kogi | 28th Lagos |
| 3rd Kano | 16th Taraba | 29th Kwara |
| 4th Katsina | 17th Kebbi | 30th Adamawa |
| 5th Niger | 18th Enugu | 31st Abia |
| 6th Bauchi | 19th Ekiti | 32nd Anambra |
| 7th Borno | 20th Ondo | 33rd Oyo |
| 8th Yobe | 21st Sokoto | 34th Imo |
| 9th FCT Abuja | 22nd Akwa Ibom | 35th Ebonyi |
| 10th Gombe | 23rd Nasarawa | 36th Rivers |
| 11th Benue | 24th Edo | 37th Cross River |
| 12th Ogun | 25th Osun | |
| 13th Zamfara | 26th Plateau | |

Source: World Bank



PHOTOSPEAK



Gov Sule of Nasarawa State shakes hands with Yobe's Buni



Govs Buni of Yobe, Abiodun of Ogun and Lalong of Plateau State



NIPC



Gov Lalong chats up DG & NIPC Yewande Sadiku



Kaduna's Gov el - Rufai, NGF Chair, Fayemi & Yahaya Bello of Kogi



NGF Se



Gov el - Rufai discusses with Gov Makinde of Oyo



Govs Bagudu, Sani Bello & Lalong confers



Osun's Oyetola shakes Borno's Zulum as Fa Sanwo-olu cheer on



FAYEMI TASKS NNPC ON ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY

The Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) has urged the management of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to be more transparent in its operations.

The Chairman of the Forum, Governor Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti State gave the charge during a courtesy visit to the new Group Managing Director of the Corporation, Mallam Mele Kyari.

Governor Kayode, who just assumed leadership of the Forum a few weeks ago, stressed on the need to strengthen the existing partnership with the new management of the NNPC vis-à-vis the allocations at the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC).

"Over the last few years, the Forum has built a strong working relationship with the corporation on matters related to the size and distribution of oil revenues in the country. Both organisations have held series of engagement meetings to discuss ways of addressing challenges bedeviling the oil industry.

"This partnership remains critical to us because it is integral to the fiscal stability of both the federal and sub-national governments, given the central role oil revenues play in funding our budgets.

"The growth and stability of the oil industry has a significant bearing on our plans – we have recorded a period where monthly allocation from the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) reached as high as N1.1 trillion (June 2014), and in another month in May 2016, the three tiers of government shared just over N289 billion," Fayemi noted.

He also highlighted challenges militating against improved federal allocation to states which both organisations must work to resolve.

"Besides the fall in oil price and production, some of the challenges that have compounded instability in the market include the impact of cash call obligations and the accumulation of liabilities; crude oil theft/losses with about 200,000 barrels of crude oil

per day lost to oil theft, while about 500,000 barrels per day is deferred in production shut-ins; and the existing regulation for Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) which grossly limits government royalties and tax revenues. These are ongoing issues we must work to resolve," Fayemi said.

He however added that: "In addition to these, we have also pushed for a number of accountability measures. Working with Mr. President, we had resolved that the collection and remittance of oil royalties should be returned to the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) as stipulated under the petroleum industry law.

"Similarly, the collection and remittance of the Petroleum Profit Tax (PPT) should be returned to the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) in line with extant laws.

"It was in this vein that Mr. President directed that a revised revenue remittance template should be developed jointly by NNPC, the Ministry of Finance, Office of the Accountant General of the Federation and Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission," Fayemi said.

Going forward, the new NGF identified options that will help stabilise revenues from oil.

"We need to consider options to determine a 'revenue trend' that corresponds to the long-term trend of exports and that will be enough to stabilise government budgets.

In 2017, the Minister of Finance had estimated that a minimum amount of N700 billion must be generated and shared by FAAC monthly to the three tiers of government to enable them meet up with obligations of salary payment, statutory transfers and debt servicing.

"But more can be done. We would like our team to work with the corporation to develop a realistic revenue forecasting model for oil revenues. This will help State governments plan appropriately to mitigate to a large extent the recurring fiscal shocks we experience.

"It is also important to highlight that subsidy remains a major drawback on government revenues. We may need to consider a new deal on how governments will absorb the cost of subsidy. This has become necessary given the new reality of low oil revenues and rising government commitments.

"We believe that at the current course, subsidy costs will continue to offset any recovery in the oil market. The country recorded one of its lowest cost of subsidy in 2016 when oil traded at an average of US\$48.11 pb. Total subsidy that year was around N28.6 billion; but the amount rose to N219 billion in 2017 and N345.5 billion by mid-2018, as the price of oil and domestic PMS consumption rebounded.

"These are important considerations for us, with direct implications on energy security and economic stability in the country. We would like to see beyond these areas too, including new partnerships for investments across States and knowledge transfer for our people through research and strategic events," Fayemi concluded.





DFID pays courtesy call on Gov Fayemi at the NGFS



John Primrose and his team in a group photograph with NGF Chairman, DG and NGFS



Primrose (m) listens to Fayemi



NGF DG explains a point of interest as NGF chairman & DFID officials pay attention



A cross section of the NGFS staff takes notes.



Gov Fayemi explains



DG, ED strategy & ED Finance NGF



NGF IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF NIGERIA - MELE KYARI

The Group Managing Director of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, Eng Mele Kyari, has described the Nigeria Governors' Forum, NGF, as representative of a very critical component of the Nigeria project.

The New GMD made the declaration when the Chairman of the NGF and Governor of Ekiti State Dr John Kayode Fayemi paid him a courtesy call in his office at the NNPC tours in Abuja.

While welcoming Gov Fayemi to his office, in the presence of his entire management, which itself was also only newly selected, Mele Kyari promised to do more to increase the revenue that his corporation remits to the federation purse, even though he argued that the NNPC remits more to the federation account than it was given credit for in the past.

We contribute more to the purse than what is told at the FAAC (Federation Account Allocation Committee) the new Group Managing Director of the NNPC insisted.

The GMD said that fuel supplies and the absence of queues are the only things that the NNPC are given credit for because

“
we are friends
quite alright,
but we will be
confrontational
when that
becomes
necessary.”

of its proximity to the daily activities of the average Nigerian but the NNPC delivers more value to the country because everybody has a stake in this corporation which he said he would strive to make one of the best in the world.

He promised from then on that the NNPC would work for all and that his new team would raise the efficiency of the corporation.

However, Mele Kyari did not forget to mention that in spite of the lofty promises he made to his host at the occasion, the NNPC was also not totally insulated from certain fiscal challenges which militate against its smooth operations, adding however that even that would hopefully be mitigated.





FUEL SUPPLIES AND THE ABSENCE OF QUEUES ARE THE ONLY THINGS THAT THE NNPC ARE GIVEN CREDIT FOR BECAUSE OF ITS PROXIMITY TO THE DAILY ACTIVITIES OF THE AVERAGE NIGERIAN BUT THE NNPC DELIVERS MORE VALUE TO THE COUNTRY BECAUSE EVERYBODY HAS A STAKE IN THIS CORPORATION WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD STRIVE TO MAKE ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

This he said when properly tackled will engender confidence in the NNPC and encourage investment.

He further noted that the twin challenges of insecurity and theft of crude and petroleum products are the NNPC's greatest concerns adding that "we are not a security outfit, but I believe, we will do everything humanly possible to deal with and eliminate them to their barest minimum."

Eng Mele Kyari said that he would drive the NNPC to become Nigeria's export company of excellence and will involve states in the value chain as he grows the company to the top. He also promised to henceforth give long-term projections to allow for planning while he the company itself would strive to exceed those targets already set.

The NGF had, during the tenure of the Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar chairmanship of the NGF worked tirelessly to ensure that the NNPC remits more revenue to the federation and did due diligence by involving the Department of Petroleum Resources DPR in the remittance mechanism for transparency to be seen to have been done.

It is indeed why the new chairman of the NGF Dr Fayemi resorted to immediately visit the new GMD as soon as he was appointed so as to establish in the new management that it is not yet home and dry as far as the expectation on its performance are concerned.

Fayemi had responded to Mele Kyari's promises by saying we are friends quite alright, but we will be confrontational when that becomes necessary. He however vouched for Mele Kyari's integrity and believes that Kyari would deliver on his promises.

The NGF Chairman was accompanied to the NNPC by his Vice Chairman and Governor of Sokoto State, Rt Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal and top management Staff of the NGF led by the Director General, Mr Asishana Bayo Okauru. #



Healthcare

Against Nigeria's deplorable healthcare delivery system

In Nigeria Health and Education Sectors are grossly underfunded despite the fact that these two are the twin engines of economic growth and a good of life. Health Advocates are concerned that both health and education are not given the priority that is needed particularly the health sector.

Current population of Nigeria is 200,952,695 as of July 4, 2019, based on the latest United Nations estimates and Nigeria population is equivalent to 2.6% of the total world population and the median age is 17.9 years. Majority of whom are sick and as a result cannot be productive or innovative.

Allocation to the health sector is not in-line with the Abuja declaration of 15%. Nigeria (central government) is currently allocating about 4%, with only a few states allocating more than this. Even so, release and expenditure is problematic

Nigeria is blessed with human capital spread all over the world with our doctors migrating to other countries to practice. There is need for Health Workers to be provided with good working environment as to reduce the migration of skilled workers to other countries.

The government has done a great job by passing the National Health Act as well as allocating the first tranche of funds to BHCPF in 2015 (approx. N55.2Billion). However only about 25% was ultimately released. If this fund was ringfenced as stated by the Act, the remaining 75% will still be available, but was unfortunately put in the service wide vote, hence no, more available.

Currently Nigeria is experiencing demographic crisis. The unchecked population growth coupled with the fact that government is unable to make adequate provision for this increasing population is going to result in serious national crisis. Over half of Nigeria's population are the youth with a median age of 17.9 who are totally depended on their parents up until they reach mid-forties, unemployment rate is also high. It is a known fact that the nexus of unemployment, hopelessness/depression, and poverty is a recipe for radicalism and violent insurgency.

Apart from Prof. Oladapo Ladipo there were inputs from Dr. Ejike Orji, Dr. Sada Dan-Musa and Dr. Farouk Jega. The advocacy Ask was presented as follows:

Advocacy Ask 1: Increase funding for Family Planning (FP).

There are 3 important rational for prioritizing FP

- (a) Health rational
- (b) Human rights rational
- (c) Demographic rational

To reduce maternal mortality & morbidity, to reduce neonatal mortality and Child mortality. Currently Nigeria Maternal mortality is 750/100,000 life births. This can be reduced if Nigerian Government put the right things in place by making good ANC care services available and free, putting in place good blood transfusion services, good obstetric and maternity services, and immunization services.

Advocacy Ask 2: Nigerian Government to

actualize its FP Commitment

- Family Planning funding is totally dependent on donors. Nigerian Government made a pledge in 2012 to add more funds to FP totaling about \$12MillionUSD but could not meet up to its commitment. During the last FP summit held in 2017, Nigerian government commitment reduced to \$4M USD. But have still not been able to meet up to its commitment.

Advocacy Ask 3: To appeal to the state governors to recognize that health is a priority and should allocate more funds for FP at the state level to complement what the Federal is currently expending

- Federal government has done a lot in putting in place relevant health policies and the domestication of international





agreements for the country. They have also provided free FP commodities to public health facilities and operationalizing Task Shifting and Task Sharing policy for Essential Health Services (TSTS). We appeal to governors to align themselves with the federal and operationalize these policies when considering budgets for the state ministries of health.

- The last analysis of the health capital budget for the FMoH in 2016 was 40% of the capital budget in 2007 and between 2006 & 2019 Nigeria's population has doubled.

- This 2019 FP budget was cut by 80%. For any country like Nigeria to achieve demographic dividend the fertility rate must be reduced, and the government must

invest in education and health sector. It is remarkable that this government has realized the importance of demographic dividend and has set up an office at the office of the Vice President. But more action is required to see the impact.

- Most states are budgeting between 2-4% for health. Some states e.g Lagos, Bauchi & Jigawa are budgeting about 14% which is encouraging but they need to improve on budgetary releases.

Advocacy Ask 4: engagement with state g overnors on prioritizing h ealth

- There is need for State Governors to prioritize health and we as partners are ready to partner with the NGF, so we can demonstrate achievable results that can be achieved if health is prioritized and funded.

- In the interim there is an FP shortfall for this year in the 2019 budget. The federal government usually buys commodities through UNFPA and make same free of charge to end users, but since there are no allocations in this year's budget to buy commodities for distribution there will be massive stock out by next year as there will be no commodities to be distributed to the state public health facilities. There is need for partners to explore ways of working with NGF on how resources can be pulled together to mitigate the consequence that will happen next year. Even though the BHCf is expected, it is just a proxy and only about 25% of it is being released and can also be used for FP service provision, but the states need to augment.

- There is no provision for counterpart funding for the purchase of contraceptives in the 2019 budget of FMoH. Initially there were two budget line items, one that usually takes care of all the services & processes and another one for the counterpart funding for contraceptive which in this year's budget has been removed. There is need to explore alternative solution in addressing this gap

4. Response from the NGF Secretariat Health Team

- One major challenge is how the budget is being done and how it is structured. It is quite challenging in trying to track budget allocation to the different sectors e.g FP budget could be spread across different budget heads and this would need to be known to ascertain the actual cost allocated for FP.

- Another missing gap is the LGA budget on health because 100% LGA health budget is supposed to be for PHC of which FP is a component of the services at the PHC. Taking all this into consideration possess a serious challenge in calculating exactly what is being spent on FP at the state level.

- From results of one of the studies carried out

THE LAST ANALYSIS OF THE HEALTH CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE FMOH IN 2016 WAS 40% OF THE CAPITAL BUDGET IN 2007 AND BETWEEN 2006 & 2019 NIGERIA'S POPULATION HAS DOUBLED





recently on budget development analysis, there is need to look at those doing chart of accounts for the country (some states have adopted the new chart of account) to see how the new chart of account will help to efficiently track what is allocated. So allocative efficiency is one of the things NGF is pushing for to know exactly what the allocation was used for. There is need to think of alternative ways of generating more money for the health sector which can be ring-fenced as a health sector fund.

- One of such alternative ways are through taxes. The national economic summit group did a perception survey and found out that more than half of Nigerians are not paying taxes within the formal sector. Their reasons are that they are not seeing social benefits and stated that they are willing to pay their taxes if they see social benefits. Majority of persons interviewed said education and health are the type of social benefits they will like to see.

- The team afterwards are exploring ways of using health as an incentive to get citizens to pay their statutory taxes (about 5% of persons in the formal sector pays tax and the target is to increase it to 50%). When this is achieved, a certain percentage of the additional funds generated from the tax payment would need to be pumped in the health sector (since health will be used as an incentive) the remaining goes back to their IGR for other services.

- The BHCPF is supposed to be a catalytic fund to support states improve health services and not to solve all the issues in the health sector. Evidence has shown that supply side financing has not helped the country significantly instead the demand side is more effective.

- A lot of state governors are prioritizing human capital development because of the scary fact reports have shown that by 2050 Nigeria will be the 3rd most populous country in the world. There will be a rise in population mostly in the northern Nigeria many of whom may be unemployed. So we need to think out of the box on how to get more funds into the health sector and ensure allocative efficiency.

- Counterpart funding is not a funding model that is popular with the governors. A typical example is the UBEC funding model which did not work out well. Governors were compelled to access the funds because money was automatically deducted from source at the national level and sent directly to UBEC. Several advocacy efforts were done to get the governor's buy-in to access the funds.

- The SOML P4R is a much better way of funding PHCs in the country. Disbursement linked indicators are used as a baseline for releasing funds such that PHCs get USD205,000 for every 1% improvement made. This encouraged a lot of the states that were low on immunization and coverage increased in some of the northern states like Zamfara & Yobe states. Although the challenge with SOML P4R is that some states are not investing the money realized appropriately.

- Also, another challenge with SOML P4R is that there are no incentives for higher performing states because of the challenge of moving from a very high % to the next level. This needs to be adjusted so it does not look like it is rewarding poor performing states as against states that are already performing very well.

Against Nigeria's deplorable healthcare delivery system



**THIS
2019 FP
BUDGET
WAS CUT
BY
80%**

The Director General of the Nigeria Governors' Forum Mr Asishana B Okauru recommended the following action plan as a next step

Agrees with all the issues brought forward by the advocacy team but acknowledged that the NGF may not be able to influence budgets at the federal level. However, NGF secretariat works very well with FMoH as there are budget items that are budgeted for at the federal, but the impact is on states. A typical example is the BHCPF, which through the advocacy efforts of NGF through Governor Okowa advocated for the release of the BHCPF because states are the direct beneficiaries of the funds. Similarly, in this instance the issue of reduction in family planning budget line in the 2019 FMoH budget, the states who are supposed to be the direct beneficiaries will be directly affected by the budget cut. These calls for advocacy as well.

Going forward the NGF secretariat through the governors will need to bring to the notice of the federal government on the looming crisis that they will likely face as a result of the 2019 budget cut. This should be raised at the next National Executive Council meeting on the implication of not purchasing contraception due to budget reduction. In addition, the Vice President's office handles Demographic Dividend which looks critically at human capital development, this issue is central to the human capital development of the nation and is tied to Demographic Dividend.

There is need to identify champions among the NGF to push this advocacy forward.

Governors meet development partners at Transcorp Hilton



Govs meet World Bank at Transcorp Hilton



Gov Yahaya Bello of Kogi, Gov Ihedioha of Imo and Gov Aminu Bello Masari of Katsina in a warm banter



Gov Fayemi welcomes Guzman of BMGF



Dep Govs of Edo & Kaduna at Transcorp Hilton



Gov Sani Bello & Akeredolu of Ondo



Govs Fayemi, Tambuwal & Bagudu lead Rachid Benmassaoud of WB into the hall



Govs of Ondo and Osun



Govs of Kwara and Oyo



Gov Sani Bello of Niger talking to ED Strategy of NGF



DG in conversation with Gov Ortom of Benue State



Dep Govs of Zamfara & Kaduna



Govs Tambuwal & Akeredolu



Fayemi & Benmassaoud addressing the media



INAUGURATION AFTERMATH: 26 GOVS YET TO **FORM CABINETS**

After their inauguration on May 29, new and returning governors looked set to deliver on their promises to the people. Eight weeks down the line, only a few of them, precisely eight have gone on to name a complete cabinet. Whilst twelve governors took the oath of office for the first time on May 29, 17 others were re-elected.

Only Governors Aminu Waziri Tambuwal of Sokoto, Nasir el-Rufai (Kaduna) and Udom Emmanuel (Akwa Ibom) have inaugurated their cabinets.

Governors Samuel Ortom (Benue) and Babajide Sanwo-Olu (Lagos) have however sent names of their commissioner-nominees to their state houses of assembly.

Sanwo-Olu had on July 14 sent a list containing 25 names to the legislature, while Ortom had earlier forwarded the list of 15 commissioner nominees to the state's House of Assembly for screening and confirmation.

In the case of Katsina State, Governor Aminu Bello Masari has appointed only one commissioner, while his Rivers State counterpart Nyesom Wike has appointed two. Masari reappointed Barrister Ahmed El Marzuq as Commissioner for Justice; while Mustapha Inuwa was retained as Secretary to the State Government (SSG). He has also appointed many aides.

Governor Wike, on his part, appointed the former Minister of Sports, Dr Tammy Danagogo as the Secretary to the State Government and Chief Chukwuemeka Woke as his Chief of Staff. The governor also appointed Mr. Zacheaus Adangor as Commissioner for Justice and Mr. Isaac Kamalu as the Commissioner for Finance, but he is yet to form a cabinet.

In Jigawa State, Governors Abubakar Badaru has not made a single appointment since his inauguration for a second term, just like his Plateau State counterpart Simon Bako Lalong.

Though the Secretary to the Jigawa State Government, Abdulkadiri Fanini, has purportedly been reappointed there was no formal announcement to that effect. Most state governors have however appointed Secretaries to the State Government (SSG), Chiefs of Staff (CoS) and spokespersons, even as they are yet to form their State Executive Councils.

States that have cabinets

Governor Emmanuel of Akwa Ibom had on July 11 sworn-in 19 commissioners and two special advisers, and four permanent secretaries.

EIGHT WEEKS DOWN THE LINE, ONLY A FEW OF THEM, PRECISELY EIGHT HAVE GONE ON TO NAME A COMPLETE CABINET. WHILST TWELVE GOVERNORS TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME ON MAY 29, 17 OTHERS WERE RE-ELECTED





In Kaduna, commissioners were appointed for the 14 ministries even as 13 of them had been assigned portfolios. The commissioners were inaugurated last week with the exception of Aliyu Jafar Abubakar from Kauru Local Government of the state whose nomination was rejected by the State House of Assembly. The commissioners have resumed and have started working.

In Sokoto State also, Governor Tambuwal had few days to the expiration of the tenure of the last state assembly submitted the list of 26 commissioner-nominees.

Governor Tambuwal subsequently swore in the new commissioners 10 days later. They were assigned portfolios on June 27.

States yet to have commissioners

Gombe State Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya has appointed an SSG, Chief of Staff and Principal Private Secretary, among others.

In Nasarawa State, Governor

Abdullahi Sule has appointed aides but has not nominated commissioners.

In Niger State, Governor Abubakar Bello is yet to form his cabinet. Bello had early last month appointed a new SSG, Chief of Staff and Head of Service. He had earlier approved media aides and others.

In Adamawa State, Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri only appointed SSG, chief of staff and other aides.

In Kebbi State, Governor Abubakar Atiku Bagudu made only two appointments: Chief of Staff and SSG.

The situation is the same in Oyo State where Governor Seyi Makinde only appointed SSG, Chief of Staff, and media aide, among others.

In Ogun State, Prince Dapo Abiodun has also named an SSG and Chief of Staff, as well as media aide.

In Bauchi State, Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed is also yet to constitute his cabinet but has since appointed chief of staff and SSG, among others.

In Abia, Governor Okezie Ikpeazu only submitted the names of two commissioner nominees to the State House of Assembly and they have been confirmed. They are the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Barr. Uche Ihediwa and Chief John Okiyi Kalu as Commissioner for Information and Strategy.

In Imo State, Governor Emeka Ihedioha has appointed SSG, Chief of Staff, media aides and some special advisers and senior special assistants but is yet to nominate commissioners.

Zamfara State Governor Bello Muhammad Matawalle is also yet to form his cabinet.

In Enugu State, Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, for now, has only appointed a Special Assistant on Due Process.

Kwara State Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq had few days after his inauguration appointed his Chief of Staff, SSG and CPS.

In Yobe State, Governor Mai Mala Buni is yet to submit list of commissioners to the State House of Assembly. He has however retained the former SSG on acting capacity and made four other appointments. These include the appointment of his Chief of staff; Director General, Press Affairs and Information; Executive Secretary, Yobe State Emergency management Agency and Executive Secretary, Agency for Mass Education.

GOVERNOR EMMANUEL OF AKWA IBOM HAD ON JULY 11 SWORN-IN 19 COMMISSIONERS AND TWO SPECIAL ADVISERS



FIGHTING POVERTY CRITICAL, WORLD BANK TELLS GOVS

***Charges them to focus on social protection, bridge Infrastructure Gaps, and invest in Human Capital**

The World Bank Country chief in Nigeria, Mr. Rachid Benmessaoud has issued Nigerian Governors with a panacea for development which the bank is ready to partner governors to achieve.

Speaking at a meeting with governors at the TRANSCORP Hilton in Abuja, Mr. Benmessaoud harped on governors investing on social protection, bridge Infrastructure Gaps, and in Human Capital.

He said: "We do recognize that development challenges require investing in infrastructure and filling the large infrastructure gaps. But with that, we want to ensure that those infrastructure gaps are filled by bringing more of the private sector in, so that it will enable us to create the physical space for governors to invest in human capital, including financing from development partners like the world bank, but most importantly to increase the domestic revenue mobilisation for providing primary spending on the social sector.

Regretting why poverty has grown in the country, Benmessaoud said that the World Bank has been particularly working with the NGF as the important platform for engaging with the sub-national governments beside their engagements at the state level. He explained that the World Bank mission is to fight poverty and build prosperity, adding that the number of poor people has increased in Nigeria.

Benmassaoud also stated that poverty has moved from Asia to Africa.

Benmessaoud said that fighting poverty in Nigeria and Africa is absolutely critical for reducing poverty globally. He pointed out that priorities which the bank engaged with the governors will be around investing in human capital to have access to basic education, health services, and social protection.

"Therefore, the World Bank has the large part of its engagement at the state level. What we have done in this workshop hosted by the NGF is to go over the portfolio at the state level and how it can accelerate the implementation of the programmes.

"The portfolio ranges from health, education, soil erosion, water and it has a lot of investments that are also performance-based,



where states are rewarded on the basis of their performance on certain indicators," he said.

He disclosed that grants, loans and other assistances worth \$4billion have been received from the World Bank by several states of the federation.

Ekiti State governor and Chairman of NGF, Dr Kayode Fayemi, put the sum at \$4bn.

Dr. Fayemi said that it is important for the governors to work on the engagements with the World Bank in terms of the lending operations, advisory activities and concrete

action in their states.

He said that "the bank is spending somewhere in the region of \$4 billion on states and some of our states are benefiting from a range of grants, even the loans that we benefit from on the basis of the bank's investments in our states; these are with long term moratorium and with low interest rate over a long period of time to offset those loan portfolios.

"So, it is important for us to work on that engagement both in terms of the lending operations, in terms of advisory activities and in terms of the concrete action in our states.

"I don't know of many development partners that have programmes in 36 states; the World Bank does and all of our governors were present in this meeting and that makes the statement about the importance attached to this partnership with the World Bank and we had extensive discussion on how to improve on existing relationship and how to

**GRANTS, LOANS AND
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PA OKAURU MEMORIAL SERVICE



DG & Mrs Okauru giving praise





IN MEMORY OF PA OKAURU 1932 – 1999



Medical outreach





NEW NNPC GMD, MALLAM MELE KYARI

Mallam Mele Kyari comes to the job with a very rich oil and gas industry experience spanning over 27 years.

A 1987 graduate of Geology and Earth Science from the University of Maiduguri, he served as a well site geologist with the Directorate of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) between 1987 and 1988 under the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC).

Thereafter, he worked with the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency between 1988 and 1991 before joining the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) as a Seismic Data Processing Geophysicist in the Processing Department of Integrated Data Services Limited in 1992.

He also made his mark as a labour union leader when he served as the NNPC Group Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGAS-SAN) from 1997 to 1999.

He was later appointed as Exploration Geophysicist, Production Sharing Contract (PSC), at the National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS) in 1998 from where he was made the head of NAPIMS Operations in Abuja in 2004.

In 2006, he was appointed the Supervisor, PSC Crude Oil Marketing Department (COMD) of the NNPC, from where he rose to the position of head, and later manager of Production Contracts Management of the COMD between 2007 and 2014.

Mr. Kyari was appointed General Manager, Oil Stock Management, COMD, where he worked till 2015 when he was appointed Group General Manager, COMD and later Nigeria's national representative at the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Born January 8, 1965, Kyari has traversed the entire value chain of the petroleum industry, posting resounding performances in all his assignments and duty posts.

GOV BUNI'S RACE TO GRACE

With just less than two months in office, Governor Mai Mala Buni has shown that everything necessary will be done to keep Yobe State on track to make more progress and improve on the people's living conditions, Abdullahi Bego writes:

Governor Mai Mala Buni's speech at the opening of the two-day education summit that his administration organised recently to think out-of-the-box and suggest solutions to some of the challenges in Yobe's education sector – education being always a work in progress – speaks to his leadership style as an introspective person who wants to get things done by carefully weighing the options and bringing all-hands-on-deck.

Widely praised for its straight talk, the speech pointed the experts, resource persons, traditional and community leaders and other stakeholders gathered for the summit in a clear direction – to find practical and implementable ways on how Yobe's children could have improved access to qualitative education. The speech also confirms his determination to 'walk the talk'.

A little under a month earlier, the governor, who declared a state of emergency in Yobe's education sector, had pledged to work with every person and entity – and deploy every resource available – to build on Yobe's education sector and place it on a sounder footing. The Summit was a methodical, broad-based approach to reaching that goal.

It also set the tone for what is to come under his watch in the months and years ahead. Separate and apart from what we know an approach like the summit that held could achieve, the people of Yobe State are getting increasingly assured, through his take on various issues so far, that Buni would truly be the leader they hoped for – a determined and dedicated public servant who, like his predecessor, would always prove that 'words must mean something'.

The governor has said, for example, that Yobe's next level accomplishments will be hammered into place on the anvils of continuity and consolidation. He has proceeded firmly to do that. In healthcare, water supply, agriculture, the civil service and other sectors vital to the day-to-day well-being of ordinary people, the governor has maintained – and is building on – the progress Yobe has made under former Governor Ibrahim Gaidam.

Governor Buni has also taken three broad initiatives that speak to the Yobe he has in mind for the next four years.

First, he has shown that to make progress on a more sustainable basis, Yobe's economic foundations must be strengthened and reinforced on the crest of its well-known comparative advantage – agriculture. By taking concrete steps to resuscitate the Yobe Flour and Feed Mills (a company



that has a rice mill upgrade capacity), the Woven Sacks factory and the Yobe Fertilizer Blending company, Governor Buni has helped to enhance the agricultural value-chain in the state. With irrigation agriculture already making progress under his predecessor at the Nguru Lake and Mugura Garin-Gada, and the multiple irrigation sites he plans to support, it is only a matter of time before Yobe becomes the nation's food basket that it should be.

This will have significant impact on internal revenue flow and will positively affect Yobe's capacity to provide employment for its teeming youths.

Second, the governor has shown that to move to the Next Level, Yobe must leverage on its partnerships and contacts with development partners both within and outside the country. In a meeting with the representatives of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Abuja recently, for example, the governor has made clear that he will sustain all ongoing partnerships, continue to meet all counterpart funding obligations and will spare no effort to join hands with governmental and non-governmental organisations to bring about more progress to the state.

Third, Governor Buni has shown that over the next many years, Yobe would tap from the vast and relentless energy of its youths to move the state forward. In a meeting with a group of youths from across the three senatorial districts of the state recently, the governor has revealed that a Yobe Youth Development Summit is being con-

templated to engage with them and each other, and develop a template that will go farther than before in addressing their needs and concerns.

One of those needs and concerns, the governor reckons, is a capacity for the youths to stand on their feet, and to be more useful to themselves, their family and community.

This is the reason that the governor, for one, is currently exploring a partnership with entities in the Kingdom of Morocco in the area of skills acquisition, among others, so that interested youths in the state could be trained in arts and crafts, fashion designing, and embroidery, including in how to make *Kufta* and *Alkyabba* that people use a lot in the North.

A meeting between Governor Buni and the Deputy Head of Mission of the Moroccan embassy in Abuja, Mr. El Houssaine Oustitane, which held recently and set the tone for the partnership, would be followed soon by visits to Yobe and Morocco at the technical level to avail officials on both sides the opportunity to make concrete inputs on how to go forward.

In Governor Buni's recent visit to and interaction with the students and teachers at the Yetim Care Foundation, an orphanage in Damaturu, the state capital, and the support that he provided to them, he has also shown that he deeply cares for what happens in the lives of orphans and the less privileged in society.

- Bego is Director General for Press Affairs to Governor Buni