

**THE
MANIFESTO OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S CONGRESS
(DPC)**

CHAPTER 1

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A NEW BEGINNING

1. PREAMBLE

We the Democratic People Congress of Nigeria, desirous of breaking the jinx of poverty and backwardness in our nation, and after several deliberations and consultations, have resolved to bring about a stable polity and have therefore decided to put in place the mechanism and vehicle to ensure the emergence of a virile, ideological, patriotic and all-inclusive national political alliance to be known as The Democratic People's Congress (DPC), for the necessary push to propel Nigeria through and beyond the 21st century.

2. WE KNOW THAT:

- (i) God's gift to Nigeria of human resources (many talents from many tribes), of good climate, stable earth (no earthquakes, no volcanoes) fertile soil, abundant materials resources (vegetable, water, mineral, animals) are surplus to her requirement to develop into a global super power and that, therefore, poverty is not in our stars! Yet!
- (ii) Our Country is decaying rapidly, achieving depths of wretchedness and failure in everything, in every way, except for some costly improvements in external image and telecommunication. Politically we are at one of those points when break up looks imminent.
- (iii) Central to the problem of Nigeria is the failure to integrate our peoples. The preferences of the colonial officers led to some built-in structure imbalance in Nigeria polity. The pattern of the supply of leadership in independent Nigeria worsened the imbalance and introduced new distortions, including the enthronement of a culture of crass materialism, thievery and cheating, backed an arsenal of deception, duplicity and falsehood, and these infest every facet our national and private lives. Even our religious organizations.
- (iv) Many of our country men and women have been processed (manipulation through negative uses of religion, ethnic difference and geographical demarcations) to believe that Nigeria is not worth dying for, and they have, therefore, decided to join the force which they believe they cannot beat, have acquiesced and become

accomplices, or have given up, moping in hopelessness, helplessness and in continuing shock.

- (v) Over the last three decades our beloved nation Nigeria has transformed into a hell on earth for all except a few privileged elite. Poverty ravages the land, debases our humanity and engenders a wild, Hobbesian state of existence. Our youths, from the best educated to the barely literate, immigrate droves to other lands prepared to face the uncertain future rather than remain trapped in certain misery. Some have become valuable assets to their adopted countries, but forever lost to Nigeria, some have turned to menial labour for survival while some others have become economic parasites, turning to various forms of crime and constituting constant embarrassment to Nigeria.
- (vi) Hopes that a return to democracy in 1999 will bring change for the better have largely been dashed. The hellish conditions of our existence have merely become aggravated. It is the unflinching resolve of the DPA to begin a turnaround in the fortunes of our nation over the next four years, such that if sustained, Nigeria will once again become a nation we shall all be proud to call our country, and to which our legion of economic exiles presently scattered around the world will be proud to return to make their homes.

3. WE SAY NO TO NIGERIA'S DECAY AND INCREMENTAL DISINTEGRATION, AND BELIEVE THAT:

- (i) Nigeria can still make it, we can remake Nigeria. Nigeria can still become a global super power and accomplish her manifest destiny.
- (ii) Self-centered, fraudulent, gangster leadership can be dethroned and replaced with God-centered, knowledgeable, honest, principled, nationalistic leadership.
- (iii) Power can still be returned to its owners: the people of Nigeria, and be used for their welfare in mind, body and spirit.
- (iv) A new beginning, with a new morality, for the New Nigeria is possible and must be pursued and accomplished.
- (v) In bringing about this turn-around, we shall be guided by the following principles.

4. THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

(a) General

Supremacy of the Constitution, in particular, equality of every citizen before the law, respect of the fundamental human rights of all Nigerians, and the fair and equitable treatment of all.

(b) On the Polity

- (i) An effective Return to True Federalism with fiscal federalism fully practiced. The structure and functions of government shall be governed by the federal principle. The application of the federal principle shall be based, largely, on the six existing geopolitical zones without prejudice to the states remaining, for the time being, the federating units. We envisage that ultimately either the zones become the federating units or there shall be equal number of states in each zone. Fiscal federalism necessitates that revenue allocation be based on the principle of derivation, with due attention given to the principle of national interest.
- (ii) We believe in the rotation of the office of president as a transitional measure. Such rotation shall be based on the six geopolitical zones and should be done with equity, justice and fairness, bearing in mind the history of the supply of leadership in Nigeria.
- (iii) We believe also in the rotation of the office of Governor amongst the senatorial zones and the office of Council Chairman amongst the political zones in the Local Government Area.
- (iv) We accept that Nigeria is multi-religious but uphold secularity as the basis of the state operations.

(c) On the Economy and Society

- (i) Man is the reason for, and must be the focus of government and governance. Man's welfare (in body, mind and spirit) is the commanding determinant of governmental action.
- (ii) Any result of the historical process, social organization or any situation which, welfare-wise, is significantly, not as good as it should be, must be changed, reformed and replaced with a design for improvement, a plan for better society, for the greater welfare of

man. By “man” we mean any human being, irrespective of creed, colour, circumstances of birth etc.

- (iii) Historical process and social organization help make some men rich and some poor. Thus, neither the rich nor the poor can claim total responsibility for their wealth or poverty. Through free basic education, the children of the poor are provided the opportunity to escape from poverty.
- (iv) We are not doctrinaire. Everything is seen from the perspective of the welfare of man. That is why we endorse private enterprise in production and government intervention in the commanding heights of the economy and especially, in distribution. We shall ensure a vibrant economic growth in which the private sector plays the dominant, leading role and the government provides the enabling environment and regulatory framework.
- (v) Guided by these principles, we commit ourselves to the following goals.

5. GOALS

- (1) We shall guarantee unity, equality and justice to all our people within a united Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (2) We believe in a true Federation, in which fiscal federalism is fully implemented with equity for all federating units.
- (3) We hold that revenue sharing based on the principle of derivation will spur development across the country.
- (4) We advocate the recognition of regions/zones as being the coordinate structure for the purpose of harmonizing the political, social and economic cooperation and the provision of common services, functions presently exercised by the Federal Government in the states.
- (5) Rotational Presidency amongst the six geopolitical zones on the basis of equity, justice, fairness in such a manner that would give both the major and minor ethnic groups access to the presidency.
- (6) In like manner the rotation of the position of Governor amongst the Senatorial Zones in the State and the position of the Local Government Chairman amongst the geographical and political zones within the Local Government Area.

- (7) For the sake of equity and geopolitical balance we agree to the creation of equal number of states among the geopolitical zones of the country as soon as possible.
- (8) We uphold the secularity of the state and plurality of its ethnic composition and therefore see the necessity to tolerate and respect our differences within the context of true federalism
- (9) We shall rebuild trust between the government and the governed by fighting corruption in all its ramifications and shades in our public life and enthroning transparency and
- (10) We shall pursue balanced and very effective policies for the protection and wise management of our environment, so as to ensure sustainable development.
- (11) We shall fight for total emancipation of our people from political servitude and dictatorship to unfettered freedom of speech, freedom from inhumane treatment and torture, freedom from hunger and starvation, freedom from discrimination whether based on gender, religion, age and ethnicity, freedom of peaceful assembly and political association.
- (12) We shall advocate full citizenship for all our people wherever they may reside in the federation.
- (13) We shall guarantee the protection and safety of all our citizens and their property at all times throughout Nigeria.
- (14) Ensure that a fair gender balance is achieved and maintained.
- (15) Work towards the provision of free qualitative and compulsory primary to senior secondary education.
- (16) Free maternal and child health care.
- (17) We shall strive for a mental re-orientation of Nigerians, to bring about positive attitudinal changes and behavioral modifications that will create a new Nigerian, worthy of the trust and respect of civilized mankind.
- (18) Gainful employment as an abiding objective of national policy.
- (19) A policy that will encourage subsidized mass affordable housing projects.
- (20) Job creation and employment for the registered unemployed and schemes that will ensure payment of pension and retirement benefit without delay.

- (21) Rehabilitation and care of disabled and handicapped members of society.
- (22) We shall acknowledge the strategic importance of agriculture and accord it top-most priority in our development.
- (23) We shall ensure a steady and increasing supply of energy for both industrial and domestic uses through comprehensive energy policy, encouraging and funding research into alternative energy' sources and further developing hydro-electric, thermal and solar-energy projects in all geopolitical zones.
- (24) We shall establish industrial and research banks in all the states of the federation that will make funds available for institutions carrying out approved projects and research for quick technological development.
- (25) We shall ensure that the political alliance has a structure, which recognizes devolution of party decision-making process on zonal and regional issues to the zones, and regions and only the issue of election to the position of President and Vice- President may be determined by the national executive committee.

6. OUR DEVELOPMENTAL FOCUS

In achieving our economic goals for the nation, we have identified four priority areas which will constitute the focus of governmental attention, when we take over the reins of government. These are

1. Massive Development of INFRASTRUCTURE - roads, potable water supply, electrical power, transportation and communication.
2. EDUCATION
3. HEALTH
4. CLOSING THE TECHNOLOGICAL GAP

We believe that by providing world-class infrastructure, developing the minds of our citizens through education, and ensuring a virile and healthy population, we would unleash the creative energies of our citizens that will in turn trigger a multiplying chain of developmental activities to modernize and develop our nation. Actual Production and other developmental activities will be private sector driven, with the government providing only the enabling and regulatory environment. The government will also take

special measures to accelerate our drive into modernity by actively encouraging the development of indigenous technological capacity. The above focus is reflected in the detailed programmes which follow.

CHAPTER 2

THE ECONOMIC PROGRAMME

1. AGRICULTURE

(a) Objective

- (i) Self sufficiency in food production to service our internal consumption and food security needs, and contribute to foreign exchange earnings.
- (ii) To move decisively from peasants-dominated agricultural production to mechanized farming and plantations agriculture.
- (iii) To reduce dependence on rain and shift emphasis to irrigation to provide water for agriculture.
- (iv) To reduce post-harvest wastage of agricultural products through the provision of storage facilities.
- (v) To encourage increased production through ready marketing and distribution outlets and the guarantee of concessionary prices to farmers, with the government acting as a buyer of last resort. In this connection, government subsidy will be removed from farm inputs, and placed on the harvested products, so that they can reach consumers and end users at reasonable, stable prices.
- (vi) Harmonization between agricultural and industrial policies so that farm outputs can readily serve as inputs for food processing industries.

(b) **Programmer**

- (i) Government will encourage private foreign investment in mechanized agriculture, in partnership with Nigerian investors, such that Nigerians shall have majority shareholding in such investments.
- (ii) Government will invest heavily in the construction of dams across the country's watercourses not only to supply irrigation water for agriculture, but also to supply potable water for our homes and factories.
- (iii) Government will encourage the private sector to establish food processing industries to absorb the products from the farms, and to establish national chains of supermarkets where processed farm products can be purchased by consumers. The marketing system

will be such that farmers will sell their products at guaranteed prices to the processors, who will receive their subsidies on quantities purchased direct from the government.

- (iv) Government will set up storage facilities throughout the nation to buy from the farmers at guaranteed prices, their excess products which they are unable to sell to processors or direct to consumers, and store them.
- (v) Peasant farmers will continue to be encouraged through the provision by government, of subsidized land clearing services, agricultural equipment hiring services and access to improved seedlings and better farming methods, through extension services.
- (vi) Our agricultural research centers will be better funded so they can have a more positive impact on our agricultural output.
- (vii) Foreign investments will be encouraged through favourable tax concessions and incentives.

2. INDUSTRY AND SME'S

(a) Objectives

- (i) It will be a cardinal objective to make Nigerians depend less on imports and more on what we can produce locally. We would strive to reduce the penchant of Nigerians for consumption of foreign goods, and increase their zeal for production and export.
- (ii) To reduce local production costs so that Nigerian goods can be competitive.
- (iii) To make investments in Nigeria more attractive, both for Nigerians and foreign investors, and increase the industrial base of the economy, with a target of making manufacturing to contribute at least 25% to the GDP.

(b) Programmes

- (i) We would seek a special understanding with the WTO such that our open door policy to all sorts of foreign goods would be drastically reduced. Specifically we would ban the importation of all non-essential goods, food items that can be readily grown domestically, and products which are already being manufactured or assembled in Nigeria, such as luxury cars, furniture, luxury

buses, textiles, vehicle tyres, rice etc. We will also ban the importation of such goods as constitute an insult to our national pride such as used or Tokunbo garments etc.

- (ii) We would encourage the local production, or expansion of production of such goods that are banned, to fill the vacuum created by the ban and put Nigerians to work.
- (iii) We shall give all automobile assembly plants in Nigeria tax and preferential incentives to encourage the manufacturing of components of their vehicles in Nigeria.
- (iv) We will strive for a rapid improvement in infrastructure, such as power, water supply and access roads, to reduce local production costs and make Nigerian-made products more competitive.
- (v) Government will partner the private sector, but will hold minority share, to set up companies for the manufacture of industrial machinery, to service local industries.
- (vi) We shall continue with on-going reforms of the financial sector to ensure that manufacturers have access to credit facilities at low interest rates.
- (vii) We will set up an anti-trust regulatory agency to ensure that local manufacturers do not take advantage of the ban on foreign made imported products to engage in exploitation of consumers.
- (viii) We shall create various incentives for manufacturers, allow favourable tax holidays, and give special recognition to particularly innovative Nigerian entrepreneurs in the award of national honours.
- (ix) We shall set up industrial lay-outs and estates throughout the country, fully serviced with all necessary infrastructures.
- (x) We shall give a boost to the development of SMB'S through the setting up of special industrial parks for them, with provision of standard factory buildings on lease basis, and all infrastructures.
- (xi) We shall create, a special facilitating agency for 5MB's with minimum bureaucracy, to prepare standard feasibility studies for prospective SME investors, link them with 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.

- (xii) We shall improve the security situation in the country so that prospective investors will have the confidence of the safety of their investments and their lives.

3. **INFRASTRUCTURE (ROADS, RAILWAYS, AVIATION, WATER TRANSPORT, POWER, WATER SUPPLY, COMMUNICATIONS)**

(a) **Objectives**

To upgrade and modernize our infrastructure facilities to improve the quality of life of our citizens and reduce industrial production costs.

(b) Programme

- (i) We shall expand the nation's network of roads, and ensure their periodic upgrading and regular maintenance. The enabling law setting up the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency will be reviewed to make sure the agency works like the Public Works Department of the colonial days in establishing road camps and engaging direct labour in the maintenance of federal roads.
- (ii) All industrial estates, agricultural plantations and rural farming communities will be provided with a well maintained network of access roads to facilitate easy evacuation of farm produce and distribution of manufactured products.
- (iii) The national rail network will be modernized and expanded to expedite movement of goods and people across the country and reduce the pressure on our roads.
- (iv) The aviation industry will be more effectively regulated to ensure that only air-worthy aircraft are used for air transportation by airline companies and our airports will be equipped with better runways and the most up-to-date air traffic control facilities.
- (v) We will dredge, develop and sustain Inland waterways.
- (vi) Provide ferry services over dredged rivers and inland waterways
- (vii) We will improve and strengthen security at the Sea Ports.
- (viii) The unbundling of the PHCN will be accelerated, and all facets of its operation will be privatized. Private Power producers will be encouraged to invest in power generation, transmission and distribution companies, with governments providing only a regulatory framework. The goal will be to achieve an uninterrupted

- power supply to all homes and factories within eight years. A consumer protection regulatory agency will be set up to ensure fair pricing.
- (ix) The importation of power generators will be banned immediately.
 - (x) Water supply is a major problem in our homes and factories. Less than 20% of Nigerians have access to potable water. Bore-holes may provide temporary solutions to isolated rural communities, but they are not an effective solution to the water supply problem across our cities and towns. We shall fully exploit our surface water resources to build central water collection, treatment and distribution plants for all our cities, to serve both industrial and domestic needs.
 - (xi) The improvement in communication brought about by the now wide spread use of mobile phones will be sustained by more effective regulation to lower tariffs.
 - (xii) NITEL will be fully privatized, and more operators encouraged competing with it. The land line is still the cheapest and most reliable means of telecommunication.

4. **OIL AND GAS**

(a) **Objectives**

- (i) To build up reserves, and increase our daily production of crude to about 4m barrels from the present 2.4m barrels within the next four years.
- (ii) To ensure peace and harmony in the Niger Delta.
- (iii) To ensure ready availability of fuel to Nigerian consumers at affordable prices.
- (iv) To gradually reduce government participation in the upstream and downstream oil industry and eventually limit government's role to that of regulation and taxation.

(b) **Programmes**

- (i) We shall liberalise the granting of oil blocks to prospective investors with clear time limits for commencement of exploration activities.

- (ii) We shall ensure that all domestic petroleum refineries work at full capacities, and encourage private investors to build more refineries within the country.
- (iii) Within two years of governance, we shall stop all importation of refined petroleum products.
- (iv) The supply of crude oil to domestic refineries shall be on a cost plus basis, and not tied to international prices. This would enable Nigerians to enjoy very low fuel prices at the pump, while the government still makes a profit on the domestically consumed crude.
- (v) The Niger Delta people will be pacified to ensure sustainable peace in the area. A special development programme will be designed for the area, to be implemented by the NDDC. The people, through their local and state governments, will be made joint partners with the federal government, in the ownership, management and control of the oil and gas resources of the Niger Delta.
- (vi) The derivation percentage in the distribution of federally collected revenue will be reviewed upwards from time to time.
- (vii) The flaring of associated gas in the area will be stopped within two years, and efforts made to ensure the proper channeling of the gas to productive economic use.

5. SOLID MINERALS

(a) Objective

To make sold mineral sector significant foreign exchange earner, employer of labour and contribution to GNP.

(b) Programmes

- (i) We shall immediately embark on a comprehensive geological survey of Nigeria, not only to established accurately the types of minerals present and where, but also their quantities and commercial viability.
- (ii) A legislative framework will be provided by government to guide operations in the sector.

- (iii) Investors with experience in the mining industry will be invited and encouraged to go into partnerships with Nigerian investors to set up commercial mining operations.
- (iv) Revenue from solid minerals will also be subject to the same derivation percentage as revenues from oil.
- (v) In the shortest possible term, all efforts will be made to ensure that Nigeria becomes self-sufficient in the production of such industrial raw materials as gypsum, kaolin, barites, feldspar, dolomite, calcium carbonate, etc.

6. THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

(a) Objectives

- (i) To develop indigenous capacity and capability to execute all major engineering construction works as maybe needed in the country from time to time. To create jobs for Nigerians within the industry. To save on off-shore costs of major or construction projects.

(b) Programmes

- (i) All contracts for engineering construction works, such as roads, bridges, dams, buildings, power stations, transmission and distributions networks, etc, will be awarded to only wholly-owned Nigerian companies.
- (ii) Where the scope of any engineering construction works requires that a non-Nigerian company be employed, such a company must be in partnership with a Nigerian owned company in the same area of competence. Approved to award such a contract must receive the prior approval of the president.
- (iii) In the same manner, all engineering consultancy and design contracts will be awarded to only Nigerian owned consultancy companies, or Nigerian companies partnership with foreign ones, when the complexity of the project so demands.
- (iv) A construction bank will be establish to grant low interest loans to Nigerian investors in the construction industry, for the purchase of plant and equipments.

7. TOURISM AND CULTURE

(a) Objective

- (i) To make Nigeria a major tourist destination.
- (ii) To make tourism a major foreign exchanger earner, and a significant contributor to the GDP.
- (iii) To refine and impart more intellectual content to our

(b) Programmes

- (i) Our tourism attractions will be developed to world standards, with provisions for accommodation and recreational facilities, both physical and intellectual.
- (ii) We shall encourage the development of the intellectual aspects of our culture, such as the nurturing of drama troupics, operatic dance troupes and classical musical groups in our major cities who will be staging performances throughout the year and especially during the summer holiday periods, and provide additional sources of relaxation for tourists.
- (iii) 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 tourists so they can plan their movements while in Nigeria.
- (iv) A tourism officer will be assigned to every Nigerian embassy or high commission abroad, to answer enquiries from prospective tourists to Nigeria.

8. HOUSING

(a) Objectives

- (i) To provide a shelter for every Nigerian, appropriate to his level income.
- (ii) To ensure that Nigerians have access to funds at low interest rates, to purchase homes of their choice.

(b) Programmes

- (i) We will facilitate the acquisition of land by private housing developers to build houses for sale to Nigerians.

- (ii) We will develop effective mortgage institutions to extend long term loans to home buyers at low interest rates.
- (iii) We shall encourage the culture of buying and selling of homes deserted after the demise of their owners.
- (iv) We shall legislate and enforce regulations to ensure that all housing estates are serviced by well laid out and well surfaced roads, water, electricity, sewage disposal and refuse collection systems, and an organized system of estate facilities maintenance.

CHAPTER THREE

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME

1. EDUCATIONSCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(a) Objectives

- (i) To fully develop the intellectual capacity of every Nigerian and woman such that they will be more useful to themselves, the nation and mankind.
- (ii) To have an enlightened populace, easy to govern but difficult to enslave.

(b) Programmes

- (i) The present programme of free Universal Basic Education will be extended up to the Senior Secondary School. Primary and secondary school education will be enriched in content, and government will partner the private sector to invest in the publication of educational materials so that students, up to the university level, will have ample supply of text books for use.
- (ii) All former regional government colleges, which served as model unity schools before the present generation of unity schools, will be re-integrated into the present generation of unity schools systems
- (iii) We shall provide guidance and counseling services at the junior and secondary schools.
- (iv) Federal government owned universities will be better funded to rescue them from their present decay, while at the same time, private sector assistance in the provision of facilities will be encouraged. It will be our goal to make all federal universities fully residential at the undergraduate level, with boarding facilities.
- (v) Fees charged at federal universities will be kept low and affordable. Annual award of full Federal government scholarships will be introduced so that very gifted students, regardless of the economic status of their parents, will not be denied places in the universities.

- (vi) Entry to the federal universities will be closely tied to available facilities, to avoid congestion which inevitably leads to lowering of standard.
- (vii) To improve the quality of life and the learning environment in the universities, all cult groups will be banned. Student unionism will be rigidly controlled and monitored.
- (viii) The Senate and Council of each university will have full powers to discipline students, including expulsion, and such disciplinary measures will be made unchallengeable in any court of law.
- (ix) Private universities will continue to be encouraged.
- (x) Technical education will be given a pride of place and efforts will be made to improve the quality of technical education available at our technical colleges and polytechnics, usefully deploy their graduates and adequately remunerate them.
- (xi) We shall emphasize the study of science and technology and of ICT at all levels of education.
- (xii) Polytechnics and technical colleges shall be made to concentrate on imparting technical and professional education, and to stop trying to be universities. Their roles will be properly differentiated from those of universities, and the skills of their graduates should be sharply different, even though they are all very much needed by society. We shall discourage the urge by polytechnic graduates to go for university degrees before they can feel fulfilled.
- (xiii) The science and Technology village in Abuja will be developed and staffed with the nation's most gifted scientists, engineers and technologists, who will be given specific national challenges.
- (xiv) Life long learning will be encouraged and more facilities provided for adult education to upgrade the skills of artisans and craftsmen and to ensure that adult workers have access to higher education,

2. **HEALTH**

(a) **Objective**

- (i) Aware that all man's productive activities are predicated on being in good health, we shall seek to ensure that Nigerians, from cradle to grave, are in a sound state of mind and body.

- (ii) To stop the need by affluent Nigerians or public officers to go abroad for medical treatments.

(b) Programmes

- (i) Free ante-natal, maternal and post-natal health care will be made available to all nursing mothers from the time of conception to six months after delivery. All children will be immunized against the childhood diseases.
- (ii) All children will enjoy free medical services from birth till the completion of secondary school. Such services will be integrated into the primary and secondary school system, with each primary school being served by a dispensary and each secondary school by a clinic, to be visited regularly by a Government doctor.
- (iii) To supplement our health programme, children in primary schools will have a free lunch every school day, to make up for deficiencies in the home meals.
- (iv) Free medical services shall also be extended to all undergraduates in the universities.
- (v) For the working population, the NHIS will be fine-tuned to make it more responsive to the needs of the people, reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks and make it more cost-effective and more attractive.
- (vi) Emphasis in health care delivery to the masses will be on having well equipped primary health care centers and general hospitals.
- (vii) HIV education and enlightenment will be intensified and anti-retroviral drugs will be made more available at low costs to infected patients.
- (viii) The system of specialist hospitals will be further developed, and up to date equipment and facilities provided in each of them to be able to attract competent specialists, and make it unnecessary for top government officials and wealthy individuals to have to go overseas for medical treatment.
- (ix) Working conditions for doctors in our hospital will be drastically improved to encourage many Nigerian doctors presently working abroad to come home and render services to their own people.
- (x) The fight against fake and adulterated drugs will be intensified, and investment in local drug manufacturing encouraged.

- (xi) We will establish trado-medical departments in our colleges of medicine and teaching hospitals to promote research into, and modernization of traditional medicine.
- (xii) Special health institutions will be established for the care of the aged and the disabled.

3. WAGE POLICYAND SOCIAL SECURITY

(a) Objectives

- (i) To ensure greater productivity, a contented work force, and happiness post retirement and in old age.
- (ii) To remove one of the major or reasons for corruption in the public service.

(b) Programmes.

- (i) We shall immediately embark on a review of the entire wage structure in the public' sector to make sure that wages are realistic in the context of the cost of living, and do not tempt workers to engage in corruption.
- (ii) Wages to different cadres of professionals in the public sector will be considered, each on its own merit, and not necessarily harmonized with one another. The wages for each professional cadre will be set purely on the basis of supply and demand, and the special needs for each profession.
- (iii) The monetisation programme of the present administration will be carried to its logical conclusion, and remunerations will be a total package from which the worker will have to take care of all his needs like accommodation, transport, etc. The concept of allowances will be stopped.
- (iv) We shall pay all outstanding arrears of pensions and gratuities within two years in office and subsequently ensure that all gratuities of retiring public servants are paid within a month of retirement, while pensions are paid as and when due.
- (v) The contributory pension scheme will be enhanced to ensure efficiency.
- (vi) The performance of the pension fund managers will be closely monitored by government to ensure workers are not defrauded.

CHAPTER 4

MISCELLANEOUS POLICY ISSUES

1. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- (i) We shall actively promote the attainment of a Union of all of Africa under one government.
- (ii) We shall actively promote the interest of Nigeria at all times followed by the interest of the African continent, even as we maintain friendly relations with all the countries of the world.
- (iii) Our embassies and high commissions abroad shall be held accountable for how well they protect the interests and look after the welfare of Nigerians resident in their countries of assignment.

2. YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

- (i) We shall set up organized youth development programmes through youth clubs, to promote patriotism and leadership training.
- (ii) Sports shall be integrated into the school experience. In this connection, Youth Day shall be marked by inter-primary schools sports competition in each local government area of the country. Every secondary school will have provision for sports as compulsory extra-curricular activities. Inter collegiate sport competitions will be revived.
- (iii) Special secondary schools and sports Academies will be established for pupils who have demonstrated exceptional talent in sports at the primary level. Students who show promise in sports will also have access to special scholarships to Universities, where they can continue their sports development.
- (iv) The Universities will be fully equipped with sporting facilities and an inter-universities league established in soccer, cricket, hockey, basketball, etc.
- (v) Various youth sport clubs will be established across the country to allow talented youths outside the school system to continue their sports development. Particular emphasis will be put on Soccer and Athletics.
- (vi) The administration of sports in the country will be placed in the care of people genuinely committed to sports development.

- (vii) The various stadia around the country will be put to maximum sporting use, and barred from any other use.
- (viii) Media, especially TV coverage of sports will be encouraged to stimulate public interest.

3. CORRUPTION AND NATIONAL REORIENTATION

- (i) The war against corruption will be waged more diligently than it is being done under the present administration.
- (ii) More realistic wages to workers will set the stage for a morally justified war.
- (iii) We shall launch a mass movement of youths and mobilize them into WA1C brigades (War Against Indiscipline and Corruption). Such acts of indiscipline as not queuing to take one's turn, lateness to events, noisiness etc will be tackled. The National Orientation Agency will be empowered and given a committed leadership to mount a serious crusade aimed at achieving a complete attitudinal change and behavioural modification in our people.
- (iv) Corruption offences will be punished more seriously to serve as an effective deterrent. The Judiciary and the judicial process will be reformed to have a quicker dispensation of justice in corruption and other criminal cases.

4. SECURITY, LAW AND ORDER; THE ARMED FORCES

- (i) A safe and secure environment is a sine-qua-non for the attraction of both domestic and foreign investment, and for the steady progress of society. To provide greater safety and security of lives and property within the country, we shall embark on a complete reform of the police force.
- (ii) The minimum educational requirement for entry into the police force will be the Senior Secondary School certificate.
- (iii) New recruits into the police force must undergo at least two years of training to cover all the specialized areas of police work. Exposure to training overseas will be encouraged.
- (iv) The policemen will be given a lot of self esteem by being paid a handsome wage, and being well supplied with uniforms, shoes and other essentials for their duties.

- (v) The policemen will be made to live within the communities where they work, and not in separate barracks. The principle of community policing will be adopted, such that the police can identify with the community, and the community with the police.
- (vi) Every police station will be well equipped with operational and patrol vehicles, with up to date communication gadgets. Emergency police telephone lines will be kept operational at all times and ready to answer calls from the public 24 hours a day. Complaint lines with higher police authorities will be established to lodge complains about shoddy performances of local police stations.
- (vii) The operations of the police will be made more independent of executive control and direction. While the president will continue to appoint the police IG, he will not have power to remove him. Only the police service commission will have that power.
- (viii) The police will be better funded, but the use of those funds will be subject to greater scrutiny and monitoring.
- (ix) The police will be given special tutoring in how to relate politely to the civil population, and made to strictly observe and respect the civil rights of citizens even when apprehending offenders.
- (x) Any cases of abuse of police powers, “accidental” discharge or excessive use of force in apprehending offenders will be strictly dealt with.
- (xi) The Nigerian Armed Forces will be kept combat ready at all times, kept at a high level of discipline and morale, and fully insulated from politics.
- (xii) The Armed Forces will be kept fully in their barracks, with minimum daily interaction with the civil populace. They will be trained to be civil and courteous to civilians when they must interact with them.

5. PRISON REFORM

- (i) The purpose of imprisonment is to reform the prisoner and prepare him for re-integration into society upon discharge from prison. We shall carry out reforms of the prison to ensure that this goal is achieved.
- (ii) We shall greatly reduce the prison congestion by reducing the number of ATM and ATF inmates. Trials of suspects will be

expedited and all those charged with bail able offences will be given bail.

- (iii) During imprisonment, inmates will be exposed to various activities such as sports, skills training and formal education within the prison walls, in order to prepare them for a more responsible life after prison.
- (iv) Special prison farms will be established for prisons in areas where suitable land can be found, to engage the prisoners in some productive, commercial activities, and thus make them offset some of the costs of their imprisonment.
- (v) The behaviour of prisoners will be subject to periodic review by a parole board, such that prisoners who exhibit good behaviour and signs of repentance will be given early release from prison, ahead of the end of their prison terms.

6. THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE

- (i) The NYSC Scheme is a worthy attempt to make Nigerian youths know their country and develop a sense of oneness with one another. Its implementation, however, needs some improvements. These, we shall attend to.
- (ii) We shall eliminate the use of influence in the posting of fresh graduates for the scheme.
- (iii) Since graduates are invariably being posted to states far from their homes, government will bear fully the cost of their transportation and feeding from their homes to their states of posting.
- (iv) We shall increase the allowances given to students during the service year, to enable them provide accommodation and feeding for themselves.
- (v) The orientation period will be extended to include some basic military training. Successive governments have shied away from this, but it is a scheme that will benefit the nation. A reserve of young citizens already trained in the use of weaponry will mean that Nigeria will require a much smaller standing army, as many of the trained youth can be mobilized and armed at short notice, when the need arises.

7. DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES

- (i) Political parties will be regarded as purely voluntary associations, and will not be subject to INEC recognition, control, monitoring or regulation. They will be self-regulated and self controlled. Political parties will merely be required to register their names, logos and other identification particulars with INEC. The question of INEC recognizing any party, or faction of it will not arise.
- (ii) INEC will be composed of nominees of the various political parties. They will elect their own chairman, and the chairmanship will rotate among the various political parties who compose it.

8. THE MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL REVENUE

- (i) Our external reserves today (2006, March) stand at about U.S. \$ 33 billion and excess earnings from crude oil at about \$8 billion. We are relatively debt free, having liquidated our indebtedness to the Paris Club. So, Nigeria is not without the necessary resources to finance an accelerated development programme.
- (ii) Rather than keep the enormous sum of \$33 billion idle in external reserves while Nigerians are wallowing in poverty and the economic fortunes of the country are nose-diving, we shall draw freely on these funds to finance our ambitious, accelerated economic development programme, while ensuring that we continuously nurture the goose that lays the golden egg the oil industry to guarantee a steady flow of funds. We shall, however ensure that the balance in our external reserves is, at any moment, sufficient to finance the equivalent of 6 months of imports.

9. THE JUDICIARY

- (i) We shall religiously uphold the independence of the judiciary and will not seek to influence court judgments.
- (ii) We shall enhance the remuneration of judges and other working conditions, so that they can better withstand the temptations to be corrupt.
- (iii) Corrupt judges will be severely sanctioned.
- (iv) We shall review the entire justice delivery system to expedite speedy conclusion of court trials.

10. FCT Policy

- (i) We shall review the administrative structure of the 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.

11. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

- (i) We shall ensure that every Nigerian enjoys his or her fundamental rights, without undue government interference.
- (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 Rights Organizations in Nigeria to enable them complement government's efforts in creating awareness about and in checking human rights abuses in the country.