

ABUJA COMMITMENTS TO POLIO ERADICATION IN NIGERIA

- A communiqué following the meeting of governors with Mr. Bill Gates
- 02 February 2009

We, the Executive Governors of the thirty-six (36) States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, meeting in Abuja, with Mr. Bill Gates, on 2 February, 2009 at a special session on health convened under the leadership of His Excellency, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Bearing in mind our constitutional responsibilities and our strong desire to have a healthy population, and our duty to protect our children from all childhood diseases, including polio and other vaccine preventable diseases, and an international commitment to a world-free of polio

Noting with concern that in the world today, only Nigerian children are being exposed to all three types of Poliovirus that can cause life-long paralysis, and more Nigerian children are paralyzed from Polio than in any other country in the world

Acknowledging that the eradication of polio is, therefore, an urgent health priority for our States, and our Nation, and the successful completion of Polio eradication in Nigeria will enhance the Government's capacity and support for delivering other vital health services,

Recognizing that,

- There must be universal coverage for all Nigerians.
- Polio in itself is symptomatic of a failing primary health care system.
- That a viable Primary Health Care system is the sustainable platform for Routine Immunization in Nigeria.
- 90% of all children will have to be reached and vaccinated to stop the sustained transmission of Polio,
- completion of Polio eradication will require strong leadership from the State and LGA administrations, and strategic guidance from the State Health officials,
- Oral Polio Vaccines used in Nigeria are safe and effective, and similar to those used in countries that have eradicated polio,
- valuable technical and financial support from WHO, UNICEF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary International and other development partners will assist in the strengthening eradication activities and routine immunization in the States,

The Initiative by Niger State Government to legislate against polio immunization should be shared with other states for consideration.

Noting that under our (Governors) leadership we can secure the historic achievement of a polio-free Nigeria, expedite the delivery of a polio-free Africa, and protect the lives of millions of children for all future generations,

We COMMIT OURSELVES to:

1. Providing active leadership of Polio eradication activities (including routine immunization) and primary health care, in general, in the State and directing LGA Chairmen to ensure that all children under 5 years are reached and vaccinated during any polio eradication activity in the State;
2. Improving the operational quality at the LGA level in our States by Chairing quarterly meetings with all the LGA Chairmen to closely review the planning, implementation, and results of polio eradication activities, routine immunization/primary health care and identify remedies for poor-performing LGAs;


3. Allocating additional financial and human resources to strengthen Primary Health Care so that it can sustain routine immunization services and improve implementation of campaigns (Immunization Plus Days) in the State;
4. Reporting back to H.E. the President through NEC on a quarterly basis on the status of polio eradication efforts, including routine immunization, in the State.
5. Improving Primary Health Care as a more holistic plan to addressing the issue of immunization through community health insurance schemes.

Signed at Abuja, Nigeria on 2nd February in the Year 2009.



DR. BUKOLA SARAKI

**CHAIRMAN, GOVERNORS FORUM &
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KWARA STATE**



**PROF. BABATUNDE OSOTIMEHIN
HON. MINISTER FOR HEALTH**