



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

HELD ON

28th SEPTEMBER, 2011

AT THE

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

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Rt. Hon. Rotimi C. Amaechi	Rivers	Governor/Chairman
2	Mr. Peter Obi	Anambra	Governor/Vice Chairman
3	Murtala Nyako	Adamawa	Governor
4	Mallam Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
5	Kashim Shettima	Borno	Governor
6	Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
7	Dr. Emmanuel E. Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
8	Adams A. Oshiomhole	Edo	Governor
9	Kayode Fayemi	Ekiti	Governor
10	Sullivan Chime	Enugu	Governor
11	Ibrahim H. Dankwambo	Gombe	Governor
12	Patrick I. Yakowa	Kaduna	Governor
13	Dr. Muazu Babngida Aliyu, OON	Niger	Governor
14	Jonah D. Yang	Plateau	Governor
15	Babatunde R. Fashola, SAN	Lagos	Governor
16	Sen. Ibikunle Amosun, FCA	Ogun	Governor
17	Olusegun Mimiko	Ondo	Governor
18	Rauf Aregbesola	Osun	Governor
19	Abiola Ajimobi	Oyo	Governor
20	Danbaba D. Suntai	Taraba	Governor
21	Hon. Abdul-Aziz Yari Abubakar	Zamfara	Governor
22	Ahmed Mahmud	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
23	Dr. A.U. Gandudje	Kano	Deputy Governor
24	Abdullahi G. Faskari	Katsina	Deputy Governor
25	Ibrahim K. Aliyu, mni	Kebbi	Deputy Governor
26	Dr. Phillips O. Salawu, FCA	Kogi	Deputy Governor
27	Peter S. Kisira	Kwara	Deputy Governor
28	Hon. Dameshi B. Luka	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor
29	Engr. Abubakar D. Aliyu	Yobe	Deputy Governor

APOLOGIES

1	Chief T.A. Orji	Abia	Governor
2	Godswill Akpabio	Akwa Ibom	Governor
3	Timipre Sylva	Bayelsa	Governor
4	Gabriel T. Suswam	Benue	Governor
5	Chief Martin N. Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
6	Owelle Rochas Okorochoa	Imo	Governor
7	Alhaji Aliyu M. Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor

S/N	NOTES/RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY
A	<p>COMMENCEMENT The meeting started at 8.45 pm with opening prayers by the Governor of Borno State.</p>	
B	<p>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS The Chairman welcomed members and expressed delight at the large turnout. He reminded members of their decision to convene a meeting of the Attorneys General (AGs) of States to review the Constitution and come up with recommendations on areas of possible amendments. He informed the meeting that the AGs met early in September and have submitted their Report for the consideration of the Forum.</p> <p>He also briefed the meeting on his meeting with the President where a number of issues, including oil subsidy was discussed.</p> <p>The Chairman briefed members on his recent visit to the National Governors Association (NGA) in Washington DC, USA. He also visited Georgetown University (GU), Washington, DC as part of on-going efforts to establish partnership with the university on capacity development. The proposed relationship with GU would entail a training programme for the governors in the US which would be phased to accommodate their very busy schedule. There would also be capacity building for the senior officials of the States such as Chiefs of Staff, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General of relevant State Agencies, Accountants General, Auditors General etc. However, this category of training would be held in the country. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would soon be entered between the NGF and GU.</p> <p>As part of the Chairman's activities during his visit to the US, he was also at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars for a Business Investment Forum, in the company of the Governors of Cross River, Imo, Benue, Ogun and Katsina States</p> <p>In another development, the Chairman expressed gratitude to the Governors of Delta and Niger States for representing him at the Peer Review event in Awka, Anambra State and the United Nations Memorial service for victims of the bomb blast respectively.</p> <p>He informed members that the Honourable Minister of Finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala would be at the meeting to brief them on the Excess Crude Account and the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF). Similarly, the Honourable Minister of State for Education would make a presentation at the meeting.</p> <p>Finally, members were informed that Mr. Bill Gates of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation would visit the country on Thursday, 29th September, 2011 as part of his campaign to rid Nigeria and the world of polio. He is scheduled to hold a meeting with the vice president and members were urged to attend.</p>	

C **CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members considered the minutes of the last meeting held on 21st August, 2011, and made the following amendments:

- No. 10 on the attendance list on page 2, include OON after Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu's name;
- In line 1, page 3, delete 'a;' in the word 'aby' to read 'by';

Subsequently, the Governor of Niger State moved for the adoption of the minutes and was seconded by the Governor of Zamfara State.

D **PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION, MR. NYESOM WIKE**

The Honourable Minister of State for Education, Mr. Nyesom Wike made a presentation to the Forum on some issues in his Ministry of relevance to the States. He drew the attention of members to unaccessed funds (for funding aspects of basic education) belonging to States but held in banks. He informed the meeting that some States have not accessed their funds for as long as six (6) years. He gave a status report of the States with funds yet to be accessed. He also briefed the Forum on a new Federal Government initiative on the education of 'almajiris'. The Federal Government had approved funds for construction of schools for 'almajiris' in some States. He appealed to States to allot lands for these schools, which have been phased in 2 models. For the Model 1 schools, 0.4 Ha was needed and 6 Ha was needed for the Model 2 schools.

Regarding the UBEC funds, the Forum urged the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) to review its policies to exercise more flexibility in the disbursement of funds. The Forum also advised the Ministry to create sustainable policies and ensure proper synergy with States in the implementation and execution of UBEC projects.

On the 'almajiri' school project, some States protested their non inclusion in the list of States to benefit from the scheme and members expressed the view that the 'almajiri' situation was widespread in the country. The Forum agreed that the policy should be implemented nationwide. The Minister assured the Forum that the schools would be built across the States but was prioritized on the basis of the percentage of almajiris that could be located in the States. He appealed to States to be patient as the policy had been designed to benefit all States.

E **PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FINANCE, DR. NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA**

The Forum received the Minister for Finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala who made a presentation on the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA).

In her presentation, the Honourable Minister stated that all the arguments on the constitutionality or otherwise of the NSIA was counter-productive and in her view, the way to go was to look at the substance and merits of the Act.

Her presentation had four (4) segments:

- i) **The Need for the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Act (NSIA):** She emphasized the imperative for the NSIA as a tool for the transformation of finite natural resources to permanent wealth, as a vehicle to cushion the impact of oil price volatility on the country's economic wealth and as a buffer against financial shocks.
- ii) **Overview of the NSIA:** The Honourable Minister gave a brief analysis of the NSIA emphasizing the source of the funding, management of the funds and the investment plans for the funds accrued.
- iii) **Case Studies:** She made illustrations with countries which like Nigeria had natural resources but have made huge savings for the 'rainy' days such as Dubai, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Libya etc
- iv) **Next Steps:** One of the most important steps in the implementation of the NSIA would be the setting of the NSIA Implementation Secretariat and the confirmation of the members of the Governing Council.

Members thanked the Honourable Minister for the lucid presentation and assured her that her points were well taken. However, they were insistent that the Act would not stand constitutional scrutiny and therein lay the crux of the matter. No statute however well intentioned could stand if it is inconsistent with the constitution.

The Forum agreed to meet with Mr. President on these issues. The Chairman would schedule an appropriate time for the meeting and convey same to members.

F

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

In view of the importance of items 6, 7 and 9 on the agenda (**Review of the Labour strike in several States, Constitutional Amendment-Attorneys General Draft Report and Local Government Elections**), the meeting resolved to adjourn the meeting to another date to enable them address these issues.

It was also resolved that the adjourned meeting would hold in the day time so as to give members enough time to resolve every issue.

G

A.O.B

- The Chairman appealed to members to pay up their dues to the Secretariat as it was getting increasingly difficult for the Secretariat to

H	<p>meet its commitments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chairman also stated the need to constitute a Committee to manage issues relating to the NGF permanent Secretariat project. <p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>The meeting ended at 1:00 am with a motion for adjournment moved by the Governor of Lagos State and seconded by the Governor of Taraba State. The closing prayer was by the Governor of Ekiti State.</p> <p>Rt. Honourable Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi Governor of Rivers State Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum</p>	
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