



NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD ON

26TH JANUARY, 2009

AT THE

**Kwara State Governor's Lodge
Asokoro, Abuja.**

ATTENDANCE

Their Excellencies:

S/No	Name	State	Designation
1	Dr. A.B. Saraki	Kwara	Governor/Chairman
2	Segun Oni	Ekiti	Governor
3	Adams Oshiomole	Edo	Governor
4	Timipre Sylva	Bayelsa	Governor
5	Martin N. Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
6	Murtala Nyako	Adamawa	Governor
7	Aliyu Akwe Doma	Nasarawa	Governor
8	Arc M. Namadi Sambo	Kaduna	Governor
9	Ibrahim Shekarau	Kano	Governor
10	Prof A. A. Utuama, (SAN)	Delta	Deputy-Governor
11	Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi	Zamfara	Governor
12	Sai'du N. Usman	Kebbi	Governor
13	Suswam, G.T	Benue	Governor
14	Olusegun Agagu	Ondo	Governor
15	Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu, OON	Niger	Governor
16	Hon. Chibuike Amaechi	Rivers	Governor
17	Ikedi Ohakim	Imo	Governor
18	Otunba Gbenga Daniel	Ogun	Governor
19	Danbaba D. Suntai	Taraba	Governor
20	Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy-Governor
21	Ibrahim S. Shema	Katsina	Governor
22	Mohammed Danjuma Goje	Gombe	Governor
23	Prince O. Oyinlola	Osun	Governor
24	Sullivan I. Chime	Enugu	Governor
25	Dr. Phillips O. Salawu	Kogi	Deputy-Governor
26	Alhaji Adamu Dibal	Borno	Deputy-Governor
27	Ibrahim B. Geidam	Yobe	Deputy-Governor
28	Garba Mohammed	Bauchi	Deputy-Governor
29	Mrs. Adebisi Sosan	Lagos	Deputy-Governor
30	Efiok Cobham	Cross-River	Deputy-Governor
31	Otunba C.A Alao-Akala	Oyo	Governor

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM
HELD AT THE KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE ON 26TH
JANUARY, 2009.**

	NOTES/OBSERVATIONS	ACTION
A	<p>COMMENCEMENT</p> <p>The meeting started by 10.24 pm with opening prayers said by the Ekiti State Governor.</p>	
B	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.</p> <p>The following amendments and observations were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Page 4, Line 1.0, the sentence should be re-couched. <p>In the absence of any further amendments/corrections/observations, the Kaduna State Governor moved for adoption of the minutes and was seconded by the Governor of Gombe State.</p>	
C	<p>MATTERS ARISING.</p> <p>MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG)</p> <p>The chairman of the Forum's committee on Millennium Development Goals (MDG) reported that he had been unable to meet with the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the President on MDG and so had no report. He assured that he would have a Report by the next meeting.</p>	
D	<p>GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS</p> <p>Members were informed that the President had taken a pro-active approach towards addressing the existing economic crisis by setting up a new Economic team. The Economic team included</p>	

support towards their members who are in the Supreme Court with the FG over illegal deductions from the Federation Account and agreed that all the States will eventually join in the suit and going forward, States would join in litigations that affect members.

2.0 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS.

As part of the Forum's resolve to strengthen its activities and brace the secretariat for the challenges ahead, changes were made in the Secretariat's management. The Forum approved the appointment of the following:

1. Mr. A. Bayo Okauru-Director-General
2. Mr. Abdulateef O.T. Shittu - Executive Director (Research & Strategy).
3. Mr. Mohammed A. Jibia – Executive Director (Finance & Administration).

3.0 FUNDING OF THE FORUM'S PERMANENT BUILDING PROJECT.

An update Report on the progress of activities regarding the Permanent Secretariat was presented to the Forum.

The Forum agreed that since the list of outstanding contributions in respect of the Permanent Secretariat building showed that the dominant outstanding amount for most states was N70m per State, this amount would be paid in two tranches of N35m each payable by the end of February and March respectively.

4.0 PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH.

A team of officials from the Federal Ministry of Health led by the Honourable Minister of Health, Prof Babatunde Oshotimehin made a presentation to the Forum on the need for concerted efforts and Quality Healthcare System in Nigeria. There was

an emphasis on the threat of Polio epidemic in the country. The Forum expressed its gratitude to the Honourable Minister and his team for the brilliant and incisive presentation.

The Forum agreed to re-double its efforts in collaborating with the Ministry to ensure that polio is eradicated and primary health care improved.

A number of measures were agreed upon which include:

- A new motto – Keep my State polio-free.
- Promote strong leadership at State level and encourage Local Government Areas (LGAs) to provide leadership in waging the campaign monthly and providing monthly polio data at State Executive Council (SEC).
- The Forum agreed to partner with the FG on the midwifery scheme.
- The Forum also agreed to buy in the Community Health Insurance.

5.0 A.O.B

I SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AT GRASS ROOTS LEVEL.

The Forum was informed of a stakeholders meeting on sports attended by some members of the Forum including the Governors of Benue and Niger States on matters relating to the 2012 Olympics and measures to be taken to improve sports at the grass root level. Members were particularly called upon to improve sports at the schools level, which had proved to be a fertile ground for local talents.

II LABOUR AGITATIONS FOR WAGE INCREASE.

The attention of members was called to the increasing agitation by labour unions, particularly the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) for salary and

wage increase and the move by the House of Representatives to approve a minimum wage for public workers. Members were warned of the consequences of any such increase on the declining revenue of States.

Members agreed to take proactive steps to engage NLC in discussion with a view to stemming the consequences of the House of Representatives passing the Minimum Wage Bill into Law.

III THE RECENT PLATEAU CRISIS

Members were reminded of the recent crisis in Plateau State and the resultant face-off between the President and the Governor of Plateau State. Members were implored to take a serious look at the crisis and proffer solutions.

A committee was set up to examine the remote and direct causes of the crisis and make recommendations on the way out of the situation. The Committee consists of the Governors of the following States:

1. Adamawa - Chairman
2. Niger
3. Ebonyi
4. Kano
5. Rivers
6. Oyo – Secretary

IV FAREWELL TO THE OUT-GOING EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR

Following the Forum's approval of the appointment of a Director-General and two (2) Executive Directors to take over the helm of affairs at the Secretariat, the Chairman conveyed the appreciation of the forum to the out-going Executive Director on his seven (7) years service to the Forum and wished him well in his future endeavours.

F	CONCLUSION The Governor of Ondo State Governor moved for adjournment of the meeting and was seconded by the Gombe State Governor. The meeting ended at 1.30 am with closing prayers said by the Governor of Katsina State. Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum	
----------	---	--

COMMUNIQUE

**ISSUED AT THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM MEETING HELD
ON 26TH JANUARY, 2009. AT KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE.**

1. The Forum acknowledged the challenges of instability of the crude oil price which further decline will critically affect implementation of states budget and agreed on the need to discuss this at tomorrow National economic council meeting .How do we manage these challenges ,the forum agreed on the need for more transparency on the management of Excess crude account
2. The Forum expresses full support towards their members who are in Supreme Court with the Federal Government over illegal deductions from Federation account and agreed that going forward all the states will eventually join in the suit and other matters that affect members.
3. The Forum adopted a Memorandum on the appointment of a Director-General Mr. Asishana Bayo Okauru as the Director –General of the Forum and two Executive Directors: Abdulateef O.T Shittu (Strategy & Research) and Mohammed Abubakar Jibia (Finance & Administration).

4. The Forum listened to a presentation by the Hon. Minister of Health on qualitative primary health and threat of polio epidemic .The Forum agreed to partner with the ministry to ensure polio is eradicated and primary health care improved-A number of measures were agreed upon which include: a new motto – Keep my state polio free, promote strong leadership at state level and encourage LGA to provide leadership to lead the campaign monthly and provide monthly polio data at SEC. The Forum agreed to partner with FGN on the midwifery scheme. Lastly agreed to buy in the community health insurance.