



National Primary Health Care Development Agency



Office of the Executive Director

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Date.....21st December, 2009.....

His Excellency, Dr. Bukola Saraki,
The Chairman Governors' Forum,
Executive Governor of Kwara State,
C/O National Secretariat,
Governors' Forum,
Abuja.

*The original copy received by
Barabas Hbbz [Signature] 22/12/09*

Your Excellency Sir,

PROPOSAL FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOVERNORS' ABUJA COMMITMENTS TO POLIO ERADICATION IN NIGERIA

FIRST OF ALL, let me express my sincere gratitude for the... contributions, efforts and support you and your colleagues have provided for the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) and the overall improvement in the provision of quality Primary Health Care (PHC) services to all citizens in the country.

Your Excellency would want to be kindly reminded that "The Abuja Commitments to Polio Eradication in Nigeria" was signed by the Chairman of the Governors' Forum & Executive Governor of Kwara State and by the Honourable Minister of Health on 2 February 2010. The Commitments were the result of a meeting of the 36 Executive Governors with Mr. Bill Gates, at a special session on health convened by His Excellency, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

In this document, the Executive Governors committed themselves to five actions aimed at securing a polio-free Nigeria and improving Primary Health Care (see attachment). It is on record that to date, the Governors' support has resulted in increased momentum and improved polio immunization activities in many areas.

There is however need to consolidate the gains from their Excellencies support considering that the situation of Poliovirus infection in Nigeria is still fragile even though there has been substantial progress in many states in the past few months.

February 2, 2010 marks one year since the Commitments were signed. To this end, we propose to use this opportunity to recognize the Governors' efforts, and identify the key urgent actions required to secure a polio-free Nigeria in 2010. Also during the event there will be a presentation of a report

including a scorecard on implementation of the Commitments. This would take place at an open session of the Governors' Forum February meeting in the presence of polio eradication stakeholders including the media.

It is therefore my singular honour, to request His Excellency's approval to stage this important advocacy event during the regularly scheduled February 2010 meeting of the Governors' Forum. Please find attached herewith a copy of the proposal for the event and a suggested agenda for your kind consideration and further directives as deemed appropriate.

Your Excellency Sir, your continued support to the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) and the overall improvement in the provision of quality Primary Health Care (PHC) services is highly valued and is being solicited once again.

Please accept the assurances of my highest regards.

Respectfully yours,



Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate
Executive Director/CEO

Attachment: Draft Concept paper/Agenda

CC: Executive Secretary Governors' Forum

Concept Proposal for the Recognition of the 1st Anniversary of the Abuja Commitments to Polio Eradication in Nigeria

Background and context: The Abuja Commitments to Polio Eradication in Nigeria were signed by the Chairman of the Governors' Forum & Executive Governor of Kwara State and by the Honourable Minister of Health on 2nd February 2010. The Commitments were the result of a meeting of the 36 Executive Governors with Mr. Bill Gates, at a special session on health convened by His Excellency, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, and the President of Nigeria.

In this document, the Executive Governors committed themselves to five actions aimed at securing a polio-free Nigeria and improving Primary Health Care (see attachment). To date, the Governors' support has resulted in increased momentum and improved polio immunization activities in many areas. Indicators have been agreed against which to measure implementation of the Commitments. A six-month update was prepared and presented in August 2009 to the States, to highlight the progress but also gaps in implementation.

The 18th Meeting of the Expert Review Committee on Polio Eradication & Routine Immunization in Nigeria noted important progress in the polio eradication effort and concluded that "the reduced transmission of Wild Polio Virus in Nigeria in 2009, particularly the reduction in Wild Polio Virus Type 1, is the result of reaching more children with immunization." It further noted that oversight by political and government leaders was critical to reach the goal of interruption of all three serotypes of wild polio virus by mid-2010.

February 2nd, 2010 marks one year since the Commitments were signed. This is an opportunity to recognize the Governors' efforts, and identify the key urgent actions required to secure a polio-free Nigeria in 2010.

Summary proposal: To mark the anniversary of the 2nd February 2009 signing of the Abuja Commitments to Polio Eradication in Nigeria, Governors' efforts would be recognized and urgent 2010 actions agreed, through presentation of a report including a scorecard on implementation of the Commitments. This would take place at an open session of the Governors' Forum February meeting in the presence of polio eradication stakeholders including the media.

Purpose: To recognize the Governors' efforts on polio eradication in 2009, and agree to specific actions required in 2010 to secure a polio-free Nigeria, through a public event to mark the one-year anniversary of the signing of the Abuja Commitments.

Objectives:

- To recognize the Governors' efforts to secure a polio-free Nigeria through implementation of the Abuja Commitments
- To ensure wide understanding amongst the Governors and all stakeholders of the progress and challenges, State by State, in implementing the Abuja Commitments to Polio Eradication in Nigeria through presentation of an analytical report and "scorecard"
- To demonstrate how successful implementation of the Commitments has resulted in improved immunization outcomes
- To secure specific actions in every State to implement the Abuja Commitments in 2010 based on an analysis of strengths and gaps
- To engage the media in quality reporting of the progress and remaining urgent challenges in securing a polio-free Nigeria.

Concept Proposal for the Recognition of the 1st Anniversary of the Abuja Commitments to Polio Eradication in Nigeria

Desired outcomes:

- Public recognition of the Governors' efforts in an open meeting
- A common understanding by Governors and all stakeholders including the media of progress on the Abuja Commitments in 2009
- Identification of and commitment to specific actions required by the Governors' Forum to secure a polio-free Nigeria in 2010 to be reported to His Excellency, The President of Nigeria.
- High-quality National and State-level media coverage of the progress and urgent actions required by Governors and LGA Chairmen to secure a polio-free Nigeria.

Suggested Format: Governors' Forum to hold a special open session during its scheduled February meeting. Polio Eradication, Immunization and other key Primary Health Care stakeholders including the Media would be invited to attend. ED, NPHCDA would write in advance to each Governor through the Forum to appraise State progress and areas for improvement at State and LGA level.

Suggested Agenda:

Chairman, Governors' Forum: Welcome Remarks (5 mins.)
Minister of Health: Keynote Address recognizing the Governors' 2009 efforts in polio eradication and routine immunization (10 mins.)
Short high-quality video presentation highlighting the Governors' work to implement the Abuja Commitments (to be recorded in advance of January IPDs) (5 mins.)
Presentation by ED NPHCDA of the summary of the report, and a scorecard representing progress and challenges (10 mins.)
Chairman, Governors' Forum: Respond and commit to specific actions to continue progress and urgently improve on the gaps in implementation of the Abuja Commitments 2010. May invite colleagues to speak. (10 mins.)
Additional stakeholder representing partnership would offer goodwill message to recognize the Governors and state their commitment to work together towards a polio-free Nigeria in 2010 (5 mins.)
Meeting closes, and Governors proceed to closed-door meeting to discuss and agree to specific actions and a way forward

Following the meeting:

- A Governors' Forum statement is issued, reconfirming the commitment to the Abuja Commitments, and stating the specific actions required in 2010 to ensure full implementation.
- The statement and outcomes to be reported to His Excellency, The President.
- The meeting is followed by a news conference hosted by the Chairman, Governors' Forum*

**Note that additional engagement of media would include selected journalists to report on Governors' actions to prepare and ensure success of January IPDs, and the production of a television and radio report to be broadcast on national television and radio.*

ABUJA COMMITMENTS TO POLIO ERADICATION IN NIGERIA

- A communiqué following the meeting of governors with Mr. Bill Gates
- 02 February 2009

We, the Executive Governors of the thirty-six (36) States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, meeting in Abuja, with Mr. Bill Gates, on 2 February, 2009 at a special session on health convened under the leadership of His Excellency, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Bearing in mind our constitutional responsibilities and our strong desire to have a healthy population, and our duty to protect our children from all childhood diseases, including polio and other vaccine preventable diseases, and an international commitment to a world-free of polio

Noting with concern that in the world today, only Nigerian children are being exposed to all three types of Poliovirus that can cause life-long paralysis, and more Nigerian children are paralyzed from Polio than in any other country in the world

Acknowledging that the eradication of polio is, therefore, an urgent health priority for our States, and our Nation, and the successful completion of Polio eradication in Nigeria will enhance the Government's capacity and support for delivering other vital health services,

Recognizing that,

- There must be universal coverage for all Nigerians.
- Polio in itself is symptomatic of a failing primary health care system.
- That a viable Primary Health Care system is the sustainable platform for Routine Immunization in Nigeria.
- 90% of all children will have to be reached and vaccinated to stop the sustained transmission of Polio.
- completion of Polio eradication will require strong leadership from the State and LGA administration, and strategic guidance from the State Health officials.
- Oral Polio Vaccines used in Nigeria are safe and effective, and similar to those used in countries that have eradicated polio.
- valuable technical and financial support from WHO, UNICEF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary International and other development partners will assist in the strengthening eradication activities and routine immunization in the States.

The Initiative by Niger State Government to legislate against polio immunization should be shared with other states for consideration.

Noting that under our (Governors) leadership we can secure the historic achievement of a polio-free Nigeria, expedite the delivery of a polio-free Africa, and protect the lives of millions of children for all future generations.

We COMMIT OURSELVES to:

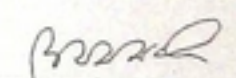
1. Providing active leadership of Polio eradication activities (including routine immunization) and primary health care, in general, in the State and directing LGA Chairmen to ensure that all children under 5 years are reached and vaccinated during any polio eradication activity in the State;
2. Improving the operational quality at the LGA level in our States by Chairing quarterly meetings with all the LGA Chairmen to closely review the planning, implementation, and results of polio eradication activities, routine immunization/primary health care and identify remedies for poor-performing LGAs;

3. Allocating additional financial and human resources to strengthen Primary Health Care so that it can sustain routine immunization services and improve implementation of campaigns (Immunization Plus Days) in the State;
4. Reporting back to H.E. the President through NEC on a quarterly basis on the status of polio eradication efforts, including routine immunization, in the State.
5. Improving Primary Health Care as a more holistic plan to addressing the issue of immunization through community health insurance schemes.

Signed at Abuja, Nigeria on 2nd February in the Year 2009.


DR. BUKOLA SARAKI

CHAIRMAN, GOVERNORS FORUM &
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KWARA STATE


PROF. BABATUNDE OSOTIMERIN
NON-MINISTER FOR HEALTH