

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY
NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM
9TH MARCH 2009**

We, the Executive Governors of the thirty-six (36) States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in a meeting held on 9th March, 2009 at Abuja hereby resolved as follows:

- 1) Considering the importance of the proposed Constitutional amendments, and bearing in mind our underlaying constitutional responsibilities we have agreed that the issues, challenges and options arising from the proposed constitutional review needs to be articulated by every State starting from the grass root for more resourceful engagement at both States and Federal levels. Therefore we support and encourage the initiative of setting up Committees by various State Government for this purpose.
- 2) We recognized our commitment to the eradication of Polio in Nigeria and we further reaffirmed our earlier statement of commitment to eradicate the disease. In this regards we have agreed to declare a special day to mark the campaign on eradication of polio in all the thirty six States of the Federation to underscore the seriousness of the State Governments in fighting this epidemic.
- 3) We underscore the critical importance of resolving the Court case regarding the illegal deductions made by the Federal Government from State and Local Government on various revenue accrued to the Federation Account pending before the Supreme Court through settlement out of court, however we reaffirm that all States that are already in court should continue with their court cases in good faith

and are supported by all parties that are negotiating out of court settlement and vis-versa.

- 4) In promoting integrity, transparency and healthy competition in accordance with free market economies, we reject the continuous funding of corruption, insider-abuse and inefficiencies under cover of petroleum subsidy that doesn't reach the intended beneficiaries which are the masses. We support the measures currently being considered by Federal Government to deregulate the downstream sector by bolstering investor and consumer protection, avoiding conflicts of interest, preventing illegal market manipulation, fraudulent activities and abuse, and adequate regulation of the sector. We therefore request the Federal Government to refund the subsidy paid in 2008 and we reject further deductions petroleum subsidy in 2009.
- 5) Against the backdrop of deteriorating economic conditions worldwide, we have agreed that the funds accrued in the Excess Crude Account (ECA) should be shared by the Federal Government in other to enable State Government to meet their financial obligations to the electorate, to restore growth, avoid negative spillovers and support emerging challenges that will be arising from the financial meltdown.
- 6) We recognize the earlier understanding that we had with the Nigeria Union of Teachers on the new Teachers Salaries Scale but considering the global recession; declining revenue base due to failing oil prices and to alleviate the suffering inflicted on our schools from further decent, we therefore call on the striking Teachers to return to work as their demands are now being critically reviewed.