

COMMUNIQUE
ISSUED AT THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM MEETING
HELD ON 6th JULY, 2009. AT KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE.

The Nigeria Governors' Forum met at the Kwara State Governor's Lodge to deliberate over a variety of issues and resolved as follows:

1. The Forum decried the decline in the production of crude oil resulting in the attendant fall in revenue. As a result, members agreed to access the Excess Crude Account (ECA) to augment the declining resources and cushion the effects of the economic downturn on the states.
2. The Forum agreed to set up Standing Committees to take care of varying areas of governance such as: Energy, Healthcare, Education, Security, Natural Resources & Environment, Agriculture & Water Supply in order to enhance good governance at the State level.
3. The Forum unanimously agreed to strengthen the governorship institution by building capacity for the governors via Retreats and other training programs both locally and internationally.
4. The Forum commended the Secretariat for the ongoing working visits to the states designed to develop a framework for peer review mechanism amongst the states for the purpose of benchmarking best practices and directed the NGF Secretariat to develop a formulae to communicate these best practices to all the states.
5. The Forum notes with delight the support and collaboration of development partners in helping to build capacity at the operational level of the Forum and their proactive intervention in public policy issues in the country.
6. The Forum after listening to a presentation made by the Chairman of the Joint Tax Board (JTB) on the Unique Taxpayer Identification Number (UTIN) Project expressed support for it and resolved to take the proposal back to their states for review before a formal position can be taken by the Forum.

7. The Forum expressed support for their colleagues in the Niger Delta Region and throws their weight behind the efforts of the Federal Government and the States in finding a lasting solution to the situation in the area.
8. The Forum noted with pleasure the achievement recorded so far on the UBEC program, but expressed desire for more flexibility with funds disbursement and project implementation.
9. The Forum commended the initial efforts of the states on their eradication of polio in the country. In addition, the Forum agreed to set aside a day in the near future to aggressively sensitize and mobilize the people to stamp out the disease.