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Introduction

Labour Party, formerly known as *Party for Social Democracy (PSD)* is one of the parties registered by the *Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)*.

However even before the registration exercise, the **Labour Party** was an organization reality. This is more so given its antecedents, which derive from a rich heritage of progressive and labour-based intervention in national politics, dating back to the struggle for national independence from British Colonialism.

All the same, the Party appreciated INEC'S courage in submitting itself to the provisions of the Nigerian constitution and the rule of law on registration of parties.

The party hereby acknowledges that INEC's decision has opened a new chapter in the nation's politics by removing the military imposed selective and restrictive multi-party system.

PARTY VISION

The Labour Party will demonstrate that it is still possible to form and conduct the affairs of a political party on identifiable ideology, i.e. progressive issue-based politics.

Therefore, we boldly affirm that the Party's principles, objectives and character shall be unreservedly rooted in the ideology Social Democracy. Consequently, the vision of the Labour Party is to urgently transform all facets of the Nigerian nation with a view to:

- Ensure job-led growth and transform the economy.
- Overcome under development, vicious backwardness and the paradox of poverty in a wealthy Nation.
- Redress the extremes of affluence and deprivation
- Guarantee social justice for all
- Cultivate a new Nigerian and African Personality.
- Build a knowledge-based society.

To achieve the above Labour Party shall concretely translate Social Justice to include:

- Economic empowerment of all Nigerians
- Full employment
- Social security for the aged, the unemployed and the deprived. Equitable income redistribution and general well-being.
- Ensure access to standard education at all levels irrespective of the social status of parents and students by dismantling the existing "apartheid" differentials in standard between private and public schools.
- Achieve equal opportunities for all Nigerians irrespective of gender, religion and state of origin.
- Facilitate the re-emergence of a formidable fulfilled and expanding middle class. Implement a special Development Plan to develop Niger-Delta Area. Build a development-oriented nation in which governance and public policies address the challenges of underdevelopment and facilitate the emergence of a modern industrial economy.

- Ensure public and private sector partnership such that public and private sector are complementary and play competitive roles as engines of development and growth.
- Halt the alienation of the masses from the political process and from the national wealth ... Halt the monopoly of politics and governance by the money class.
- Accord respect to traditional institutions, traditional' rulers and culture.
- Deepen democracy and democratic process.

The **Labour Party** is conscious of the fact that the challenges of transformation are daunting. However, inspired by the heritage of struggle, sacrifice and resilience of Nigerian people and drawing on global experiences with the full support of the dynamic base of the Party transformation would be a reality sooner than expected.

Our Mission:

Democratic culture and values have been long entrenched in Nigeria, communal accountability, consensus building, consultations and debates are silent features of Nigerian and indeed African culture.

These democratic values inspired early nationalists to rise up and challenge the disruptive authoritarianism of the British colonialists.

It is remarkable therefore that Nigeria at independence in 1960 began with constitutional democracy; parliament, rule of law and citizen's participation in governance.

First Republic constitutional rule with all its imperfections heralded planned growth and development hitherto denied by colonial dictatorship until military intervention in 1966 which disrupted the process of democracy in Nigeria.

Three decades of military rule undermined democracy-its norms and values-national development, promoted disunity and perfected the phenomenon of wealth without enterprise through corruption. It also

created the condition for the preeminence of ethnic consciousness as against nationalism, thus, perpetrated and deepened the crisis of nation building.

The return to civil and proclamation of the constitution in 1999 once again has raised the prospect that democracy in Nigeria has come to stay. However, civilian governance since 1999 and the way it has impacted on the economy, social life and popular expectations tend to entrench a notion of hopelessness. This frightening and regrettable development creates the urgent need for a salvation and liberation mission in Nigeria.

The elitist, greedy, selfish character and orientation of the current dispensation has negatively impacted on the economy and social life thereby denying the popular expectations of the inherent benefits of democratic process.

The imperatives of today therefore demand that all genuine social democrats, patriots and progressives must at this historic juncture salvage and liberate the nation along the path to democratic renewal and development the new challenge calls for a new social contract that must bring together committed and altruistic political actors for democratic consolidation in Nigeria. This is the mission of our Party.

The **Labour Party** will address the issue of political power not as an end, but as the vehicle for the transformation of the country and for governance consistent with the ideology of **Social Democracy**.

In furtherance of our mission, the Party will embark on programs and policies aimed at but not, limited to the following:

- Programs and policies aimed at ensuring that national cohesion, peace, security, stability and prosperity shall be the collective concern of all because most Nigerians would be made to realistically feel, believe and see that Nigeria cares, inspires and exists for all.
- All processes aimed at entrenching a culture of democracy and development politics

- All processes aimed at contesting elections
- Transforming the Party into a vanguard for the defense and sustenance of democracy

PARTY IDEOLOGY

The ideology of our Party derives from its orientation and social base which is people-oriented and all inclusive.

Consequently, the principles of our Party shall be humanistic, patriotic, pan-African and socialist, because it is established to promote and defend the rights and welfare of the masses and indeed the entire humanity. We shall uplift the conditions of life of all, the prosperity and stability of the nation and guarantee the reign of equity and justice.

In furtherance of the above, the ideology of the Labour Party and its members shall be Social Democracy. Therefore, our Party would promote and defend Social Democratic principles and ideals for the purpose of achieving Social Justice, Progress and People's Democracy and Unity in the Country

GROWING THE ECONOMY FOR TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Party shall strive to build a strong economy that would transform the country from the present state of under development.

The Party shall diversify the foundations of the Nigerian economy by putting an end to oil dependency, revive manufacturing and agricultural sectors and improve the service sector.

The policy thrust of the Party on the economy shall be to:

- Create wealth:
- Create mass employment opportunities and continually expand same:
- Develop and protect domestic industrial base:
- Encourage healthy competition between local and foreign investments;
- Ensure improvement in quality of life of every citizen:

- Eradicate poverty and ensure prosperity and security for all.

In order to achieve the above, our Party shall ensure activist developmental role of the state in the economy by being a major player in the strategic sectors of the economy, namely petroleum, energy, communications, rail and ports: water, health-care, education and research.

The party shall engage the phenomenon of globalization and liberalization by adopting a cautious and step approach based on the country's national interest.

The achievement of the above policies and party's position on specific issues of governance and national life shall form the basis of the Party's programme at any election.

- **National Production/Manufacturing:** The Party shall link its poverty reduction and employment generation strategies to the revival of the national productive base.
- Promote an industrial culture whereby large scale depend on medium and small scale industries for their parts and components
- Promote joint research among research institutions, private companies and universities on technological requirement of targeted manufacturing industries.
- Strengthen Bank of industry (BOT) for large enterprises and Micro Credit Schemes (for Small and Medium enterprises) to be able to assist in meeting at least 50% of the financial requirements of targeted manufacturing projects.
- Establish a comprehensive set of fiscal incentives to encourage the development of our high potential industries e.g. rubber, palm oil, solid minerals, petrochemicals, cotton/textiles, leather products, gas, plastics and sugar. The incentives should be for:
 - Participating in primary extraction in the manufacturing industry research:
 - Participating in manufacturing in the specified industry:

- Develop and acquire technological processes for the production of higher value products targeted at domestic and export markets.
- Encourage research into and exploit Nigerian plants for drug manufacture. promote the local fabrication of equipment for drug production

TRANSPORT

Labour Party shall build integrated transport system, which shall ensure the harmonized utilization of road, and rail transport as well as inland water-ways and aviation for the speedy movement of persons, goods and services, necessary for national development.

- Urban transport systems shall involve state government owned mass transit vehicles and corporately/individually owned buses, taxis. etc. which shall be dominant:
- The railway system shall be revived and modernized and the rail network expanded within five years to cover the entire country. Incentives would be given for corporate bodies to use the railway system in the place of trailers and trucks. this would also help to make the roads more durable and safer;
- Inland waterways would be developed and the ferry system made veritable, using the rivers and creeks in the country for transport purposes.
- The aviation sector needs to be overhauled. This process would involve strict standards setting and ensuring that all players in the aviation sector uphold them. The Labour Party would as well establish a public sector-owned national carrier which shall have a domestic pattern of ownership.
- Launch new investment in strategic/targeted industries i.e. rubber and rubber products, leather and leather products, footwear, basic chemicals, petrol-chemicals, building materials, etc with selective time bound protection of local industries and review of tariff policy to enable selective and time-bound protection of local manufacturing industries, especially those in the targeted sectors, Review tariffs to stimulate local

industries and foster competitiveness of products to targeted industries in the international market.

- **Privatization:** The Party shall avoid doctrinaire approach to privatization. Public enterprise privatization, where at all considered necessary, must be based on a process-driven consent of Nigerian citizens especially those working in the concerned enterprises and whose welfare must be guaranteed. Thus, privatization as an alternative must be undertaken side-by-side with the establishment of adequate regulatory institutions that would safeguard consumer and employee interest and ensure that the big public enterprise also plays the role of responsible corporate citizens.

For Privatization to be justifiable it must be transparent and geared towards building a socially inclusive society and not a widening of the gulf between the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots. The Labour Party shall thus meticulously go through the privatization process in Nigeria within six months of coming to power. This would be with a view to ascertaining: the ownership of the privatized enterprises; the transparency and genuineness of the sales process; the extent to which such privatization led to job creation.

- **Central Bank:** The Party shall avoid a re-occurrence of the depletion of the national treasury by irresponsible government interference by giving the Central Bank of Nigeria a full autonomy in its operations. In this light, it shall be relieved of commercial bank functions the Central Bank of Nigeria under Labour Party will thus revert to its functions as the bankers' bank for enhanced efficiency in executing its traditional roles.
- **External Revenue:** The Party shall ensure the Central Bank of Nigeria should be proactive and imaginative in the management of our Foreign Reserves.
- **Poverty Eradication:** The Party shall pursue poverty eradication programme more systematically and patriotically, with economic empowerment and the realization of the promise of greater employment, the vicious phenomenon of poverty, which makes the electorate susceptible to corrupt, will be broken.

- **Micro-Credits:** The Party shall set up a microcredits system to assist the unemployed and retrenched workers to set up small and medium scale enterprises that would help to tackle both pervasive poverty and growing unemployment.
- **Efficient Civil Service For Service Delivery:** The Party will institute a reward system that motivates productivity as well as guarantees decent living in retirement for the state bureaucracy, within the context of the financial resources of the nation.
- **EDUCATION**
- **Basic Education:** The party shall devote attention at the highest levels of government to the revival of the national education system with a view to achieving universal free primary and secondary education.
- Commence the spending of the accumulated revenue from the education tax,
- Create more schools for girls in science and technology and encourage NGO's to stimulate interest in scientific courses for women.
- Make compulsory and free, primary and secondary education for all Nigeria children between the ages of 6 and 18 years.
- Ensure that funding of primary education is the responsibility of the Federal government while funding of secondary education should be the responsibility of the states with the exception of unity schools, which should be funded by the federal government. The curriculum content and delivery of public and private education institutions shall be standardized by the Labour Party to address presently existing discriminatory standards, particularly with the delivery of quality education. This would entail the strengthening of existing regulatory bodies and the establishment of a coordinating mechanism for these bodies.
- Unity schools shall be developed as model schools. They shall remain public schools under a Labour Party government with both the Federal and state Governments making budgetary commitments for their funding.

- **Higher Education:** The Party shall invest in teaching and research facilities in the technical colleges, polytechnics and universities as well as in student accommodation and welfare to provide a more conducive learning environment. Investment in the country's educational sector would play a determinant role in the quality and quantity of human resources available to be mobilized for the country's economic recovery and growth.
- Encourage private sector to fund independent research institutions.
- Improve the quality of Education management in tertiary institutions.
- Provide grants, loans and scholarships for the needy and gifted students; provide basic infrastructure and support research
- **Energy:** The Party shall as a matter of National Policy, ensure an electricity generating capacity of not less than 40,000 MW in Nigeria with adequate transmission and distribution networks within the next five years. This would entail building new plants and expansion of existing ones.
- **Creative Economic Policy:** The Party shall restore the credibility of the economy not by repeating the dogma of IMF and World Bank but ensuring a consistent and creative policy measures aimed at genuine reform and transformation of the economy. The Government would be careful in its handling of pressures from the IMF over policy measures of economic stabilization and adjustment. The corollary is that the international community should assist Nigeria to sensitively address its reconstruction needs in a manner that does not put the gains of democratic installation in jeopardy.
- **Debt Relief:** The Labour Party Government shall question the billions debt buy-back by seeking to ascertain first, the actual debts that had been owed as against fictions and overcapitalized debts. The Labour Party shall ask that our country's creditors pay back the balance of the paid up debts that we consider fictitious, or questionable, while studiously avoiding taking any new loans the party shall continue to press the case for debts relief and debt cancellation.

- **Tariff Reduction:** The Party shall ensure a general review of the country's tariff structure in order to encourage local industries and agricultural production. In this regard, the Government in concert with other countries in similar circumstances would insist on a World Trade Organization (WTO) tariff regime that is more attuned to national needs and priorities.
- **Infrastructure Maintenance:** The Party shall enthrone a culture of maintenance in the country's public investment programme especially with regards to essential infrastructure in the transportation, power and energy and telecommunications sectors.
- **Foreign Policy:** The Party shall ensure economic considerations play a key role in the formulation of Nigeria's foreign policy.
- The party shall ensure the domestic environment is made conducive for the prosecution of a dynamic foreign policy.
- The party shall formulate definite foreign policy objectives and ensure their faithful implementation.
- **Globalization:** The party shall put her economic house in order and increase public expenditure in such key sectors as human capital development, health, education, agriculture and physical infrastructure. The private sector shall be encouraged to complement the efforts of the public sector in this regard.
- **Nigerians in Diaspora:** The Party shall mobilize Nigerians in Diaspora to join the development efforts at home.
- The Party shall create the enabling environment and take necessary steps to ensure that their interests are adequately protected.

GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

New Nigerian Personality

The **Labour Party** recognizes that transformation would require the creation of a **New Nigerian Personality** that has a genuinely democratic, modern industrial, civilized cultural outlook. Such outlook will be founded on a productive ethics, and global tolerance of dissent faith and diversity as well as robust interests in civic and public issues.

The New Nigerian Personality of our dream has to be diversted of the entrenched ruinous culture of:

- Greed, corruption and self centeredness
- Wealth without proven and identifiable entrepreneurship;
- Ostentations and wasteful life-style that are untenable and socially indefensible vis-à-vis the widespread poverty and the under-development status of Nigeria.

The party will ensure the full realisation of the national ethics of Discipline, Integrity, Dignity of Labour, Social Justice, Religion Tolerance, Self-Reliance and Patriotism as exposed by 1999 constitution.

The party is confident of its capacity to bring to birth an ethical renaissance, which will transform the Nigerian psyche and nurture the New Nigerian Personality. The Party will change the presently decadent psyche through a concerted multi-faceted programme of action. Its capacity in this and other respects will derive from its unique organizational acumen, including:

- A formidable ideology and moral compass;
- Vertical penetration of Nigerian society;
- Heritage of organizational discipline, cohesion and competence;
- Leadership endowed with the attributes of selflessness, modesty, transparency, patriotism, creativity and humaneness.
- A profound appreciation of the Nigerian reality and of the challenges of social change.

Decentralization

The Party shall be committed to the Federal system of government, based on agreed separation of powers between the centre and the federating

units; anchored on the need for sustained national unity, peace, social justice and balanced development.

The Party shall redefine the relationship between the state and the citizens with a view of promoting democracy, ensuring protection of human rights, guaranteeing security and public welfare.

Constitutional Reform

The party shall establish a Constitutional Court as a court of first instance on issues of disputations on constitutionality. The appellate court to this shall be the Supreme Court.

The Party will initiate all inclusive constitutional reforms. “Citizenship question” will be examined to restore progressive and integrative provision of previous provisions of Nigerian Constitution on the subject, Residency requirements will be liberalized for the citizens and made mandatory for states and local governments to enforce.

Separation of Power

The Party will ensure the constitutionally guaranteed checks and balances between all arms of government. Legislature will be strengthened to perform its oversight and law making function. To this end, the social base from which legislators are drawn will be expanded to allow for qualitative and representative candidates drawn from business community and civil society. Legislators will be trained and retrained in capacity building.

Rule of Law

The Party shall strengthen the institution of the rule of law by ensuring independence of the judiciary. The independence of our judiciary will be guaranteed by creating an enabling and workable environment for judges, judicial officers and by expanding and restructuring the courts infrastructures and ensures that its allocation is collected directly from the consolidated fund.

The Party shall initiate measures that will make litigations affordable to the average Nigerian, ensuring justice is not unnecessarily delayed by fixing reasonable time frame for case disposal.

National Security and Administration

The roles of the police and other paramilitary bodies in law enforcement shall be tailored and monitored in such a way that they do not breach the right of the citizens.

The Party shall deepen the programme to professionalize the security apparatus of the state.

The Party shall intensify the re-training of Armed Forces personnel, update and improve their equipment to ensure greater professionalism.

The Party shall involve the military in humanitarian disaster relief operations.

The Party shall improve on the terms and conditions of service of personnel to ensure retention, and attraction of high caliber materials to enlist in the Armed Forces.

State and community policing will be encouraged side by side with Federal policing to stem the tide of increasing crime rates in the country.

Resources will be increased in order to build capacity of the Nigeria Police. The Party shall promote greater local level participation in governance by allocating resources to the states and local governments.

The Party shall not place restrictions on formations and registration of political parties in the spirit and content of the constitution and democracy in general.

Anti-Corruption

The Party notes that corruption in Nigeria is endemic and systematically rooted in the character of the present Nigeria State and society which

promotes wealth without any source of legitimate wealth generation. There is no way that Nigeria will not be corrupt-ridden when ostentations living of the affluent few exist in the midst of abject poverty which the majority of Nigerians live in.

The anti-corruption strategy of the Party shall thus be rooted in building an economy that will provide a minimum level of security for all, including social security nets for the poor and vulnerable, within a socially inclusive and genuinely democratic Nigeria.

The fight against corruption which **Labour Party** shall pursue will involve due process and respect for the human rights of all citizens who shall in truth and in deed, be deemed innocent until and except proven guilty.

The Party shall frontally fight corruption by strengthening through legislation and funding the existing institutions to combat corruption namely, the Independent Corruption Practices Commission (ICPC) the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the courts.

The party shall see to it that the activities and salaries of Chairmen and members of the EFCC and ICPC shall be funded directly from the consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation.

Party shall ensure staff remuneration of all the Anti-Corruption bodies to be distinct and enhanced by the Salaries Wages Commission.

The Party shall ensure that a special department or the Office a Special Prosecutor should be created within the EFCC, to bundle prosecution of corruption cases. This is to avoid the delays often caused by referring case file to the Attorney General's office for advice.

The Party shall revitalize the efficiency and integrity of the civil service through enthronement of efficiency, adequate reward system and sanctions for non-performance.

BUILDING SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Dialogue:** The party shall facilitate a system of regular, dialogue and consultation between the government, civil society organizations, the trade union movement and organised private sector, in order to widen input into the public process and forge consensus around the key challenges that face the Nigerian economy in its quest for renewal and advancement.
- **Living Wage:** The Party shall institute appropriate mechanism for ensuring that a living wage is paid to all categories of workers in the public and private sectors as an investment in greater employee productivity, improved living standards, and a work environment that does not condone corruption.
- **Social Welfare Service:** The Party shall insist on providing basic social welfare services for the socioeconomic benefits of the citizens.

WOMEN POLICY

The Party shall be committed to a policy thrust, which seeks to address the promotion, security, extension, and guarantee equal rights to women, in line with the promotion of fundamental human rights as enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and also domestication of all conventions to which Nigeria is a signatory.

The Policy thrust of the Party on women shall be to:

- A critical mass of women politicians must be reached through affirmative action policies/quotas. A 30 percent minimum quota in all appointive and elective positions shall be considered, and mechanisms for demanding and monitoring the implementation of such quotas should be developed. An Equal Opportunities Commission could be a viable organ to support this process.
- Provision of adequate information and statistics on the situation and character of poverty in, Nigeria with regional variables.
- The party shall strive to seek to engender fundamental alternations in power relations between the sexes, in the distribution of social resources and in cultural mores. It shall seek to empower women in order to enhance their status.

- Transform the economic, social, psychological political and legal circumstances of women through a comprehensive review of existing laws in the country to update them and remove discrimination against our women folk, especially in the area of empowerment, marriage, credit, home-ownership, inheritance and widowhood.
- Expansion of women's access to educational opportunities, facilities for skills acquisition and positions of authority.
- Sensitize women on their role as advocates for changes in the society, the Party shall take active, practical and concrete steps to empower and raise the consciousness of Nigerian women and shall facilitates access by them to the various organs of the Party, and to. the agencies of government.
- The Party accepts the equality of men and women and shall effect this in its full acceptance and strong representation of Nigerian women in the political process. Especially, the Party shall ensure that the women are encouraged to contest elective party and public/political offices/posts at all levels of the Party organization and at all levels of government.
- Making available micro-economic loans to women in the informal sector and the permission of promotion of adults' literacy/vocational class, especially for women in the rural and also urban areas

HEALTH POLICY

The popular saying that health is wealth” is a statement of a fact to which the Party strongly believes. Since a healthy nation is a wealthy nation, the Party shall pay attention to the sector and seek to aggressively tackle the inherent problems in this initial sector.

The Party's policy thrust in the health sector shall be to provide cheap, affordable and effective medical services to all Nigerians.

To achieve this, the Party shall:

- Place emphasis on the provision for preventive and curative health care by making primary health care the main focus of the National Health Policy and the National Health Delivery Service

- Provide free medical consultation to children, aged and other vulnerable groups like the physically challenged.
- Build and equip hospitals, most especially tertiary health institutions through the acquisition and maintenance of medical equipment and upgrading of training for medical and paramedical staff.
- Intensify the National Programme of Immunization (NPI), in conjunction with the UNICEF
- Encourage continuous exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas between orthodox and traditional medical practitioners with a view to achieving a more effective health care delivery.
- Create enabling environment for the establishment of more health facilities by private individuals and the private sector to support and complement the effort of government.
- Introduce a legislation for the rehabilitation of destitute and the physically challenged persons by providing and encouraging them to seek gainful employment and decent and accessible accommodation.
- Ensure efficient management of the Drug Revolving fund and to sustain the drive against fake drugs.
- Extend health facilities to the rural areas.

YOUTH POLICY

The Labour Party recognizes that, youths are not only future leaders, but also present stakeholders, therefore the Party shall create enabling environment for our youth that would positively channel their energies potentials towards development.

The Youth Policy of the party shall be to:

- Encourage and guarantee mass participation of youths as a cardinal programme of leadership evolution in Nigeria.

- Adopt and develop policies and programmes that create more employment opportunities in the public and private sectors for our youths
- Mobilize and re-orientate the Nigerian youths towards patriotic ends and the creation of a national network of solidarity, which eschews drug abuse culture, secret cultism and other prevalent social vices that our youth have been exposed to with dire consequences for national development.
- Create better liaison between government and private youth development organisations to provide and monitor youth development programmes for effective implementation.
- Intensify support of and the restructuring as well as strengthening the national Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Schemes, to make it more relevant to meeting national needs and aspirations.
- Ensure standard recreational facilities as back up for youth development programmes.

Traditional/Institutions, Traditional Rulers and culture

The Party identifies cultures as reflective of the history, traditions and values of people. The Party recognizes the diversity of the Nigeria society and the rich cultural heritage of the country's various nationalities and ethnic groups.

The Party recognises that traditional rulers are custodians of the traditional institutions and cultural values of Nigerian people and that in this capacity they play a very important leadership role at the grass roots level.

The Party shall thus draw on the experiences of traditional authorities with respect to governance and leadership in the communities and nationalities within the country.

The Party shall ensure that the role of traditional rulers shall not be politically undermined thus boosting the respect for traditional institutions in the cultural rebirth of the hew Nigeria that Labour Party shall build.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Party shall mainstream environmental sustainability into all development activities. We shall enunciate proactive Steps to conserve natural resources, reduce pollution, especially from oil spill and gas flares; and set and achieve adequate targets for clean air and water and soil fertility. These would be backed with rigorous enforcement of environmental laws and standards. The party shall therefore promote environmental sustainability to preserve the means of people's sustainable livelihood and the lasting national development of Nigeria in a globalised world.

The party is very much worried by the level of filth and urban decay that characterise the main cities in Nigeria. Waste management and "waste-to-wealth" projects have at best only been paid lip service to by several governments. The Party noting that human resources for a pro-active approach to, the management of waste abounds in Nigeria and further realising that adequate urban planning is critical to salvage working people in Nigeria from a condemnation to sub-urban ghetto lives; would be committed to an urban regeneration plan that would include housing, waste management and urban planning that would better capture the possibilities of the evolving urban population and physical structures in Nigeria.

The Party's plan for environmental sustainability shall include strategies geared at arresting desertification in some of the Northern States, erosion that is making roads impassable in some of the Eastern States and deforestation that is leaving the top soil bare with consequences for agricultural growth in some of the Western State.

The Party is convinced that the Niger Delta region of the country's South-south zone has witnessed a most debilitating history of environmental despoliation. In exploiting crude oil, multinational corporations and the Federal Government of Nigeria have rendered the creeks and farmlands of the people of the region where they earn their livelihood and indeed regenerate their lives from, almost useless.

The Party sees the Niger-Delta situation as being not just an environmental problem, but a multifaceted development problem, which requires far more reaching steps to successfully address it than any government thus so far in Nigeria, has taken.

The Party sees the Niger-Delta problem as Nigeria's problem and thus is committed to resolving it, not as a body or government outside of and alien to the Niger-Delta people, but with the youths, workers, elders, leaders, entrepreneurs, women and other groups of the Niger-delta People.

STRENGTHENING TRADE UNION/CIVIL SOCIETY AND MEDIA

- Labour creates national wealth. As a **Labour Party**, we shall nurture and cultivate human capital that will lead Nigeria out of poverty.
- The productivity of a country partly depends on the harmonious, relationships among government, employers and workers, and these are largely determined by labour policies.
- In pursuance of the economic and democratic aspiration of the country, the Party shall ensure labour policies that encourage and strengthen independent democratic, transparent and accountable trade unions. Trade union laws should also be fair, balanced and consistent with ratified ILO conventions, in addition, effective labour administration and free collective bargaining should be the main determinants of terms and conditions of employment to ensure sustainable industrial peace and equitable reward system
- **Civil Society capacity-building:** - Capacity building will continue to be a major requirement of civil society. However, the variation in background, in capacity components and in location of organisations within civil society makes it imperative to devise multiple strategies.
- **New Civil Society Organisations:** The establishment of civil society organisations in areas they are weak would be promoted such area include consumer rights groups and philanthropic organisations that fund others Geographic area where civil society is weak would also need focus in order to create a national groundswell for civic engagement.

- **Civil Society democracy:** - Building civil society must also mean building internal democracy in civil society and creating internal governance structure that facilitate accountability.
- **Social Compact:-** The state and civil society need to, reach a social compact or partnership for democracy and development; possibly even, a tripartite partnership with business
- **Civil Society benchmarks:** Civil society groups must remain vigilant to miscarriages of justice, and misdemeanours of actors within the political system and assist in setting and monitoring benchmarks for effective governance.

Information System and Media

- Establish locally-based, low cost and widely accessible Internet connections.
- Develop information technology applications in areas with highest impact on socio-economic development at the National, State and Local Government levels.
- Promote the use of information technology in all aspects of human activity.
- Use the media to build trust and confidence of people in themselves, their communities and their country.
- Acquire satellite facilities to make National Data/information System a reality.
- Standardise Statistical Information system such that it is acceptable and usable globally.

CLARION CALL

The Party calls on all:

- Genuine progressives
- Trade Unions and Unionists
- Workers, Pensioners, Students and Youths, Artisans, Self-Employed, Farmers, etc.
- Human rights activists
- Progressive Nigerians in the Diaspora

- Environmentalists;
- Progressive intellectuals and professionals; and
- Entrepreneurs with patriotic and social conscience who believe in a socially responsible and responsive market economy.

The Labour Party is the Platform with which these Nigerians will mobilize for the challenges of liberating Nigeria from:

- Politics without commitment to any noble and patriotic ideals;
- Politics and governance based on impunity rather than accountability;
- Politics and governance as viable enterprise for self- enrichment rather than for service and transformation from backwardness to modernity.
- Politics and governance based on narrow interpretation of democracy rather than that of entrenched democratic culture and norms in all aspects of our national life, including the full rights of all men and women to openly belong to political parties of their choice.
- Politics and governance of intolerance of Opposing and critical views, rather than openness and inclusiveness.
- Politics and governance, which engage in economic and social policies that are inherently inimical to the interests of the masses and indigenous entrepreneurial class.

Conclusion:

The party recognises that •genuine multi-party system poses obvious challenges. Anti-democratic forces, which thrive in monopolizing the political space and thus governance, may not be favourably disposed to the realities on the ground. They may therefore engage in subverting the new dispensation.

The **Labour Party** given its origin, character and social base will mobilize the society to defend real multi-party system and the right of Nigerians to alternative policies and governments at all levels.

BARR. DAN NWANYANWU, mni
National Chairman

A.A. SALAM (Baradeen Paiko)
National Secretary