



# **Nigeria Governors' Forum**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**OF**

**16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2008**

**AT**

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

## ATTENDANCE

### Their Excellencies:

| S/<br>No | Name                               | State       | Designation       |
|----------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1        | Dr. A.B. Saraki                    | Kwara       | Governor/Chairman |
| 2        | Aliyu M.Wamakko                    | Sokoto      | Governor          |
| 3        | Comrade Chris Akomas               | Abia        | Deputy-Governor   |
| 4        | Ikedi Ohakim                       | Imo         | Governor          |
| 5        | Suswam G.T                         | Benue       | Governor          |
| 6        | John Michael Abdul                 | Nasarawa    | Deputy-Governor   |
| 7        | Chief Martin N. Elechi             | Ebonyi      | Governor          |
| 8        | Dr. Muazu Babangida<br>Aliyu , OON | Niger       | Governor          |
| 9        | Sen. Mamman Ali                    | Yobe        | Governor          |
| 10       | Ibrahim Idris                      | Kogi        | Governor          |
| 11       | Yoriyo John Liazarus               | Gombe       | Deputy-Governor   |
| 12       | Olusegun Agagu                     | Ondo        | Governor          |
| 13       | Jonah D. Jang                      | Plataeu     | Governor          |
| 14       | Ibrahim S. SHEME                   | Katsina     | Governor          |
| 15       | Sen. Ali Modu Sheriff              | Borno       | Governor          |
| 16       | Ibrahim Shekarau                   | Kano        | Governor          |
| 17       | Arc. Sambo M.N                     | Kaduna      | Governor          |
| 18       | Segun Oni                          | Ekiti       | Governor          |
| 19       | Sullivan I. Chime                  | Enugu       | Governor          |
| 20       | Saidu N. Usman                     | Kebbi       | Governor          |
| 21       | Princess Sarah Bisi Sosan          | Lagos       | Deputy-Governor   |
| 22       | Murtala H. Nyako                   | Adamawa     | Governor          |
| 23       | Mahmud A. Shinkafi                 | Zamfara     | Governor          |
| 24       | Sen. O.A. Osunbor                  | Edo         | Governor          |
| 25       | Rt. Hon. C.R. Amaechi              | Rivers      | Governor          |
| 26       | Dr. E.E. Uduaghan                  | Delta       | Governor          |
| 27       | Chief G.O. Akpabio                 | Akwa-Ibom   | Governor          |
| 28       | Chief Timipre Sylva                | Bayelsa     | Governor          |
| 29       | Liyel Imoke                        | Cross-River | Governor          |
| 30       | Isa Yuguda                         | Bauchi      | Governor          |



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM  
HELD AT THE KWARA GOVERNOR'S LODGE ON  
WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2008.**

| <b>S/N</b> | <b>NOTES/OBSERVATIONS</b>   | <b>ACTION</b> |
|------------|---|---------------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <p><b>COMMENCEMENT:</b></p> <p>The meeting started at 8.47pm with opening prayer said by the Governor of Kaduna and Ekiti State respectively. Declaring the meeting open, the Chairman spelt out the agenda of the meeting as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reading of Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising therefrom.</li> <li>2. Report of the Technical Committee on Excess Crude Funds.</li> <li>3. Report of the Committee of Attorneys-General &amp; Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) on the FIRS ACT 2007.</li> <li>4. Presentation of a book on the 2007 Governors; Retreat.</li> <li>5. A.O.B.</li> </ol> |               |
| <b>2.0</b> | <p><b>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:</b></p> <p>In the absence of any amendments to the minutes of the last meeting. The Governor of Enugu State moved the motion for its adoption and was seconded by the Governor of Sokoto State.</p>  |               |
| <b>3.0</b> | <p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:</b></p> <p><b>A FORUM OUTSTANDING DUES:</b></p> <p>The Chairman took time to inform the Forum that only eleven (11) states have fully paid their 2008 Forum Due, while twenty-five (25) states were still</p>   |               |

to meet the obligation.

He once more reiterated his earlier appeal to members to comply to enable the secretariat and indeed the Forum to be run effectively.

**B MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG) COMMITTEE REPORT:**

The Governor of Ekiti State being the Chairman of the Forum's MDG Committee informed the Forum even though not much was achieved or done in their assignment, he has met the special to the President on MDG and deliberated with her on the position of the Forum as regards the issues at stake, and she has promised to expeditious actions on them. He therefore, informed members that he was still going to meet the SA on MDG in the course of his committee's assignment.

**RESOLUTION:**

After an exhaustive and painstaking deliberations on this matter, the Forum resolved a follows:

- A. That the UBE Model should be adopted as the model for adoption and implementation.
- B. That the Forum's MDG Committee should once more see the special assistant to the president on MDGs and inform her of the Forum's view and position.
- C. That the Forum should take advantage of the forth coming National Economic Council (NEC) meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 with

*assistant  
expeditious*

*16/6/08*

*UBA*

*experience*

*application*



the Vice President and table the matter under Any Other Business (A.O.B).

**C UPDATE ON NGF SECRETARIAT PROJECT**

The Chairman of the NGF Secretariat Project briefed members on state of the project as follows:

- A. That the development control unit of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) has granted the Forum request that the Secretariat could go as far as twelve (12) floor stories.
- B. That however, the FCDA had directed that the building design be re-planned to the main road, which by implications required a repeal of earlier preliminary works such as soil testing, which were almost at completion stage.
- C. That six (6) weeks from the day of this presentation, the Committee was planning to call for tenders.
- D. That the ground breaking ceremony will be done after the award of contracts.

**D FORUM'S INTERACTION WITH MEDIA EXECUTIVES**

Regarding the Forum's interaction with Media Executives held in lagos on.....2008 as part of image branding efforts of the Forum, Imo State Governor, also Chairman of the Image Branding Committee, briefed the members as follows:

- A. That the interaction with Media

*had*  
Executives could be described as very successful.

B. That about 300 Media Practitioners ~~have~~ attended or graced the occasion.

C. That the participants were equally hosted to a launch where awards and gift items were given out.

D. That about 80 questions were asked where answer and clarifications were given on a wide range of issues which includes the Secretariat Project.

E. That the Committee was therefore recommending to the Forum that the event be made a quarterly affair. *that*

#### **COMMENTS / SUGGESTION**

The Governor of Benue further commented image branding had to do with the Governors themselves, that is: first at self peer review as well as targeting specific performances in their states and showcasing same to the media. He urged members to hold ~~semblance of such media~~ chat with the media in their various constituencies.

*Similar*

#### **E FALL OUT OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT ON FOOD CRISIS**

The Chairman said as all are aware, the meeting with Mr. President on the on-going National Food Crisis, and it was time for their Excellencies to take stock, and look further into issues involved therein which could ameliorate the hard-ships.

*were here was to be heard*

#### **OBSERVATIONS / SUGGESTIONS**

A. It was roundly suggested by



members that importation of rice was a rushed decision and ill-advised, rather, the real farmers should have been targeted.

- B. It was also unanimously suggested that governments at all levels should embark on a more concerted efforts rather than the stop-gap measures being given emphasis. That services and concerted efforts be placed on agricultural research as well as the diversification of the agricultural sector.

## **F REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON EXCESS CRUDE FUNDS**

The Forum's Technical Committee on the Excess Crude Funds have given the summary of their report as follows:

- A. That sequel to the last meeting, <sup>AB-TRB</sup> It was ~~more~~ <sup>↑</sup> than ~~(\$4,000,000,000)~~ four billion dollars be shared out of the one trillion dollars Reserve.
- B. That 50% of this amount had already been shared: ~~and~~ <sup>↑</sup> that subsequent to the payment of the Paris Club Debts, <sup>payments</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>↑</sup> there is <sup>WGC</sup> the issue of local governments to be credited to the tune of 50%, and also the derivation states.
- ~~D.~~ That the balance of (\$2,000,000,000) two billion dollars <sup>left</sup> ~~needs~~ <sup>↑</sup> to be paid from ~~this~~ <sup>↑</sup> agreed amounts.
- ~~E.~~ That the Forum should look into the role of the states in addressing the epileptic power situation in the country, as per their earnings

from the excess crude funds.

### **OBSERVATIONS / SUGGESTIONS**

After a very exhaustive and brainstorming session, members ~~were~~ of the following observations and suggestions, particularly regarding the proposed power plans of Mr. President and the role of state governments.

*made*

A. That if the states would back Mr. President's request, then it should be on conditions, because considering the revelations coming <sup>out</sup> of the Federal House of Representatives probe of the power sector activities <sup>from 1999-2007 the President</sup> should compromise bureaucratic procedures to enable him directly supervise the power sector and implementations of the proposed power plans, so that resources meant for the sector may not go down the drain.

B. Members were also of the view that in place of the bureaucratic channels that needed to be compromised, should be <sup>a</sup> technical committee to be made up of competent hands, as well as proven integrity.

C. That proposal be made to Mr. President for the inclusion of states rural electrification projects.

*in the power plans.*

D. Members were unanimous that states contributions should be on the basis of equity only, that is, the projects will ultimately be sold <sup>out</sup> and ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> money shared among contributing states.

E. That since states contributions was on the basis of equity, it ~~was~~ <sup>would be</sup>



better investing it in the power project, particularly generation level rather than ~~to~~ leave it lying in accounts abroad.

F. That for states to recoup their investments, they must equally ensure that the process of the projects privatization <sup>are were</sup> ~~is~~ facilitated, that is, structures that will be put in place must ~~be one to~~ <sup>well</sup> ensure accountability and transparency.

**4.0 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF ATTORNEYS-GENERAL AND CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE SERVICE (FIRS) ON THE FIRS ACT 2007**

The Chairman informed members the Forum's Committee of states Attorney-General and Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) on the issue of FIRS Act 2007 which had generated constitutional concerns, ~~was ready,~~ <sup>had been</sup> and distributed to their Excellencies for ~~their~~ perusal in view of the necessary steps to be taken further with.

**5.0 PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK FORMAT OF THE 2007 GOVERNORS' RETREAT.**

The Chairman informed and presented to members a copy of the on-going works of the book on the 2002 Governors' Retreat held in Abuja for their observations, comments and suggested on how to make it a success.

**OBSERVATIONS / SUGGESTIONS**

- A. Members were of the view that the.....be removed.
- B. That the quality of the book was

not satisfactory and that it be looked into.

**6.0**

**A.O.B**

Chairman took this opportunity to inform members of refunds in dollar denominations to be made by the Federal Government.....

**CONCLUSION**

The closing prayer was said by Governor of Kogi State and the meeting ended at 10.13pm.

**Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki  
Chairman,  
Nigeria Governors' Forum**