

# **NIGERIAN PEOPLES CONGRESS (NPC)**

**Motto: Security and Transparency**

## **MANIFESTO OF NIGERIAN PEOPLES CONGRES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

For four decades, Nigeria has remained a country of unfulfilled potentials. Since the wake of the tragic demise of the first republic, most of our development schemes have failed to improve the quality of life for the majority of Nigerians. Our cities have not been able to cope with the strain put upon them by rural urban migration, the result of which are proliferation of squalors, overcrowding, urban decay, breakdown of infrastructure, increase in crime rate, pollution and a general decline in the quality of life. Demographic projections indicate that by the second decade of the twenty-first century, 60% of Nigerians shall be living in the cities, or rather conurbations. But the villages do not fare any better; they are lacking adequate water supply, electricity, health care and pliable roads. A system of education once full of potential for providing the requisite developmental resource growth has reversed to become inadequate for the needs of a country with a youthful populace. The quality of education in most of the existing school across the country is so poor it fails dismally in preparing students for future life. Unemployment is rife in both skilled and unskilled labour pool. Hyper inflation and an erratic exchange rate continue to plague an economy analogous to one ravaged by wear. Yet over the years, plan upon -plan, reform upon reform, purge after purge have ostensibly fallen short of their often well-intentioned goals. The casualty in all of this is peaceful co-existence, which-*ipso facto*, continues to elude Nigeria.

We make bold to assert that working towards the objectives of the NP.C. shall lead to the amelioration of the living conditions of all citizens. The Nigeria of the N.P.C. shall be:

- i. A nation in which government and public life shall be run in accordance with the provisions of the constitution at all levels.
- ii. A strong united nation where citizens enjoy peace and harmony with one another, and where tribal, ethnic cultural and religious diversity is harnessed and used as the rich mortar of nation building.
- iii. A country in which the security of life and property shall be extended to all by guaranteeing the external and internal defence of the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- iv. A truly federated entity with a high standard of living for all, sustained economic growth, premised to free market capitalism, self-sufficient agricultural sector and industrialized economy.

- v. A nation where the welfare of every citizen will be a prime concern of the State while private enterprise and initiative are fully recognized and enhanced.
- vi. A country where general awareness and patriotic commitment of the citizen shall be vigorously enhanced through adequate and sound qualitative education based on high moral principles and indigenous African values.
- vii. An open society based on the optimum recognition of the democratic rights of individual citizens or groups thereof.
- viii. A land where full respect and recognition of traditional rulers and institutions is promoted and mutual respect for all cultures and religions is observed.
- ix. A society where a fully independent judiciary safeguards law and order, universal freedoms and basic human rights of all citizens.
- x. A nation-state whose standing and respect shall be promoted through a foreign policy that pursues enlightened national interest and adherence to the principles of ECO WAS, AU and the United Nations.
- xi. A country whose constitution is accepted as a legitimate institutional affirmation of the prevalence of law over personal power.
- xii. The party's programme shall also include the provisions of Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy as enshrined in the Constitution.

## **THE PROGRAMME**

To achieve these objectives, the NPC has worked out a programme of action based on responsible appreciation of the circumstances of the nation and the realities of the moment. The NPC has carefully examined the needs and priorities of all sections of the nation and developed an all-encompassing programme, which once put in place, shall address these needs and priorities. To make Nigeria work for the general good the standard of living of those living below the poverty line must be raised by giving every citizen the opportunity to feed, clothe and house himself or herself. While the NPC shall pursue an economic liberalization policy, it will also ensure the provision of basic amenities such as water, electricity, housing, primary healthcare, recreational facilities and security for all Nigerians. The attainment of self-sufficiency in food production and storage, sustainable environment-friendly industrial growth and the expansion of social amenities and education form the main plank of the NPC programme, while rural development in all aspects remains a central concerned priority.

### **1. FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY.**

The NPC views the Nigeria's lack of self-sufficiency in food production in the twenty-first century with alarming despair. This concern is

underscored by the fact that food has pride of place in the party's emblem. National self-sufficiency in food and cash crops is the top-most priority in the NPC programme. We must return the past glory of agriculture to our farmers. This will be achieved in the case of the individual small-scale farmers through:

- a. The increase in budgetary allocation of funds for agriculture at all levels of government.
- b. An assistance scheme to the subsistence farmer to increase his acreage and yield by facilitating:
  - i. Early, prompt and punctual supply of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.
  - ii. Technical assistance for land clearance and ploughing through tractor leasing units.
  - iii. A favourable credit scheme for acquiring bullocks ploughs and seeds.
  - iv. Cash credit in the growing months through rural producer and credit societies and the encouragement of rural producer co-operative to channel aid.
  - v. Vigorous irrigation schemes for dry season farming thus ensuring year-round cultivation.
- c. Introduction of modern technology and policies at village level to trigger a green revolution.
- d. Special incentives shall be provided for large-scale agro-based industries. They shall be encouraged and assisted through mechanization, irrigation, credit facilities and subsidies from both the private and public sector.
- e. Special emphasis shall be laid on research and development in agricultural science and the sector shall be encouraged to absorb as many unemployed Nigerians as possible.
- f. The NPC shall embark on large-scale agricultural training programmes to facilitate extension services throughout the country.

## **2. DIARY AND LIVESTOCK**

To ameliorate the depleting supply of meat and livestock, which compels Nigeria to import from neighbouring countries, the NPC dairy and livestock farming programme shall include:

- i. The creation of large grazing reserves with adequate supply of water for the exclusive use of pastoralists.
- ii. The provision of flexible credit to encourage the setting up of ranches, piggeries and large-scale poultry and fish farms.

## **3. TREE PLANTING POLICY**

In order to arrest the dual threat posed by the demand for wood to our rainforest and Sahel Savannah regions, the NPC shall be committed to an intensive re-planting programme and the establishment of new

plantations. Special incentives shall be provided to plantation owners and developers, while the development of cheap alternatives to fire wood as an energy source shall be encouraged.

#### **4. ECONOMIC POLICY**

The NPC believes that the only way to raise the standard of living of Nigerians, particularly those living below the poverty line is through rapid and sustained economic growth. While not subscribing to a brash auction of public assets, we remain committed to a privatization and liberalization policy that will benefit the poor and the disenfranchised through accelerated growth. There is no gain saying the fact that countries with fewer human and natural resources than Nigeria have been able to provide better opportunities for their citizens with the prosperity, efficiency, and improved quality that often accompany privatization, liberalization and foreign investment. But we must also safeguard against the horrors experienced by some countries, such as monopolistic/oligopolistic practices, discriminatory practices towards their citizens, child labour inhumane working conditions and ecological disasters. The NPC puts forth the following primary principles: primary principles:

- a. Privatize and liberalize inefficient public sector industries and organizations to ensure that they are brought in check by market forces and to also give people a better control of their destinies. Competition is a prerequisite for internal and external growth in a globalize world.
- b. Uphold, define and protect the principle of private ownership of land, capital and mental output, i.e. intellectual property.
- c. Deregulate prices in the healthier sectors of the economy to allow for free and fair competition, which more often than not benefits the populace.
- d. Protect and encourage collective bargaining by Nigerian labour unions to enable improvement in wages, working conditions and productivity.
- e. Employ prudent fiscal and monetary policies to tame inflation, stabilize the exchange rate, bring about a unitary foreign exchange market and work towards the growth and prosperity of Nigeria's capital markets.

#### **5. TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY**

In this sector, an NPC government at any level shall encourage the free flow of goods and services (both domestically and internationally) to ensure Nigerians participating in such activities get remunerative prices for their products. Such government(s) shall also encourage sustainable, environmentally friendly industrial growth while working towards providing the enabling environment through improvements in

infrastructure. Attracting foreign and local investors and improvement of the nation's balance of payments are germane objectives of the party. Second only to agriculture on the NPC's list of priorities, industrialization under a Federal Government controlled by the party shall be achieved through the following measures:

- a. Make the production of steel "the mission" for the country by tasking the public and private sectors and rekindling interest in the industry.
- b. Revamp the nation's railway system by tapping directly into the labour pool. Steel production and the railway are two areas where the government has to intervene directly because of the long period of neglect.
- c. Constitute a government agency that would hire direct labour workers for day jobs in kick starting steel production and revamping the railway system. This agency would provide a means for stimulating the Nigerian economy by putting money into the pockets of the citizens while at the same time providing gainful employment for the rural and urban masses.

## 6. MINERALS POLICY

The NPC's approach to minerals, can be divided into two, namely:

A. **Oil and Gas** It is said that Nigeria is a natural gas province with a bit of oil. While recognizing the continuing importance of crude oil and the pivotal role it has played in Nigeria's history, our future lies in the efficient and effective management of our natural gas resources. Both crude oil and natural gas are increasing local participation in oil and gas activities and encourage the participation of Nigerian owned companies in the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) and the International Petroleum Exchange (IPE), as these are two markets where significant amounts of the nation's petroleum resources are traded. The party shall also support the continued role of Nigeria as a key member of OPEC. Environmental laws shall be enforced to ensure strict compliance with Environmental Impact Assessments in energy related projects, especially in the ecologically fragile Niger Delta wetland. NPC is committed to endowing oil producing areas with more control over resources emanating from their locality, within the context of a federated Nigeria.

B. **Solid Minerals** It will be the policy of NPC to bring solid minerals the stepchild of the Nigerian economy back to the mainstream. The party shall achieve this by influencing the collation of data pertaining to the sector, Some semblance of order and due process is to be brought to mining activities in the country. Nigeria's influence will be brought to bear in an effort to secure favourable terms for the exportation of tantalite columbite and other industrial metals. We shall also encourage the private sector to focus on processing activities of those

minerals that can be semi or fully refined before export in order to increase the sector's employment and productivity rates. Local and foreign investors shall be encouraged to use locally produced minerals like barite, gypsum and kaolin, instead of importing them, often at higher prices. The local industry for precious stones such as aquamarine, zircon, jade and amethyst shall have the full support of the party investors shall be encouraged to use locally produced minerals like barite, gypsum and kaolin, instead of importing them, often at higher prices. The local industry for precious stones such as aquamarine, zircon, jade and amethyst shall have the full support of the party.

## **7. HOUSING POLICY**

Shelter is one of the three basic requirements of mankind. Its importance is recognized by the NPC, such that is an integral component of the party's programme. It is therefore the objective of the NPC to improve the quality of housing in the rural areas and increase the quantity of planned habitations in the urban centers. The problems posed by the quality but more so by the quantity of accommodation in the urban areas need tackling with resource and energy, The objective of this policy to increase homes through rent-to-own and owner-occupier schemes in conjunction with the private construction and estate development sectors. The policy objective is to have every Nigerian worker in a home of his own through innovative mortgage schemes.

## **8. EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AWARENESS**

- a. An NPC government shall work towards giving free, qualitative and self-supporting primary, vocational secondary and university education in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.
- b. Improve the standard of education at all levels with special emphasis on the moral content as it pertains to indigenous and religious values, by involving parents in the formulation of curricula and school policies. Adequate funding for art councils, museums shall be provided and incoming generating methods examined to achieve self-sufficiency.
- c. Ensure the provision of well-trained teachers and educational infrastructure in the form of equipped classrooms, laboratories and libraries in addition to other support services.
- d. An NPC government shall encourage private schools to exist side by side with State schools. But carefully conceived regulatory laws shall safeguard pupils against potentially exploitative private schools and inhibitive costs of education.
- e. The NPC shall place primary importance on the interest and welfare of teachers by reordering the priorities of School Boards and teachers. The teaching profession shall undergo an image makeover

and incentives both material and mundane shall be provided. Existing teacher training institutes shall be revamped and new ones established in conjunction with statistical data and projections of present and future demand.

- f. Universities shall have their full autonomy returned and funding shall be governed by legal provision. Private funding through grants, scholarships and endowment funds shall be solicited and encouraged.

## **9. TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

The Nigerian Peoples Congress believes that too little attention has been paid to technical education over the years. Technical manpower is a prerequisite for industrial development, for technology itself determines the fate of civilizations: they either thrive through inventions and innovation or die from inertia. The party shall therefore work towards increasing the number of Technical Colleges, Polytechnics and Craft Schools. Special attention shall be paid to Information Technology in all existing learning institutions, from primary schools to tertiary ivory towers. Gaining access to the Internet at affordable prices to students and ordinary citizens alike is a priority for the NPC.

## **10. HEALTHPOLICY**

The health of a nation is an essential factor in development. A healthy population ensures a steady supply of efficient manpower. We shall therefore, pursue the following programme to remedy the deficiencies in the health sector.

- a. Existing training facilities will be expanded to increase intake and new ones established.
- b. The issue of inadequate supply of drugs shall be addressed by working closely with the local pharmaceutical industry and creating the enabling environment for newcomers.
- c. Local manufacture of hospital and medical equipment will, receive attention, with emphasis of the production of spares. This way, even imported equipment can be repaired locally.
- d. NPC Governments at all levels shall embark upon an intensive AIDS enlightenment campaign coupled with the direct purchase and distribution of medication. Government intervention by way of using the prison population in the manufacture of condoms has become a necessity. Furthermore, laws protecting the rights of HIV-infected Nigerians and AIDS patients shall be one of the first acts of an NPC government.
- e. Dental and Eye Clinics will receive attention and assistance.
- f. The aim of the NPC to work towards the provision of free primary health care for all Nigerian citizens.

- g. Strict compliance to safety requirements in both private and public buildings shall be enforced through the fire service nationwide.

## **11. LABOUR POLICY**

The Nigerian Peoples Congress believes that the autonomy of the Nigerian Labour Congress and other civil advocacy groups is pertinent for the survival and growth of democracy in Nigeria. It will therefore be the policy of the party to support to the notion of a labour movement that is truly independent, democratic, strong and able to serve the best interest of the workers and the nation. We shall vouchsafe the independence of trade unions and insulate their management from control and interference of government and employers. Workers shall be free to associate in unions of their choice. The NPC shall co-operate with labour unions at the national and international levels and they will be represented at all appropriate organs of government both within Nigeria and abroad. Pension funds shall be protected against speculative adventurism.

## **12. DEFENCE POLICY**

The NPC shall prosecute with vigour, programmes to train, equip and re-organize the armed forces to ensure the emergence of a modern, well equipped, disciplined and professional military. To achieve this:

- i. Care will be taken to ensure that a balance of arms and personnel is maintained between the needs for internal and external security. No members of the armed forces will be demobilized without full benefits.
- ii. The party will ensure that the nation's security is not endangered and our military strength is enhanced commensurate to foreign policy and domestic demands. Defence- related decisions will be taken in full consultation with the Armed Forces.

## **13. LAW AND ORDER**

Crime, vandalism, and brigandage create insecurity in the land among the majority of decent and law abiding citizens. In addition to an awareness campaign focusing on responsible citizenship, an NPC government will take appropriate practical measures to:

- a. Embark on an upward salary review for the entire Police Force.
- b. Expand the Police Force to ensure their effective presence in response to the needs of the nation.
- c. Modernize and re-equip the Police to improve their mobility and communication systems.
- d. Expand and improve their training and re-training facilities, focusing on crime prevention methods.
- e. As a matter of urgency, re-introduce regular beats for Policemen/Women in all areas with high population density.

- f. Initiate legislation, which shall provide for severe punishment of officials found to be negligent in matters of prompt remuneration for the Armed Forces, Police and other essential services.

#### **14. TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

The NPC holds in high regard the role of traditional rulers as the custodians of our cultural/religious heritage, and historically as legitimate institutions for the control and management of society and the maintenance of law and order. It is the view of this party that this role must be exploited for the benefit of present day Nigeria. The NPC will therefore if and when elected into power take immediate steps to:

- a. Guarantee them befitting functions and commensurate remuneration.
- b. Ensure that their participation and consultation in certain affairs of state become enshrined in the constitution.

#### **15. FOREIGN POLICY**

Nigeria, under an NPC government, shall continue to have the defence of its sovereignty and its territorial integrity as its principal foreign policy objective. Other objectives include peace with other nations, sustained economic growth and social development. Our nation shall continue to play a special leadership role in Africa. Yet it is incumbent upon us to reinvigorate our foreign policy by restructuring the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs and tapping the resources of its research staff. We shall maintain cordial relations with all countries in the world friendly towards us. We intend to promote the ideals of ECOWAS and adhere to the Charters of the AU and the United Nations.

#### **16. PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES**

The NPC is dissatisfied with the standard and performance of our public utility corporations. In some cases, this is due to by poor management, low morale, excessive ministerial control and disregard for professional opinion. An government shall apply solutions in three parts.

- a. The immediate implementation of short-term management contracts/agreements with reputable international firms to run such corporations, and in the interim.
- b. Prepare to privatize them along the lines of NPC's cautious privatization policy.
- c. Liberalize the relevant sectors to break any existing of future monopolies/oligopolies thus bringing efficient service to customers at lower prices.

#### **17. LEGITIMATE SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NIGERIA**

The NPC and its members shall uphold the sanctity of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and affirm the prevalence of law over governmental fiat. The party holds that:

- a. Its members holding positions of power including the Head of Government and Commander-In-Chief shall regard themselves as holding such office and power in trust for the people.
- b. It shall guarantee freedom of choice and expression to all citizens. An NPC government shall promote and respect the independence of the judiciary and the federating units. The constitutional notion of the prevalence of law over government fiat has no meaning or effect without an independent judiciary.
- c. Men and women of proven ability and integrity shall be attracted to the lower and higher benches of the judiciary by the provision of attractive conditions of service.
- d. An NPC government shall ensure the quick dispensation of justice in the law courts by building more courtrooms and upholding the writ of habeas corpus. This shall also serve to decongest our prisons.
- e. The nations prison system shall be reformed to focus on reforming inmates instead of simply punishing them.

**We hereby declare that the manifesto and constitution of the Nigerian Peoples Congress (NPC) conform with the provisions of the 1999 Constitution.**