

Southwest Governors Seek Better Allocation from Federation Account

Osundefender News Paper

To set up full fledged secretariat

Governors of all the states that fall within the defunct Western Region on Thursday afternoon, demanded better revenue for the area for development purposes.



The governors also called for better revenue allocation saying the states are closer to the people for development.

The governors at the meeting held in Abeokuta, Ogun State were Ibikunle Amosun, Ogun, Rauf Aregbesola, Osun, Abiola Ajimobi, Oyo, Kayode Fayemin Ekiti, Babatunde Fashola Lagos, Ali Olanusi representing Ondo State Governor and Pius Odubu representing the Edo State governor.

The communique issued at the end of the meeting reads:

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MEETING OF GOVERNORS OF STATES IN THE OLD WESTERN REGION HELD AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OKE-IGBEIN, ABEOKUTA

Preamble

The Governors of the States in the Old Western Region met on February 2nd, 2012 at the Government House, Oke Igbein, Abeokuta. The meeting, which deliberated on national issues and those of common interest to the Governments and people of their respective states, was a follow up to a similar meeting held in July, 2011 in Ekiti State. Some of the issues deliberated on are health, education, agriculture and food security, rural development, transportation and social housing.

In attendance were:

1. Senator Ibikunle Amosun FCA, Governor of Ogun
2. Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN), Governor of Lagos
3. Dr. Kayode Fayemi, Governor of Ekiti
4. Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, Governor of Osun
5. Senator Abiola Ajimobi, Governor of Oyo
6. Alhaji Alli Olanusi, Deputy Governor of Ondo
7. Barrister Pius Odubu, Deputy Governor of Edo

RESOLUTIONS:

The meeting resolved as follows:

1. SECRETARIAT

- i. That a full-fledged secretariat be established for effective coordination of the goal to fully integrate the states in the Old Western Region
- ii. That the meeting of the Governors should hold more frequently. In fact a bi-monthly schedule was agreed on
- iii. The proposed secretariat would, when established, immediately develop a Blueprint and Work Plan or integration of the region and build on the work of the Technical Committee for integration

2. DEVOLUTION OF POWER

- i. The Federal Government is holding to too many responsibilities and power that are supposed to be within the purview of the federating states. The Governors considered it expedient to review the existing arrangement and devolve more power to the states.
- ii.

3. RESOURCE ALLOCATION

- i. The Governors further deplored the imbalance in resource allocation to states that make up the old Western Region given their contributions to the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The Governors reaffirmed their determination to ensure that justice is done on the revenue allocation framework in the country.