

THE MANIFESTO OF THE 'SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY'

PREAMBLE

The transition of civic rule in Nigeria's Fourth Republic has met with disappointing failure. Free and fair elections have become so difficult to uphold, and democracy is not only endangered but in retreat. The political system has been over-heated and there is a Tendency towards a monopoly control of government while opposition is labeled in negative light. There is need that the drift towards a one party system. The increasing intolerance of the ruling party and the high defection of party members, even from within the ruling party, have made it necessary that there is need for all-encompassing political party that provide a platform for all progressive parties and individuals who truly and genuinely want Nigeria to move forward or make progress. Nigerians are yearning and desiring this opportunity and it is truly historic to find such a platform offered by our party to express and consummate their feelings.

In addition to and consistent with the philosophy aims and objectives contained in the constitution of the party WE the members of the party desirous of breaking the circle of vicious and endemic poverty and political crisis in our nation and several deliberations and consultations with patriots across generations and gender, town and cities, rural and urban areas, do hereby RESOLVE to pursue in government the following; in the pursuit of genuine development, social justice, equity, empowerment and life more abundant for the people of Nigeria based on the CARDINAL PROGRAMME of:

1. Electricity for ALL
2. Jobs for All
3. Food for ALL
4. War against corruption as abiding articles of faith, details of which are hereinafter contained and referred to as the. Manifesto of the party.

VISION

A principled and disciplined party that will create a great and prosperous country where maximum social welfare of citizens, freedoms, peace and unity will reign and where democratic best practices will serve as the tool for the emancipation of the people.

MISSION

To provide political, economic and social development and stability, through exemplary leadership, good governance, transparency and responsive

governance in so doing, cultivate a sense of identity and solidarity in Nigerians.

IDEOLOGY

Social democracy is the ideology of party; and the citizens will be the object and target of governance. All policies and programmes shall be directed at meeting their maximum welfare and basic needs. Governance will be highly participatory and interests of special and marginalized groups will be fairly and justly mobilized, included and made to participate in governance

GOALS

We hold it as an undeniable truth that the reason and essence of government is the pursuit of the well being and happiness of the people and these remain the standard parameters for the measurement of the performance and achievements of any government. That the people have inherent and inalienable right to reject and remove, by popular will, recall or election, or by their representatives in parliament, any person or government that denies or derogates from these principles. The Content of this Manifesto are therefore geared towards the attainment of these goals.

(a) Electricity for ALL

Basic and central to all form of development is affordable and constant power supply. The incessant failure to make the PHCN efficient and to serve Nigerians. the waste and corruption that has grip the power sector has meant that nothing works in the economy and society made the cost of production and business high, and invariable it has also made the cost of produce and commodities exorbitant. This cannot make any economy grow; neither will it make economic of scale achievable, it is known to all that the crises of power sector is one of the major causes of the present collapse of the industrial sector and the inability of small scale revolution in the country stable and affordable power is required. to achieve this within 5 years our party shall:

- (i) Eliminate the monopoly of the Federal Government in power supply and devolve responsibilities thereof to state and the private sector. This will go beyond the current IPPs.
- (ii) The private sector will be mobilized by deliberate policy to contribute to power and energy supply similar to yet improve upon its similar role in the telecommunication sector in the last 5 years,

- (iii) The gas and Thermal stations will particularly be encourage to increase power supply. And alternative renewable power source including solar energy will be developed,
- (iv) Avenues of waste, corruption will be checked. And Turn Around Maintenance (TAM) will be done at least interval of 5 years. An aggressive campaign on defaulters and non-payment of revenue due to PHCN will be carried out. While a public Enlightenment campaign on the use and abuse of power will be done within all neighborhoods across Nigeria.
- (v) Rural electrification will continue and various tiers of government and the private sector will be encouraged to take interest in it. The goal is that in the first 5 years. 25,000 megawatts will be generated to arrest the crises.

(b) Job for ALL

There shall be full and gainful employment for all Nigerians to lift our people from the abyss of poverty, hunger and destitution. A social and empowerment policy shall be introduced such that will create employment opportunities for those that have skills but are unemployed, it shall also create a skills acquisition programme in all states of the federation, to ensure that youth are trained to apply themselves to specific jobs of their choice or desire specific programmes will be designed to tackle the crises of the unemployed, underemployed and “unemployable” there will also be programme for those who were retrenched or sacked; those who need to acquire skills, those who need retraining, full employment is attainable when policies are well targeted at various social and professional cadres or categories. The creative energies and talents of the youth will be positively tapped, Micro-credit will be extended to them under a special skills discovery/acquisition programme in this regard that CBN entrepreneurial programme will be extended to cover the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria to assist youth to acquire skills with ultimate goal of micro -finance support to start their business. Youth cooperatives will be encouraged for the purpose of group membership and identity. The NDE and NAPEP will be overhauled to meet the challenges of wealth creation and to align with the new challenges of school curricular at secondary and tertiary levels. Sports, Cultural production will be supported under a special programme of employment creation.

(c) Food for ALL

All parts of Nigeria have arable land. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure that citizens are guaranteed food security. This will be done through massive investment and subsidy to the agricultural sector to small producers, farmers and peasants in particular, and to Agribusinesses that are genuinely focused on food security. Majority of Nigerians are farmers and they live in the rural areas. To achieve self-sufficiency in food production for internal consumption, food security and contribute to foreign exchange earnings through export, the party shall:

- i. Encourage private foreign investment in Agri-business through partnership with Nigerian investors.
- ii. State subsidy to farmers and peasants. There will be a repositioning of various Agricultural banks, Ministry of Agriculture to make procurement of loans purely for agricultural purpose far less cumbersome. And the procurement of pesticides, insecticides and farm implements will be made easier with de-emphasis on bureaucracy and guaranteeing easy access to peasants. Farm cooperatives would be taken seriously in the procurement process.
- iii. invest in the provision of infrastructure for agricultural development such as construction of dams for irrigation purposes. There will be a reappraisal of the various River Basins and fadamas to service local/community farmers.
- iv. Promote modern agricultural methods through mechanized ocean-going fishing, fresh water fishing, fish farming, poultry and animal husbandry within the appropriate geographical zones of the Federation and provide storage facilities including adding value chain target in preservation process.
- v. Adequate funding of agricultural research centers and encourage peasant farmers through provision of subsidized land clearing services, agricultural equipment leasing services, access to improved seedling and better farming methods through extension services.
- vi. Promote plantation and large scale agriculture and rural farming amongst communities with well maintained network of access roads to facilitate easy evacuation and distribution of farm produce.

(d) War Against Corruption

- (i) Nigeria has lost over US\$400 billion to corruption between 1960 and 2007. The war against corruption will be waged painstakingly and genuinely than it is currently being done. The relevant stakeholders will

be carried along both at the level of the Nigerian people, and our external supporters.

- (ii) An open and accountable procurement policy and process will be a major step to check public corruption.
- (iii) A fair and equitable wage structure to workers will be designed for a justified war against corruption.
- (iv) Money Laundering and Financial crimes will be checked by recognizing and protecting whistle blowers, relevant CBOs, NGOs and experts or profession in the war. There will be a proactive and intelligence based surveillance over cyber crime and the banks will be made to comply more with principles of accountability, and declaration of transactions by individual and corporate customers.
- (v) The National Orientation Agency (NOA) will be empowered and given a committed leadership to mount a serious campaign aimed at achieving fundamental attitudinal change, reorientation and behavioural modification in our people or issues of ill-gotten wealth and corrupt practices.
- (vi) Corruption offences will be punished more severely to serve as an effective deterrent. The Judiciary and the judicial process will be reformed to ensure speedy dispensation of justice in corruption and other related cases. As much as possible the option of fine will be discouraged, and an improved plea bargain mechanism will be used. Anti-corruption campaign will be taken to all levels of governance, including Local government Councils, schools, private sector, non-governmental agencies

OTHERS: 1. GOOD GOVERNANCE

(a) Committed, Responsive and Exemplary Leadership

The recent history of the country attests to the fact that leadership has been central to our economic and social crises and has made it difficult for Nigeria to become competitive among the comity of nations. The polity is bedeviled by inept, corrupt and irresponsible leadership leading to institutional and infrastructural decay, hopelessness and a drift towards state failure. Our nation has become the global reference point in corruption in spite of the work of the anti-corruption agencies. The manufacturing sector has collapsed due to low capacity utilization and de-industrialization has assumed an alarming height. The education sector is in severe crisis due to under funding, lack of priorities and unwillingness to be internationally competitive. The oil sector is rent-seeking and continues to dominate the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). There is no organic linkage between town

and country; and between industry and agriculture. There is food crisis and hunger in the land. The health sector is in an appalling state and Public hospitals, including Teaching Hospitals do not have the state of the art equipment and facilities. There is a sense of despondency and cynicism among citizens who believe that corruption is one basic reason for, and explanation of leadership crisis in Nigeria. Our youth, have become either part of the lost generation or are part of a wasting asset. Some of them have become valuable assets to their host countries abroad and may be forever lost by Nigeria. The Nigeria Diaspora has become a formidable political and economic force, which is yet to be positively and strategically cultivated to the benefit of the nation.

Nigeria is in dire need leaders who are responsive to the yearnings and needs of the citizens; leaders who will be exemplars and Stir the leadership in direction that will be governed by the virtues of openness, transparency, and due process. To arrest the drift in the country, the party shall provide exemplary leadership with commitment to the rule of law and constitutionalism, fairness, equity and justice inclusive and participatory democracy at both party and government levels and work assiduously towards a corruption free society.

(b) Constitutionalism and Rule of Law

The rule of law shall be respected by all; nobody shall be above the law. The constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria, 1999 shall be amended in view of the obvious lapses. Human rights awareness campaign and civic education programmes/enlightenment will be carried out among citizens.

(c) Fairness, Equity and Justice

The state will thrive to ensure fairness to all citizens and all social categories including women, youth, physically and mentally- challenged. In this regards the Rights of the Child as contained in various charters and Conventions, including the National Policy on the Rights of the Child, the Beijing Plus 10, and other relevant documents that seek to empower the weak and marginalized will constitute part of the framework of the party's programmes! It will also ensure that the resources of the nation are not unjustly and unfairly appropriated by a section of the society to the detriment of other citizens. Nobody shall be treated as guilty except through proper trial and conviction by a law court or judicial tribunal. Justice shall not be denied to any citizen or non- citizen on account of lack of funds, neither will anybody be arbitrarily thrown into detention without trial neither will they be denied

access to a lawyer or legal aid. The Legal Aid system will be improved and supported to defend the weak. The justice delivery system will be improved generally to make it faster, sophisticated and modern. The judges will be trained on how to use modern equipment on case files and generally on IT.

(d) Participatory Democracy

Democracy is about the people; as such they should not be made bystanders of the political process. Citizens' participation in the political process beginning from political participation at the local level shall be encouraged. And an inclusive political system will be promoted whereby all interest groups participate in the political process. Political mentoring from the grassroots level will be encouraged; this is to allow for tutelage to mentees. Citizens shall have unstrained access to their representatives and have a right to exercise re-call over non-performing elected representatives. Two key elements of participatory democracy are inclusiveness and transparent electoral system. The Proportional/Representation (PR) will be a core principle to be used in selection of candidates for elections by our party. The right of individuals to form and join political parties and to vote or be voted for should be defended in letter and spirit. The electoral system and process in Nigeria will be overhauled to guarantee free, fair, transparent and violent-free elections; and to eschew the role of money, godfathers and violence in election and politics. The Election Management body to handle all general and special elections in Nigeria will be made truly independent and non-partisan, with members drawn from a community of people with integrity and drawing its finances on the first line charge. Its field staff will be well-trained and highly professional, including those who will be recruited on ad-hoc basis.

(e) Reform and strengthening of the Institutions and systems of governance

The principle of separation of powers will be defended and the devolution of powers between federal, state and local governments will be guaranteed in line with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. There will be de-bureaucratization of the Presidency, a fundamental reform of the Civil Service, Ministries and Extra-Ministerial Departments and agencies, The Code of Conduct Bureau, Code of Conduct Tribunal, Civil Service Commission, BMIU, Public Procurement Bureau, SERVICOM, and so on will be reformed. The goal being to ensure openness, accountability and transparency of governance institutions that serve the public purpose.

(3) HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(4) (a) Education

- (i) Free and compulsory public Primary and Secondary Education, scholarships will be provided to indigent and deserving students in Tertiary institutions. In this regard UBEC will be overhauled and shed of its corruption, redtapism and inefficiency. Physical structures and facilities including libraries and ICT will be improved in public primary and secondary schools across the country. Science education will be vigorously promoted, so also technical and vocational education.
- (ii) Federal and. state government owned tertiary institutions will be better funded through statutory allocations and Grant-in-Aid. The Education Tax Fund (ETF) will be repositioned to meet its targets. Public Private Partnership (PPP) will be encourage in the financing and support to educational institutions in Nigeria. Industrial peace and collective bargaining will be promoted to meet ILO standards. The goal is to create world-class educational institutions in Nigeria.
- (iii) Senate and Council of each university will be given autonomy they will thrive to ensure the collegiate system and internal democracy in appointment of Vice Chancellors.
- (iv) Private universities will be encouraged within strict framework to ensure compliance with minimum standards and Quality assurance as set, from time to time, by the National Universities Commission (NUC).
- (v) The technical colleges and polytechnics shall be made to achieve their goals of providing technical and technologically- based education particularly mid-level technical manpower. As much as possible mono- and polytechnics will be repositioned to teach applied knowledge rather than theoretical knowledge.
- (vi) Provision of modern buildings and facilities in the educational institutions will be pursued, in all public schools and universities.
- (vii) The welfare and working condition of staff at all levels of the educational institutions will be improved such as to attract and retain staff. Training and retraining of staff will be encouraged on a continuous basis. There will be synergy between educational institutions and industry. And R&D in educational institutions will be strongly encouraged.

(b) **Health:** Convinced that the citizen's productive capacities are predicated on good health, the following programmes shall be pursued in the health sector,

- i. Free health services for all Nigerians up to the age of 18 and seniors over the age of 65 years; and affordable health services for all Nigerians in every part of the country and creating infrastructural facilities in the health sector for effective health care delivery,
- ii. A total overhaul of primary, secondary and tertiary health care systems will be carried out.
- iii. A reinvigorated locus and equipment of General Hospitals and Teaching hospitals across the country and treatment of malaria and other endemic health issues will be free of charge,
- iv. Special focus on problems of WF, HIV/AIDS, maternal and infant mortality,
- v. Mobile clinics will be introduced in strategic places especially on motor ways and inaccessible communities.

(c) **Social welfare:** To realise full citizenship, the well being and welfare of Nigerians will be catered for Indigent children, youth, women and specially challenged people will be taken care of through a social security arrangement, with respect to basic needs such as food, Medicare, shelter, and education. To ensure improved productivity, dignity in Labour, high morale and a motivated and contented workforce, and happy post-retirement and to remove one of the major causes of corruption in public service the party shall:

- i. Embark on a review of the wage structure in the public sector to ensure fairness to working class, in the context of the existing cost of living. This will be subjected to regular or periodic review to make up for inflation, (ii) Speedily pay arrears of pensions and gratuities owed public servants within two years in office and subsequently ensure that all gratuities and pension of retiring public servants are paid promptly. The relevant review to the Current Pension Act will be effected to correct the defects already identified by relevant stakeholders.

(d) **Housing:**

Shelter being one of the basic necessities of life shall be provided to all citizens above 21 years, who are desirous of it, upon meeting the conditions. Decent housing is not only a condition for healthy living; it is also a measure of the level of civilization attained by any society. The party to this end shall:

- i. provide mass low-income housing for citizens at the state and local government levels,
- ii. develop effective mortgage institutions with long term loans to home buyers at low interest rates.
- iii. Make all housing estates, both public and private, to be well aid out and provide well-surfaced roads, water, recreational facilities; sewage disposal and refuse collection systems and an organized system of estate facilities maintenance.
- iv. Encourage town and ethnic associations, thrifts and co-operatives, community-based organizations organized Labour, social movements and interest groups, to assist in providing housing to their people or members.
- v. Pursue a programme of urban renewal/regeneration

(e) Security of Lives and Property

The state will encourage community and inter-group harmonious relations; Community interests and skills in dispute/conflict resolution will be developed. The role of the Nigeria Police and community policing will be redefined such as to create synergy and complementary between both of them. Neighbourhood role in securing life and property will also be promoted. Overall, the state shall continue to guarantee security, while making the citizens to drive and claim ownership of the security process. Law enforcement agencies will be retrained to meet the challenges of security architecture in modern democracy. Ethno-religious and politically inspired community conflicts will be eschewed through continuous public enlightenment of communities and people, through traditional, religious, women, and youth institutions or organizations. The native-settler question which had been at the heart of many community conflicts in Nigeria will be addressed through a rectification of the definition of the status of citizens. To ensure this, there will be a fundamental overall of the Nigeria Police in training, orientation and practices. International best practices and professionalism will be the guiding and abiding principles in the new outlook of the Nigeria Police. The sacredness of the human person, community representation, community sensitivity and community interests will be primary in policing in Nigeria.

f) Sports and Recreational Facilities

Through sports a lot of youth can have their talents and energies positively cultivated, indoor and outdoor sporting facilities will be provided. State-of-the-art sports facilities will be established throughout the country and through

a Public Private Partnership (PPP) these facilities will be operated and maintained. Key neighbourhoods will be designated as recreation sites and accordingly developed as parks, amusement parks, hunting grounds, sites for musical shows, beach fronts and so on.

(3) WEALTH CREATION

(a) Diversification of the Economy

Nigeria's economic base is yet to be diversified since independence. This can only come when Nigeria truly takes interest in developing the various sectors of the economy on the basis of a knowledge-based approach and in which local ownership is central. The goal is to realize that economic self-reliance rather than dependency or foreign dependence is the key to or development. In this regard such useful frameworks as the Lagos Plan of Action will be come a useful reference point for developing a Blueprint for a self-reliant economy that is truly diversified. In this regard, the state will continue to ensure that the economy driven in the direction of serving the national and patriotic interest. It will therefore continue to show interest in such sectors as oil, agriculture, and manufacturing. And various stakeholders such as MAN, NACCIMA, NEITI, and PENGASSAN/NUPENG will be brought into the process of bringing about a self-reliant economy. The goal shall be economic development and not mere economic growth. The foundation for this is to be rooted in improved manufacturing, boost in agriculture and linkages between agriculture and industry.

(b) Industries: To make our nation less dependant on imports, reduce local production costs and make investment more attractive to both local and foreign entrepreneurs and improve the industrial base of the economy. The party shall:

- i. Promote the establishment of industries in every part of Nigeria with special emphasis on local content, that both available local materials and manpower,
- ii. Promote cottage industries, masonry, small and medium scale Enterprises (SMES) and improve incentives to manufacturers in this regard,
- iii. Embark on rapid improvement in infrastructure such as electricity, petroleum products, water supply, access roads to reduce local production costs and make Nigerian products more competitive.
- iv. Encourage the private sector by minimal partnership and provide incentives for companies for the manufacture of industrial machinery to serve local industries.

- v. Create special facilitating agencies for SMES with minimum bureaucracy to prepare standard feasibility studies for prospective investors, link them to sources of finance and with major industries to which they can be vertically integrated and which can serve as a ready buyer for their products.
- vi. Improve the security in the country so that prospective investors will have confidence in the safety of lives and their investments,
- vii. Emphasis the need for R&D to be conducted by all companies, locally.

(c) Private Sector Initiatives

The private sector in Nigeria is still weak and highly underdeveloped, in spite of the vast economic opportunities that exist. There is need to support private sector initiatives that will bring about development in the country. In this regard, emphasis should shift to the role of the private sector not only in banking, finance and the stock market but in mining, science and technology, manufacturing and agriculture where the real potential for development exists.

(d) Entertainment and Tourism

Nigeria has a rich and diversified cultural heritage that remains largely untapped. There is boundless and talented youth that could enrich the entertainment industry a lot of who remain undiscovered, untapped and undeveloped. The entertainment industry will be supported and encouraged in ways that will make it hunt for talents; nurture them to a level of sophistication whereby the Nollywood will attain the status of the Hollywood in Los Angeles. Nollywood Drama culture will be turned into motion films and the animation and technological component of the industry will also be improved through local content and local R&D. This will enhance the economic and social development of the country. It will improve the Departments of Arts and Culture in our tertiary and vocational Institutes; and training institutes of artistes, both private and public will be encouraged and supported. Cultural and Artistic festivals of international standards will be organized through public, private and community initiatives. New stars will also be promoted as State Ambassadors, Piracy will be aggressively fought and intellectual property and copy right will be protected. Relevant laws will be evoked against offenders. The garment industry shall receive maximum attention to promote Nigeria fashion and fabrics.

(4) INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

It is our cardinal objective to check the alarming infrastructural decay and provide world class infrastructure that will unleash the creative energies of our citizens which ultimately trigger a chain of developmental activities for the social and technological development of the nation.

(a) Clean and Potable Water

It shall be the right of every citizen to be provided clean, potable water. With abundant water resources and rainfall the year round, it is objectionable that our people still lack access to potable water thus making them susceptible to water-borne diseases. Government at all levels shall ensure provision of water to all citizens within 4 years. More boreholes will be provided as first step to rural and inaccessible areas. Special attention shall be focused on coastal areas with problems of saline water and sahelian areas faced with threat of desertification.

(b) Transportation system: roads, rail, water and airways

1. Roads

- (a) Creation of more Trunk B and C roads to service rural areas. Expansion, through dualization, re-construction or rehabilitation of all inter-state federal roads and regular maintenance of same.
- (b) Provision of expanded and well-laid out modern inter-and intra-city roads in state and local government headquarters.
- (c) Provision of integrated transportation system including roads, rail, tram, waterways and air transport in our megacities to put an end to heavy traffic, man hour loss. and inability to conduct business
- (d) Review the laws and operational strategies of road maintenance agencies at all levels with adequate personnel and funding to make them speedily respond to all problems on the roads. To check road accidents, the FRSC will, be overhauled and made more efficient and to respond speedily to problems of road accidents. They will work 24-hours on designated roads and security on many motorways will be improved to check crime and robbery.
- (e) Construct navigational bridges across big rivers and swampy lands to link isolated islands in the riverine and Niger Delta areas with the rest of the country.
- (f) Construct coastal highway along the Atlantic shoreline from Lagos to the boundary with the Cameroons,
- (g) Encourage private sector participation in road construction on BOT basis.

2. Water Transportation

- (a) Dredge, re-dredge, develop, sustain and construct embankments and jetties along Inland Waterways for inland navigation and source of fish supply.
- (b) provide ferry services both for transportation and tourism purposes.
- (c) review the nation's maritime laws to international standards and improve security at sea ports.
- (d) encourage private sector investment in sea ports, sea transportation and establishment of ports both at the sea coast and along dredged inland waterways.

3. Rail

- (a) Break the monopoly of the Federal Government on railways by amending the Constitution and initiating policies that will liberalize rail transportation through the involvement of the states and the private sector.
- (b) Provide modern and fast moving rail transportation system as a means of mass, faster and cheaper transportation of goods and people across the country and reduce pressure on the roads.
- (c) Co-operate with other countries in West Africa for the provision of sub-regional rail network.

4. Aviation (Air Transportation)

- (a) The aviation industry will be regulated to ensure airworthiness of aircrafts and ensure modern safety measures and facilities at the airports. Regular maintenance culture will be enforced and old aircrafts will be banned.
- (b) Encourage private sector participation and investment in the aviation industry generally either for domestic or international operations.
- (a) Create a national carrier that operates on competitive basis such as the Ethiopian Airways or Kenya Airlines.

5. The Environment

- (a) As a result of global warming and climate change, environmental protection has become an issue of global concern and in realization of this, our party shall adopt and enact relevant laws and abide by international regulations on environmental protection/standards. The goal shall be environmental safety, environmental justice and community approach to environmental protection. The abuses and excesses of

MNCs shall be checked and relevant local and international laws will be evoked to impose sanctions on defaulters,

- (b) Exploration and mining of any form of minerals shall conform to international best practices.
- (c) Gas flaring in the course of mineral oil mining activities shall be stopped within a maximum period of 2 years of the assumption of office of the party at the Federal level,
- (d) States shall be encouraged to enact laws that will protect their environment notwithstanding but as a result of threat by mining activities,
- (e) Government shall wage war against land erosion, sea incursion or coastal encroachment, de-vegetation, deforestation and desertification. Research and studies will also be carried out locally on how to curb/check this.

6. Science and Technology

Governments at both state and federal levels shall invest heavily in scientific research and move from technological know-how to technological know what, as the indispensable medium of modern development. Private sector participation through entrepreneurial investment and or Non-Governmental Organizations activities shall be actively encouraged.

7. Mineral Resources

Nigeria is blessed with abundant presence of mineral resources which include crude oil, natural gas, gold, livestock, iron-ore, laterite, coal baurite lead zinc, marble, granite silica sand, bitumen, columbite bitumen, kaoline, diamond and barites, and so on.

(1) Solid Minerals

- (a) The party shall embark on comprehensive geological survey of Nigeria not only to establish accurately the types of minerals that exist in the country and also their quantities and commercial viability.
- (b) Foreign Investors with experience/expertise and integrity in the mining industry will be encouraged to go into partnership with Nigeria investors to establish commercial mining operations.

(2) Oil and Gas

- (a) Make Nigeria in 5 years, produce at least 3 Million barrels per day instead of the present 2.06 million bpd to include domestic refinery
- (b) Develop the vast natural gas to export 4 billion cubic metres in 5 years.

- (c) Encourage private sector investment in refinery establishment and turn around maintenance and privatize the existing refineries to put a permanent stop to the perennial crisis in petroleum products supply.
- (d) Improve the Incorporated Joint Ventures (IJVs) to serve Nigerians and the national interest, as part of the commonwealth.
- (e) Undertake activities:
- (f) To supply crude oil at local prices to our refineries to stabilize the price of products domestically,
- (g) To make the people of the oil producing areas through their states local governments and communities joint partners with the Federal Government in the ownership, management and control of the oil and gas resources of the oil producing region.

8. TOURISM

- (i) Most of our tourism sites are grossly underdeveloped. Our historical sites and monuments are literally abandoned. All these will be developed to world standards, with provision for accommodation and recreational facilities.
- (ii) Community tourism will be encouraged where the local communities will claim ownership and share in the benefit of tourism rather than being mere objects of tourism
- (iii) We shall encourage the development of the intellectual aspects of our culture, such as the nurturing of drama troupes, operatic dance troupes and classical/high life and other forms of traditional musical groups in our major cities who will be staging performances throughout the year and especially during the holiday period, and provide additional sources of relaxation/recreation for tourists.
- (iv) A tourist calendar will be prepared annually to highlight the various artistic performances, cultural festivals and other forms of tourist-directed activities taking place around the country, as a guide to potential tourists so they can plan their schedule while in Nigeria. A rich website will be developed and our High Commissions and Embassies will be used for such purposes of popularizing tourism.
- (v) A tourism officer will be assigned to every Nigerian embassy or High commission abroad, to attend to and answer enquiries from prospective tourists to Nigeria.

9. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- (i) Nigeria will redefine its Pan-African agenda in the context of post-apartheid and post national liberation struggles, to meet the current challenges of the people of Africa and African descent. We shall actively promote the attainment of a Union of all of African peoples under one

government, in line with the AU principles. Nigeria will also pursue a more proactive role in NEPAD and especially in subjecting itself to the APRM process

- (ii) Nigeria will also develop its Fast-track with Ghana and play a more strategic role in ECOWAS objective of promoting the “union of peoples” rather than the “union of states and its various organs and agencies.
- (iii) We shall actively promote the interest of Nigeria at all times followed by the interest of the African continent and people of African descent even as we maintain friendly relations with all the countries of the world.
- (iv) Our embassies and high commissions shall protect all Nigerian citizens abroad, and continue to promote the good image of the country. Our embassies and High Commissions will be better funded to overcome the embarrassing situation where staff salaries and financial crises they all face
- (v) Nigeria’s Diaspora has grown so big it is currently approximated at over 8 million citizens. Our party shall recognize the diaspora as the 37” state and find a means to cultivate them in designing policies and programmers and using their talents and skills. Special programmes in the educational, technological and agricultural sectors will be designed where the Diaspora will play important roles. The Diaspora will also be provided opportunity to vote at Nigeria General Elections through Nigerian Missions abroad.
- (vi) The campaign against and human trafficking will be pursued more vigorously and Nigeria’s image abroad will be reshaped.
- (vii) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) will be repositioned to meet the challenges of foreign policy in the 21St century. Every staff will be encouraged to learn at least a second language as precondition for foreign posting. And the 60:40 ratio in career versus non-career Diplomats will be respected as a way to boost morale and encourage professionalism in foreign affairs. A better synergy will be created between the Nigerian Institute of international affairs (NIIA), the MFA and the Presidential Advisory Committee on Foreign Policy.

10. International Trade

Nigeria will seek a just international economic order where its produce and commodities compete fairly internationally without discrimination. The World Trade organization (WTO) will be made to appreciate the peculiar problems of Third World countries such as Nigeria and the need for them to enjoy non-reciprocal status with respect to tradeable. And the developmental issues which were at the core of the Doha Ministerial should also be addressed

since they favour Third world countries. The World Bank and IMF need to be reformed and Nigeria will work with other countries to ensure that they are just to third world countries whose membership of those institution is far larger than that of the first world. Nigeria shall thrive to be among 20:20 economies through which it hopes to improve

11. Niger Delta

The development of the Niger Delta has posed a special challenge to the Nigerian state our party, in addition to earlier reference to the Niger delta in this manifesto, will ensure rapid and holistic development of the region based on the current blueprint of the NDDC, the General Ogomodia Report and the Ledum Mittee Report; such that within 4 years, hope and confidence in the state and its commitment to the development of the region would be restored. The people of the Niger Delta must be taken as citizens with right development and justice. At all items the communities will be taken into account and fully participate in all programmes designed for the Niger Delta.

12. National Revenue and Ownership of Resources

Nigeria citizens should own the resources that exist in the country. In addition, the Federal, state and Local Governments will be encouraged to pursue internally generated revenues, vigorously, citizen and companies should be made to pay taxes, accordingly. The F.I.R.S. will also made to harmonise various forms of taxation and tax regimes between the federal and state governments to avoid double taxation, unfair and unjust tax regimes. Each state of the federation shall be encouraged to develop their economic potentials in the interest of their people. The National Economic Council of Nigeria will render support to any part of Nigeria that requires assistance for economic development.

13. Judiciary

- (i) We shall religiously uphold the independence of the judiciary and will not seek to influence court judgements,
- (ii) We shall enhance the remuneration of judges and improve their working conditions, so that they can better withstand the temptation to be corrupt. Facilities and equipment in courts will also upgraded.
- (iii) The National Judicial Council will be made more proactive, and corrupt judges will be severely and promptly sanctioned.
- (iv) We shall review the entire justice delivery system to expedite speedy conclusion of court trials.

14. Human Rights

- (i) We shall ensure that every Nigerian enjoy his or her fundamental rights, without undue government interference, in this regard Nigeria will work assiduously to ratify all international conventions and treaties it has freely entered into getting the NASS to act quickly; it will then instruct relevant agencies and Departments to appropriately implement such laws.
- (ii) That the process of seeking redress in the event of the violation of any of the fundamental rights is simplified.
- (iii) That government supports Human Right Organizations in Nigeria to enable them complement government's effort in creating awareness about and in checking human rights abuses in the country. The role of the National Human Rights Commission will be made truly independent.
- (iv) The arbitrariness of the Nigeria police and other security and intelligence units, including the NDLEA, NIA, and SSS are checked if not curbed. And these agencies are going to have their personnel re-trained on how to behave under a democratic dispensation.

15. Federal Capital Territory (FCT)

- (i) We shall review the administrative structure of FCT to ensure the development of a better system which would facilitate the administrative, economic and physical development of the FCT.
- (ii) Ensure that outstanding compensation and resettlement programme of the original inhabitants of the territory will be revisited to cater for the individual and collective needs of the affected inhabitants.
- (iii) We shall ensure that all Nigerians have equal rights as residents of the FCT (iv) since many workers in the FCT commute from the outskirts of Abuja metropolis, there is need to develop and improve facilities in those surrounding towns.

16. Women and Youth

Given the global effort and programmes designed to redress in the injustice and inequality against women, our party shall cultivate women and youth and ensure their fair representation and inclusion in key position of the party and government. Affirmative action and Proportional Representation (PR) are the two key political instrument through which the marginalization and exclusion of women and youth are being redressed all over the world and our party will equally use them.