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

**HELD ON**

**17<sup>TH</sup> 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	Comrade Adams Oshiomhole	Edo	Governor
6	Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo	Gombe	Governor
7	Owelle Rochas Okorochoa	Imo	Governor
8	Alhaji Saidu Usman Dakingari	Kebbi	Governor
9	Capt. Idris I. Wada	Kogi	Governor
10	Dr Muazu Babangida Aliyu	Niger	Governor
11	Sen. Ibikunle Amosun	Ogun	Governor
12	Dr Olusegun Mimiko	Ondo	Governor
13	Air Commodore Jonah D. Jang	Plateau	Governor
14	Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam	Yobe	Governor
15	Alhaji Sagir Aminu Saleh	Bauchi	Deputy Governor
16	Mr. Efiok Cobham	Cross River	Acting Governor
17	Mr. Sunday C. Onyebuchi	Enugu	Acting Governor
18	Alhaji Ahmed Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
19	Alhaji Abdullahi G. Faskari	Katsina	Deputy Governor
20	Elder Peter S. Kisira	Kwara	Deputy Governor
21	Hon. Dameshi B. Luka	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor
22	Mr M. S. Shagari (Esq)	Sokoto	Deputy Governor
23	Alhaji Garba Umar	Taraba	Acting Governor

## APOLOGIES

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Dr. Obong Godswill Akpabio	Akwa-Ibom	Governor
2	Hon. Seriake Dickson	Bayelsa	Governor
3	Mr. Gabriel T. Suswan	Benue	Governor
4	Hon. Kashim Shettima	Borno	Governor
5	Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
6	Chief Martin Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
7	Dr. Kayode Fayemi	Ekiti	Governor
8	Alhaji Mukhtar Ramalan Yero	Kaduna	Governor
9	Engr. Rabiu M. Kwankwaso	Kano	Governor
10	Mr Babatundu Fashola (SAN)	Lagos	Governor
11	Engr. Rauf Aregbesola	Osun	Governor
12	Sen. Abiola Ajimobi	Oyo	Governor
13	Alhaji Abdul-Aziz Yari Abubakar	Zamfara	Governor



S/N	NOTES/RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY
1.0	<p><b>Commencement</b></p> <p>The meeting started at 12:27pm with an opening prayer by the Governor of Kogi State.</p>	
2.0	<p><b>Chairman's Brief – Governor Yakowa's Death</b></p>	
2.1	<p>The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of the Bayelsa State Governor for his absence. This was due to the after math of the helicopter crash.</p>	
2.2	<p>a. The Chairman briefed the house on how he received the news of Governor Yakowa's passing. He said that having received the sad news, he spoke to the Governor of Bayelsa State who confirmed the recovery of the bodies, and requested that the Chairman should inform the Azazi family of the death of General Azazi, who also died in the crash.</p> <p>b. Following this, the Chairman was notified that the burial of Governor Yakowa had been scheduled for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012. Chairman therefore called an emergency meeting of the Forum to enable the Governors to deliberate and agree on actions to be taken.</p> <p>c. The Chairman proposed that following the meeting all members present at the meeting should proceed to Kaduna State to commiserate with and support the Yakowa family. After deliberation on security implications of this, it was agreed that the House would rise at the end of the meeting and proceed to Kaduna.</p>	<p><b>All Members present</b></p>
2.3	<p>a. Members expressed deep concerns about the state of aviation in the country and called for proper investigation of the crash particularly as the navy had confirmed that the helicopter was in good condition.</p> <p>b. It was noted that investigations were poorly conducted due to a lack of well trained personnel in air crash investigation. Given this constraint, it was proposed that the Forum should make every effort to ensure that qualified personnel are engaged to handle the</p>	

	<p>investigation. After some deliberation, the Forum strongly endorsed the President's call for a thorough investigation into the accident, and decided to support the investigation in every possible way including the provision of a consultant to participate in the proceedings.</p> <p>c. Furthermore, a letter would be written to the president stating all concerns with the current state of aviation and lack of adequately trained personnel to handle air craft investigations and citing examples of previous investigations that have not returned any clear finding.</p>	Chairman
2.4	Members also agreed that a contribution of N10m should be made by each member. From the total contribution an agreed amount would be given to support the Yakowa family, and the balance would be used to provide expert support to the air crash investigation committee.	Update from the (Finance) - Balance?
3.0	<b>AOB</b>	
3.1	<p>a. Chairman noted that following the sad news of the crash, rumours of other Governors demise began to be circulated via the internet and other forms of media. Chairman expressed deep sadness at such malicious rumours and stated that he contacted the Governors who were the subject of the rumours, and confirmed that they <del>are</del> <sup>were</sup> alive.</p> <p>b. Members raised the issue of attacks on governors noting that it is getting out of hand and that decisive action needed to be taken. In response to the concerns raised, Chairman said the issue would be reserved for discussion at the next Forum meeting on the 16th of January 2013.</p> <p>c. Governor of Katsina sends his condolences and apologies for his absence. It was due to the loss of his brother for whom the traditional seven days of prayer was yet to be completed.</p>	
4.0	<b>Adjournment/Conclusion</b>	
4.1	The meeting rose at 1:50pm with a closing prayer by the Governor of Ondo State.	

Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi  
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum  
17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012



# ACTIONS LOG

## MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

Ref no.	Date	Description	Action By	Time line	Status	Review Date
EM/001	17/12/12	All members present at the meeting should proceed to Kaduna State to commiserate with and support the Yakowa family and people of Kaduna State.	All members present			
EM/002	17/12/12	A letter to be written to the president supporting his call for an investigation into the crash and expressing the Forums wish to participate in the investigation by providing an expert to support the process.	Chairman			
EM/003	17/12/12	Members to contribute ₦10m each to support the Yakowa family and fund the expert to be provided in support of the investigation into the crash.	All members			



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

**Monday, December 17, 2012**

**Agenda**

- 1) Death of Governor Patrick Yakowa
- 2) AOB



COMMUNIQUE

**ISSUED AT THE END OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM  
HELD ON MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> 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 emergency meeting called at the instance of the demise of our colleague late Kaduna State Governor, Sir. Patrick Yakowa held today Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 at the Rivers State Governor's Lodge, Abuja deliberated over a number of issues and resolved as follows;

1. Forum condoles the President, the Vice President, the Government and the people of Bayelsa and Kaduna States. Forum also condoles the families of Governor Patrick Yakowa, General Andrew Azazi; their Aides, Dauda Tsoho and Mohammed Kama; and the pilots, Murtala Daba and Adeyemi Sowole, who died on Saturday's ill-fated helicopter crash.
2. Members support the directive of the President for a thorough investigation into the immediate and remote causes of the helicopter crash and calls for transparency and openness in the process. Forum further resolved to engage a consultant to participate in the investigation process or serve as an observer.

***Rt. Hon Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi  
Governor of Rivers State  
& Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum  
December 17<sup>th</sup> 2012***