

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

HELD ON

5th October, 2009

AT THE

**KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE
ASOKORO, ABUJA.**

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Dr. A.B. Saraki	Kwara	Governor/Chairman
2	Aliyu M.Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
3	Orji, T.A	Abia	Governor
4	Ikedi Ohakim	Imo	Governor
5	Murtala H. Nyako	Adamawa	Governor
6	Ibrahim S. Shema	Katsina	Governor
7	Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola	Osun	Governor
8	Aliyu Akwe Doma	Nasarawa	Governor
9	Oshiomole, Adams Aliyu	Edo	Governor
10	Mallam Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
11	Ibrahim Gaidam	Yobe	Governor
12	Segun Oni	Ekiti	Governor
13	Danbaba D. Suntai	Taraba	Governor
14	Sullivan I. Chime	Enugu	Governor
15	Martin N. Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
16	Muazu Babangida Aliyu, OON	Niger	Governor
17	Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
18	Jonah D. Jang	Plateau	Governor
19	Arc. M.N. Sambo	Kaduna	Governor
20	Rt. Hon. Chibuike Amaechi	Rivers	Governor
21	Timipre Sylva	Bayelsa	Governor
22	Dr. Emmanuel E. Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
23	Otunba C.A. Alao-Akala	Oyo	Governor
24	Saidu N. Usman	Kebbi	Governor
25	Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
26	Abdullahi T.M Gwarzo	Kano	Deputy Governor
27	Alhaji Ali Olanusi	Ondo	Deputy Governor
28	Alhaja Salimot Badru	Ogun	Deputy Governor
29	Princess Sarah A. Sosan	Lagos	Deputy Governor
30	Chief Stephen Lawani	Benue	Deputy Governor
31	Alhaji Adamu Dibal	Borno	Deputy Governor
32	Muhktar Ahmed Anka	Zamfara	Deputy Governor

S/N	NOTES/OBSERVATIONS	ACTION BY
<p>A</p> <p>B</p> <p>C</p>	<p>COMMENCEMENT</p> <p>The meeting started at 9.00pm with an opening prayers said by the the Governor of Nasarawa State.</p> <p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 9th october, 2009 were read and adopted by a motion moved by the Governor of Kaduna State and seconded by the Deputy Governor of Lagos.</p> <p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:</p> <p>i. MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG) COMMITTEE REPORT:</p> <p>Members deliberated on the counter-part funding requirement of the MDG and the attendant challenges. In view of the lean finances of the States, the need for a waiver or reduction was explored. Some members felt that any waivers or reductions may detract from the Projects and it was agreed that the way forward was to apply part of the Excess Crude Proceeds to meet the counter-part funding obligation of States.</p> <p>ii. EXCESS CRUDE ACCOUNT</p> <p>The chairman informed the meeting that N2 billion from the Excess Crude Account was shared in July 2009 and that a plan to distribute another N2 billion would be presented for approval at the National Economic Council (NEC) the following day, 6th October, 2009.</p> <p>iii. PERMANENT SECRETARIAT PROJECT</p> <p>The Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the Permanent Secretariat and Governor of Kaduna State reminded the meeting that building approvals had been obtained but warned that the time granted by the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) within which to develop was fast lapsing and they were already</p>	

threatening to revoke the allocation. It was resolved that the way forward was to commence construction with what had been contributed so far, so that the Secretariat could relocate its operations therein pending the completion of the entire Project.

iv. WELFARE FOR LATE SENATOR MAMMAN ALI, FORMER GOVERNOR OF YOBE STATE

The Chairman urged members who were yet to contribute to the Late Governor Mamman Ali's Welfare to do so by the following day, 6th October at the NEC meeting.

D PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH

The Minister updated the Forum on developments in the Polio and Malaria Eradication efforts.

As part of the Federal Government's efforts to eradicate **malaria**, it was proposed that Nigeria would adopt the Cuban Model of Vector Control, which had been used successfully in various parts of South America and was estimated to cost about \$78.68m for malaria elimination plan for the whole country. The Forum was informed that Nigeria had signed a Letter of Intent with Labiofam, SA, a Cuban Government Pharmaceutical Company. The Meeting was informed that the Rivers State Government had indicated interest to purchase the biolarvicides and establish a factory that would produce the chemicals and had signed an Agreement to that effect.

The meeting was also informed that Nigeria was part of an ECOWAS driven programme to adopt this malaria elimination programme through the use of vector control and that there were preliminary arrangements by ECOWAS to source for funding for this project through a grant from the Government of Venezuela.

The Minister enlisted the support of Governors for this Malaria Eradication Initiative not only by supporting Malarial Control Programmes in the States but by making budgetary allocations to progress the Process.

The Minister also highlighted the success recorded so far in the **Polio** Eradication Campaign. He traced the history of the Campaign from the joint efforts between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the NGF which resulted in the uniform Polio Eradication Exercise organised by States in August, 2009. The significant improvement in the distribution of the Polio scourge in 2008 and 2009 was underscored by the fact that in the three weeks preceding that meeting; only one Nigerian child had been paralyzed by Polio. He expressed belief that if the tempo was sustained, Polio would be completely eradicated by 2010.

Whilst commending the commitment shown by both the Federal Government (FG) and the States, he emphasized the ability of Nigeria to reach the 'missed' children and stated that more work needed to be done by the States.

The third item discussed by the Honourable Minister of Health was the Midwife Service Scheme. He emphasized the importance of midwives particularly in tackling infant and maternal mortality and urged the need for more skilled manpower. He introduced the Midwife Service Scheme (MSS), a platform designed to improve Maternal and Child health in Nigeria, through the distribution of Midwives at Primary Healthcare Centers around the Country. The Scheme would provide details of the roles and responsibilities of the FG, the States and the Local Government Areas (LGAs) and to that end, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were distributed to the States. The MOU would on the one hand be entered into between the FG and the States and would in turn sign another MOU with the LGAs. The MOU would cover monthly supplementary allowances which responsibility would be taken over by States.

Finally, the meeting was informed that the President had approved a Summit on Health which would involve the States.

After the Presentation and incisive comments and observations by the Forum, it was resolved

that the Forum would give all the support and cooperation that the Ministry would require to succeed in its effort to improve health care in the Country.

E PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF DEFENCE ON THE NIGER DELTA AMNESTY

The Minister for Defense expressed his profound gratitude to the Forum for the opportunity given to him to address it. He informed the Forum that the offer of amnesty officially started on August 6, 2009 and ended in the midnight of October 5, 2009, the implication being that anyone caught with arms forthwith would face the wrath of the Law.

In his briefing, the Minister stated that Amnesty as a Process was broken into 2 Phases, as follows – i) Disarmament and Demobilisation and ii) Rehabilitation and Re-integration Process.

In the former, he commended the assistance of the South South Governors in reaching the numerous militants clusters scattered around the region, which would have been impossible, but for their efforts. He particularly appreciated and commended the Bayelsa State Governor who was instrumental in getting 'Boyloaf' to surrender and turn in his arms. The resultant reception in Abuja triggered off the response received from the militants.

The Amnesty Programme had registered a considerable level of success as follows:

- Brigandage had reduced tremendously;
- Oil production had increased considerably;
- The oil industry had recorded some respite in the past 60 days from the spate of Pipeline vandalism;
- Generally, the Security Reports received so far had been quite encouraging.

He invited the Forum to note Mr. President's role in striking this Peace accord and added that the FG's refusal to accede to the plea from certain quarters to extend the Amnesty Period (beyond the 60 days given) was because it was

doubtful that this would have achieved any positive results.

In the latter Phase, the Minister stated that the most important element that would ensure the success of the entire programme was the exercise of good faith by the FG. He acknowledged that this Phase was the most testing, expensive and challenging aspect of the Amnesty Programme.

He further informed the meeting that the FG had managed funding by earmarking an estimated N11-N15 billion for the entire Programme, out of which about N2.8 billion had been released so far under the direct management of the President. Members also learnt that about N65, 000 was spent on each militant monthly covering feeding, stipends etc Funds were also spent on allowances to troops, Publicity, payments to informants and Traditional Rulers etc In this phase also, he reiterated the cooperation of the Niger Delta States.

The Minister identified some associated challenges which included activities of detractors, especially those who had benefitted from the status quo and some militants who may have hidden away some of their arms.

Finally, he outlined the Post 4th October, 2009 Activities thus:

- Constituting of a Re-integrating Committee that would include various Government Agencies who would bring their expertise to bear in rehabilitating the militants.
- Enlisting the support and co-operation of foreign developers in the Niger Delta.
- Mr. President would require extra-budgetary funding and the co-operation of the Forum was enlisted in this regard.

The Forum whilst expressing its profound appreciation to the FG and the Niger Delta for the Amnesty Initiative called on the FG to

extend the same amount of seriousness to Kidnapping which had assumed an alarming proportion across the Country.

Upon contributions and deliberations from members, it was resolved that the Forum would give support to the FG in its efforts to curb the ills in our Society and that it would boost these efforts by lending support to Mr. President in getting extra-budgetary funding to progress the Amnesty Programme. It also resolved to enhance job creation, which would reduce Youth restiveness across the Country.

Finally, the Forum agreed that as a mark of Solidarity to the Niger Delta Governors, its next meeting would be held in Bayelsa State.

F PRESENTATION BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION (UBEC)

The Executive Secretary in his Presentation to the Forum stated that it became necessary to brief the Governors because of signals suggesting the possibilities of the UBEC funds meant for the States being channelled to other Sectoral needs.

In relation to the provisions of the UBEC Act on accessing the Grants, he insisted that the provisions were clear and unambiguous and re-stated that funds were available under the UBEC Scheme for the States to access. To access these funds, States were expected to:

- i) Put in place a Board;
- ii) Have an Action plan; and
- iii) Provide Counter-part fund.

Once these pre-conditions were met, the funds would be accessed within 24 hours. He informed the Forum that there was N40 billion at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) that could be accessed upon the payment of counter-part funding

In response, members frowned at the Newspaper Publication sponsored by UBEC

which cast them in bad light and gave the misleading impression that they not only refused to access these grants but were incapable of doing so.

A member also expressed his frustrations with his State House of Assembly who had refused to approve his Board appointments even though he had paid his counter-part fund.

G MANAGEMENT OF EXCESS CRUDE ACCOUNT (ECA)

The Chairman briefed the meeting on a Memo, '**Application of Part of Excess Crude Special Reserve towards a developmental Revolving Loan Scheme for Execution of Capital Projects in the States**' which he would present at the NEC meeting of the following day, October 6, 2009 and sought their support for the Memo. The Forum unanimously adopted the Memo.

H UPDATE ON NUT/ASUU STRIKE

Concerning the status of the Teacher Salary Scale (TSS), the Forum re-affirmed its earlier stand that States were to handle the matter based on their peculiarities. It also resolved that payment should comprise of Basic Salary and the TSS exclusive of any other additions. That represented the position of the Forum.

A member updated the meeting on the efforts towards resolving the 3 month old Academic Staff Union of Universities [ASUU] Strike and reported that negotiations with the ASUU team were over. He expressed the belief that the Strike would be called off by the morning of the following day, October 6, 2009.

The Meeting was further informed that the allusion to States in the ASUU Agreement had been expunged. The Forum noted Mr. President's role in the resolution of the stalemate and the fact that ASUU had exercised good faith by relaxing some of its rigid positions on the issue.

I	<p>Owing to time constraints, items 7 and 10 on the Meeting Agenda namely Benchmark for the 2010 Federal Budget and Presentation of Image Laundering Report by the Sub-Committee Chairman were stepped down to the next meeting.</p> <p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>The meeting came to an end at 1.3am with closing prayers said by the Deputy Governor of Ogun State.</p> <p>Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki Executive Governor, Kwara State Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum</p>	
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