

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S PARTY (DPP)

Motto: Patriotism, Equity and Justice

MANIFESTO OF DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S PARTY

PREAMBLE

Introduction

The goal of every responsible government is to provide for the overall well-being of the nation's citizens. Successive Nigerian governments have tried to reach that goal but to a large extent, efforts have been unsuccessful. Having identified the reasons for the failure of such efforts, the Democratic Peoples Party, DPP, is totally committed to attaining that goal by seeking a united, stable and prosperous nation in which all citizens shall be entitled to life. The DPP shall therefore;

- i. Build a nation where the government and the citizens shall be partners in progress in the quest for the economic well-being of the entire country.
- ii. Promote the recognition of the democratic rights of every citizen.
- iii. Ensure that public utilities which are required for the rapid development of Nigeria are functional and efficiently run.
- iv. Adopt a realistic approach to the management of Nigeria's immense resources.
- v. Continually guarantee the security of the State, as well as the life and property of the citizens.

CHAPTER ONE

A. SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The DPP believes in the supremacy of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which guarantees liberal, democratic and constitutional governance. A DPP government shall therefore uphold the rule of law and ensure that:

- i. Equality of every citizen before the law is upheld.
- ii. There is respect for the fundamental human rights of every citizens as enshrined in the constitution.
- iii. Elected and appointed leaders of the DPP promote and defend the Federal System which ensures that every Nigerian is treated fairly and

equitably, irrespective of his social or political status, gender, religious belief or ethnic origin.

B. PHILOSOPHY OF DPP.

The DPP is totally committed to the economic independence and a hilly democratized Nigeria. This commitment is necessary because Nigeria has faced several years of economic and political turmoil. The DPP shall therefore ensure that:

- i. Democracy is institutionalized.
- ii. The DPP gains political power through purely democratic means at the Federal, State and Local levels in Nigeria.
- iii. Political power is used to maintain and promote the security, progress and general well-being of every Nigerian.
- iv. Good governance becomes the norm rather than the exception.

CHAPTER TWO

PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

A DPP government shall be committed to the provision and maintenance of infrastructural facilities such as power supply, transportation and water supply. This is in line with the Party's realization that the central goal of governance is to ensure the overall well being of the nation's citizens.

A. POWER SUPPLY

One of the major problems confronting the country today involves inadequate supply of electricity. Efforts to ensure adequate and reliable supply of electricity which is central to the quest for rapid socio-economic development have been fruitless. To meet Nigeria's growing demand for electricity supply, the DPP shall as a matter of policy:

- i. Expand the scope of rural electrification to ensure that all local government councils in the country are hooked to the national grid.
- ii. Fund research into and accelerate the development of other energy sources such as gas, coal and oil with the aim of ensuring that more Nigerians have access to electricity supply.
- iii. Adopt measures that would encourage the generation of electricity from solar energy for use, especially in rural areas.
- iv. Reinforce and strengthens existing transmission lines.

- v. Decentralize the Power Holding Company of Nigeria to ensure the company's efficiency.

B. TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Transportation and Telecommunications play very crucial roles in the industrial, commercial, administrative, security and economic activities of every nation; and Nigeria is not an exception in this regard. It is therefore the policy of the DPP to consolidate and improve upon the huge investments of the government in the transportation sector. In this regard, a DPP government shall maintain (or open new) roads, rail lines, water ways as well as improve facilities in the Aviation and Telecommunications Sectors.

Accordingly, a DPP government shall handle with utmost sense of commitment, construction and maintenance of public facilities in the following areas:

ROADS

More than 70 percent of internal trade and other movements in Nigeria are conducted by road. What that means is that Nigeria is in dire need of very good roads to facilitate movement of persons and goods from and to all parts of the country. In that regard, a DPP government would:

- i. Ensure that existing road networks are maintained to make them motorable all year round.
- ii. Constantly upgrade other roads in various parts of Nigeria that are vital to the economic well being of the citizenry.
- iii. Continue developing a national grid system of well constructed roads for usage by heavy trucks.
- iv. Develop a network of secondary and feeder roads for the movement of agricultural products and people in rural dwellings.

WATERWAYS

A DPP government shall partner with major stakeholders to ensure that residents of coastal areas have unrestricted access to profitable markets for their goods. To ensure that residents of riverine areas can transport their goods from one point to the other, a DPP government would:

- i. Dredge, develop and sustain inland waterways.

- ii. Provide ferry services over dredged rivers and inland waterways.
- iii. Install and develop facilities at river ports to upgrade their capacity for handling the movement of heavy industrial goods.
- iv. Improve and strengthen security at the sea ports.

RAILWAYS

For several years, the railway system was the engine room for the movement of people and goods within the country. Due to several years of mismanagement, the Nigerian Railway Corporation, NRC, lost its primary position in the transportation of agricultural products and other goods within the country. Given the cardinal position of the rail system in the haulage of goods within the country, a DPP government will among other things:

- i. Provide adequate funds for the resuscitation of the NRC to ensure its efficiency.
- ii. Modernize rail services in line with existing modern facilities in other parts of the country.
- iii. Accelerate the development and extension of rail lines to service the growing demand for haulage of goods from industrial and commercial centers in the country.
- iv. Introduction of standard gauge in order to improve the overall performance of the NRC.
- v. Repair and maintain existing rail lines.

RAIL TRANSPORT

A DPP government shall ensure safety in the air by adopting the following measures:

- i. Adequately funding the FAAN and other agencies in the aviation industry so they could perform their regulatory roles.
- ii. Encourage more participation of private entrepreneurs in the running of private airlines.
- iii. Upgrade facilities at all airports in the country so they could meet international standards.

Telecommunications

As a matter of policy, a DPP government shall:

- i. Adopt a comprehensive and more coherent national policy on communications.
- ii. Provide the enabling environment for more Nigerians to have access to affordable telephone services, including expansion of the GSM programme.
- iii. Improve the existing postal system.

C. WATER SUPPLY

The DPP will pursue with vigour, the provision of portable water to urban and rural communities in all parts of the country. In this regard, a DPP government will:

- i. Partner with other stakeholders to fund urban water schemes in major urban centres in the country.
- ii. Develop and execute rural water schemes to ensure that rural communities have access to portable water.
- iii. Continue with the exploration and development of underground water supply by drilling boreholes in several parts of the country.
- iv. Encourage the development and maintenance of large scale and small-scale irrigation systems in various parts of the country.
- v. Resuscitate and expand the existing River Basin Development Authorities in the country.

CHAPTER THREE

DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

The DPP strongly believes that a strong defence and national security policy is an essential ingredient for the evolvment of strong domestic and foreign policies, A strong defence and national security policy would therefore protect the country from both internal and external subversion and would thus create the enabling environment for domestic growth and a robust foreign policy.

A. DEFENCE POLICY

The DPP shall pursue the following objectives in furtherance of its defence policy and national security:

- i. The National Security Adviser, as provided for in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be involved in

- policy-making and implementation of the defence and national security policies.
- ii. Protection, defence and maintenance of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nigeria.
 - iii. Enhancement of the defence capabilities of and combat readiness of Nigeria's armed forces, the Nigeria Police Force and other para-military agencies.
 - iv. Ensuring the highest standards of professionalism in Nigeria's Armed Forces, Nigeria Police Force and other para-military agencies usually through training of their personnel.
 - v. Insulation of members of Nigeria's Armed Forces, the Nigeria Police Force and Paramilitary agencies from politics.
 - vi. Deployment of the Armed Forces to suppress insurrection in any part of Nigeria and to assist the civil authorities in maintaining law and order where it is threatened or has broken down; or during national emergencies or disasters.
 - vii. Participation of Nigeria's Armed Forces and the Nigeria Police Force in peacekeeping operations and other international assignments, so long as such activities do not contradict the provisions of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

B. LAW AND ORDER

Equality of all before the laws of Nigeria is a cardinal principle cherished by the DPP. The party is therefore committed to producing a society in which the citizens are law abiding and safe from arbitrary arrests, crime and criminals. To ensure that citizens of our great party are law abiding, a DPP government shall:

- i. Adequately fund the Nigeria Police Force to enable its personnel have access to training and modern equipment in crime control and prevention.
- ii. Continuously review and streamline the conditions of service of the Nigeria Police Force.
- iii. Provide comfortable residential and office accommodation for personnel of the Nigeria Police Force.
- iv. Fund and expend public education programmes on crime and crime prevention, so there could emerge a national consensus against crime.

C. THE JUDICIARY

The Judiciary is very crucial to constitutional governance and to Nigeria's Federal System of Government. This is so because the Judiciary alone has the constitutional duty to interpret the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which is the fundamental law of the land, as well as other laws which emanate from it, so that the actions of the executive, the legislature and corporate bodies and individuals are lawful and constitutional in every respect. A DPP government would therefore guarantee the independence and autonomy of the judiciary.

The DPP's policy on the Judiciary and the Administration of Justice shall be as follows:

- i. To uphold, defend and abide by the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and other laws which were enacted for the good governance of Nigeria.
- ii. To uphold, defend and abide by the general principles of the Separation of Powers as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- iii. To restore the confidence of the populace in the Judiciary's role as an impartial arbiter in the judicial process.
- iv. To defend and insulate the judiciary from political interference.
- v. To defend and guarantee the principles of social justice, equality and human rights.
- vi. To improve the conditions of service of Judges and Magistrates; Magistrate Courts shall be recognized as Courts of Records.
- vii. To appoint more Judges and Magistrates in order to quicken the administration of Justice in the country.
- viii. To ensure that only men and women of honour and integrity are appointed as Judges and Magistrates.
- ix. To build more courts and refurbish or rehabilitate existing ones.
- x. To provide modern office equipment, transport, libraries and other facilities that would enhance the performance of Judges and Magistrates.
- xi. To maintain and strengthen existing Legal Aid System so that Nigerians who may lack the means to hire lawyers may still have access to legal services.

CHAPTER FOUR

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

A. AGRICULTURE.

Before the discovery of oil, agriculture was the mainstay of Nigeria's economy, employing more than 70 percent of the country's population. Such crops as cocoa, cotton and groundnuts were major income earners for the country. Today, they have virtually disappeared. A cardinal policy of a DPP government shall therefore be to revitalize the agricultural sector with the following objectives:

- i. Attainment of self-sufficiency in food production.
- ii. Making agriculture profitable for farmers.
- iii. Ensuring that prices of agricultural products are profitable.
- iv. Elevating agriculture to the level of a major foreign exchange earner and source of raw materials for local agro-allied industries.

In realizing these goals, the DPP government shall:

- i. Encourage Local Government Councils to organize the establishment of Consumer and Producer Cooperative Societies in local communities.
- ii. Empower the state-wide Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs) to provide financial support to large scale and small scale farmers at the State level.
- iii. Adequately fund the River Basin Development Authorities so that they could promote irrigation agriculture.
- iv. Support individual and corporate bodies who may wish to invest in large scale farming and agro allied industries.
- v. Provide easy cash credits through micro credit units in local communities.
- vi. Procure fertilizers and other needed farm inputs for sale at subsidized rates to farmers.

B. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The DPP is committed to spreading prosperity to rural dwellers in all parts of Nigeria because it would ensure better living conditions for all Nigerians.

Accordingly, a DPP government shall:

- i. Provide social amenities such as good roads, potable water, schools, electricity supply, hospitals and transportation to reverse the worsening cases of rural-urban migration.
- ii. Introduce programmes that would encourage people to migrate from urban to rural areas.

CHAPTER FIVE

PETROLEUM RESOURCES AND SOLID MINERALS DEVELOPMENT POLICY

A. PETROLEUM RESOURCES.

It is not in doubt income from Petroleum Resources account for a major part of Nigeria's total earnings. The DPP acknowledges this strategic importance of petroleum resources as a major source of foreign earnings for the country. The Party also acknowledges the fact that oil exploration has serious environmental implication for host communities. A DPP government would therefore:

- i. Partner with major stakeholders to ensure that environmental disasters are brought under control as and when they occur.
- ii. Continue to encourage investment in exploration and development of new oil reserves.
- iii. Set up national strategic oil reserves.

B. SOLID MINERALS DEVELOPMENT

As part of the diversification of the economy, the DPP government would encourage direct investment in the exploration of solid minerals. Inline with this position, the DPP will:

- i. Continue with the country-wide exploration for more mineral deposits by government agencies and private entrepreneurs.
- ii. Empower the Ministry of Solid Minerals for more commitment to the exploration of solid minerals.
- iii. Complete the geological map of Nigeria within the first 24 months of a DPP government.
- iv. Revitalize the coal mining industry by providing adequate funds for the running and modernization of the Nigerian Coal Corporation, NCC.

- v. Encourage cooperation between Universities and the Geological Survey of Nigeria in the training of more geologists and for research into more mineral resources in the country.

CHAPTER SIX

HEALTH POLICY

The DPP believes that a healthy nation is a wealthy nation. In that regard, the Party believes that its government must invest heavily in the Health Sector so that there would be healthy and very productive Nigerians. In broad terms, the Health Care Programme of a DPP government will focus on preventive, curative and educational aspects of health care management. The Health Care Programme of a DPP government shall be aimed at:

- i. Providing free medical care for maternal and child care or welfare and VVF patients.
- ii. Making Primary Health Care the focus of the National Health Care Policy and the National Health Delivery Service.
- iii. Funding and equipping teaching hospitals for the training of medical and para medical staff.
- iv. Implementing the National Health Insurance Scheme.
- v. Encouraging the local production of drugs and hospital equipment.
- vi. Ensuring the ambulance patrol services along major highways is fully utilized.

In specific terms, a DPP government shall implement its Health Care Programme along these lines:

A. PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE.

- i. The focus shall be on Primary Health Care as the engine room of the National Health Policy and the Health Care Delivery System
- ii. Majority of Nigerians would have access to National Health Services and potable water.
- iii. The National Programme on Immunization shall be pursued with utmost vigour for the total eradication of polio from Nigeria.
- iv. Nigerians would have direct access to effective and functional health education on prevailing health problems such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and their methods of control.

B. CURATIVE HEALTH CARE

This involves:

- i. Provision of free medical consultation to children, the aged and the handicapped.
- ii. The implementation of the National Health Insurance Scheme.
- iii. Adequate funding and provision of equipment for teaching hospitals.
- iv. Acquisition and maintenance of medical equipment and drugs in hospitals so they could become centres of excellence.
- v. Encouraging the establishment of more hospitals and clinics by private individuals.
- vi. Continue the fight against fake and adulterated drugs.
- vii. Encourage the local production of drugs.

C. HEALTH PERSONNEL

The DPP government would:

- i. Provide adequate and appropriate remunerations and incentives for health workers.
- ii. Provide adequate financial support for the training and retraining of Medical and Para-Medical staff.

D. TRADO-MEDICAL SERVICES

Realizing that the traditional medical services form part of the nation's health care delivery system, a DPP government shall:

- i. Encourage the establishment of trado-medical centres for the promotion of research into trado-medical services and drugs.
- ii. Encourage continuous dialogue between orthodox health workers and traditional medical practitioners.

E. CARE OF THE DISABLED, HANDICAPPED AND AGED

A DPP government shall:

- i. Encourage the general public to care for the aged in their normal hospital environments.
- ii. Introduce a law through the National Assembly for the rehabilitation of destitute, disabled and handicapped persons.
- iii. Encourage the involvement of the private sector in taking care of the aged, handicapped and disabled persons.

- iv. Improve access to public facilities by disabled and handicapped persons.

CHAPTER SEVEN

FOREIGN POLICY

The Foreign Policy of the DPP shall be driven by the promotion and defence of the national interests of Nigeria through bilateral and multilateral cooperation with other friendly nations; and through such international agencies as the UN, World Bank, AU, ECO WAS and the OPEC.

The Foreign Policy of a DPP government shall therefore be guided by the protection of Nigeria's permanent interests and by the following sustainable considerations:

- i. Protection and defence of Nigeria's territorial integrity. Defence and protection of Nigeria's sovereignty.
- ii. Encourage functional cooperation with other African nations as a means of forging African unity.
- iii. Adhere to the principles and charters governing Nigeria's membership of International organizations.
- iv. Respect the international treaty obligations of the country.
- v. Promote the creation of a just new economic order in the world.
- vi. Promote international cooperation for the attainment of international peace, security and the elimination of discrimination in all situations.

CHAPTER EIGHT

EDUCATION POLICY

The DPP regards education as one of the most vital tools in Nigeria's quest for rapid socio-economic growth. As a result, the party's education policy is aimed at giving that sector the priority it deserves. Accordingly, the DPP shall:

- i. Ensure free, compulsory and qualitative education for every Nigerian of school age.
- ii. Encourage private investments in the establishment of schools and other institutions.

- iii. Undertake regular review of the school system to ensure that students have access to quality education.
- iv. Provide guidance and counseling services at all levels of education.
- v. Encourage Local publishers and manufacturers of educational materials.
- vi. Provide adequate funding for the expansion of technical and technological education in order to ensure the production of skilled manpower in the sectors.
- vii. Encourage Universities to improve hostel facilities to make learning more attractive and rewarding.
- viii. Encourage greater interest in Information Technology in the Universities and other institutions.
- ix. Encourage life-long learning and provide more facilities for adult education to upgrade the skills of artisans and craftsmen and to ensure that adult workers have access to higher education.

CHAPTER NINE

CWIL SERVICE, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

A. CIVIL SERVICE

The DPP as a party recognizes the important role of the Civil Service in ensuring the well-being of all Nigerians. The party is therefore committed to ensuring that civil servants are given adequate attention and the necessary tools for effective services. In that regard, a DPP government shall:

- i. Ensure that remunerations and allowances of civil servants are reasonable to enable them give their best to the service of their fatherland.
- ii. Continue with the monetization policy.
- iii. Create the enabling environment for the training and retraining of civil servants.
- iv. Restore the confidence of civil servants in the security of their jobs by ensuring that civil servants are protected against all form of discrimination.

B. LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY.

The DPP believes in a vibrant Labour Union because cooperation between Labour and the Government is required for socio-economic growth. Accordingly, the DPP government shall:

- i. Encourage industrial harmony by engaging in dialogue to find amicable solution to industrial disputes between management and labour unions.
- ii. Give the Industrial Arbitration Courts more powers to act on industrial disputes.
- iii. Encourage vocational and technical education.
- iv. Involve labour in all decisions affecting the welfare of workers.
- v. Restructuring the National Social Insurance Trust Fund, NSITF, to make it more functional and responsive to the yearnings of contributing workers.
- vi. Continue with the reforms of the Pensions Scheme for retirees.
- vii. Encourage self-employment of and the establishment of more small and medium scale industries by according entrepreneurs appropriate incentives.

CHAPTER TEN

YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE POLICY

In developing a Youth, Sports and Culture Policy, the DPP is conscious of the need to promote national unity and integration through progressing policies affecting the youth, sports and culture.

A. YOUTH

The DPP shall, as a matter of strategy:

- i. Restructure and strengthen the National Youth Service Scheme, NYSC, so that it can meet national needs and aspirations:
- ii. Encourage private youth development programmes as a way of monitoring youth development programmes in the country.
- iii. Mobilize Nigerian Youths against the drug culture, cultism and other social ills.
- iv. Adopt and develop policies which will create job opportunities for the youths in the public and private sectors.
- v. Provide short-term unemployment benefits for unemployed youths, possibly through the National Directorate of Employment, NDE.
- vi. Encourage the training of youths for future leadership roles in the country.

B. SPORTS.

ADPP government will accord sports its rightful place in the country by:

- i. Raising sports management to international standards.
- ii. Encouraging involvement of the private sector in the organization and administration of sports in the country.
- iii. Encouraging local and foreign investors in the local manufacture of sports equipment.
- iv. Promoting sports for the handicapped, inter-college sports, amateur sports, etc.

C. CULTURE.

Realizing the rich cultural heritage of the country, the DPP shall:

- i. Recognize the role of traditional rulers in preserving the rich cultural heritage of the country.
- ii. Use the rich cultural heritage of Nigeria as vehicle for national integration by organizing competitive national, state and local government cultural festivals.
- iii. Use culture to promote Nigeria's diplomacy and for the pursuit of international peace and understanding.
- iv. Encourage and protect artistes and writers because their works chronicle the country's material culture. The DPP government will therefore collaborate with artist organizations like the Association of Nigerian Authors, ANA to further promote Nigeria's rich cultural heritage.
- v. Funding of the National Museum shall be greatly enhanced to enable the organization carry out its statutory functions.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

FCT POLICY

In line with the visions of the founding fathers, the DPP will ensure that the Federal Capital

Territory plays its role as the centre of unity for all Nigerian, irrespective of their places of birth.

The DPP shall therefore:

- i. Review the administrative structure of the FCT to ensure the evolvement 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. Every Nigerian must have equal rights as residents of the FCT.

CHAPTER TWELVE

INDUSTRIAL POLICY

The DPP realizes that Nigeria's industrialization would be dependent on the existence of a viable iron and steel industry. ADPP government would therefore:

- i. Ensure the completion and operations of abandoned steel complexes.
- ii. Review the sale of the Aluminum Smelter Complex, Oron.
- iii. Complete the railway line from Itakpe to Ajaokuta.
- iv. Make the Itakpe Iron Ore Mining Project more effective and productive.
- v. Commercialize existing rolling Mills in order to enhance their efficiency.
- vi. Encourage the establishment of cottage industries and small and medium scale enterprises in various parts of Nigeria,

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

NATIONAL ORIENTATION AND ETHICS POLICY

The DPP is worried about the state of lawlessness in Nigeria of today. Due to the rottenness of various sectors of the society, individuals and groups resort to unwholesome acts to attain their set goals. The result of course has been the existence of poor infrastructure, unbridled corruption, poverty, unemployment, insecurity of life and property and an embarrassing lack of focus and accountability in national affairs.

ADPP government would fight such ills by:

- i. Evolving a more coherent and resourceful approach to National Orientation and ethics.
- ii. Restructuring and empowering the National Orientation Agency, NOA, so that it can reorientate Nigerians on the need for probity in public private lives.
- iii. Embarking on a reform programme which would promote discipline, acceptable work ethics, ethno-religious tolerance and abhorrence for other Nigerians with questionable wealth.

- iv. Discouraging corruption by ensuring public probity, checking ostentatious life-styles, punishing corruption, recovering ill-gotten wealth and ensuring that each retiree has packages for a comfortable life after retirement.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

As a democratic institution, the DPP is in total agreement with Chapter IV of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which guarantees the fundamental human rights to every Nigerian. These rights are Life, Dignity of the human person, eradication of poverty, personal liberty, fair hearing, private and family life and freedom of thought, conscience and freedom. The same section also guarantees an individual's rights to freedom of expression and the press, peaceful assembly and association, freedom of movement, medical consultation, freedom' from discrimination and the right to acquire and own immovable property anywhere in the Federation.

Accordingly, the DPP shall ensure that:

- i. Every Nigerian enjoys his or her fundamental rights without undue government interference.
- ii. The process of seeking redress in the event of the violation of any of the fundamental rights is simplified.
- iii. 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.