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THE MANIFESTO

This charter is the United Democratic Party (UDP) public declaration of intent, aims and objectives. When voted to power, the UDP shall strictly use and adhere to it as the only instrument for the formation and implementing the policies for a prosperous Nigeria and shall be used as the major yardstick of measuring the party in government's failure or success without contravening the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

PREAMBLE

Nigeria has been independent almost four decades ago. The Nigerian nation remains only the most populous but also the most economically promising of all countries of African descent. But this economically viable state has been strangled by the collective selfishness, disunity and intolerance of the ruling elite (Civilian and Military).

UDP is offering Nigerians a new platform to re-orientate and re-direct their energies towards building a Just and Egalitarian society, where liberty and progress shall flourish.

Consequently, we of the United Democratic Party (UDP) have resolved to make all the sacrifices required, suffer all the deprivations and pains necessary to move forward, linked in a human chain, overcoming all obstacles and difficulties until we reach our destination. That destination is nowhere else, but the place where we shall fully and finally recover the sovereign power and dignity of our people.

We shall recover this sovereignty by resolving to come together in solidarity so that this Nigerian nation under God may be re-built in a way that we can all live in peace, happiness and prosperity. We can at the end of our time be in a position to hand over to posterity a solid foundation and to persuade through constructive re-orientation of the Nigerian Military the need to subject themselves to democratic civilian authority at all times and in all circumstances.

It is in this respect that we launch our party so that our joint efforts will produce a strong nation worthy of emulation and respect by other

nations by coming together and united in our purpose as in our action, united in our purpose as in our action, united in our commitment as in our standard, disciplined and honest to ourselves and to others.

THE IDEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF UDP

1. Democracy shall be the one and only form of acceptable constitution and governance.
2. Next to the will of God comes the will of the people.
3. Military intervention in governance shall be an act of rebellion and high treason.
4. The equality and value of human life is supreme.
5. Freedom of worship and
6. Maximum utilization of talents.

I. AGRICULTURE

Agricultural production occupies a central place in the lives of Nigerians. It directly supports the highest percentage of the Nigerian population, indicating its centrality to the survival of the people of this country. It has remained the main source of our fledging industries and was a major foreign earner. However, this sector has been suffering from serious neglect since this oil boom started. For the revitalization of this sector, the United Democratic Party (UDP) government shall, among others:

- i. Emancipate the peasant farmers and other rural producers and give them control over the productive resources, mainly the land after due consultations with the people in question;
- ii. Streamline and co-ordinate the activities of Agricultural Development Projects (ADP), and the River Basin Authority (RBA) and credit need of the village agricultural communities. These communities shall also be represented on the boards of each of the ADPs and RBAs.
- iii. Encourage livestock production mainly based on our local stock and not imported breeds. Nomadism in the main issue in livestock production. As such, the country shall establish and manage a network of pastures fully equipped with watering points and veterinary clinics. There shall be an integrated approach towards utilization of crop residues, offals and agro-allied byproducts for the development of livestock feed:

- iv. Make available fertilizers, insecticides and other farm inputs and modern fanning machinery as low and subsidized prices.
- v. Properly demarcate, reforest, protect and develop forestry reserve.
- vi. Encourage the production of major export crops like cocoa, palm oil, rubber, groundnuts and cotton.
- vii. Ensure that farmers have easy access to credit and loan facilities from agricultural and commercial banks; and
- viii. Ensure that marketing of farm produce are done through co-operative societies for the derivation of maximum benefits by the communities from their productive efforts.

II. CIVIL SERVICE

The civil service is a neutral instrument for policy implementation, but has become machinery for acquiring, retaining, wealth and privilege. The main vocation has become the accumulation of public property, no matter at what cost to the nation. The UDP government shall:

1. Make sure that the Nigerian public become master over the Nigeria civil service.
2. Neutrally entertain petitions and anonymous letters for investigations.
3. Maintain the Federal Character Commission as provided in the constitutions.
4. Restore public services and accountability by ensuring prompt payment of salaries and allowances and also indexing the wages.
5. Ensure discipline, accountability and probity in the management of public resources;
6. Adequately rewards hard-work and excellence in form of letters of recommendation in other forms of encouragement.
7. Encourage civil servants to update their knowledge and skills via seminars, workshops, in service courses and on the job development programmes;
8. Encourage civil servants to participate in union activities provided the implementation of government programmes shall not be hampered; and
9. Not be party to retrenchment of civil servants without due consultations with the labour leaders.

III. DEFENCE

Defence is the creation of an atmosphere that is free from violence, tension, apprehension, anxiety and distrust. The people of this country must feel safe to go about their affairs unmolested. The laws of the land shall be clearly stated, fair to the vast majority and applied in such a manner that the people are convinced of the honesty and integrity of their leaders and of the law enforcement agents. The UDP shall:

1. Ensure professionalism through constant training;
2. Give free Military training to every interested Nigerian outside the professionals.
3. Acquire modern weaponry and arsenals within budgetary allocations;
4. Provide funds for additional defence industries corporation for the production of different types of weapons for the pursuance of self-reliance in Military equipment and communication systems and;
5. Ensure that any Military officer found intervening in the governance in Nigeria, no matter by what name called or in what colour dressed, shall be an act of rebellion and high treason. It shall be massively and totally rejected and resisted by the people in whose hand alone the appropriate sanction shall rest.

IV. ECONOMY

The Nigerian economy has persistently been in crisis and has forcefully raised the issue of what is fundamentally wrong with it. Despite the huge amounts of domestic resources, both human and natural, which Nigeria is endowed with, the economy is still on the brink of collapse, and the poverty and suffering of the overwhelming majority of the people is intensifying. It is in the light of these that the UDP government shall:

1. Systematically expand productive employment and the gradual elimination of unproductive employment with the stabilization of real incomes and prices as a medium-term economic recovery plan;
2. Involve imposition of firm limits on the proportion of our capital resources going into debt servicing, administration and private bank accounts abroad;
3. Invest most of the capital generated in Nigeria into productive projects for real production;

4. Evolve a national collective wages and salaries bargaining and nationally agreed indexation of wage to prices of goods and services.
5. Fix a value for the Naira consistent with our essential domestic needs for economic survival, recovery and self sustained growth.
6. Revive and restore production in agriculture, manufacturing, mining and other sectors of real production in the economy;
7. Protect domestic industries from aggressive external competitions through tariff and non-tariff measures including, where necessary outright prohibition of certain imports;
8. Develop indigenous technology for indigenous scientists and technologists, but foreign technology shall be acquired and adapted to suit our environment;
9. Sources for local raw materials for research and application;
10. Strive to plug tax loopholes and penalize tax evasion;
11. Impose appropriate taxes on luxuries such as cigarettes, alcohol etc. as a means of generating revenue and discouraging people from consuming them on health grounds;
12. Strive to eliminate or at least reduce to the barest minimum budget deficits which tend to produce serious inflationary consequences and seriously undermine the nation's developmental process; and
13. Properly tax business establishments, multi-national corporations and pay as you earn.

V. EDUCATION

Education is a cardinal objective, the principle that the human person is the most precious thing in the world, and human labour is the creator of all wealth hence, the nurturing, training and development of our human resources is the central core of any genuine economic development and shall be given the highest priority.

To this end, UDP government shall, provide free and compulsory education to primary and secondary school levels and a well functional education at the higher levels.

1. Private and voluntary organizations shall be given the needed encouragement for the establishment of schools. Under the guidance of government laid down principles and standards.\

2. The reintroduction of boarding secondary schools shall be vigorously pursued, because this molds our students much better.

NURSERY SCHOOLS

Voluntary agencies and private individuals shall be allowed to operate nursery schools under government set guidelines. The curricula shall be structured to inculcate into the children at this early stage the moral values of our Nigerian society.

PRIMARY

Standards shall be laid down by the National Primary Education Commission with adequate funds to develop the intellectual capacity of the pupils because it is the pillar on which the educational system rests.

SECONDARY

Secondary schools are preparatory grounds for useful living within the society and for higher education. The UDP government shall make adequate facilities and instructional materials available. As an urgent measure, the teachers shall be correctly and promptly remunerated. Nigerian children shall be free to school in any state of the federation.

TECHNICAL

The Nigerian economy requires a middle level manpower the UDP government shall give technical education the place it deserves in the technological progress of the country. The technical and vocational institution shall be provided with relevant machines and equipment in their workshops and laboratories.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education like Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and Universities in particular are very crucial to the social, economic and political development of Nigeria. Nigeria is looking up to the Universities for the production of high level manpower. The university system provides some solutions to national problems through its research efforts. In view of these, the UDP shall:

1. Create linkages between universities and our industries in terms of research and development;

2. Undertake periodic training of staff where such are not available in the country
3. Strengthen the university consultancy units for patronage by government and public
4. Encourage and fund adequately research institutes and establish new ones as shall be proposed by our universities;
5. Motivate university staffers by providing adequate research funds and rewards appropriately successful researchers.

FUNDING

Funding is a critical factor in the implementation of the policies on education. Apart from government's budgetary allocation, there shall be endowment funds, professional chairs and scholarship and prizes awards. Industries, firms, financial institutions and business establishments shall be compelled to pay an agreed percentage of their annual profit to the trustees of a National Educational Fund established by government. A percentage of the Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund (PTF) shall be set aside for education.

VI. ENERGY

To guarantee national development, there shall be a balanced exploitation of the nations energy resources with adequate and availability of it to every nook and cranny of the nation the UDP government shall:

1. Ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity through adequate funding and maintenance of National Electric Power Authority (NEPA);
2. Replace ageing turbines and machines at Kanji Dam;
3. Support Shiroro Hydro Electric project and establish similar ones in other prospective areas in the country
4. Promote research into alternative sources of energy such as solar, wind, geothermal for use in rural areas;
5. Link all the local government headquarters in the country to the national grid within four years.
6. Strengthen the National Energy Commission and develop the Energy Research Centres.

VII. FOREIGN POLICY

The party shall be committed to a foreign policy in which the basic objective is self-reliance by diversifying the range of our external relations, by building mutually beneficial relations of equality and mutual respect with other countries of the world. These will help in defending our common interest in bringing about just international economic orders, reduce the proliferation of wars, promote the sustainable use of the natural environment and bring about genuine world peace. Africa shall remain the centre piece of UDP foreign policy, priority will be given to the West African sub region, while the African policy shall be constantly reviewed to ensure that the country receives value for her input.

1. Shall adhere strictly to the principles governing the relationships in the country of nations as enunciated in the UN and OAU charters;
2. Shall strive to ameliorate the conditions of all black people in the diaspora.
3. The membership of the country in the major international organization shall be retained.

VIII. HEALTH

Health-care policy that shall reflect the concern for tackling the higher prevalence of disease and poverty in the rural sector of the nation is one in which will put emphasis on basic health care on rural basic medical manpower and facilities. To this end, the UDP government shall:

1. Ensure a comprehensive national health policy, with emphasis on preventive rather than curative health-care delivery.
2. Ensure good nutrition for Nigerians;
3. Ensure good and clean potable water is given to all Nigerian to reduce the incidence of water borne disease.
4. Establish full-fledged hospital in all local government area of the country;
5. Provide free medical services to all Nigerian citizens;
6. Establish a National Health Insurance Scheme to which all private and public workers shall contribute according to their income under an agreed form what will not stress production and industrial growth.
7. Encourage a real linkage between traditional health institutions and the conventional medical institutions.

8. Adequately fund researches into all forms of medicine;
9. Provide drugs at all times and other facilities in government hospitals, clinics and dispensaries throughout the country;
10. Build pharmaceutical industry as an integral extension of the chemical industry utilizing our huge hydrocarbon and botanical natural resources.

IX. HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

Shelter is a task that the UDP government shall pursue vigorously. The party shall:

1. Review the land use Act for the simplification of the process of land acquisition for residential purposes;
2. Ensure the operation of the National Housing Fund and strengthen the operations of the Federal Housing Fund and strengthen the operations of the Federal Mortgage Bank and Federal Housing Authority.
3. Ensure that at local government, state government and federal government levels comprehensive plans are made for the development of houses and of residential areas which encourage owner-occupation and owner-responsibility for maintenance and sanitation with some allowance for extension at owner's wish;
4. Strengthen existing physical planning and development agencies and establish new ones where they are not available.
5. Provide facilities that will make life comfortable and secure for residents of housing estates;
6. Reverse the disastrous decline of the infrastructure, organization and sanitation in all our cities and urban centres, where increasingly, more and more of our people live and where our industries and major services enterprises are located.
7. Commit all local government authorities to ensure and implement policies on the disposal of industrial wastes in order to protect the life of people, plants and animals;
8. Ensure control of water pollution, the atmosphere and the ozone layer.
9. Improve and beautify the environment by establishing open spaces, parks and gardens for recreational purposes in cities, towns and within housing estates.

X. INFORMATION POLICY

The UDP government shall give attention to its information policy because without well co-ordinated and skillfully managed information policies in the party's charter cannot be easily achieved. The party shall:

1. Formulate and implement a national policy on information which will take into account the powerful influence the new information technology has given to mass communication;
2. Ensure the reconstruction and upgrading of our information infrastructure and stay abreast of current developments in information science and technology;
3. Uphold the freedom of the press to educate, inform and entertain within the norms of decency;
4. properly fund the Federal Radio Corporation, Nigerian Television Authority and the government owned print media;
5. encourage private sector participation in the electronic media as is presently the case in the print media;
6. Strengthen Nigerian information services abroad and intensify external broadcasting by the Voice of Nigeria.

XI. INDUSTRIALIZATION

Industrialization being the process of developing the capacity of a country to master and locate and within its borders, the whole industrial production process. Production of raw materials; production of intermediate products for other industries; fabrication of the machines and tools required for the manufacture of the desired products and machines, skill to operate, maintain and reconstruct the machines and tools skills to manage factories and to organize the production process.

The UDP government shall start and sustain an industrialization process geared to produce, for the home market, the West, Central and East African markets and for other parts of the world not only processed available raw materials and consumer goods but also agricultural machinery, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals, cars, trucks, ships, bicycles, and basic construction materials needed for the national energy, water, transports, communications and engineering infrastructure which we require for effective entry in the 21 St century. To attain the above, the UDP government shall:

1. ensure a speedy completion and efficient operation of the Ajaokuta Steel Complex;
2. ensure the full management and operation to capacity of the nation's steel rolling mills;
3. ensure the encouragement our local industries to take full advantage of the EPZ facilities and increase their capacities to manufacture for export in order to boost our foreign exchange earning and also insist that the quality of the products meets all international standard; and
4. Ensure intensification on the prospection and mining of iron ore and related minerals by our earth scientists and engineers.

XII. JUDICIARY

1. One of the cardinal ideological principles of the party is the rule of law as such the party shall upon the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. To uphold the principles of the separation of powers, the judiciary shall be insulated from all forms of parochial interest. The UDP government shall;
2. provide the judiciary with the wherewithal to enable it act independently of government and to withstand social and political pressures, since it constitute the life line and bastion of liberal democracy;
3. improve the conditions of service of judges and magistrates;
4. provide the courts with state of the art communications and secretarial equipment;
5. refurbish the existing courts;
6. ensure that every Nigerian has justice done by strengthening the existing legal aid system to avoid Nigerians unable to employ service of counsel, an opportunity for free legal service for their defence;
7. introduce the use of lawyers as prosecutors instead of the police to quicken the dispensation of justice.

XIII. LABOUR

For rapid national development, the harnessing and mobilization of labour potentials is undoubted. The UDP in government shall:

1. pursue the establishment of relevant cottage industries as a basis for our industrial policy;

2. strengthen the operations of the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP);
3. ensure constant and uninterrupted power supply to keep industries moving
4. review and restructure the National Directorate of Employment to enable it play a central role in the coordination of labour related issues;
5. strengthen the Industrial Arbitration Court to deal promptly and effectively with industrial disputes
6. indexation of salaries of workers to bring them up to acceptable national standards;
7. encourage a healthy labour relations to guarantee industrial peace and harmony;
8. ensure that pensions are periodically reviewed or indexed to keep pace with of inflation in the country;
9. ensure discipline of labour and productivity and
10. Not ignore the plight of those who spent their active days in the service of the nation (pensioners). Their welfare will be safeguarded; their health will be the responsibility of the state. Systematic steps shall be taken to ensure that they are made relevant in society to prevent a feeling of abandonment, despondence and frustration.

XIV. MINING AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Mining and the petrochemical industry provide the nation with highest foreign exchange as such the sector can not be treated with levity. The UDP government shall;

1. fully explore, exploit and protect the nation's mineral resources through the Geological Survey of Nigeria (GSN)
2. Maintain exclusive right over all mining activities in the country although private individual may be granted license to undertake mineral exploitation;
3. Fully fund the ministry of Solid Minerals and empower it to evolve solutions to the reduction of total reliance on the oil sector;
4. Adequately invest in the oil sector and petrochemical industry for maximum output;
5. Create an enabling environment that would attract and sustain foreign investment in the mining and petrochemical industry;

6. Strengthen the Nigerian Mining Corporation (NMC), Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Liquefied Natural Gas (LGN) and adequately fund them to carry out their functions effectively.

XV. POLICE

The Nigerian state can not afford anarchy; as such the Police force is an instrument for the maintenance of law and order in the country. To enthrone and enshrine discipline of the citizenry, to prevent and reduce incidence of crime in the country, we need a virile Police force. Accordingly, the UDP government shall:

1. Be committed to the provision and the guarantee of safety and security of life and of private and public property, in every nook and cranny of Nigeria and at every hour of the day;
2. Be irrevocably determined to the assertion and sustenance of the rule of law.
3. Revitalizes, reorient and enhance the moral, material and physical capacity of the Police;
4. Support the democratic grassroots community organizations in liaison with the Police for the prevention and combating of crime and other social vices;
5. Deploy middle level manpower of the Police to their local government areas.
6. Strengthen in particular the Mobile Police and provide them with enough training to face the challenges of democracy.

XVI. PRISONS

Prisons are corrective institutions as such UDP government shall:

1. Construct special prisons for different categories of prisoners to avoid hardened criminals hardening low criminals;
2. Build new prisons to replace the unequipped and archaic prisons presently in existence;
3. Improve the sanitary and health conditions of the prisons;
4. Rehabilitate prisoners by providing adequate facilities and equipment for their acquisition of knowledge and skills while in prisons to enable them leave useful life thereafter and to obtain gainful employment of discharge.
5. Improve the working conditions of wardens and other prison staff.

XVII. WOMEN AND YOUTHS

No country will have a future when its women and youths are not trained and/or educated. Nigerian government under UDP shall train and mobilize women and youths for nation building. To this end UDP government shall:

1. Encourage the emancipation, participation and involvement of women in all political, social, economic and other shall:
2. Recognize the special role of women in society.
3. Promote mass education and mobilization of women for increased national productivity.

YOUTHS:

A UDP government shall carry out the following programmes and policies to illustrate the special position occupied by youths and national development.

1. Develop our youths mentally, physically and morally;
2. Make and allow Nigerian youths realize their maximum positive potentialities;
3. Promote and integrate our youths for national understanding;
4. Increase the National Youth Service Corps duration to one and half years. The additional six months shall be used for military training in all necessary areas of Military endeavours:
5. Encourage and maintain national teams in all sporting endeavours and strengthen our local sporting leagues;
6. Establish an academy for sports.
7. Give adequate compensation to staff and teams and special awards shall be given to outstanding sports men and women.
8. Adequately fund our National Troupe for the projection of the country's image through participation at cultural festivals in different parts of the world; and
9. Sieve out bad aspects of our culture and encourage those aspects that are conducive to our moral and economic development.

XVIII. SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS

Traditional Rulers and institutions, worship places and pensioners are hereby classified as special institutions,

1. *Traditional Rulers and Institutions*

The role of Traditional rulers and such institution shall be redefined to avoid the crisis that almost engulfs the country during the Sani Abacha's administration by being partisan in politics.

2. *Religious Leaders*

The UDP government shall not declare any religion as the official or state religion of the country. Freedom of worship shall be accessible to all. Any attempt to cause religious or ethnic disharmony shall be repelled. Religious leaders shall be encouraged to preach to their congregations the tenets of unity.

XIX. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

UDP government shall be committed to the rehabilitation and expansion of the whole of the transport and communications infrastructure of the country, with special priority given to the revitalization of the railway using domestic iron and steel production. Also shall be committed to the development of a well-equipped, reliable and modern telecommunication system, sustained through the rapid development of a supporting electronic industry. The UDP government strategy in earth sector shall be as outlines below:-

ROAD

1. All major roads linking our state capitals and major cities shall be dualised within the states of the federation;
2. Shall support the efforts of states and local governments in the provision of feeder roads for easy social and economic interaction with the rural areas of the country;
3. Shall strengthen the Mass Transit Programme;
4. Shall lay emphasis at manufacturing of indigenous vehicles;
5. Shall give adequate funds to our industrial Development Centre (IDC), Centre for Automotive Design and Development (CADD) and Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (NITT) for research.

RAILWAY

1. All heavy loans that ply our roads shall be encourage to go through the railways;

2. Shall provide funds to purchase spare parts, new coaches and engines and refurbish new ones;
3. Major agricultural and industrial parts of the country not reached by rail line shall be effectively linked by the UDP government.

WATER TRANSPORT

1. Shall embark on the dredging of beds of our navigable waterways;
2. Revitalizing the Nigerian National Shipping Line through the purchase of more vessels and spare parts;
3. Shall restructure and re-organise the maritime for greater productivity and service.

AIR TRANSPORT

The UDP government shall develop and sustain a viable air transport system for the country, since it is the fastest means of transportation. The UDP government shall in this regards ensure:

- i. The survival and operational efficiency of the Nigerian Airways
- ii. That private air lines in the domestic and international routes are permitted but with regulation to ensure reliability and safety.

COMMUNICATION

The establishment of an efficient communication system is vital to the rapid modernization of the Nigerian society. UDP government shall:

1. Re-organise the country's postal system for effectiveness and speedy mail delivery system;
2. Ensure that NITEL modernize its equipment to perform more efficiently;
3. Ensure security of deliveries by NITEL and NIPOST.