



# THE POLITICS OF ISSUES

A NIGERIA DIALOGUE PRESENTATION

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

PROGRAMME AGENDA

PROBLEM CASE

SOLUTION CASE

KEY ISSUES CONFRONTING NIGERIA

KEY NOTE SPEAKER

GUEST SPEAKER

DELIVERY APPROACH

A NOTE FROM COO OF NIGERIA DIALOGUE

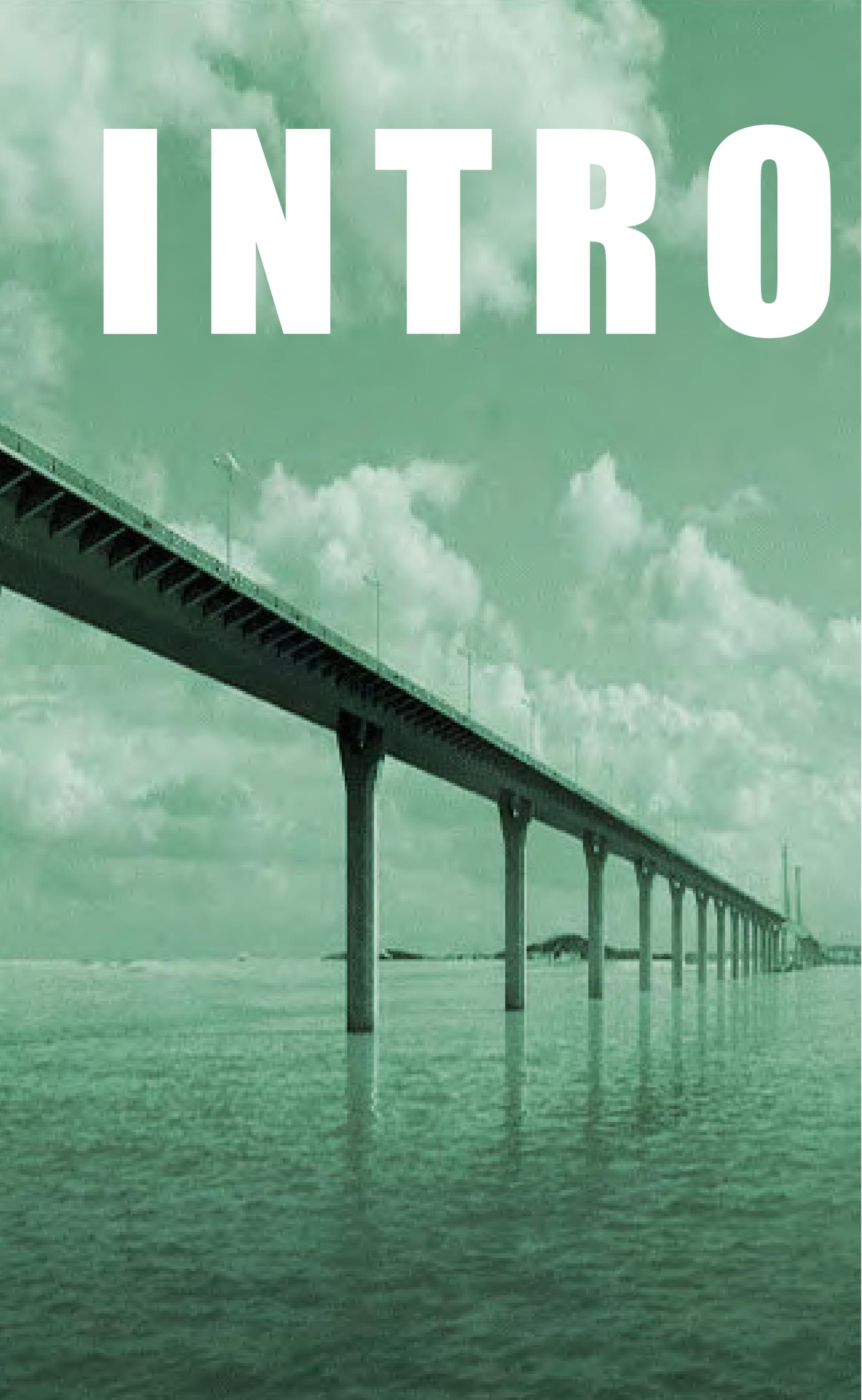
UPCOMING EVENTS

SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



NEAR JOS NIGERIA

# INTRODUCTION



It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to **NIGERIA-DIALOGUE**.

Nigeria-Dialogue is a hub for progressive intellectuals who intend to challenge systemic and institutional realities in Nigeria. Our goal is to serve as the conduit to aid the effective transformation of Nigeria into a civil and developed nation.

It is a platform where forward thinking Nigerians proffer inputs into **SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC, INFRASTRUCTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT** through meaningful dialogues and measurable actions.

This is a forum where we are not scared to tackle the difficulties facing us as a nation, we encourage conversations about our future. The Nigeria Dialogue platform is an avenue for Nigerians both at home and in the Diaspora to get involved in the engineering of a thinking framework that translates into the building of strong institutions, virile systems and the sustenance of their continuous existence.

Our vision is to build a community of 40 million people who will usher in a civil and developed Nigeria. We plan to achieve this by having conversations within and outside Nigeria that will shape the future of our nation; we hope to bring change to Nigeria – one person at a time.

The Nigeria Dialogue team consists of a group of intelligent Nigerians. We are a mix of analytical and creative thinking individuals. We have a reasonable representation in **London, New York, Lagos, Abuja** and we look forward to having meetings in every city with a sizeable number of Nigerians. Our team is growing by the day and we encourage you to join us.

In Nigeria Dialogue we work with the belief that our destiny will not be written for us, but by us, by all those men and women who are not content to settle for the Nigeria as it is. Who have the courage to remake the nation as it should be. So come fly with us as we make our journey to Nigeria's future.

**WELCOME TO TOMORROW!**

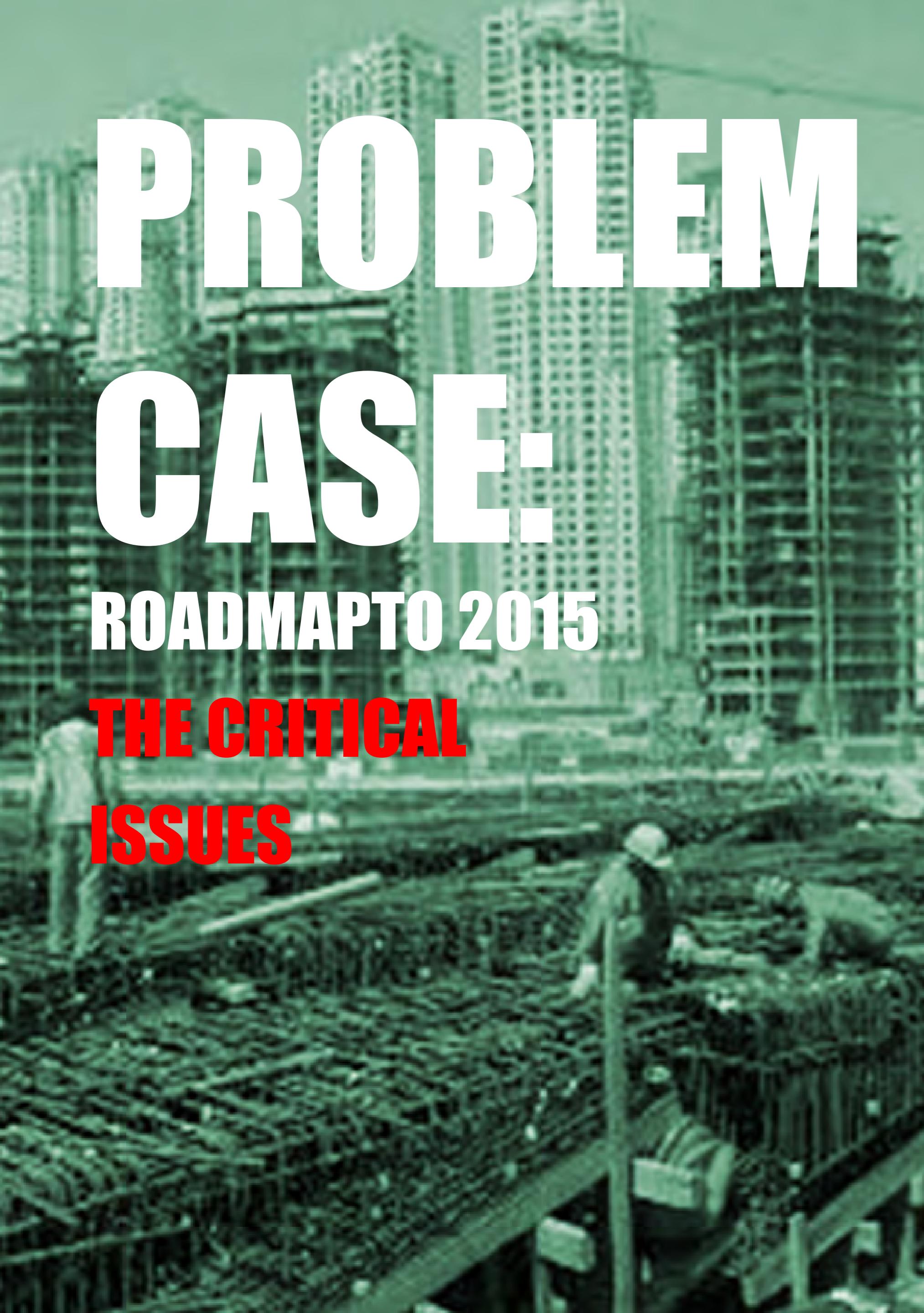
# AGENDA FOR LAGOS LAUNCH EVENT

TIME	ITEM	PRESENTER
16:00 PM	REGISTRATION & NETWORKING	
17.00 PM	WELCOME	
17.15 PM	NATIONAL ANTHEM	
17.20 PM	INTRODUCTION TO NIGERIA DIALOGUE	
17:40 PM	KEY NOTE ADDRESS: THE POLITICS OF ISSUES	
18.20 PM	BREAKOUT SESSION/ PANELLIST Q & A	
18.40 PM	BREAK	
18:55 PM	ENTERTAINMENT	
19.10 PM	GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATION : IDENTIFYING THE COMMON ENEMY- CRITICAL ISSUES IN THIS ELECTION	
19.40 PM	Q & A	
20.00 PM	MUSIC & NETWORKING	



LAGOS NIGERIA

# PROBLEM CASE: ROADMAP TO 2015 **THE CRITICAL ISSUES**



The root cause of ethnocentric politics in Nigeria can be traced to the pre-amalgamation geographical divisions that existed in the country. The preparatory elections before independence in 1959 were between three main political parties that were divided across regional and ethnic lines. Every election cycle in Nigeria since 1960 has been conducted on the stratification of ethnocentric and religious bias; this has been the bane of our political decisions and has significantly limited our growth as a nation.

Nigeria is currently in her 4th republic and much more is expected of our political discuss if we intend to deliver the promise of a developed and thriving economy for Nigerian citizens. We have to challenge the recycling of mediocrity, have a political discuss that enlightens the citizens about their expectations of the rule of law, find a bottom-up approach of making the conversation about the eradication of corruption in public and private offices a national taboo and articulate active steps to mitigate against it.

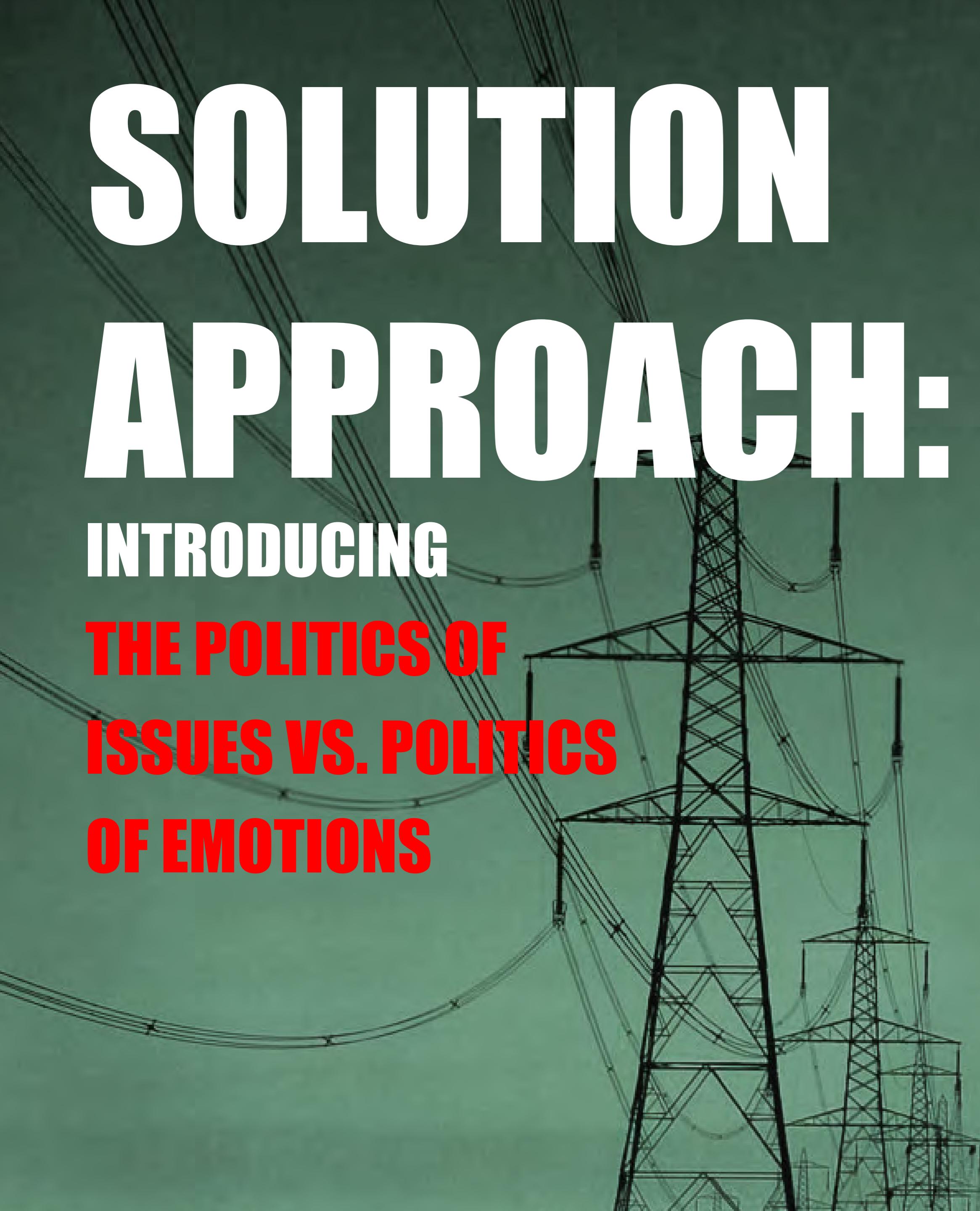
Our political discuss must focus on how we plan to shape the future, eradicate inefficient public service, develop adequate healthcare, create new industries that will create jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for millions of citizens; develop policies that will open up the markets, empower the judiciary and resolve

some of our greatest ineptitudes e.g. sacrificing meritocracy on the altar of national character, among many others.

As we approach another election cycle and these vices that have limited the development of Nigeria for over 5 decades begin to rear its head again around street corners, on the high streets, in the local markets, offices, churches/mosques and in barber shops and beauty parlours across the country, it's time we stopped this menace and offer the public something better to discuss.

We need to equip the common man with more than a "siddon-look" approach to his murmurings and complaints. There is a need to put a plan in place to demand principles and ideas that will ensure a future for us and our children from our political office holders. The soul of the nation is at stake and we cannot sit by the sidelines. We must engage in the political discuss about our future and demand that our politicians develop clear strategies that will ensure growth in the critical areas of our social life – Education, Health care, Judiciary, Security, Infrastructural development and the creation of opportunities for social mobility to mention a few.

# SOLUTION APPROACH: INTRODUCING **THE POLITICS OF ISSUES VS. POLITICS OF EMOTIONS**



This is the moment when we finally beat back the policies of fear and doubts, the politics where we tear down other ethnic groups instead of lifting this country up. We can be the generation that will choose hope over fear and unity over division by choosing to discuss issues rather than the sentiments that divide us. We will send a powerful message to the politicians who think their money and influence speak louder than our voices that they don't own this nation -- we do. And we are here to take it back.

We will become a better nation if we focus more on the challenges we face and offer practical solutions on how we intend to tackle them.

The politics of issues is about building up. It positions us as a nation that

builds lasting legacies irrespective of differences or credit. It is a collective desire to define our future as a nation as it helps to chart and pursue our dreams of a better Nigeria. The politics of issues ensures that electoral positions are filled based on meritocracy and not affiliations or the urge to return a favour or in response to god-fathers. It is a politics that ensures that candidates are assessed and elected based on track record, principles, values, achievable visions of the nearest future.

Imbibing the principles of politics of issues helps us address and guard against our ailing democratic experiences as it helps us grow a vibrant and sustainable future and ensures that promises are delivered.

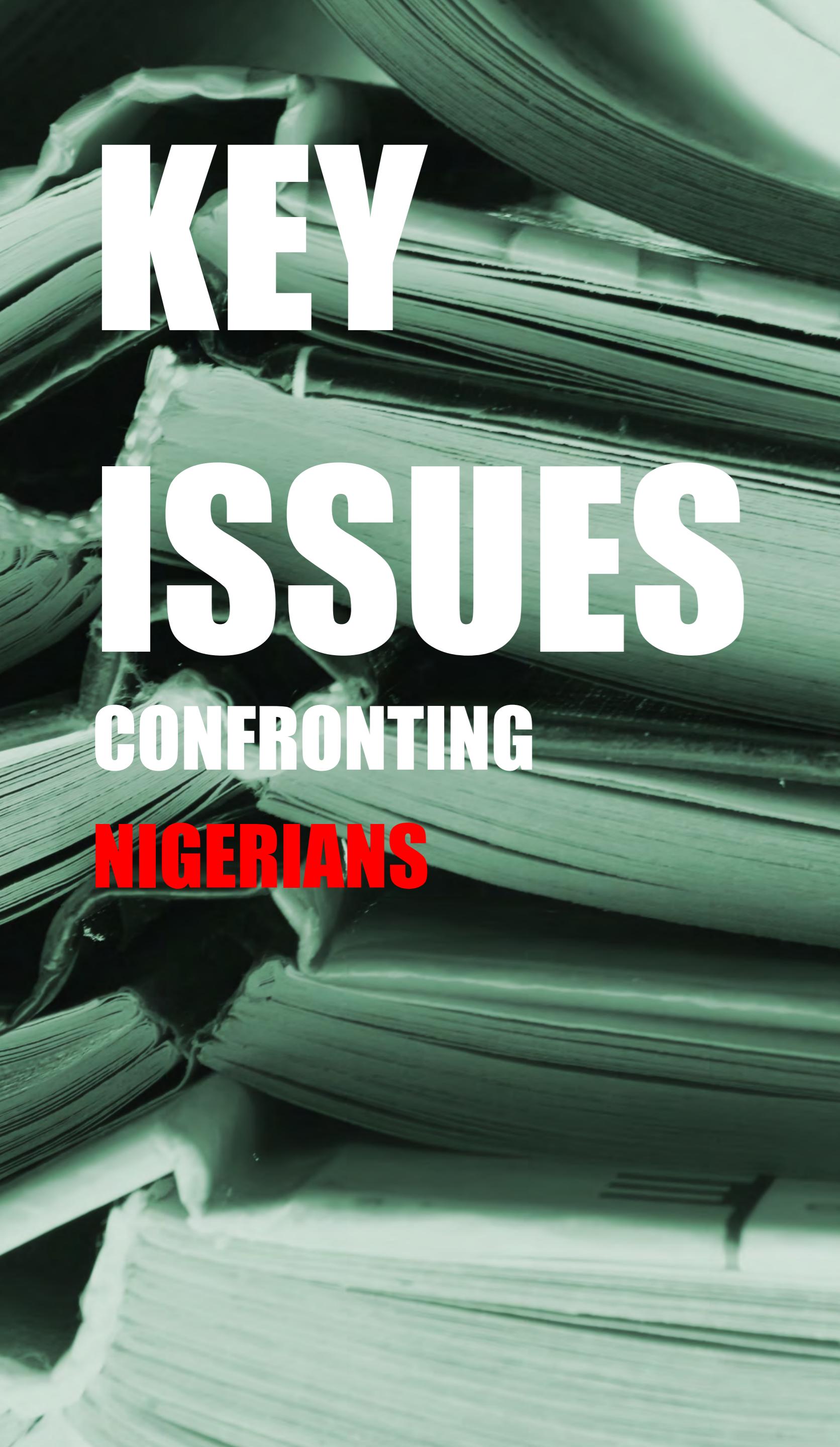
## OBJECTIVES OF POLITICS OF ISSUES

TO DISCUSS THE CRITICAL ISSUES POLITICIANS SHOULD FOCUS ON

TO DEFINE THE YARDSTICK THAT POLITICIANS SHOULD  
BE MEASURED AGAINST FOR SUITABILITY

TO RESHAPE THE POLITICAL DISCUSS IN NIGERIA

TO ENLIGHTEN NIGERIANS ABOUT THE POLITICS OF ISSUES



# KEY ISSUES CONFRONTING NIGERIANS

BELOW ARE SOME OF ISSUES THAT SHOULD SHAPE OUR POLITICAL DISCUSS IN THE UPCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

THIS LIST IS BY NO MEANS EXHAUSTIVE:

## 1 HEALTH CARE

HOW CAN WE MAKE QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE AVAILABLE FOR NIGERIANS?

## 2 POWER GENERATION

HOW DO WE PLAN TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF ELECTRICITY?

## 3 SOCIAL MOBILITY

HOW CAN WE GET OUR PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY...  
HOW CAN WE CREATE INDUSTRIES THAT WILL ABSORB MILLIONS OF NIGERIANS WILLING TO WORK?  
HOW DO WE EQUIP NIGERIANS WITH THE SKILLS REQUIRED TO WORK IN NEW INDUSTRIES?

## 4 EDUCATION

HOW CAN WE EDUCATE OUR PEOPLE FOR THE JOBS OF THE FUTURE?  
WHAT IS OUR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION AS A NATION?  
HOW CAN WE GET THE BEST BRAINS BACK TO OUR CLASSROOMS TO LECTURE?  
HOW DO WE PLAN TO INTEGRATE THE CLASSROOMS AND BOARDROOMS AND BUILD A DEPENDENCY BETWEEN OUR LABS AND OUR INDUSTRIES?

## 5 SECURITY

NATIONAL SECURITY

## 6 INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

WHAT PLANS DO WE HAVE AS A NATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURES?  
WHAT ARE THE BASIC INFRASTRUCTURES FOR DEVELOPMENT?

## 7 POLICY DEVELOPMENT

WHAT KIND OF POLICIES SHOULD WE BE DEVELOPING OR ENFORCING?  
WHAT IMPACT DO EFFECTIVE POLICIES HAVE ON SOCIETY?

## 8 RULE OF LAW

POLICING AND JUDICIARY HAS TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED?  
HOW DO WE RESTORE THE FAITH OF NIGERIANS IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM?

## 9 POLITICAL PROCESS

## 10 REVENUE OPTIMIZATION

HOW CAN WE OPTIMIZE THE IMPACT OF REVENUES BEING GENERATED?  
HOW CAN WE OPEN NEW AVENUES OF GENERATING PUBLIC FUNDS?

## 11 BUDGET APPROPRIATION

BUDGET APPROPRIATION - HOW CAN WE EFFECTIVELY USE OUR BUDGET? HOW CAN WE ENSURE THAT THE BUDGET OF NIGERIA REFLECTS THE AILING PARTS OF THE SYSTEM THAT NEEDS ADEQUATE ATTENTION?  
WHAT LEVEL OF INFORMATION AND ACCESS DO NIGERIANS HAVE TO THE BUDGET UNDER THE INFORMATION ACT BILL?

## 12 BIG GOVERNMENT

IS THE COST OF RUNNING OUR GOVERNMENT TOO EXPENSIVE?

# DELIVERY MECHANISMS

IN ORDER TO CRYSTALLISE THE CAMPAIGN ON THE POLITICS OF ISSUES AND MAKE IT A MAINSTREAM ISSUE, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED TWO DELIVERY PHASES:

## PHASE ONE: ANALYSIS, SCRIPTING, DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION

- IDENTIFY AND ANALYSE CRITICAL ISSUES FACING THE ELECTORATE AND THE FUTURE OF THE NATION
- PRIORITIZE THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN ORDER OF NEED
- TRANSFORM THESE ANALYSED ISSUES INTO ISSUE BASED VIDEOS THAT WILL RESONATE WITH NIGERIANS
- TRANSLATE THE ISSUE BASED VIDEOS INTO RADIO DIALOGUES AND MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR MASS DISTRIBUTION.
- PUT THE CAMPAIGN ON PLATFORMS THAT WILL DELIVER IT TO THE RIGHT AUDIENCE E.G. ONLINE, TV, SATELLITE, RADIO ETC.

## PHASE TWO: ENDORSEMENT, FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE CAMPAIGN

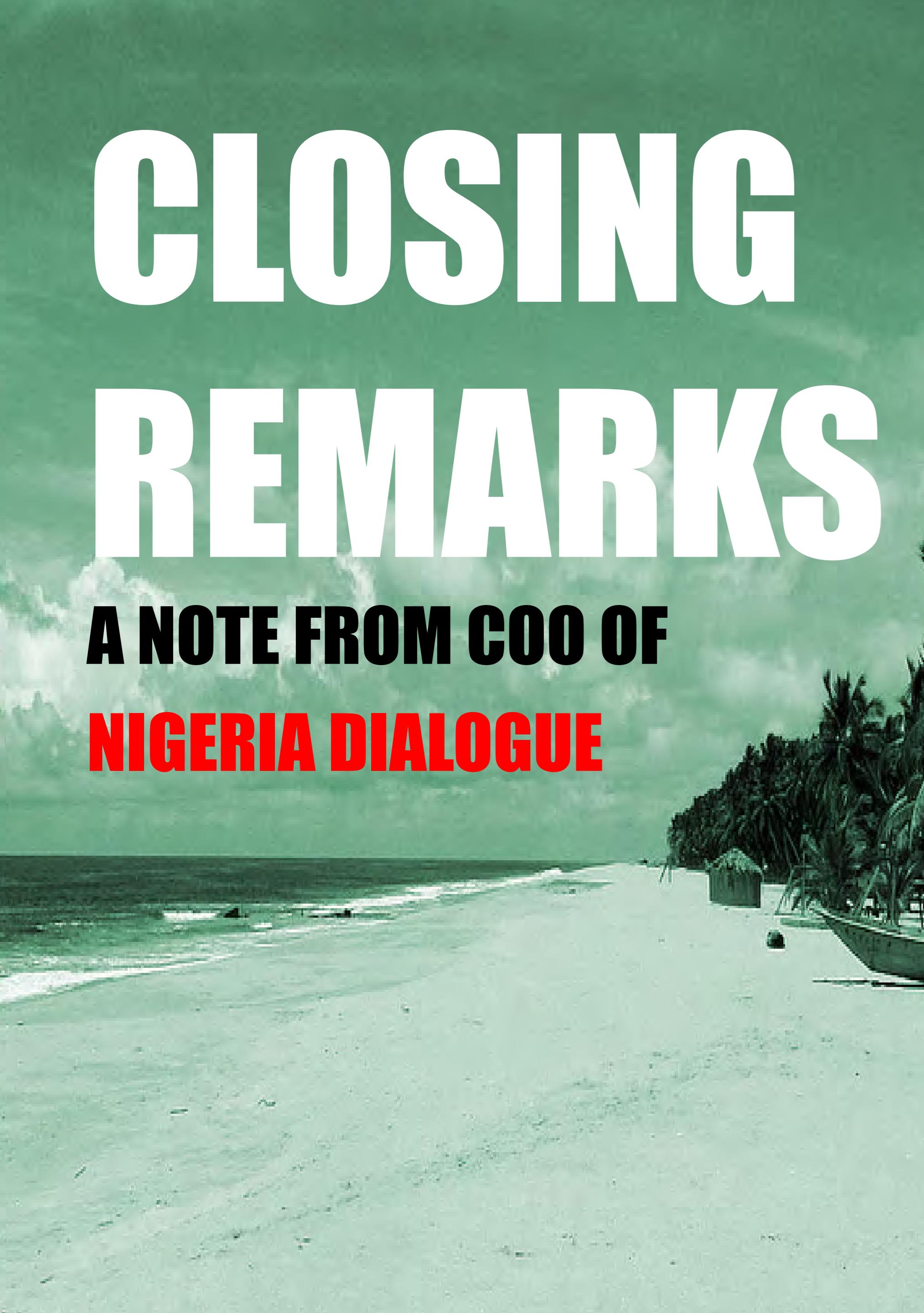
- GET ENDORSEMENTS FROM NOTABLE NIGERIANS WHO ARE APOLITICAL
- SECURE FUNDING TO CREATE AND DISTRIBUTE CAMPAIGN ARTEFACTS
- IMMERSE THE SOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES IN THE NATIONAL PSYCHE THROUGH TOWN HALL MEETINGS, ONLINE AND OFFLINE CAMPAIGNS
- ENGAGE THE STAKEHOLDERS THAT WILL IMPLEMENT THE SOLUTION TO THE IDENTIFIED ISSUES
- ENGAGE THE STAKEHOLDERS THAT WILL IMPLEMENT THE SOLUTION TO THE IDENTIFIED ISSUES

## RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

- ENDORSEMENTS
- INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY
- ARTS COMMUNITY
- PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING
- INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING AGENCIES: USAID, UNESCO, WORLD BANK, DFID

# CLOSING REMARKS

**A NOTE FROM COO OF  
NIGERIA DIALOGUE**



It baffles me that the greatest of social revolutions are predicated on the actions of few individuals who dared to refuse the norm and demand for change even in the most dire circumstances. If anyone had told Rosa Parks that morning as she went to her day job that the history of Blacks in America and across the world was going to change by her act of defiance in refusing to stand up on the bus, she would believed it. Her simple but determined action has affected the history of the world in a remarkable way and changed our lives forever.

The truth about the history of social change, both globally and in Nigeria is that these changes are often triggered by ordinary individuals. Mohamed Bouazizi, the street vendor that initiated the Arab spring that has shaped the face of Arab nations forever was a common man. When the time is right for a social change, nature has a way of throwing up a man, woman or group of people who are ready to stand on the side of the yearnings of the majority to call for a change that is imminent.

From my travels around Nigeria and encounter with Nigerians in Diaspora, I can conclude that the cloud is gathering and well meaning Nigerians are willing to work to build our nation bottom up. History is on

the move again and Nigeria is about to witness the greatest social transformation in a century. The responsibility of being the trigger point can fall on anyone of us who is willing.

In Nigeria Dialogue we believe it is possible for us to create a forum where Nigerians of all ethnicity, class and religion can come together and deliberate on the future of this great nation. We can also use this platform to energize a wave of new thoughts, ideas, opinions and actions that will make Nigeria a civil and developed nation. We plan to generate a new majority that will sensitize our leaders on how to deliver effective governance and hold them accountable for good governance.

I know the battle ahead will be long and our climb will be steep but no matter what obstacles stand in our way nothing can stand in the way of the power of millions of voices calling for change. The choices that we make in the coming years will determine whether our future will be shaped by fear or by freedom, by prevalent poverty or by prosperity, by strife or by a just, secured and developed nation. Together we can build the Nigeria we all crave for... welcome to tomorrow!



LAGOS NIGERIA

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## NAIJA ROAD TOUR

The Naija Road Tour: Nigeria Dialogue intends to visit over 100 higher institutions of learning across the length and breadth of Nigerian over the next 3-5 years.

We would have talk shows, workshops, seminars all facilitating human capital development and political awareness. We plan to use our website as the interface mentor all the young Nigerians that attends our event. We will work in partnership with initiatives within Nigeria to develop visible projects in Nigeria.

## FUNDRAISING BALL FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Nigeria Dialogue's fundraising dinner is an avenue to celebrate everything Nigerian from fashion, sports, media, music, politics and academia. It is an evening to relax with accomplished Nigerians from all works of life who have come out in style to support Nigeria Dialogue's activities in Nigeria and in Diaspora.

## TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The Nigeria Dialogue Town Hall meeting is the avenue we use to engage Nigerian leaders – past, present and future in a conversation about our collective future as a nation. Our meetings are participatory in nature and it affords Nigerians the opportunity to make direct contribution into governance.

We intend to engage the critical mass of Nigerian leaders in meaningful dialogues, in a structured manner that translates into measurable actions. These town hall meetings give us the opportunity aggregating diverse content from different participants in order to get a 'Single view of the truth'. This truth in turn drives the policies that Nigeria Dialogue will lobby the government to implement.

To find out more about our upcoming events, please visit

**[WWW.NIGERIADIALOGUE.COM/EVENTS/](http://WWW.NIGERIADIALOGUE.COM/EVENTS/)**

or contact our Events Team on

**[INFO@NIGERIADIALOGUE.COM](mailto:INFO@NIGERIADIALOGUE.COM)**

# OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT



MARGARET UDOFIA

[HTTP://WWW.MARGARETUDOFIA.COM/](http://WWW.MARGARETUDOFIA.COM/)



EiE



Human Energy™



50kSITES.com



MUYIWA AND RIVERSONGS  
([HTTP://WWW.RIVERSONGZ.COM/](http://WWW.RIVERSONGZ.COM/))

OUR CONTINUOUS AND DEDICATED WORK TO BE THE VOICE OF CHANGE FOR NIGERIA WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.

YOU CAN SUPPORT US BY WAY OF MONETARY SUPPORT AND IN-KIND DONATIONS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A NIGERIA DIALOGUE SPONSOR, PLEASE CONTACT  
**INFO@NIGERIADIALOGUE.COM** OR CALL US ON **+447850131080**

