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MINUTES OF THE 14TH MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM IN 2012

HELD ON

10th DECEMBER, 2012

AT THE

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

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi	Rivers	Governor/Chairman
2	Mr. Peter Obi	Anambra	Governor/Vice Chairman
3	Chief T. A. Orji	Abia	Governor
4	Vice Admiral Murtala H. Nyako (Rtd.)	Adamawa	Governor
5	Mallam Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
6	Chief Martin Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
7	Dr. Kayode Fayemi	Ekiti	Governor
8	Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan Dankwanbo	Gombe	Governor
9	Owelle Rochas Okorochoa	Imo	Governor
10	Sir Patric I. Yakowa	Kaduna	Governor
11	Alhaji Saidu Usman Dakingari	Kebbi	Governor
12	Capt. Idris I. Wada	Kogi	Governor
13	Alhaji Abdulfatah Ahmed	Kwara	Governor
14	Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN)	Lagos	Governor
15	Dr Olusegun Mimiko	Ondo	Governor
16	Senator Abiola Ajimobi	Oyo	Governor
17	Hon. Abdul-Aziz Yari Abubakar	Zamfara	Governor
18	Lady Valerie Ebe	Akwa Ibom	Deputy Governor
19	Alhaji Zannah Mustapha	Borno	Deputy Governor
20	Mr. Sunday C. Onyebuchi	Enugu	Acting Governor
21	Alhaji Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
22	Dr. A. U. Ganduje	Kano	Deputy Governor
23	Hon. Dameshi B. Luka	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor
24	Hon. Ahmed M. Ibeto	Niger	Deputy Governor
25	Mr. Ignatius D. Longjan	Plateau	Deputy Governor
26	Mr. M. S. Shagari (Esq.) CFR	Sokoto	Deputy Governor
27	Alhaji Garba Umaru	Taraba	Acting Governor
28	Engr. Abubakar D. Aliyu	Yobe	Deputy Governor

APOLOGIES

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Hon. Seriake Dickson	Bayelsa	Governor
2	Mr Gabriel T. Suswam Esq.	Benue	Governor
3	Senator Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
4	Dr E. E. Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
5	Comrade Adams A. Oshiomhole	Edo	Governor
6	Dr Ibrahim Shewu Shema	Katsina	Governor
7	Senator Ibikunle Amosun	Ogun	Governor
8	Engr. Rauf Aregbesola	Osun	Governor

S/N	NOTES/RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY
1.0	<p>Commencement</p> <p>The meeting started at 8:45pm with an opening prayer by the Governor of Imo State.</p>	
2.0	<p>Minutes of the Last NGF Meeting</p>	
2.1	<p>Minutes for the last meeting held on the 27th of November, 2012 were reviewed and the motion for adoption of the minutes was moved by the Imo State Governor, and seconded by the Borno State Deputy Governor</p>	
3.0	<p>Chairman's Brief</p>	
3.1	<p>The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and briefed the House on the last meetings of the Forum. Regarding the discussion on constitutional amendments, he noted that agreement was reached on all matters except the issue of mineral resources and state police which were deferred for further consideration.</p>	
3.2	<p>The Chairman also briefed the House on a meeting he attended which was held by the President on Tuesday 4th December 2012 with the Chief of Staff, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Minister of finance, and Vice President present.</p> <p>He noted that upon arrival at the meeting he learned that a decision had been reached for extra money to be raised for oil subsidy to bring the account balance from N888m to N1.3bn. The Chairman said he opposed the decision on behalf of the Forum on the grounds that expenditure needs to be according to the provision of the law, and as the legality of the Excess Crude Account was still being challenged in court, the governors would not contribute. After heated debate, it was decided that the federal government would carry on with its plans, but the chairman refused to sign the agreement. This position was supported by the House.</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">ENDORSED</p>	
4.0	<p>ECA Litigation in the Supreme Court and Update on FAAC</p>	
4.1	<p>A member of the House raised concern about the slow pace of the case, whether anything could be done to expedite the</p>	

	<p>matter. The Chairman explained that delays had been fundamentally due to various attempts at out of court settlement with the Federal Government, noting that the lawyers were now under instruction to progress the matter with pace. Furthermore, he called on members to remain committed to case as it is fundamental to the principles of the federal system, and encouraged members to pay their outstanding legal fees as soon as possible to facilitate the process.</p>	<p><i>Finance ... update ...</i></p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>The Chairman raised the issue of outstanding dues and encouraged all States to pay all outstanding annual dues as a matter of urgency as without payment, the Secretariat is financially handicapped and unable to carry out its functions efficiently.</p> <p>Furthermore, the issue of building the secretariat is also pending and needs to be addressed immediately. Imo State Governor responded by graciously offering to look into the provision of a suitable piece of land in the Central Area of Abuja for the project.</p>	<p>All States with outstanding dues</p> <p><i>Business</i></p> <p>All states/Imo State Governor/Secretariat</p>
<p>4.3</p>	<p>Chairman of Commissioners of Finance Forum, Barrister Timothy Odah, briefed the House on Excess Crude account and FAAC.</p> <p><i>approximately</i></p> <p>a. He stated that as at the beginning of last month the Excess Crude Account balance was \$8.4bn. At the end of the period, N172bn was posted, and with other inflows, current balance stands at \$11bn.</p> <p>b. He went on to brief the House that following review of the federation accounts for the period January 2011 to December 2011, and January 2012 to September 2012 by the FAAC Technical and Post Mortem Sub-Committees, some discrepancies were uncovered. Following robust deliberations by FAAC members it was agreed that presidential approval should be sought to enable the total amount of underpayment of N230.8bn to be distributed to the States as a windfall.</p> <p>c. There was also a discrepancy on the Solid Minerals Account of N154bn, and it was agreed that this too will be disbursed to the States. Both have been paid over in the first two weeks of December 2012.</p> <p>d. Furthermore, there was also an ongoing contention on the sum of N635bn that was not included in the funds from oil proceeds, but was left hanging rather than being paid into</p>	<p><i>Give the ...</i></p> <p><i>Chairman of Finance</i></p> <p>Chairman, Forum of Finance</p>

	the federation account. This is currently under debate, and the Commissioner promised to report back on outcomes of the deliberations. <i>members</i>	Commissioners
4.4	Following the update the Forum commended the Commissioner and his Forum for their effort. It was noted that as the law provides for such reviews to be done for up to a 5-year period, the Forum of Finance Commissioners should push further and investigate the accounts for the past 5 years. This would be supported by the Forum, and in particular by the Gombe State Governor. <i>Members resolved to support this.</i>	Chairman, Forum of Finance Commissioners/Gombe State Governor
5.0	National Borrowing Plan: Update on National Assembly (NASS) Public Hearing	
5.1	The Chairman drew the attention of the House to the proposed National Borrowing Plan. Some members raised concerns about borrowings reflected in the plan that the state had not applied for. The Chairman explained that the plan was a statement of intention, and did not mean that borrowing had to be undertaken. He advised States <i>States</i> to take the opportunity of securing the facilities, which though may not be immediately needed, could be drawn upon in future. He also encouraged members to approve the document to enable the NASS complete relevant activities.	
5.2	It was resolved that the Chairman would contact the Chairman <i>Chairman</i> of the House of Representatives <i>House of Representatives</i> Committee for debt, and finance minister for further clarification	<i>Chairman</i>
6.0	Update on Polio Eradication Initiative	
6.1	An increase in the number of reported cases from 94 to 112 since the last report. The Chairman expressed concern at this alarming trend noting that Borno and Yobe States seemed to have made progress as there were almost no new cases reported in the States. It was explained that the commitment of the Executive <i>Executive</i> is clearly at a high level, but this was not being emulated effectively at the grass roots. A lot is already being done, but given lapses in the past reported cases have increase though the evidence indicates a reduction in the rate of increase. The Chairman therefore asked States that appear to be improving to brief the House on the strategies they had employed. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use of Polio victims in Adamawa, to lead advocacy and campaigns. b. Use of financial incentives to ensure that vaccinators are working effectively. Also vaccinators are being asked to present used vaccine cases, and names of those 	<i>Chairman</i>

	<p>vaccinated in order to check their claims.</p> <p>c. Cold rooms are being made available, and vehicles for village heads to supervise vaccinators.</p> <p>The Chairman encouraged S states to take on these initiatives to shore up their fight against Polio</p>	
7.0	AOB	
7.1	<p>a. The Deputy Governor of Akwa Ibom State was welcomed to the Forum.</p> <p>b. The Governor of Lagos State thanked the house for sending representatives to the recently concluded National Sports Festival, which took place in Lagos.</p> <p>c. The issue of the behaviour of governors' security aids and members of the press at public functions was raised. The unprofessional and often disruptive nature of their conduct was highlighted, and it was suggested that this should be addressed in the near future possibly by setting standards and code of conduct for such personnel. ✓</p> <p>d. Concerns were also raised about the way the Federal government was administering the Sure P Fund. The Fund is supposed to be project focussed and tackling youth unemployment. In administering the fund there appears to be some bias in the way money is being handed to political allies particularly in S states not controlled by the ruling party. ✓</p> <p>e. Furthermore, there was an article in Vanguard newspaper quoting a Federal government official attacking Governors on the management of the Sure P funds received. This and other such public attacks need to stop. It was resolved that:</p> <p>i. Records on such public attacks by federal officials should be kept for future reference.</p> <p>ii. Chairman should ^{take} this up by responding to the article on behalf of all Governors.</p> <p>f. The upcoming Nigeria at 100 initiative was raised and all S states were encouraged to participate in the initiative.</p>	

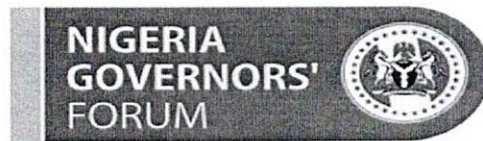
8.0	Adjournment/Conclusion	
8.1	The motion for adjournment was moved by the Zamfara State Governor, and Seconded by the Deputy Governor of Kano State.	
8.2	The meeting rose at 11:45pm with a closing prayer by the Deputy Governor of Kano State.	

Rt.Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum
10th December, 2012

ACTIONS LOG

MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

Ref no.	Date	Description	Action By	Time line	Status	Review Date
M14/001	10/12/12	States to pay all outstanding dues as a matter of urgency (including contributions for the new Secretariat building project)	All States with outstanding dues			
M14/002	10/12/12	Imo State Governor to provide a suitable piece of land in the Central Area of Abuja for the Secretariat Building project.	Imo State Governor and Secretariat			
M14/003	10/12/12	Commissioner to report back to Chairman on outcome of the deliberations on the FAAC outstanding sum of N635bn	Chairman, Forum of Finance Commissioners			
M14/004	10/12/12	Finance Commissioners should push further and investigate the FAAC accounts for the past 5 years, to be supported by the Governor of Gombe State as necessary.	Chairman, Forum of Finance Commissioners/ Gombe State Governor			



14th Meeting in 2012

Monday, December 10, 2012

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers;
2. Chairman's Brief;
3. Consideration and Adoption of the Minutes of the Last NGF Meeting;
4. Excess Crude Account — Review of Balance;
5. National Borrowing Plan — Update on National Assembly (NASS) Public Hearing;
6. Polio Eradication Initiative — End of the Year Review;
7. Presentation by Stakeholders;
8. A.O.B;
9. Adjournment.



COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 14TH MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2012, AT THE RIVERS STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE, ABUJA

We, the Governors of the 36 States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at our 14th meeting held today Monday 10th December, 2012 at the Rivers State Governor's Lodge, Abuja deliberated over a number of issues and resolved as follows;

1. The Forum examined the revised proposed pipeline projects under the Medium Term External Borrowing Plan (2012 – 2014) and agreed to pursue further deliberations with the Ministry of Finance and the National Assembly.
2. The meeting carried out an end of year review of the Polio Eradication Initiative, noting changes in the demography of incidences, following which we agreed to:
 - States should put in place necessary incentives to motivate vaccinators for better performance;
 - A better information sharing mechanism of good practices across states;
 - Emphasize the centrality of routine immunization as a sustainable means of eradicating polio;
 - Engage more stakeholders from local communities in the campaign.

***Rt. Hon Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi
Governor of Rivers State
& Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum
December 10th 2012***