



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NIGERIA  
GOVERNORS' FORUM**

**HELD ON**

**21<sup>st</sup> JUNE, 2011**

**AT THE**

**RIVERS STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE, ASOKORO,  
ABUJA**

## ATTENDANCE

| S/N | NAME                         | STATE       | DESIGNATION       |
|-----|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1   | Rt. Hon. Chibuike R. Amaechi | Rivers      | Governor/Chairman |
| 2   | Murtala H. Nyako             | Adamawa     | Governor          |
| 3   | Mallam Isa Yuguda            | Bauchi      | Governor          |
| 4   | Timipre Sylva                | Bayelsa     | Governor          |
| 5   | Suswam, Gabriel T.           | Benue       | Governor          |
| 6   | Kashim Shettima              | Borno       | Governor          |
| 7   | Liyel Imoke                  | Cross River | Governor          |
| 8   | Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan        | Delta       | Governor          |
| 9   | Chief Martin Elechi          | Ebonyi      | Governor          |
| 10  | Adams Oshiomhole             | Edo         | Governor          |
| 11  | Dr. Kayode Fayemi            | Ekiti       | Governor          |
| 12  | Sullivan Chime               | Enugu       | Governor          |
| 13  | Ibrahim Dankwambo            | Gombe       | Governor          |
| 14  | Patrick I. Yakowa            | Kaduna      | Governor          |
| 15  | Saidu N. Usman               | Kebbi       | Governor          |
| 16  | Babatunde R. Fashola, SAN    | Lagos       | Governor          |
| 17  | Umaru Tanko Almakura         | Nasarawa    | Governor          |
| 18  | Aliyu M. Wamakko             | Sokoto      | Governor          |
| 19  | Danbaba D.Suntai             | Taraba      | Governor          |
| 20  | Hon. Abdulaziz Yari          | Zamfara     | Governor          |
| 21  | Nsima Ekere                  | Akwa Ibom   | Deputy Governor   |
| 22  | Ahmed Gumel                  | Jigawa      | Deputy Governor   |
| 23  | Dr. Phillips O. Salawu, FCA  | Kogi        | Deputy Governor   |
| 24  | Peter S. Kisira              | Kwara       | Deputy Governor   |
| 25  | Hon. Ahmed M. Ibet           | Niger       | Deputy Governor   |
| 26  | Ignatius Gongjan             | Plateau     | Deputy Governor   |
| 27  | Engr. Abubakar D. Aliyu      | Yobe        | Deputy Governor   |

## APOLOGIES

|   |                         |         |          |
|---|-------------------------|---------|----------|
| 1 | Chief T.A. Orji         | Abia    | Governor |
| 2 | Mr. Peter Obi           | Anambra | Governor |
| 3 | Owelle Rochas Okorochoa | Imo     | Governor |
| 4 | Engr. Rabi M. Kwankwaso | Kano    | Governor |
| 5 | Barr. Ibrahim S. Shema  | Katsina | Governor |
| 6 | Senator Ibikunle Amosun | Ogun    | Governor |
| 7 | Dr. Olusegun Mimiko     | Ondo    | Governor |
| 8 | Rauf Aregbesola         | Osun    | Governor |
| 9 | Senator Abiola Ajimobi  | Oyo     | Governor |

| S/N | NOTES/RESOLUTIONS   | ACTION BY |
|-----|---|-----------|
| A   | <p><b>COMMENCEMENT</b></p> <p>The meeting started at 8.30 pm with opening prayers by the Governors of Cross River and Adamawa States.</p>   |           |
| B   | <p><b>CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2011 was read. The Governor of Sokoto State moved a motion for the adoption of the minutes and he was seconded by the Governor of Bayelsa State.</p>  |           |
| C   | <p><b>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</b></p> <p>In his opening remarks, the Chairman thanked the Forum for unanimously endorsing him as Chairman. He affirmed that he saw himself as first among equals and a privileged beneficiary of their endorsement.</p>  |           |
| D   | <p><b>MATTERS ARISING:</b></p> <p><b>i) Minimum Wage:</b></p> <p>The Chairman informed the meeting that, following the directives of the last meeting of the Forum, he had conferred with the President and intimated him of the NGF's desire that he set the machinery in motion to amend the revenue allocation formula as a means of meeting the minimum wage of N18, 000 which was recently signed into law.</p> <p>The President proposed two (2) options that in his view were immediately feasible – removal of fuel subsidy and the shedding of the Federal Government's 'weight'.</p> <p>The Chairman also informed members that the Chairman of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) had indicated his readiness to address the Forum at its next meeting.</p> <p>After intense deliberations on the minimum wage, members agreed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The NGF recognizes the Minimum Wage Act as a valid law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which they were all obliged to obey;</li> <li>b) The issue was not that of unwillingness to pay, but rather that of inability to do so;</li> <li>c) To engage Labour wholistically so as to jointly agree to a common implementation plan;</li> <li>d) To review the country's revenue allocation formula;</li> <li>e) To work towards the removal of the petroleum subsidy which was encouraging inefficiency and corruption in the system;</li> <li>f) To constitute of a committee to determine the financial implications and work out the implementation details;</li> <li>g) Examine the realities this law imposed on the States and its implication for the workforce;</li> <li>h) To send the Report of the NGF sub-committee on Revenue</li> </ol> |           |

Allocation to the President.

Accordingly, a Committee to meet with the president was constituted as follows:

- a) Chairman, NGF
- b) Governor of Nasarawa (North Central)
- c) Governor of Enugu (South East)
- d) Governor of Edo (South South)
- e) Governor of Kaduna (North West)
- f) Governor of Lagos (South West)
- g) Governor of Adamawa (North East)

**E New Tax Regime**

The meeting was informed that the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) had facilitated the transmission of an Executive bill to the National Assembly (NASS), proposing the principles of global taxation where emphasis would be on indirect taxation. The Bill had been sent to the President for assent. Members warned that the passing of the bill would spell hardship on the populace and the Forum agreed that it would not be in the best interest of the States to have the bill passed. The Forum resolved to request the President not to assent the bill.

In the light of the above development, members re-visited their earlier decision to appoint NGF liaison officers to the NASS, whose duties will include acquainting the Forum of developments and bills before the NASS that may have implications for the States.

The Forum recommended two (2) persons for the job, one person representing each arm of the National Assembly. All feedback from the Liaison Officers would be routed through the Director General to the Forum.

**F Addressing the Polio Challenge**

The Forum noted the remarkable achievements recorded in the eradication of polio but learnt that 4 States – Sokoto, Kebbi, Kano and Borno still had cases of polio.

The meeting resolved to sustain the tempo through consistent and comprehensive campaigns and in this regard the Forum agreed to recognize one day in every quarter to hold sensitization campaigns in all the States to raise the level of awareness.

The campaigns would involve all the stakeholders in the States and the Secretariat was directed to draw the timetable/roadmap for the quarterly campaigns.

**G Security**

Following a briefing by the Governor of Borno State and intense deliberations by members on the state of the country's security, especially in the wake of the

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| H | <p>bombing of the Nigeria Police Force headquarters in Abuja, the Forum condemned in very strong terms the recent spate of bombings across the country and urged the FG to invest heavily in intelligence and technology. The Forum also resolved to engage in meaningful dialogue in seeking lasting solutions.</p> <p><b>CONCLUSION</b><br/>The meeting rose at 10.35pm.</p> <p><b>Rt. Honourable Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi</b><br/><b>Executive Governor, Rivers State</b><br/><b>Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum</b></p> |  |
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