

# **KOWA PARTY MANIFESTO**

## **PREAMBLE:**

Our nation is at a crossroads.

Quality of life is at its lowest. Unemployment is at its highest. Nigerians are disillusioned. Life is sad, brutish, and short. We live in fear. Our nation is in the midst of a low intensity civil war. Underpinning systems for sustaining the state and society have collapsed: education, health care, and judiciary. We cannot continue on this course, we must change direction.

Today, our future and the future of our children are at risk. And the outcome, whatever it may be, is up to us. We must rise as a nation and herald a new Nigeria; together we must identify credible and capable Nigerians to stand for elections. We must evolve higher standards of governance, transparency and accountability at all times. Nigeria must demand more from its leaders.

The leaders of our country have failed us, but this nation of great, strong and hardworking people can find from among its children, men and women willing and able to deliver a better Nigeria.

KOWA is a political party and grassroots movement founded to lead the way to a new and improved Nigeria. We seek political leadership, through peaceful and democratic means for the purpose of providing the highest quality of social services to Nigerian citizens within our borders and beyond.

We affirm and uphold the inherent dignity of every Nigerian citizen, and pledge to guarantee and defend those rights as codified in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We believe in the individual, the family and the household, with the community as the building blocks of society, and seek to connect the government with the individual, through his or her immediate community.

At this defining moment in the history of Nigeria, we the members of KOWA commit ourselves to a secure, prosperous, orderly, just and compassionate society in which every citizen is enabled to actualize

himself or herself and to freely participate in building a government that is responsive to the needs of all citizens.

We pledge ourselves to make Nigeria a nation that works. The future we envisage is one in which every Nigerian has access to a decent education, good health care, and can live in a safe, peaceful and stimulating environment where he or she is guaranteed opportunities for self-actualisation. We realize that the eradication of poverty and social injustice is our nation's most urgent priority and thus our first duty to our fellow citizens.

Our Nigeria will practice true, fiscal and political federalism, where the powers and responsibilities of the state and government are devolved as much as possible to the immediate communities and the immediate communities are in the real sense the primary federating units of our republic.

Our Nigeria will derive its common cultural identity from a respect of the socio-cultural rights of its component national peoples and, rebuild our community values and our sense of pride.

Our Nigeria will guarantee individual liberty and dignity, provide equitable access to the distribution of wealth and assure the future of our children through long term sustainable planning. Our Nigeria will see Government as an efficient resource manager and service provider.

WE the members of the KOWA Party commit ourselves to advancing social democracy and our decisions and political actions are, and shall remain, driven by ideals, principles and beliefs that derive from this basic philosophy. While a sustained political engagement and the overall welfare of the individual Nigerian citizen form the ultimate focus of our political and grassroots movements, the organising principle of our party is based on service, discipline, efficiency, accountability and the highest professional and ethical standards.

It is time for a change. We can do better. And it is up to you.

## **TEN KEY ASPIRATIONS FOR A NEW & GREAT NIGERIA**

Based on the philosophy of social democracy and taking into account lessons from Nigeria's recent history, KOWA Party commits itself to pursuing the following ambitions for making Nigeria fulfill its potential as a great nation:

### **1. Continuous Improvements in Our Standards of Living**

KOWA is committed to developing a Nigerian state that guarantees continuous improvement in the living standards of its people by providing food security, shelter, healthcare and potable water for all its citizens and equitable access to social amenities, facilities, services and utilities.

We are committed to developing a market-oriented economy with emphasis on free enterprise but fair and equitable regulated market. This will be reflected in an integrated national development plan to boost employment, industrialization, entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprises. This approach will be complemented by monetary and fiscal policies that ensure better and efficient resource management, and long-term economic stability.

We will deliver quality universal primary health care through the tackling of long-standing causes of preventable ill-health, premature deaths, and health inequality by - (a) providing universal immunization coverage to all infants and toddlers in Nigeria; (b) making potable and safe drinking water accessible to the majority of Nigerians; (c) upgrading, equipping and staffing primary health care centers in rural areas and poor urban settlements; and (d) providing qualitative maternal health care for all pregnant women.

### **2. Developing Minds Through Education**

KOWA has a strong commitment to the provision of free education for all Nigerians through primary and secondary schools.

We believe in education as a fundamental human right crucial to the advancement of the nation and our goal is to evolve a nation that educates to empower its people to harness resources for production. We will promote compulsory education up to the senior secondary school for every Nigerian child and increase government investment with a view to

broadening access to education and improving quality at all levels including higher education, teacher training and adult education.

### **3. Industrialization and Wealth Creation**

KOWA will develop and fully implement an Industrial Master Plan for Nigeria towards the realization of full employment. This will be complemented by an enhanced policy on science and technology which align Nigeria's higher education system to the country's industrial development priorities.

KOWA will propagate policies that foster job creation and wealth generation through supportive enterprise development interventions to strengthen the informal sector of the economy where majority of adult Nigerians are to be found. These policies shall always be collectively prioritized as a poverty reduction and social protection strategy by the KOWA Party both in and out of government.

### **4. Energy Security**

KOWA will also bring bold, ethical and dynamic leadership to the development and management of the energy sector. Our goal will be to better manage our oil and gas resources by obtaining better agreements, rents and environmental terms, with multinationals and local companies operating in the sector and enforcing strict energy efficiency standards and regulations for all operators in the sector,

We will also ensure delivery of time-bound targets in electricity generation, transmission and distribution and strict performance management to ensure the timely completion of new power projects.

### **5. Accountable Leadership**

KOWA will herald a new Nigeria, where credible and capable Nigerians stand for elections. We will evolve higher standards of governance, transparency and accountability at all times.

In this time of world economic crises, we must be better managers of our resources now more than ever before.

## **6. Government as a Service Provider**

Our ambitions for a new Nigeria hinges on a productive, better trained and adequately equipped civil service that responds promptly and effectively to public needs. As a corollary to these changes, a minimum standard of work infrastructure-cum-environment would be enabled for all agencies of government.

## **7. Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta**

KOWA shall pursue a new strategic approach to address the issues of the peoples of the Niger Delta. It shall adopt short and long term measures to build confidence and trust through consensus-building dialogues, and provision of strategic infrastructural facilities, employment, training and scholarships, skills acquisition and human capital development for the youth of the region, agricultural mechanization, environmental protection, and full participation in the oil industry.

## **8. People-Centered Foreign Policy**

KOWA Party will pursue a foreign policy dictated by our interests as a sovereign nation and a developing economy.

In developing friendships and economic cooperation with other countries, we shall focus specially on the West Africa sub-region because of the tightness of Nigeria's historical and cultural ties to the peoples of the sub-region, the potentially easy-to-access large market for products and services of Nigerian firms that it represents, and the fact that instability in our immediate neighborhood could easily spill over into Nigeria.

In all of these, our foreign policy undertakings will be routinely guided by the quest for concrete outcomes that are in the best interest of the overwhelming majority of our people.

## **9. Individual Liberty & Dignity**

### **• Protect and Defend the Rights of Women and the Youth**

Nigeria's lack of economic and social progress is linked to the unequal access of men and women to strategic resources and opportunities like

information and education, income and wealth, and decision-making. It cannot also be de-linked from the tendency to view young people, who greatly outnumber older people, as problems rather than as assets in our quest for rapid economic development.

KOWA recognizes the intrinsic equality of women to men and the strategic importance of its citizens under the age of 25 and this belief will be fully reflected in all of our major policies and programs at every level of governance. Special programs will be established to correct women's historical and social disadvantages in accessing education as well as health services that are sensitive to their particular health needs, and women and young people will be fully involved in decision-making around issues that affect them.

- **Respect and Empowerment for the Vulnerable**

We will protect the rights of people with disabilities, ensuring funding to empower Nigerians with disabilities to succeed in school and beyond.

It shall be the duty of any government controlled by KOWA Party to ensure that the dignity of the most disadvantaged especially those rendered destitute by chronic illness, physical and mental disabilities, natural disasters and other such circumstances is protected through appropriate levels of income support and necessary social welfare provisions.

### Support for Democratic Institutions

In line with our commitment to advancing social democracy and protecting the inherent dignity of every Nigerian citizen, KOWA commits to protect and enforce the fundamental Constitutional right of every Nigerian Adult.

### 10. A Well-Ordered Society

KOWA will tackle crime and improve the security of lives and property through the consistent pursuit of economic and social policies that generate employment, foster cohesive communities, and stabilize families.

We will also ensure the strategic reformation of the criminal justice administration, upgrade and enhance law enforcement and security agencies including the judiciary. This will include a support for improved compensation packages, world-class training programs and the regular supply of modern working tools for the growth of law enforcement agencies into an effective crime prevention and control agency.

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The foregoing are the main pledges of the KOWA Party for the next ten years. We believe we can deliver them and, in doing so, make Nigeria fulfill its great potential in our life-time. It is a lot to do. But all Nigerians and Nigeria as a corporate entity stand to lose more if we do not carry out these plans of KOWA Party for the future of Nigeria.

We believe in democracy, transparent elections and the empowerment of the citizens to freely participate in civic and political matters.