



# **MANIFESTO**

OF THE

## **SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP)**



*Towards Good Governance  
and Social Justice*



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## THE MANIFESTO OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

### A. PREAMBLE

**The Nigerian state is currently facing severe challenges. These challenges include:**

- ineffective and incompetent leadership;
- insecurity, lawlessness, insurgency and anarchy;
- widespread corruption, poverty and nepotism;
- over-centralized governance, rule of might, injustice and inequitable distribution of wealth;
- absence of cohesive national identity, ethnic disharmony and religious intolerance;
- severely weak national economy, weak currency, unemployment and very low incomes;
- ineffectual education and healthcare systems; and
- Women and youth exclusion, unemployment, under deployment of the nation's human resources and low productivity.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) is determined to tackle these challenges head on. Over the years, it has remained a dependable political platform. It is the only political party that has won a national election that cut across ethnic, religious, cultural and other divides.

The SDP strongly believes that democracy must be people-driven, people-focused and must produce good governance leading to development. This belief remains the party's strongest pillar in its avowed resolve to save our dear nation from the failures of past governments to meet the yearnings and aspirations of the citizenry.

Indeed, the creative capabilities and industry of our people are the most important productive forces of the nation.

SDP affirms that people matter more than things. They generate the ideas that attract resources of economic value to create wealth, generate prosperity and drive national development. Therefore, the SDP believes in massively investing in the Nigerian People, so as to deepen their knowledge systems and sharpen their productive skills.

Above all, the SDP holds that the dignity of the human person and the sanctity of life are non-negotiable.

An SDP Government will foster an inclusive economy that will promote cooperation, solidarity and their attendant values, enabling it to create and distribute wealth fairly and equitably.

Further, an SDP Government shall put in place an effective and functional social security system to cover basic rights. The programme will have a corresponding multiplier effect on local production, community integration and uplifting the standard of living in rural areas.

We are determined to ensure, to the best of our abilities, that no Nigerian should go to bed hungry. To this end, our social contract with the Nigerian people is rooted in our ability to provide effective leadership that enthrones good governance, rapid development, with social justice.

The SDP shall implement a well-articulated economic blueprint designed to focus on wealth creation, in partnership with the private sector.

Strategic emphasis shall be placed on inclusive and sustainable development, not just mere growth. The fiscal and monetary policies of an SDP Government will promote a production and export-based economy that will ensure a departure from the current consumption and import-based economy.

SDP notes that one of the major challenges of governance in Nigeria is a near system-collapse, characterized by personality cult, cabal patronage, prebendalism, weak enforcement of regulations, impunity, lack of corporate integrity and much more.

To us, a functional system consists of structures, processes, standard operating procedures and functional checklists that are strictly followed but subject to periodic review to accommodate smart ideas and innovations. These are the attributes that enhance predictability which is the hallmark of a functional economic system that in turn guarantees institutional stability.

An SDP Government will strengthen our institutions by creating systems that are jealously guarded by citizens' engagement and more effective enforcement of regulations. Our aim is to create a new economic, social and political order, with a capacity to compete for a dignified space in the new world order. *...Progress!*

## B. FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES

As a political party, we are determined to work together, in partnership with the Nigerian people, to ensure the emergence of this new, credible and stable political order, designed to deepen democracy, deliver good governance, and produce genuine development, rooted in social justice, peace and security.

To this end, we are firmly resolved to build:

- i. A restructured, balanced, equitable and truly functional Nigerian Federation;
- ii. a humane, free, self-reliant and democratic society;
- iii. a dynamic, productive, transformed and sustainable economy;

- iv. a just, fair, egalitarian and peaceful nation;
- v. a land of bright and full opportunities for all Nigerians;
- vi. a national culture of raising good leaders through exemplary practices and effective mentoring;
- vii. a conscious effort to open the political space for greater youth and women inclusion in governance.

## C. CORE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Every progressive and just society is founded, governed, and driven by sound principles and shared core-values.

Pursuant to building a progressive and just society in Nigeria, the SDP shall be founded, governed, and driven by the following as our core-values and principles:

- i. Justice, Equity and Fairness;
- ii. Transparency, Accountability and zero-tolerance for corruption;
- iii. Truth, Integrity, and Honour;
- iv. Respect for human dignity, human rights and the sanctity of human life;
- v. Social democracy, Progressive leadership, Good governance and Sustainable development;
- vi. Peaceful co-existence, Social harmony and Mutual respect;
- vii. Rule of law, Representative democracy and Supremacy of the constitution;
- viii. African solidarity, International cooperation, Common humanity and World peace.

## D. POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND IDEOLOGY

The political philosophy of SDP is deeply inspired and motivated by the ideals of social democracy, placing great emphasis on:

- i. The triumph of social justice;
- ii. The nobility of human dignity;
- iii. The sacredness of human life;
- iv. The harmony of fairness and equity;
- v. The power of working in solidarity to promote social cohesion;
- vi. The excellence of structural balance and good governance, driven by good leadership;
- vii. The wisdom of reforms, inclusive and sustainable development, far beyond mere growth;
- viii. The dignity of wealth creation to alleviate poverty;
- ix. The splendour of prosperity for all within a welfare state;
- x. The imperative of democracy; and
- xi. The security of peace with justice;

## E. PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

With due regard to the above objectives, core values, principles and philosophy, the SDP shall tirelessly pursue effective implementation of the following programmes, namely:

1. Reconciling the Nigerian peoples and restructuring the Federation
2. Ensuring and facilitating human development through:
  - a. Sound and Comprehensive re-orientation in core values;
  - b. Qualitative and free education;
  - c. Empowering youth development and inclusiveness;
  - d. Affordable healthcare services and health insurance;
  - e. Goal-oriented social mobilization in pursuit of collective interests;
  - f. Deepening ICT penetration for human and national development
  - g. Dignity-driven social security options;
  - h. Viable Housing Development; and
  - i. Mainstreaming women participation in governance and nation building;
3. Accelerating the provision of power (Generation, Transmission and Distribution) for national development.
4. Growing and transforming the national economy to be dynamic, productive and sustainable.
5. Transforming agricultural production systems, harnessing water resources and facilitating rural development.
6. Building strategic and value-enhancing infrastructure of highways, railways, airways and waterways for national advancement.
7. Creating Industrial Growth Centres for manufacturing, processing and petro-chemical industries, together with the completion of Ajaokuta Iron and Steel Complex.
8. Developing the country's rich solid mineral resources to create wealth for all.
9. Restoring the Lake Chad, enhancing utilization of the Lake Chad Basin and pursuing the International Green-Wall Project across the Sahel region.
10. Raising Nigeria's Defence capabilities for effective security, peace and public safety.
11. Building a new national reputation of excellence and integrity as a CORE asset, and integrating Nigerians in Diaspora.
12. Refining Nigeria's foreign policy to promote cooperation and integration in Africa, international cooperation, trade and a peaceful world.

**1****RECONCILING THE NIGERIAN PEOPLES AND RESTRUCTURING THE FEDERATION.****Background**

The Nigerian state legally came into existence with the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates in 1914. Subsequently, other policies leading to independence gave rise to the 1960 Constitution and the 1963 Constitution that made the country a federal state.

Military incursions into the governance structure from 1966 to 1998 led to the distortions that resulted in the unitary governance structure. The operation of this structure has largely occasioned the challenges of ethnic disharmony, mutual tribal suspicion, religious intolerance, nepotism, favouritism, impunity, inequity, unfair distribution of national wealth and ineffective exploitation of human and natural resources all over the federation, leading to stunted growth and development of the nation.

These challenges have resulted in creating tensions, disunity, dislike, and outright hatred amongst the peoples of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In view of the foregoing, the SDP Government sees the need to reconcile the peoples of Nigeria and to restructure the federation towards equity and prosperity for a new credible, sustainable political and economic order.

**● Current Issues and Challenges in the Polity:**

Nigeria's centralized system of government, with a failed command-and-control structure, has created bottlenecks that in turn have stunted economic growth, created social inequity and weakened the development process.

Nigeria is presently tethering at the brink of social and economic disintegration and requires restructuring to engender social and economic cohesion. Currently, the federating units do not have constitutional powers to manage their unique problems and concerns, develop and manage their own resources so as to contribute to the well-being of their people and the whole country.

**● The Vision of an SDP Government**

A true federation which promotes social cohesion and encourages competitive economic growth, wealth creation and sustainable development in Nigeria.

What the SDP Intends to do to Solve the Challenges

SDP shall pursue a cohesive and restructured true federation that guarantees citizens' rights, mutual respect, peace and freedom to exploit and deploy without hindrance, their talents, land, resources and any other assets and endowments.

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch a nation-wide reorientation campaign to mobilise Nigerians towards a value-based culture of patriotism, national identity, citizen-care and dignity.</li> <li>Review all documentations emanating from conferences and results of researches relating to restructuring of the nation.</li> <li>Build national consensus by setting up zonal conferences leading to a national conference to discuss the outcomes of the review and develop shared core values.</li> <li>Develop the framework for a new federal structure for Nigeria.</li> <li>Articulate a national educational plan aimed at producing the requisite competencies and skills for harnessing the natural resources of the federation.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Translate the framework into a new national constitution.</li> <li>Evolve a framework for supporting the federating units to maximally develop their human and natural resources as appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the new governance structure based on the principles of equity, justice and fairness to all Nigerians.</li> </ul>

### Means of Funding

- Budgetary allocations

### Expected Benefits

A patriotic citizenry and true federation that:

- I. is better informed, reoriented and freshly mobilized for national cohesion, nation building and development;
- ii. allows each federating unit to locally identify and closely monitor leadership for public governance;
- iii. encourages competitive economic growth, wealth creation and sustainable development across the federating units;
- iv. challenges nepotism, corruption, sundry abuses of public office privileges by both elected and appointed officials; and
- v. is capable of developing and managing its rich mineral and agricultural resources and develop an economic value chain that guarantees sustainable development of the country.

## Conclusion

A functional and restructured Nigeria is a sine qua non for a credible and stable political order in Nigeria. In addition to protecting and guaranteeing the freedom of every citizen, it enhances the capacities of the federating units to develop at their own pace and make Nigeria great.



**2****ENSURING AND FACILITATING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH:**

- i. Sound and Comprehensive re-orientation in core values;
- ii. Qualitative and free education;
- iii. Empowering youth development and inclusiveness;
- iv. Quality, affordable healthcare delivery and health insurance;
- v. Goal-oriented social mobilization in pursuit of collective interests;
- vi. Deepening ICT penetration for human and national development
- vii. Dignity-driven social security options;
- viii. Viable Housing Development and Delivery; and
- ix. Mainstreaming women participation in governance and nation building;

**i. Sound and Comprehensive Reorientation of Core Values****Background**

While the core process of human development is anchored on general education, the right orientation and mind-set that gives “National Character” comes from the societal core values. The SDP believes that any plans for national transformation must include the reshaping of our value system, national character and image system. The objective would be to align national aspirations for sustainable development with a system of core values that improve rule-keeping in public service, breeds respect for due processes, reversal of misplaced values, the adoption of a new national code of honour and the promotion of ethical living and human dignity.

**Current issues and challenges in the sector**

Our national values are under pressure from negative counter-values that undermine patriotism, selfless leadership, probity and national cohesion. These counter-values have permeated every aspect of our national life, leading to youth disorientation, a political culture of impunity, a national economy that is driven by distribution and consumption, violation of the tenets of responsible public service and complete disregard for any ennobling, overarching national ethos. The result is that the nation now seems not to have a development-focused set of core values and national political culture.

**The vision of an SDP Government on the sector**

To this end, SDP will foster a Nigeria national culture that promotes patriotism, an equitable reward system, value-oriented education, delayed gratification, respect for hard work and productivity, sanctity of life and collective contributions to building the Nigerian nation.

## What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenges in the sector

- Design of a comprehensive national values reorientation programme, isolating and focusing on areas of urgent intervention;
- Create or strengthen appropriate framework and structure for recognizing and celebrating excellence across the nation;
- Disaggregation into national cells, made up of wards;
- A national Train-the-Trainer programme to create the needed human resource pool for a national roll-out;
- Introduction of a national political education programme, to be done in collaboration with INEC and all political parties;
- Political education for parties on mobilization;
- Introduction of a biennial conference of students union leaders and leaders of youth associations;
- Statewide roundtables on gender equity and mainstreaming.

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggregation of extant reports and templates used by previous government.</li> <li>• Extraction of valuable and implementable insights.</li> <li>• Design of new national orientation templates.</li> <li>• Delineation of cells and programme outlook.</li> <li>• National Training of Trainers.</li> <li>• Institute a deeper and more meaningful process of imbibing and living a culture of excellence in the polity.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drill-down of values reorientation programme across the nation.</li> <li>• Introduction of a national political education programme, in collaboration with INEC and all political parties;</li> <li>• Political education for parties on mobilization;</li> <li>• Introduction of a biennial conference of students union leaders and leaders of youth associations;</li> <li>• Statewide roundtables on gender equity and mainstreaming.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly State Roundtables for Monitoring and Evaluation of progress of values re-orientation cells.</li> <li>• Competitive engagement of national institutions, youth and women organizations, etc. for "Best Practices Awards".</li> <li>• Simultaneous continuation of existing orientation of values reorientation programmes at all levels.</li> </ul>

## Means of funding

- National budget;
- Support from development partners.

## Expected benefits

- Stable and forward-looking national values;
- A new, development-focused national political culture;
- Improved political behaviour and outcomes;
- Better guided, and more responsible youths;
- A new national leadership recruitment template;
- A modern Nigerian state of the 21st century.

## Conclusion

Nations are built on values, not material resources. That is why the question of creating, entrenching and maintaining a set of 21st Century national values is central to the plans of SDP for Nigeria.



## ii. Qualitative and Free Education

### Background

For Nigeria to modernize, develop, be peaceful and prosper, quality and free education must be provided for all the citizens at basic education levels. In pursuit of this goal the SDP will place high premium on qualitative, free and functional education, and compulsory basic education, which the SDP identifies as the most important of education in a child's development stage.

The SDP Government's commitment is to put in place an effective and functional educational system that would be aligned effectively to fund citizens to attain quality educational heights, aligned with the developmental needs of Nigeria and be competitive in today's knowledge economy.

### Current issues and challenges in the Sector

SDP's overview of Nigeria's education system shows that it is far from optimal, and to say the least in ashambles and comatose. Over 13 million children are out of school. Infrastructural deficit and decay are widespread. Unqualified teachers and inadequate instructional materials have become pervasive. 'Not-fit-for-purpose' curricula are rampant. Industrial disharmony has disrupted academic calendars too frequently.

At all levels, (primary, post primary and tertiary) empirical evidence abound on negligence bordering on criminal negligence, and examination malpractices, cultism and other forms of decadence have festered. At the tertiary level, the system ritually produces an annual turn-over of unemployable graduates as against the production of human assets required for societal growth and development.

In the last two decades, the annual budgetary allocation to education in Nigeria has at the highest been 10.78%, tailing down to the lowest of 4%. This is far behind what other comparable countries allocate. It is even completely out of the league of the international benchmark of 26% which has been surpassed by at least four other African countries including Ghana at 31%.

### The vision of an SDP Government for the sector

A well-funded 21st-century quality and free education, undergirding a new, credible and stable political order, designed to deepen democracy, deliver good governance, and produce genuine development, rooted in social justice, peace and security in Nigeria.

## What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenge in the sector

- Recruitment, professionalization and retention of qualified and adequate manpower (academic, administrative, technical, etc) for a 21st-century education system.
- Provision of adequate funding and quality infrastructure (classrooms, lecture halls, library facilities, technical and vocational equipment, ICT facilities, etc), commensurate with needs of the 21st century education system.
- Provision of tuition-free education and its ancillaries, including free feeding, free books, free accommodation, free transportation, free uniform and other personal uses of the students, while expecting parents or guardians to discharge their appropriate responsibilities towards their wards.
- Renewal and reinvigoration of character building within the education system, alongside academic and vocational excellence, focused on rebuilding Nigeria on a sure foundation of integrity and moral uprightness.
- Removal of every socio-cultural impediment to the full participation of Nigerians in quality and free education.
- Promotion of industrial peace and collective bargaining within the education system in line with the ILO standards, to minimize disruption in educational services.



## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term: 100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a comprehensive audit of access, staffing and infrastructural requirements</li> <li>Conduct a 'fit for purpose' review of curricula</li> <li>Significantly increase the percentages of funding to education through review of statutory annual allocations and repositioning of grants-in-aid (including TETFUND)</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term: 1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build or revamp more schools to meet the access and infrastructural requirements</li> <li>Commence delivery of the comprehensive free educational services</li> <li>Professionalize teaching by retraining existing personnel in 21st century pedagogy and training technology, attracting new best brains and improving conditions of service (including prompt promotion and attractive remuneration)</li> <li>Reconfigure the system to deliver national values-based education to underpin the SDP vision for Nigeria.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term: 3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and strengthen the science and technology component of the education system</li> <li>Review and commence the dismantling of socio-cultural impediments to full participation in education</li> <li>Review and redesign mechanisms for enhanced industrial peace and collective bargaining for the education system, including the collegiate system and internal democracy in appointments and committee responsibilities.</li> </ul>

### Means of funding

Social Democratic Party  
...Progress!

- Deploy increased statutory allocations and grants (including TETFUND).
- Promote Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the financing and support to educational institutions, including private proprietorship of schools and universities, within a strict framework to ensure compliance with minimum standards and quality assurance, and the production of quality entrepreneurial citizenry as against pure profit maximization.
- Facilitate the Triple Helix model of Government, Industry and Educational Institutions partnering to fund R&D activities of the education system.
- Encourage philanthropic support for the education system, especially the science and technology agenda.

## Expected benefits

- Higher rate of literacy and educated citizenry.
- Increased turn-over of entrepreneurially-minded graduates and reduced graduate ‘unemployability’ syndrome.
- Transformation from production-based to knowledge-based economy.
- Greater capacity for effective dispute resolution at personal and national levels, and lesser proclivity for mindless violence, destruction of life and property, and breach of security.

## Conclusion

In today's world, knowledge has become the major creator of wealth. Countries and regions of the world are now prospecting for highly educated and skillful global citizens. They are also migrating from production-based to knowledge-based economies.

Quality and free education is Nigeria's key to transforming into a knowledge-based economy.

With that will come a greater capacity to provide for the people's welfare which is part of the primary responsibility of government.

Educated populace is a sine qua non for a successful social democracy. At this stage of Nigeria as an underdeveloped country, quality and free education is highly required to lift the level and power of knowledge for development. As a resource-rich country, affordability for this type of education should not be an issue.



Social Democratic Party  
...Progress!

### iii. Empowering youth development and inclusiveness to raise viable, credible and efficient replacement generation

#### Background

Nigeria's population is said to have reached about 198 million people (NpoC, 2018). The National Population Commission states that about half of this number is made up of youth, defined as individuals between the 15 and 34 years of age. These young people should ordinarily be part of the productive sector of the economy that will engender growth and development. They constitute the greatest asset of the population and can help drive economic development with their youthful strength.

Any nation that fails to recognize the potentials of its youth endangers its future. Therefore, youth development and inclusiveness are key aspects of the SDP programme in ensuring and raising a replacement generation for our country.

#### Current issues and challenges

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, unemployment and underemployment for the youth segment of the population combined in the country, escalated to 40 percent in second quarter 2017. This comes with the challenges of youth restiveness, insecurity, and disillusionment.. These challenges have been largely due to failure of leadership in addressing the following:

- Falling standard of education
- High unemployment rate and poverty
- Inadequate rural development leading to mass urban migration and human trafficking.
- Dearth of gainful engagement leading to brain drain
- Inadequate technical and entrepreneurial training
- Dysfunctional participation in politics

The SDP Government shall address these failures and harness the potentials of the youth towards national development.

#### The vision of an SDP Government for the Youth

An empowered youth, as a ready replacement generation, for a new credible and stable political order.

## What the SDP Intends to do to Solve the Challenges

- Overhaul the education sector and update the curricula to enhance employability and entrepreneurial activities of the youth.
- Develop the real sector to expand job opportunities for graduates.
- Encourage proper involvement in politics
- Overhaul the security architecture to respect the rights and responsibilities of the youth
- Develop the rural area to be attractive to the youth
- Enhance the value chain of the sporting industry to be attractive and conducive for the youth.
- Develop the general economy to enable the youth actualise their dreams and aspirations

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene a National Youth Summit through the SDP Youth Parliament.</li> <li>• Renovate and rebuild dilapidated tertiary educational infrastructures to make them conducive for learning.</li> <li>• Upgrade technical and vocational institutions to foster entrepreneurial and practical skills</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit educational curricula and make them relevant to the world of work.</li> <li>• Develop a comprehensive empowerment plan that will make all sectors of the economy, particularly agriculture, attractive for youth participation.</li> <li>• Engage international sporting organizations and the allied companies in a strategic partnership with the National Sports Commission to professionalize sports as a career path for young Nigerians.</li> <li>• Establish Social Democratic Institute to mentor the youth in functional politics, value re-orientation and leadership.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and support youths with exceptional talents to develop and commercialize their ideas, skills and innovations</li> </ul>

### Means of funding

- Budgetary allocations and grants
- Crowd-funding.
- International Agencies
- Institutional Funding

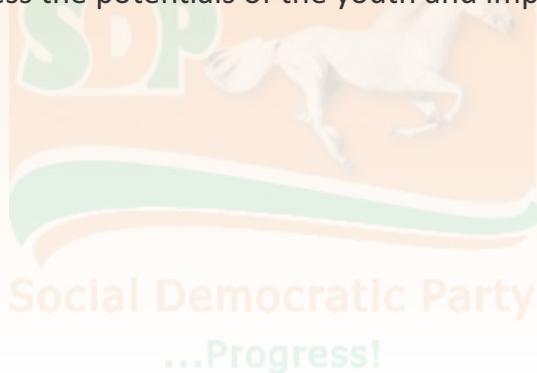
### Expected benefits

- Inspire hope and patriotism in young Nigerians for their country again.
- Re-orientation towards meritocracy, good values and wealth creation.
- Job creation.
- Increased sense of security.
- Engender the culture of hard work, study and reading.
- Youth inclusiveness in nation-building, governance and decision-making.
- Emergence of young professionals that can compete favorably in the global arena.
- Reduce brain-drain from emigration.

### Conclusion

The development of the Nigeria economy depends on the state of the youth which constitutes a significant proportion of the population.

An SDP government shall develop and implement a comprehensive youth empowerment programme that will harness the potentials of the youth and impact positively on the society.



#### iv. Quality, affordable healthcare delivery and health insurance

##### Background

Health is wealth and the greatest dividend of democracy. Nigeria is ranked very low globally in healthcare delivery. From pregnancy through childhood to adult life, the health threats to the Nigerian life are legion. The country faces the triple jeopardy of persistent high prevalence of communicable diseases, re-emerging infections, and increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases. Yet, there is no commensurate response to these existential threats.

The annual budget for healthcare delivery has remained abysmally low, in spite of the huge health challenges. Further, the low allocation even when eventually released is not well applied. Nigeria is no longer in short supply of legislation and policy instruments to steer the nation's health sector to optimal performance. What is lacking is a strong political will at the highest level of leadership.

An SDP Government shall provide comprehensive, qualitative and affordable healthcare delivery to Nigerians.

##### Current issues and challenges in the sector

The framework for any health system stands on six building blocks (WHO). These are:

- i. Service delivery,
- ii. Health workforce,
- iii. Health information systems,
- iv. Access to essential medicines and technologies,
- v. Financing, and
- vi. Leadership/Governance.



There are serious challenges in all these areas. Therefore, the expected results cannot be realized. There is a yawning gap between needs and resource availability. Service delivery is poor and modern equipment is rarely available or not functioning. Notably, the Primary Healthcare System is dysfunctional, constituting 70-80% of healthcare challenges in Nigeria. Little wonder, many Nigerians resort to medical tourism overseas.

##### The vision of an SDP Government for the sector

A comprehensive healthcare delivery system and coverage supporting high quality of life in a new, credible and stable political order.

## What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenges in the sector

- Review of laws and policy instruments on healthcare delivery.
- Development and implementation of a robust health reform agenda.
- Establishment of partnerships with CSOs and professional associations like the NMA and other stakeholders for effective healthcare delivery.

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit all laws and policy instruments on healthcare delivery.</li> <li>• Commence full implementation of the National Health Act paying greater attention to the time-bound provisions</li> <li>• A comprehensive audit of health workforce requirement to determine current manpower needs.</li> <li>• Review and commence implementation of the recommendations of National Immunization Task Team (NIFT) on Sustainable Immunization Financing (SIF).</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate improved healthcare delivery system, engaging the public for ownership and cooperation.</li> <li>• Seek creative, innovative and alternative healthcare financing options.</li> <li>• Review the participation of development partners and foreign donors with a view to aligning donor assistance with national priorities.</li> <li>• Promote health as a social right for all citizens</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand and strengthen health insurance schemes.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>...Progress!</i></p>

## Means of funding

- Budgetary allocations.
- Donor funds.
- Voluntary support.
- Indigenous partnerships with private institutions and practitioners.

## Expected benefits

- A healthier nation.
- Improved productivity.
- Reduced risks of epidemics and improvement of containment efforts if one happens.
- Reduced child-mortality rate in women.
- Improvement in life-expectancy.
- A more hygienic environment.

## Conclusion

The health sector is a key and important aspect of any nation's development. The SDP Government will ensure comprehensive health delivery for all.



## v. Goal-oriented social mobilization in pursuit of collective interests

### Background

An emergent political culture of money politics has progressively robbed the nation of the vital element of “ideology-driven politics” over the years. The result is a new political culture that does not foster political party membership that is based on personal conviction and commitment. This is what the SDP wants to change, by introducing, and entrenching once more, the true kernel of politics, which is mobilization. It is political mobilization that leads to “people ownership” of political parties and mass movements in the promotion and propagation of their ideologies.

### Current issues and challenges in the sector

1. Political parties not bound, or guided, by any clear ideological positions;
2. Politicians who see political office as a means of livelihood, rather than a call to service;
3. A political followership that is confounded and unable to make informed decisions;
4. A distant political leadership that does not create a feeling of belonging among the rank and file.

### The Vision of an SDP Government on the sector

A nation driven and dominated by a patriotic national mass movement for inclusive governance and development.

### What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenges in the sector

- Introduce into the polity ideology-based political engagement and process.
- Mobilize civil society to embrace and insist on enthroning a robust system of politics of ideology.
- Facilitate the buy-in of political parties to emphasize ideology-driven politics.

### How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the ideological base of political parties</li> <li>• Incorporate the importance of ideology in the national political education programme.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectively utilize the national gains from the short-termprogrammes and other gains from the national values reorientation programme</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous engagement of citizens towards social mobilisation.</li> </ul>

## Means of funding

- National budget
- State budgets
- Support from development partners

## Expected benefits

- Responsible political engagements
- Informed political decisions
- Ideology-driven national political debates
- Politics of ideological contests, rather than cash battles

## Conclusion

It is only ideology-determined politics that can make Nigeria a respected member of a 21st-century assembly of nations.



## vi. Deepening ICT infrastructure and penetration for human and national development

### Background

Information Communication Technology (ICT) has revolutionized all aspects of human engagements, from business, politics, agriculture, healthcare and governance. Strategic movement towards digital and electronic transition is undeniably the new world order.

Information and communication technology with its ardent potentials have the capacity to transform economies into a progressive, competitive and sustainable mode, if proper policy and investments are engaged in the sector.

ICT is vital to most aspects of today's interactions. Nigeria has been slow in taking appropriate advantage of the gains of mainstreaming ICT, which has enormous potential for employment generation and wealth. In Nigeria, ICT presents a huge prospect for economic development and fast becoming a means for attractive national resource pull for local and foreign investment.

### Current issues and challenges in the sector

As Information Communication Technology (ICT) is taking over most aspects of our daily living in Nigeria, there are so many challenges facing this sector in up-scaling the prevalent digital divide:

- ICT infrastructure is poor and inefficient
- Absence of appropriate copyright and patent laws for the sector
- Most Nigerians are slow to imbibing the values and benefits of ICT
- ICT services are not available to many Nigerians owing to high cost of hardware and proximity
- Many Nigerians lack the requisite knowledge, education and ability to access ICT
- The services are expensive; hence, most organizations cannot afford it.

### Other social challenges include;

- Dumping of e-waste
- E-War and hate propaganda
- Cyber crime
- Decline in social activities and cultural imperialism
- Spread of terrorism, fake news and kidnapping

## The vision of an SDP Government

To align Nigeria to the fast pace ICT digital environment, to compete effectively with other nations of the world.

## What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenges

- Increased and make stringent regulations on importation of ICT equipment
- Internet monitoring
- A generation of technopreneurs will be identified and engaged with other technopreneurs in the world for the purpose of creating a Savannah Valley, an ICT Hub for tech, venture capital.
- Formulation of IT development framework bill to address local IT challenges and economic development.
- Enactment of ICT legislation to scale up creativity in the industry.
- Provision of a special intervention fund
- Review of the CPN Act to key into the Federal Government's Economic Growth and Development Plan
- Institute requisite hardware and software policies, develop infrastructure and provide financial instrument in the ICT sector to foster the rapid development of the sector.
- The SDP government will give strategic attention to the ICT sector, of software industry and information technology-enabled services (ITES), including the business process outsourcing (BPO) to give Nigerians especially the youths active participation in nation building.
- The SDP government will make information and communication technology education compulsory in Nigerian primary, secondary and tertiary education, and empower government ministries, agencies, parastatals and other key institutions to deploy ICT to drive national development.

Social Democratic Party  
...Progress!

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting up a Presidential ICT Task Force and declaring of emergency in the sector</li> <li>Developing ICT hubs in all the zones of the federation to deepen indigenous technology development.</li> <li>Developing communication programmes to reorient the general public, particularly the youths not to base their identity on social media status.</li> <li>Formulate the framework bill to address local IT challenges and economic development.</li> <li>Formulate and deploy innovative ICT curriculum at all levels of education with special focus on the training and re-training of lecturers and teachers of ICT at all levels.</li> <li>Initiate IT intervention training grant for retooling the national workforce.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a constructive policy framework and strategies for the development and growth of local content in Information and Communications Technology (ICT)</li> <li>Develop and implement policy for protection of Intellectual Property in science, technology and promotion of indigenous research.</li> <li>Establishment of the Federal Ministry of Information Technology, among others.</li> <li>Enactment of IT legislation and review the CPN Act.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue deployment of innovative ICT curriculum at all levels of education with special focus on the training and re-training of lecturers and teachers of ICT at all levels</li> <li>Continue expansion of ICT hubs in all zones of the federation.</li> <li>Continue IT intervention training grant for retooling the national workforce</li> </ul>

## Means of funding

- Budgetary allocation
- Institutional funding
- Donor grants
- Venture capital

## Expected benefits

- Institutional efficiency
- Enhanced public sector service delivery
- Improved private sector infrastructure
- Increased private sector profit
- Improved quality of lives
- Increased job opportunities.

## Conclusion

It is imperative that Nigeria is not excluded from the ongoing technological revolution. It is a stark fact that the use of ICT has been integrated into virtually every facet of commerce, education, governance and civic activity and has become a critical factor in creating wealth worldwide. The SDP understands that Nigeria has barely taken a foothold on ICT. The SDP government is committed to providing infrastructure and other resources to mitigate Nigeria's widespread ICT illiteracy and lack as key step creating social and economic prosperity.



## vii. Dignity-driven social security options

### Background

The right to social security marks a distinct stage of development in human civilization. Where it is absent, human beings are unable to live with dignity or freely develop their personality. They are reduced to basic survival; and this produces all the worst consequences for society and future progress.

The 20 most developed economies in the world have effective social security or welfare protection systems, which they believe: foster social inclusion, engender uncommon patriotism, lower criminality (including terrorism, insurgency, and other forms of violence), raise productivity and facilitate transformation in nation-building.

SDP believes in the power of social security to engender uncommon patriotism and provide a notable anti-dote to corruption, both of which are needed for genuine and sustainable development of Nigeria. To this end, the SDP Government shall deliver to Nigerians a dignity-driven welfare protection system as part of its “human development for nation-building” agenda.

### Current issues and challenges

Nigeria has lagged far behind in the global practice of social security. To date, it has instituted only a limited experiment with social security for Nigerian employees, under the ***Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund Act 1993, the National Health Insurance Scheme Act 1999, the Pension Reform Act 2004, and the Employees Compensation Act 2010***. The aged, retired or unemployed citizens are left virtually without universal welfare protections, and this is showing strongly in the prevalence of social maladies.

A major Report in 2009 by a National Working Committee chaired by former Head of State, General Gowon (Rtd), called attention to this situation and urged governments to enact a holistic national social security policy and implement a well coordinated social benefits scheme for citizens. No action has been taken on that Report, to date.

There are questions as to whether Nigeria can fund a holistic social security scheme, considering the very large youth bulge (over 70 per cent of whom are unemployed), the lack of clarity about the federal-state interface in the implementation architecture for the scheme, the lack of records that can help to check abuses under a condition of general proneness to corruption, the unstable and erratic power situation that can hamper ability to keep the data to mitigate manipulation and the ‘scarce’ financial resources.

These questions are not defensible in light of the fact that at least 31 African countries, most

of which have GDPs lower than Nigeria, now operate medium to universal social security systems for their citizens. After reviewing the situation in Nigeria, the Overseas Development Institute (2011) recommended that the Government could “*develop an overarching social protection policy framework to provide clear institutional roles and responsibilities, lay out numerous options for social protection in the country, facilitate dialogue and knowledge exchange on the different types of social protection interventions suitable in the Nigerian context, and promote inter-sectorial and federal-state coordination*”.

It therefore comes down to probity, priority and political will to get this right thing done in Nigeria. The absence of a bold holistic national charter/policy threatens to make Nigeria a pariah state in the assembly of nations.

## The vision of an SDP Government

A Nigerian citizenry protected against socio-economic distress and patriotically committed to building a new, credible and stable political order.

## What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenges

- i. Provision of basic social security of:
  - Medical care
  - Sickness benefit
  - Unemployment benefit
  - Old age benefit
  - Employment-related injury benefit
  - Family benefit
  - Maternity benefit
  - Invalidity benefit
  - High-rate convention of social security
- ii. Employment creation strategies
- iii. Promote participation in regulated insurance scheme
- iv. Implement the Structured Equitable Empowerment Programme (SEEP)
- v. Leverage on already existing legislation, the NSITF ACT 2010.  
Push for the amendment to cover the SEEP
- vi. Policy Drive: Mixed Economy Sharing Intervention to enhance the livelihood of vulnerable Nigerians desirous on being on the Social Welfare Provision Programme

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit existing limited laws and policies</li> <li>Review existing contributory funds</li> <li>Encourage the development of appropriate insurance schemes</li> <li>Develop a comprehensive national social security policy</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop comprehensive bio-data for all Nigerians that can be used for effective assessment of social security needs.</li> <li>Develop and implement frameworks for medical care</li> <li>Develop and implement frameworks for unemployment benefits including documentation of unemployed persons.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate and revitalize the National Directorate of Employment</li> <li>Develop and implement frameworks for old age benefits</li> </ul>

### Means of Funding

- Budgetary allocations
- Contributory funds



### Expected Benefits

- Socio-economically secured citizens
- Improved patriotism
- Increased life expectancy and quality of life
- Employment creation
- Reduced mortality rate
- Reduced delinquency and criminality
- Improved national pride

### Conclusion

Social security is foundational to patriotism and national pride. Therefore, the SDP Government shall introduce a comprehensive system of welfare protection to underpin its agenda for genuine and sustainable development of Nigeria.

## viii. Affordable housing development and delivery

### Background

All over the world, housing is one of the greatly cherished material properties. Underscoring the importance of shelter to all Nigerians, the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria clearly makes it mandatory that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring suitable and adequate shelters are provided for all Nigerians.

Over the years, various national housing policies have been promulgated as possible solutions to the housing problems bedeviling the nation. However, millions of Nigerians are still homeless while others who cannot afford decent houses are living in shanties and squalor unfit for human habitation. The failure to adequately address the backlog of housing deficiencies over the years shows that a more pragmatic solution to this problem is required. Hence, an SDP Government shall direct its energies towards ensuring affordable, quality and environmentally friendly housing for all Nigerians.

### Current issues and challenges in the sector

Nigeria has over 180 million people and seriously deficient in terms of availability of housing to its citizens. Statistics show that Nigeria has a housing deficit of over 17 million on an occupancy ratio of over 6 persons to one house. Many Nigerians are living in excruciating circumstances of houses unfit for decent human habitation such as shanties, slums and uncompleted buildings. There is therefore the need for a holistic approach to address the housing challenge in Nigeria.

### The vision of an SDP Government for the sector

A housing sector, providing comfortable, secured, dignified and environmentally friendly shelters for Nigerians in a new, credible and stable political order.

### What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenges in the sector

- Carry out an audit to determine the level of housing need.
- Review the housing policies to be result-oriented and more effective.
- Overhaul the National Housing Scheme (NHS) and Federal Mortgage Bank (FMBN) to make them more functional and productive.
- Make Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) more efficient and effective.
- Commence, champion and drive a Housing Revolution by building the first 1,000,000 housing units to be completed within 6years.

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out a new audit across the country to evaluate the existing projects and determine the level of housing need.</li> <li>• Review all existing housing policies and make new policies where necessary to address housing challenges.</li> <li>• Review and simplify the processes of NHS for effective delivery.</li> <li>• Mobilise developers and builders for ground-breaking and building of prototypes for the 1,000,000 housing units.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the programme of building 1,000,000 housing units (185,000 housing units nationwide @5,000 per state plus the FCT to be completed annually for the first 5 years and the balance of 75,000 units in the 6th year).</li> <li>• Facilitate the effectiveness of PPP by providing land, roads and other infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the programme of building 1,000,000 housing units.</li> <li>• Carry out effective monitoring, evaluation and validation to ensure qualitative outcome.</li> </ul>

### Means of funding

- National Housing Fund.
- Housing fund raising through donors and Aid agencies.
- Loans from local and international institutions.

### Expected benefits

- Stimulus to national economic growth
- Reinforcement of confidence and quality of life (reduction of the incidence of diseases, improved health, increase in the average life expectancy and national pride).
- Responsible citizenship and patriotism.
- Improved security for citizens.

### Conclusion

Nigeria as the giant of Africa has all the potential, capacity and capability to provide affordable housing to its citizens through a well-coordinated approach.

The SDP Government shall make great impact in this direction by implementing effectively its Housing Revolution.

## ix. Mainstreaming women participation in governance and nation building

### Background

Women are considered as the backbone of the family and the bedrock of a nation. They are the managers of their homes and share a core value of caring for others. Even though recently women have become actively involved in the country's politics unlike before, nevertheless, they are still faced with some challenges that limit their chances of participation. However, the role of women in Nigeria can be re-energised by according them the desired and deserved attention like it is in other parts of the world.

### Current issues and challenges in the sector

Looking at most sectors across the facet of leadership, today women are still faced with issues such as getting elected to party offices and general election to exalted offices. It is also difficult for women to even access any support services, e.g.

- Finance and investment opportunities to sustain their businesses;
- Access to inheritance;
- Quality education;
- Leadership roles at places of work;
- Housing and health facilities; justice in times of conflicts and many more.

### The vision of an SDP Government on the Sector

Make it easy for women's active participation in politics to make democracy stronger; train women to attain leadership and other influential positions.

### What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenges in the sector

SDP government will strongly ensure the full integration of women into the mainstream of development to improve their capacities for better economic growth, political and social status as means of developing the country's human capital for national and economic growth.

#### ...Progress!

SDP shall encourage, pursue/ensure that the principles and provision of a policy on women's integration in mainstream of development and polity as will be/contained in the Nigerian Constitution are effectively implemented.

Ensures implementation of more than 30% affirmative action of women representation in all tiers of government

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term: 100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast-track the integration of the female gender into all areas of leadership in the society.</li> <li>Creation of Women parliament to enhance women participation to governance</li> <li>Appointment of women to strategic offices</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term: 1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaging women in capacity building and skills acquisition</li> <li>Providing financial instrument for greater access to capital to enhance participation in SME</li> <li>Driving policy reforms that will ensure increased access to land resources</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term: 3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empowering women for effective participation and equal opportunity in leadership at all levels</li> <li>Driving inclusive and quality education for all women and girls across the Federation</li> <li>Providing women focus health policy that will ensure access to qualitative healthcare.</li> </ul>

### Means of funding

Full participation of women in the political activities of the country can be achieved if they have the resources to back up their aspirations. Donor agencies and the government can also be of help through grants.

### Expected benefits

- Women will gain self-consciousness.
- Economic growth and efficiency will be achieved in given priority of Government through empowerment of women with appropriate educational skills development and encouragement and support through various programmes that women can take advantage of.

### Conclusion

Patriarchy, ideology and legal framework in Nigeria give men ascendancy in inheritance. Therefore, efforts will be geared through education, enlightenment and national awareness programmes to discourage gradually the methods used in the society to prop up patriarchy.

The National Policy on women shall eliminate all those aspects of the nation's culture that inhibit the development of positive self-identity of women and their participation in society. This can be done through the mass media, formal and informal education.

**3****ACCELERATING THE PROVISION OF POWER (GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION) FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.****Background**

Power is a critical infrastructure for a sustainable development of political economy. It is indeed an index of the level of civilization of a nation. As Nigeria attempts to make a transition to an industrial society, power is the key either in terms of point of use or energy consumption.

To achieve the power requirement, various Nigerian Governments have made frantic efforts to reform the electricity industry. These efforts have not delivered this sector from chronic inefficiency and embarrassing failure. For instance, commercial viability and efficient service delivery remain a mirage.

The SDP Government shall prioritize this sector in its national development agenda.

**Current issues and challenges in the sector**

- Although, Nigeria has 12,522MW of installed capacity, an average of only 3,879MW of capacity is operational (2015 estimates).
- Nigeria is yet to provide sufficient power to service its teeming population.
- Nigeria's transmission system has the capacity to transmit ~5,300MW but is disrupted by system collapses and frequent forced outages.
- Nigeria's distribution companies suffer significant losses, with ~46% of energy lost due through technical, commercial and collection issues.
- The power sector reform which was predicated on the magic of the market has not worked as envisaged. With liberalization and privatization of the electricity industry, Nigerian policymakers expected a transformation in the power sector. Results post-privatization have not justified the faith and resources invested in the reform. There is now buyers' regrets and calls by policymakers and important personalities in Nigeria to reverse the privatization, which is the heart of the power-sector reform.
- The lack of adequate financial investment and efficient management remain the bane of the sector.
- Inadequate supply of meters is a major irritation for Nigerians.
- Need to expand the transmission and distribution networks.
- Unfriendly and uncoordinated regulatory environment which frustrates the power providers and militates against the ease of doing business.

**The vision of an SDP Government**

Adequate and reliable power provision which facilitates economic development and enhances good quality of life for Nigerians.

## What the SDP Intends to Do to Solve the Challenges

- Review the power sector reform to accommodate the need to facilitate the much-needed finance for capacity growth and improvement in electricity service delivery.
- Build additional hydro-electric power stations at viable and strategic sites in collaboration with river basin authorities to increase generation from renewable sources of energy.
- Develop a strategic plan to rapidly expand the transmission and distribution grid by easing the process of obtaining ‘Rights of Way’. For instance, a possible collaboration with the Nigeria Railway Corporation to use its existing ‘Rights of Way’
- Harmonize the legislation and policy between the Oil and Gas sector and the Power sector to make local trading market for gas resources attractive e.g. Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) jointly determining appropriate price in Multi Year Tariff Order (MYTO)
- Implement the Hydro-Electric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPERDEC) Act to foster harmony in power station communities.
- Create a Robust Backup Credit base for the power off-take arrangements Nigeria Bulk Electricity Trading Company (NBET) for securitization and prompt payments for power trading in addition to the provisions of the World Bank Partial Risk Guarantee (PRG) e.g. China Model.
- Strengthen implementation and investment in Micro Grids.
- Get Nigeria Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA) and NERC to jointly create a new tariff order for nuclear power generation plants in Nigeria. Nigeria is on the United Nations safe list for Nuclear Power development.
- Re-invest and expand the existing distribution network and metering companies to cover more consumers nationwide, harmonizing it with the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) projects.
- Continue build-out, expansion and completion of the power system to fit into the National Gas Grid Masterplan, thus integrating existing power plants and new Independent Power Plants (IPP). ...**Progress!**
- Design, plan and implement infrastructure for industrial parks, near power plants as stimulant for Industrial Revolution.
- Strengthen the National Power Training Institute of Nigeria (NAPTIN) in all geopolitical zones for practical handling of power-sector equipment and installation with certification and licensing for the industry practitioners.

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term: 100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the power sector reform to facilitate improvement in electricity service delivery.</li> <li>• Develop a strategic plan to rapidly expand the transmission and distribution of power</li> <li>• Harmonize the legislation, policy and relationship between the Oil and Gas sector and the Power sector that impede effectiveness of the related sectors.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term: 1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build additional hydro-electric power stations at viable and strategic sites in collaboration with river basin authorities to increase generation from renewable sources of energy.</li> <li>• Strengthen implementation and investment in Micro Grids.</li> <li>• Re-invest and expand the existing distribution network and metering companies to cover more consumers nationwide, harmonizing it with the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) projects.</li> <li>• Design, plan and implement infrastructure for industrial parks, near power plants as stimulant for Industrial Revolution.</li> <li>• Strengthen the National Power Training Institute of Nigeria (NAPTIN) in all geopolitical zones for practical handling of power sector equipment and installation with certification and licensing for the industry practitioners.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term: 3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the development, expansion and completion of the National Gas Grid Masterplan to fit the existing power system, thus integrating both the existing power plants and new Independent Power Plants (IPP).</li> <li>• Design, plan and build nuclear power plants in strategic locations.</li> <li>• Strengthen and increase the credits and fiscal back-bone of Nigeria Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET) for the power sector.</li> </ul>

## Means of funding

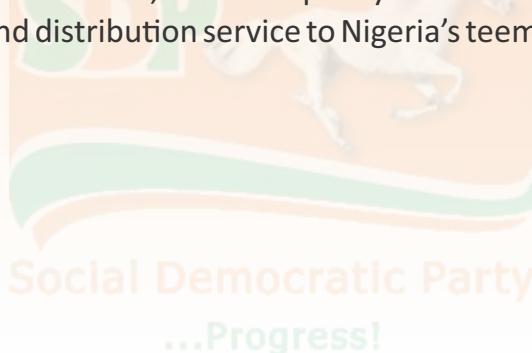
- Attract private sector investment overseas.
- National budget.
- National Integrated Power Project (NIPP) Continuous Funding Model of 3-tiers Government revenues.
- Consumer financing and buyers' credit.
- Multilateral financial institutions.
- International development partners assistance.

## Expected benefits

- Improved revenue profile of the electricity industry
- A cost reflective tariff justifiable by an improved power quality
- More investments into the Nigerian power sector
- Lasting solution to the metering problem
- Consumer adequate feedback mechanism for abused estimated billing.
- Promotes the discipline of proper pricing and encourages the discipline of public consultation.
- Proper regulation for private firms to ensure prudence and relevance.

## Conclusion

The SDP Government will implement legislatures and policies that guarantee maximum improvement of power infrastructure, human capacity and ownership for sufficient power generation, transmission and distribution service to Nigeria's teeming population.



**4****GROWING AND TRANSFORMING THE NATIONAL ECONOMY TO BE DYNAMIC, PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE****Background**

The Nigerian economy requires immediate and urgent intervention towards sustainable and inclusive growth. Any meaningful economic recovery must re-establish growth in purchasing power, restore demand and consumer spending and ultimately create new capital. The SDP will pay critical attention to the economy, as the economy is directly proportional to the livelihood and welfare of Nigerians. The SDP will seek a departure from the current economic models that stifle growth and move towards expansionary economic model that will return the economy to a sustainable growth path. This will be achieved through the overhaul of the current fiscal and monetary policies and the implementation of the party's economic policies that will promote real sector development and growth, driven by investments, production and stable macroeconomic regimes.

**Current issues and challenges in the sector**

Nigeria's richly endowed natural and human resources have been a reverse metaphor to its huge poverty levels, when examining the Gini-Coefficient in Nigeria that reviles a highly non-inclusive economy. Furthermore, this inequitable resource distribution did not decline even with the over 7% GDP growth rate between 2003 and 2013. The SDP covenants that Nigeria's wealth is for all, more so that the nation's resources must be harnessed in a sustainable and responsible manner and made beneficial to all citizens irrespective of creed or class.

**Rent based economy**

The structure of the Nigerian economy is essentially rent-seeking rather than wealth creation. Progressive economies around the world today are strategically focused on wealth creation and the provision of enabling environment for private capital to drive development.

...Progress!

**Poor policy choices**

This is one of the main drawbacks of the Nigerian economy. Successive administrations have failed in this regard. Policy somersault and policy reversals have resulted in local and international investor pessimism, capital flight and underdevelopment.

**Unbalanced budgeting system**

The Nigerian budgeting system is unbalanced and the total budget size insufficient. The structure of the budget is consumption-based with more percentage on recurrent expenditure. Also the budget to gross domestic product ratio is too low and cannot foster any meaningful development.

## Incoherent monetary and fiscal policy

The inconsistencies between fiscal and monetary policies in Nigeria have left the nation's development efforts recursive, to say the least. This is further evident in the current administration's inversely related fiscal and monetary regimes, which largely plunged the economy into recession.

## Consumption driven economy

Sadly the Nigerian economy since the petro-dollar economy has been driven by consumption. Evidently, even in high GDP growth periods, it has been consumption driven. This Dutch disease constitutes trade and balance of payment challenges for the economy, weakens local currency, exports employment to foreign economies and ultimately under-develops the economy.

**Dollarization of the Nigerian economy and unstable foreign exchange regimes** are probably the most injurious oversights by successive administrations in Nigeria. Every naira and kobo in Nigeria is measured in US dollars and cents, private citizens have dollar denominated accounts, the CBN FX intervention is in US dollars, some high end products in Nigeria are valued in US dollar. What is even more anti-growth is the instability of the Value of the Naira.

## Negative Balance of trade

Due to Nigeria's high import bill and low corresponding exports, the country's balance of trade is always in the negative, putting undue pressure on the naira and decreasing national income.

## Poor spending on infrastructure

This has been the bane of Nigeria's economic development. Poor investment in critical infrastructure has made business uncompetitive and created high capital investments. This is surely the most critical factor to Nigeria's underdevelopment.

**Non-supportive banking and financial sector** in the Nigerian economy has made it difficult for start-ups and scale-ups of businesses. This is further distressed by high lending rate, marginal lending to the real sector and poor access to capital.

**Negligible budget size to GDP** has grossly underdeveloped the economy. Whereas other peer economies around the world have reasonable budget size to GDP, for Nigeria over the last decade the ratio has been less than five percent which is anti-development.

**Ineffective and inefficient tax rate and coverage** in the Nigerian economy has made the government to rely solely on receipts from the sale of crude. Nigeria's VAT is the lowest in the West African sub-region. The tax-to-revenue ratio in Nigeria is abysmally low and robs government of essential revenues for investments in critical infrastructure.

**Enormous undocumented informal sector economic activities** in Nigeria have also made planning projections cumbersome and coverage for tax payment and regulation impossible. It is estimated that over 40 percent of economic activities in the Nigerian economy are undocumented.

**Unsustainable deficit budgetary spending** in Nigeria has burnt a huge macroeconomic hole in Nigeria's debt-to-GDP ratio. Most borrowing is made under an unclear repayment plan and heavy borrowing by government from the domestic market has crowded out local entrepreneurs. The Nigerian government essentially borrows for consumption and recurrent expenditure rather than for investment and capital spending.

**Weak institutions and regulatory regimes** have made Nigeria a classic recursive economy. This is further bedeviled by poor contract enforcements and an unfriendly business environment.

### The vision of SDP Government for the sector

SDP vision is to foster a progressive, productive and people-driven national economy transition that is inclusive, sustainable and pro-growth.

### The New Economic Direction

The SDP government will replace the present dysfunctional Fiscal Responsibility Act which is narrow and has prevented the country from implementing a broad-based long-term planning and growth with the **Fiscal Expansionary Act [FEA]**. This fundamental new economic policy direction of the SDP will engender sustained economic growth and enthrones a more broad-based and inclusive economy.

Recent economic nominal figures have shown that the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2007 is unable to ensure sustainable economic growth and development over time. Consequently, the Nigerian economy has been vulnerable to international shocks and commodities volatilities. Evidently, this is why Nigeria has little to show for its huge oil revenues and made long-term planning impossible. The Fiscal Expansionary Act (FEA), when in place will not only promote high economic growth but also foster all-inclusive growth.

In nominal terms, Nigeria's fiscal expenditure is grossly low in ratio to its GDP, especially when compared to similar peer economies. This essentially makes the case for Nigeria to engage in a high fiscal spending model, particularly given that the country has the highest infrastructure deficit among peer economies.

The FRA essentially replicates 'fiscal austerity' for capital expenditure whereas big government is driven by expansive recurrent expenditure, which seems to trigger expensive domestic debts and high level of poverty experienced in Nigeria in the midst of over \$600 billion in oil revenue during the decade.

The enactment of FEA will also ensure long-term and medium-term sector-by-sector planning required of a sustainable and prosperous economy.

## **What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenges in the sector**

1. Refocusing the economic growth drivers from oil and gas receipts to micro, small and medium enterprises. Engaging the Investment, Production and Export model (IPE) for accelerated economic growth.
2. Emphasize competition and effective regulation in the economy. Provide enabling environment in promotion of ideas, technology and innovation.
3. Institute efficient regulations to encourage best practices in all sectors of the economy, by instituting boundaries to regulate the conduct of economic activities in Nigeria.
4. Depart from a rent-based economy by engaging in wealth creation and commercialization initiatives and the provision of an enabling environment for private capital to drive development.
5. The SDP will initiate and implement well-articulated policy choices that will foster growth and development and build investor confidence.
6. SDP will ensure a balanced budgeting system for Nigeria; the budgeting system will be restructured in size, content and composition to reflect nominal economic realities.
7. The Party shall depart from incoherent and inconsistency monetary and fiscal policy, to a stable macroeconomic regime by implementing the Fiscal Expansionary Act.
8. Wealth creation and a production-driven economy will be the focus of an SDP government. This it will achieve in partnership with the private sector by the provision of the requisite enabling environment and financial instruments.
9. All business of government shall be conducted in the country's local currency, while de-emphasizing the dollarization of our local economy in exchange for goods and services between Nigeria and its trading partners.
10. The SDP will renegotiate bilateral and trade agreements where necessary to drastically reduce the country's negative balance of trade and payment receipts.
11. SDP will develop and implement an infrastructure stimulus plan, to be effectively and efficiently deployed to social and critical infrastructure from the accessing of patient capital and shall design a measurable and sustainable repayment plan.
12. The banking sector will be revitalized to be able to lend to the real sector of the economy for growth and development. Strategic emphasis shall be placed on micro, small and medium enterprises, while also paying attention to start-ups and scale-ups of businesses.
13. The SDP shall provide incentives and make policies that will migrate undocumented informal economic business into the formal sector in the Nigerian economy.
14. Responsible deficit budgetary spending will be enthroned in Nigeria; this it will achieve by ensuring all borrowing is geared towards capital expenditure and production.

15. The SDP will strengthen institutions and regulatory agencies; this it will do by emphasizing the right values in human capital and standard operation procedures for all ministries, departments and agencies of government. And also further strengthen contract enforcement laws, patents and copyrights and trademarks.

### How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and strengthen all the legal and fiscal policies governing the sector</li> <li>• Establish new and functional programs for the sector</li> <li>• Development the blueprint for integrated national economic development</li> <li>• Review and strengthen contract enforcement laws, patents and copyrights and trademarks.</li> <li>• Set the agenda for a new inclusive economic order for Nigeria</li> <li>• Engage the private sector on strategic growth drivers framework</li> <li>• Stabilize the exchange rate regime</li> <li>• Provide policy direction and create enabling environment for critical growth drivers</li> <li>• Launch economic blueprint and policy direction based on IPE Model (Investment, Production and Export Model)</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed the Fiscal Expansionary Act</li> <li>• Establish the required support infrastructure to effectively commence deployment of programs</li> <li>• Deploy human and material resources to all identified focal areas</li> <li>• Restructure the budgeting system</li> <li>• Build new inclusive economic systems</li> <li>• Review trade and bilateral agreements</li> <li>• Commence migration of informal businesses in to formal documented systems</li> <li>• Reposition the banking and financial systems</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish effective oversight programs to ensure standardization and sustainability</li> </ul>

## Means of funding

- Residual Government revenue sources
- Tax, levies and tariffs
- Bonds and treasury bills
- Long-term patient capital
- Multi-layer public-private partnerships

## Expected benefits

The FEA will encourage external borrowings because such loans are purely dedicated to increasing investments in infrastructure expansion and upgrade. With less pressure from government borrowing internally, besides the cost of borrowing drastically reducing, there shall be more money domestically for the real sector firms to borrow and as a result, there will be more investment, more growth and more jobs for Nigerians.

Grow the Nigerian economy exponentially to be non-oil-driven, inclusive and production-based for a shared prosperity for all Nigerians.

## Conclusion

The economic policies of the SDP will leap-frog the Nigerian economy into the path of sustainable growth, foster prosperity and increased standard of living for Nigerians.



**5****TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS,  
HARNESSING WATER RESOURCES AND FACILITATING RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT****Background**

The state of agriculture is one of the clearest signs of underdevelopment in Nigeria today. About 82 million hectares or 40% of land in Nigeria is arable. This constitutes about 14% of the 600 million hectares of arable land in Africa, close to 10% of the global total. Yet, Nigeria has lived with the paradox of hunger in the midst of plenty; and food security remains a mirage for most of its citizens.

Data from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) continues to show massive importation of food, especially rice, wheat, sugar and fish, with the four items accounting for a whopping N1 trillion loss to the nation annually. It is estimated that Nigeria has about \$22 billion food import substitution bill, which is threatening the sustainability of food security and the nation's foreign exchange earnings.

**Current issues and challenges**

Currently, the Agriculture sector is characterized by:

- Inconsistent and unreliable policies
- Lack of planning data, especially for the farm sector
- Poor physical infrastructure, e.g. rural roads, storage facilities
- Poor understanding of the role of marketing and very low support for market infrastructure
- Desert encroachment, farmer/nomad clashes and other related security issues
- Low human capital development in agribusiness
- Aging farmers
- Low productivity and profitability in all sub-sectors (Fishery, Crops, Livestock and Forestry)
- High investment costs, resulting in low investments
- Low contribution to the general economy
- Poor access to modern farm implements
- Low yielding crops and seedlings
- Absence of agro-processing and value addition

**The vision of an SDP Government**

Sustainable agricultural productivity and use of renewable natural resources for economic development and well-being of Nigerians in a new, credible and stable political order.

**What an SDP Government intends to do to solve the challenges**

- a. Development of a market-oriented agricultural industry that will deliver on government policies of high agricultural productivity, youth employment and food security.

- b. Development of a Food Processing Policy to bring about a higher value of farm produce for marketing and exports.
- c. Creation of ease of doing business for farmers and agri-business value chain.
- d. Enhancement of agricultural inputs programmes to ensure hybrid production for higher yields.
- e. Encouragement of private-sector initiative to utilize the huge wasting water and land resources in the numerous river basin authorities.

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the inter-relationship for Agricultural Financing and Incentives via BOA; NEXIM; NIRSA; NIPC; CBN; FMARD; FMT&amp;I; BOI; FMOF etc</li> <li>• Re-create NALDA, working with AFAN to reduce land preparation cost, for large-scale farming processes in all states of the Federation as an incentive to encourage the youths back to agri-business.</li> <li>• Revive research and development for sustainable hybrid inputs for maximum output to feed the growing population in partnership with international NGOs and agencies e.g. IITA and Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation.</li> <li>• Enforce relevant laws that promote agri-business.</li> <li>• Harmonize the National Automotive Council Policy with the Agricultural Equipment Import policy or tariffs, excise duty, etc.</li> <li>• Implement specialized agricultural services and training courses for intending operators and owners of farms in Nigeria.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectively utilize the National Grain Reserves and Silos around the Country to store and dry staple food grains.</li> <li>• Build bulk warehousing and storage facilities at: Cargo Airports, Inland Ports, Waterways and Rail.</li> <li>• Re-introduce Marketing Boards for farm produce and a vibrant commodities exchange and Aquaculture for commercial activities and values.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish National Storage and Cooling Plants for perishable farm produce with mobile transportation vessels via air, rail, roads, and inland waterways.</li> <li>• Undertake afforestation and reforestation projects in every state by planting trees for the environment and grass for animal grazing.</li> </ul>

## Means of funding

- Funds for take-off activities will come from regular government budget (sensitization and citizen's engagement, mobilization, production of input seeds, seedlings, fingerlings, etc.)
- Building partnership with international agencies and Donor Partners for Women and Youth Empowerment in agriculture-related matters.
- Environmental funds - domestic and donor.
- Export marketing funds (domestic and foreign trade agencies)
- Green Coalition (a number of them have un-repatriated funds: their existing assets can be used to access funds from the bank).

## Expected benefits

- Employment generation especially for women and youths
- Improved revenue and income generation (individuals and corporate bodies)
- Social cohesion and food security
- Increased contribution to GDP
- Better food and nutrition

## Conclusion

A nation can only make progress by how much it produces and not how much it consumes. Nations create wealth through productivity, increased productivity and continuous productivity. It is through agriculture that Nigeria will regain itself.



**6****BUILDING STRATEGIC AND VALUE-ENHANCING INFRASTRUCTURE OF HIGHWAYS, RAILWAYS, AIRWAYS AND WATERWAYS****Background**

The poor construction, management and maintenance of the transport infrastructure have resulted in an overwhelming number of deaths, wastage of human capital and persistent widespread underdevelopment in Nigeria.

Inadequate network, poor construction and lack of effective maintenance of roads have led to loss of thousands of lives and low socio-economic development. In 2016 alone, 11,363 road accidents were recorded (National Bureau of Statistics). The poor state of transport infrastructure is not any better in the maritime, railway and aviation sub-sectors.

SDP is deeply concerned about this challenging situation in our national life and is strongly resolved to undertake a rescue mission of deploying functional infrastructure.

**Current issues and challenges**

As a result of the country's dysfunctional transport infrastructure, Nigeria is faced with the following challenges:

- Poor road construction.
- Ineffective maintenance system.
- Improper Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) leading to possible seepage of bitumen into the underlying water table with consequent health challenges.
- Security hazards on waterways, roads and airways.
- Loss of income and technical benefits from Bilateral Air Services Agreements (BASA).
- Obsolete railway infrastructure.
- Inadequate development of inland water transport system

**The vision of an SDP Government**

Nigeria as Africa's No.1 Transportation Hub - with the safest airspace, best road network, viable railway and most secured waterways, to sustain a new, credible and stable political order.

**What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenges**

The SDP Government will launch a Transportation Revolution that will involve the following:

- Massive quality road construction across all the geopolitical zones.
- Establishment and implementation of an effective transport maintenance system.
- Undertaking of proper EIA to avoid possible seepage of bitumen into the underlying water table.
- Establishment and implementation of effective security architecture for safety of waterways, roads, railway and airways.

- Ensuring optimal revenue and technical benefits from Bilateral Air Services Agreements (BASA).
- Accelerating the modernisation of railway infrastructure.
- Facilitating optimal development and utilisation of the inland water transport system.

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review all existing fiscal and regulatory policies governing the sector.</li> <li>Carry out a technical audit on all transport sector infrastructure.</li> <li>Establish national utility coordinating bodies comprising relevant stakeholders within the sub-sectors that will align national and sub-national infrastructural plans, including inter-modal transportation.</li> <li>Establish the blueprint for integrated national infrastructure development</li> <li>Commence construction and rehabilitation of key transport infrastructure across the country with focus on:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road network leading to agricultural zones</li> <li>Inland waterways and seaport dredging</li> <li>Airways facilities to enhance tourism and commerce</li> <li>Railway facilities to further mass transit and haulage of goods</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue construction and rehabilitation of key transport infrastructure across the country with focus on:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road network leading to agricultural zones</li> <li>Inland waterways and seaport dredging</li> <li>Airways facilities to enhance tourism and commerce</li> <li>Railway facilities to further mass transit and haulage of goods</li> </ul> </li> <li>Implement effective security architecture for safety of waterways, roads, railway and airways.</li> <li>Facilitate the re-establishment of a national carrier to optimally benefit from BASA and restore national pride.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue and consolidate foregoing interventions.</li> <li>Monitor and evaluate the entire SDP Governments Transportation Revolution.</li> </ul>

## Means of funding

- Public-Private Partnership (PPP).
- Partnership Support from International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).
- Funds from Nigeria's share of Bilateral Air Agreements and Ticketing.
- Tollgates on roads.
- Budgetary Allocation.

## Expected benefits

- Enhanced security, safety and sanctity of life.
- Rebranding of the nation and restoration of national pride.
- Job creation.
- The nation will generate increased yearly income from ticketing.
- Positive impact on agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and technical skills development.
- Improved mass transportation, haulage of goods and commerce.

## Conclusion

The SDP Government's Transportation Revolution will impact the Nigerian nation and its people, transforming lives and restoring human dignity in a new, credible and stable political order.



**7****CREATING INDUSTRIAL GROWTH CENTRES FOR MANUFACTURING, PROCESSING AND PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES TOGETHER WITH THE COMPLETION OF AJAOKUTA IRON AND STEEL COMPLEX.****Background**

In the world's most industrially developed countries, the steel industry has served as the key 'generative' sector. It was the centre of capital accumulation, the basis for a series of linked industries, the source of technological innovations that spread to other sectors, and the model for government-industry relations in the wider economy.

Today, 15 out of the 20 largest economies in the world are among the top 20 crude steel producing countries. Nowhere in this world now can any country industrialize or move its economy forward without a science and technology regime that emphasises iron and steel. Without such emphasis, the country is 'just dreaming'.

Without Ajaokuta Iron and Steel Complex as well as associated industries, being made to be fully operational, Nigeria will dream on fruitlessly. The complex was conceived to be the driving force of Nigeria's quest for technological advancement – just like the steel industry did to foster industrialization for the 20 largest economies in the world.

Various factors, including discouragement from some international bodies, stopped the Ajaokuta project in its tracks when it was already 98% completed. Similar international tactics did not dissuade Egypt, which went on to become the second largest producer of crude steel in Africa - second only to South Africa; and is about the 30th country ahead of Nigeria in the world.

Leadership failure led Nigeria in the wrong path of disregarding Ajaokuta Steel. Nevertheless, the complex remains the most dormant backbone for industrialization in Nigeria. Failure to activate it is a bad omen.

Even the latest revolution coming from nano-science and nano-technology cannot displace the critical place of Ajaokuta Steel in Nigeria's industrialization. The essence of the revolution lies in miniaturization, advanced techniques, and cost effectiveness. These benefits enhance, rather than displace, the steel-based industrial activities. For instance, nano-materials, nano-fluids and nano-membranes are used to improve metallic properties and strength in the manufacturing of pipeline materials and in cleaning of oil spillages and environmental remediation.

**Current issues and challenges**

- Lack of sincerity and tenacity of purpose from the previous regimes has made it difficult to create vibrant and sustainable industrial growth and development in Nigeria.

- Unequal protection from political risks, in favour of foreign investors and against local investors, has discouraged effective investment in industrialization.
- Absence of a functional iron and steel sector to support industrialisation. For instance, the Ajaokuta Iron and Steel complex stalled at 98% completion over two decades ago. In October 2004, the complex was concessioned for a ten- year period to Global Infrastructures Nigeria Ltd. This agreement was terminated by the Federal Government in 2007, and the fallouts are yet to fully settle.

### The vision of an SDP Government

A formidable industrial sector, with a fully operational Ajaokuta Iron and Steel Complex, driving a new, credible and stable political order and economy.

### What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenges

- Review of Nigeria's industrialization policy, with a fully functional Ajaokuta Iron and Steel Complex (as well as associated industries) as its centre-piece.
- Completion and commissioning of Ajaokuta Iron and Steel complex for full operation.
- Development of a comprehensive masterplan, focused on building and strengthening industrial clusters around core raw materials throughout the country especially the immediate communities. Protection of local investors by creating a favourable climate.

### How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the industrialization policy to situate Ajaokuta Iron and Steel complex (as well as associated industries) as its centre-piece.</li> <li>• Establish National Industrial Development Council, which shall have oversight of implementing the proposals and be able to hold all actors accountable for progress. Alternatively, an inter-ministerial committee of related ministries could be convened to handle this.</li> <li>• Establish a 'one-stop shop' service for home-grown small business industrial clusters in each State of the Federation.</li> <li>• Establish or reinvigorate national research &amp; development platforms to foster industrialisation.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete and commission Ajaokuta Iron and Steel complex.</li> <li>• Amend legislation to incentivize industrial companies incorporated in Nigeria, for example by facilitating access to land in any State of the Federation for industrial cluster purposes.</li> </ul>

<b>Long Term: 3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review relevant laws to enable competent Nigerians to hold controlling equity in big foreign businesses and industrial establishments.</li><li>• Empower Nigerians to set up private industrial clusters, using internal inputs and local raw materials.</li></ul>
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### Means of funding

- Budgetary allocations
- Venture capital
- Institutional funding
- Banks and financial institutions

### Expected benefits

- Optimal utilization of related resources to enhance manufacturing.
- Production of machinery that will foster development of other sectors of the economy.
- Generation of new employment opportunities.
- Increase in exports and revenues of the government.

### Conclusion

Nigeria cannot sustainably industrialize without making Ajaokuta Iron and Steel complex fully operational. SDP has the political will and the strategic capacity to deliver this to Nigeria.



**8****DEVELOPING OUR RICH SOLID-MINERAL RESOURCES TO CREATE WEALTH FOR ALL****Background**

Prior to the emergence of the petroleum industry in the 1970s, solid minerals constituted a key sector of the economy, averaging 12% of the nation's GDP between 1965 and 1975. However, unfavorable government policies, lack of understanding of the cross-cutting issues and the poor management of state-owned enterprises have led to a precipitous decline in the sector.

For instance, the sector's contribution to GDP fell to 5.62% in 1980, to 0.36% in 2011 and to 0.04% in 2016. Presently, very little progress has been achieved in the sector in spite of the new legal and regulatory frameworks that have been deployed with the assistance of the World Bank.

In view of its importance to social inclusion and job creation, the SDP Government shall develop this sector into a substantive and critical component of its economic diversification policy.

**Current issues and challenges**

- Absence of resource evaluation and data generation programmes.
- Absence of well-articulated policy thrust on attracting foreign direct investments, as a result of the lack of cogent and reliable data.
- Unstructured and primitive (artisanal) mining operations.
- Low access to facilities for bankable feasibility studies and proper mine development programs.

**The vision of an SDP Government on the sector**

A strong and vibrant mining sector that makes Nigeria a major player in the international mining arena with the capacity for the provision of revenue, jobs, infrastructural development and social cohesion.

**What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenges**

- Re-tool the agencies charged with the responsibility for generating data on mineral occurrences.
- Identify strategic minerals that would contribute to national developments and revenue generation.
- Audit all existing value-addition facilities in the sector.
- Ensure appropriate funding for all the critical areas (human capital development, exploration, exploitation, value addition and marketing) for the mining sector.
- Ensure that key industries in the sector, including the Ajaokuta Steel Complex,

Delta Steel Plant, Jos Steel Rolling Mill, Oshogbo Steel Rolling Mill are returned to service and full functionality.

### How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term: 100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit all existing facilities and develop a compendium of all mineral occurrences across the nation.</li> <li>Enhance the capacities of all educational institutions developing human capital for the sector.</li> <li>Review and update the list of Strategic Minerals, based on the current criteria for world-class and sustainable export values.</li> <li>Identify minerals that can support the industrial sector and job creation.</li> <li>Identify existing value-processing facilities that can be returned to service.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term: 1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fund evaluation of true status of all the abandoned mines across the country with Patient Capital through properly re-tooled agencies.</li> <li>Return all serviceable abandoned mines into production with strict adherence to Community Development Agreement (CDA).</li> <li>Establish a production and utilization programme for all identified mineral resources in partnership with the private sector.</li> <li>Develop the framework for returning Ajaokuta and other Steel Complexes into service.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term: 3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Return the Ajaokuta and other Steel Complexes into full and functional services.</li> <li>Ensure that at least 65% of steel and allied requirements for infrastructural development in Nigeria is provided by the Steel Complexes.</li> <li>Ensure that at least 80% of industrial mineral materials required by the local industry are locally produced.</li> <li>Generate a minimum of a million jobs annually from mining expansion programmes in the country.</li> </ul>

## Means of funding

- Budgetary provisions
- Institutional funding
- Venture capital
- Banks and financial institutions

## Expected benefits

- Exports and use in domestic industries for generation of foreign exchange and internal revenue.
- Emergence of new industrial and downstream products.
- Increased employment of Nigerians, particularly in the rural areas where the minerals are found.
- Technology transfer and development.
- Development of infrastructure, across the country.

## Conclusion

An SDP Government shall remain irrevocably and irreversibly committed to the development of the solid mineral sector. It clearly understands the sector's potentials and capabilities of not only engendering rapid national development but also its ability to generate foreign exchange on a sustainable basis.



**9****RESTORING LAKE CHAD, ENHANCING UTILIZATION OF THE LAKE CHAD  
BASIN AND PURSUING THE INTERNATIONAL GREEN-WALL PROJECT  
ACROSS THE SAHEL REGION****Background**

The Lake Chad and its surrounding basin constitute the largest fresh water resources in the Sahel Region of Africa. The surface area of the lake was 25,000km<sup>2</sup> in 1960 but has shrunk to about 3,000km<sup>2</sup> with some statistics showing that the shrinking could be as low as 1000km<sup>2</sup> as of today.

This unprecedented and massive shrinking has adversely affected the economic activities of the following countries within the basin: Republics of Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, the Central African Republic (CAR), Sudan, Congo Brazzaville, Libya and Algeria.

The shrinking is mainly due to climate change and drought, desertification, excess harvesting of the lake's water by riparian countries, environmental degradation due to man-made excesses such as deforestation, bush burning, silting of waterways and low rainfall in the Sahel due to climate change.

Of the estimated over 40 million people in the basin, over 30 million are on the Nigerian side of the basin in the riparian states of Kano, Jigawa, Plateau, Yobe and Borno. The Lake Chad is fed by the Hadejia-Jama'are-Komadugu-Yobe river system from Nigeria (10%) and the Chari and Lagone river systems from the Congo Basin through the Republic of Cameroon (90%). The adverse impact of the Lake Chad basin on the livelihood of the people especially on the Nigerian side is huge in relation to agriculture, biodiversity, fishing, trade and cultural exchanges between its diverse peoples.

The SDP Government considers this issue of local and global strategic importance and therefore seeks to decisively address it.

**Current issues and challenges****...Progress!**

- (a) Severe climatic conditions arising from climate change in the Sahel-Sahara over the last 30 years which have given rise to:
  - i. Drastic reductions in rain fall from 320mm to 210mm per annum.
  - ii. Low water levels of the lake and its aquifer from 25,000km<sup>2</sup> in 1960 to 3,000km<sup>2</sup> in 2000.
  - iii. Desertification, deforestation and decline in vegetation cover
  - iv. Increased wind erosion and siltation of the lake and its tributary rivers.
  - v. Increased pressure on the resources of the lake due to population growth of humans and animals and loss of biodiversity.

- (b) Poor policy decisions as reflected in:
- I. Construction of large dams upstream without taking sufficient account of people and ecosystems downstream.
  - ii. Poor and inadequate water management system.
  - iii. Mining operations with insufficient regard to the regional water and environmental policies.
- (c) Lack of effective integrated water and environmental management policies compounded by:
- I. Insufficient knowledge of water resources and the functioning of aquatic ecosystems in the Sahel due to poor data collection and management.
  - ii. Ineffective system of monitoring the quality and quantity of water as well as the associated early warning systems.
- (d) Weak coordination arising from low level participation of stakeholders and institutions:
- I. Insufficient cooperation among sectors in the riparian countries and between the countries for integrated water resources management.
  - ii. Weak legal framework to protect regional water and ecosystems.
  - iii. National and regional institutions not adapting sufficiently to keep pace with environmental changes.
  - iv. Poor economic situations of the member countries which hamper acquisition of modern monitoring systems.

## The vision of an SDP Government

A restored Lake Chad, a functional Lake Chad basin and an expedited Great Green Wall project that promote green economy in Nigeria in a new, credible and stable political order.

## What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenges

In pursuance of this vision, an SDP Government will tackle the foregoing challenges by employing the following strategies and initiatives:

- Pursue the recharging of Lake Chad through water transfer projects from the Congo Basin via the Chari and Lagone river systems.
- Conserve the available water resources through:
  - i. The Great Green-Wall Project.
  - ii. Re-vegetation of the basin.
  - iii. Creating protected parks.

- Undertake effective data collection, collation, storage and dissemination systems to facilitate the integrated management of the basin.
- Encourage renegotiation and strengthening of regional cooperation and networking by reviewing the Fort Lamy Convention which established the Lake Chad Basin Commission.
- Adopt an all-stakeholders' approach to encourage inclusive participation which must involve the local people who are direct beneficiaries.
- Complete the KafinZaki Dam project in Bauchi State to not only act as feeder to the Lake Chad but equally generate electricity, irrigation farming, aqua culture and water supply to North East Nigeria on a win-win basis to all the upstream and downstream communities.
- Promote and ensure coastal rivers dredging and maintenance programme to de-silt blocked river courses in the river systems of the Lake Chad Basin.
- Promote and ensure the activation of the Great Green-Wall project as it pertains to the Nigeria section to slow down the encroachment of the Sahara Desert.
- Establishment of the Nigerian Climate Commission to address the cross-cutting issues of climate change, green growth as well as drive the sustained awareness about the restoration of the Lake Chad among other functions.
- Review the South Chad Irrigation Project (67,000 hectares) in Borno State, under the Chad Basin Development Authority, Maiduguri.
- Strengthen institutions serving the Nigerian side of the basin including:
  - i. Chad Basin Development Authority.
  - ii. Hadejia-Jama'are River Basin Authority.
  - iii. Chad Basin Research Institute.
  - iv. Hadejia-Jama'areKomaduguYobe Trust Fund, Damaturu.

### How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review all existing fiscal and regulatory policies governing the sector</li> <li>• Convene a national conference on climate change and inclusive green growth</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commence rehabilitation or construction of key river utilization infrastructure across the country with focus on the lake Chad</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish the National Climate Change Commission charged with the sole responsibility of developing programs for the mitigation of climate in Nigeria</li> </ul>

## Means of funding

- Budgetary allocations.
- Donor funds and grants.
- Financial institutions.
- International groups and NGOs.

## Expected benefits

- Established programmes for the mitigation of climate change.
- Established framework for governing inclusive green growth.
- Restored livelihood of the about 30 million Nigerians especially the youth in the Nigerian side of the basin.
- Boosted economic activities of the appurtenant peoples of the riparian states.
- Curtailed youth restiveness and insurgency in the region through gainful engagement of the inhabitants.

## Conclusion

The successful implementation of this all-important programme would not only restore the socio-economic lives of the inhabitants of the great lakes region but will greatly assist in addressing the perennial seeming challenge of the herdsmen and farmers altercations which is increasingly becoming intractable.



## 10 RAISING NIGERIA'S DEFENCE CAPABILITIES FOR EFFECTIVE SECURITY, PEACE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

### Background

The spate of criminality and lawlessness in Nigeria, manifesting in disturbances to public peace and security, is indicative of a society in search of its soul. No society survives, let alone prospers, under prolonged ‘peacelessness’ and insecurity.

Fundamentally, the existence of this condition indicates that it is time to structurally re-balance the polity and reconcile its various peoples. In furtherance of this purpose, Sect 217, (2) provides that, “The Federation shall, subject to an Act of the National Assembly made in that behalf, equip and maintain the armed forces as may be considered adequate and effective for the purpose of:

- a. defending Nigeria from external aggression;
- b. maintaining its territorial integrity and securing its borders from violation on land, sea, or air;
- c. suppressing insurrection and acting in aid of civil authorities to restore order when called upon to do so by the President (Commander-in-Chief), but subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly; and
- d. performing such other functions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.

It is in this light that SDP has made raising Nigeria's defence capabilities in order to ensure effective defence, peace and security a cardinal programme.

The constituent parts of the polity need to be reassured that they are part of an enabling structure that allows them to self-actualize or develop at their own pace. They also need to be reassured that their peoples can peacefully coexist anywhere with a sense of safety to contribute meaningfully to the polity. Nigeria's development and prosperity hang on these assurances.

Most often, it is the state of the official institutions for internal peace and security (police, courts and correction (prison) system) that determine whether the people can feel safe, secure and live peacefully. This is a cornerstone for social democracy. As a people-oriented political party, SDP would enhance the capacity and roles of these institutions to advance peace and prosperity in Nigeria.

### Current issues and challenges in the sector

The effective and proper functioning of the Armed Forces, Nigeria Police and other security organizations to restore security in every part of Nigeria, respect the sanctity of life, promote peace and development shall be a primary task of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in the post 2019 general elections in Nigeria as the ruling democratic party. The

security agencies would therefore be appropriately equipped, trained and catered for to boost their fighting spirit and made to understand that their sacrifices to the nation will not be in vain.

There is an overwhelming fear of criminal victimization and injustice in Nigeria. Criminals break the laws, breach the peace, and instill a sense of insecurity everywhere. They steal, kill and destroy with impunity. Mutual suspicion and hatred are on the rise. People resort increasingly to self-help and self-defence. A recipe for anarchy and disincentive for development stares Nigeria in the face. The police, judiciary, and correction (prison) system seem clueless, helpless and/or complicit. The challenges are numerous and daunting.

In addition to perception problems, they can be summarized as follows:

- Inadequate training and professionalism manifesting in visible capacity gap to combat prevailing and emerging security threats. The apparent lacuna in proficiency may be due largely to inadequate training facilities and obsolete equipment.
- Lack, and improper acquisition, of modern platforms and equipment.
- Emergence of non-state actors (NSA) disrupting peace, good order and deregulating the use of force that hitherto was a monopoly of state.
- Need to update requisite capabilities to meet current and emerging security threats; asymmetric and hybrid warfare, etc.
- The continued menace of insurgency by Boko Haram Terrorists (BHT) and the need to degrade, defeat and decimate the group through an all-stakeholders approach particularly deploying an overwhelming force by the joint effort of the Armed Forces.
- The criticality of keeping on the cutting edge of Military Technology by developing Nigeria's Defence Industrial Complex.
- Need for Security Sector Reforms in particular a review of the existing security architecture. For instance, a review of the National Security Agencies Act of 5th June 1986 is long overdue.
- Porous borders and ineffective monitoring, lack of technology-based systems for border security.
- Increasing involvement of the Military in internal security (IS) operations with the attendant negative effects. Some of these are over-exposure of the service men and tasking the services beyond limit. This brings to the fore the necessity for role expansion as well as review/expansion of the Military Force structure and Order of Battle (ORBAT).
- Need to improve on a systemic and effective Higher Defence Direction.

Other national security challenges currently facing Nigeria which will require professional and dedicated approach to deal with include the following:

- Terrorism in Nigeria, especially in the North East of Nigeria.
- Herders/Farmers and communities conflict mainly in the North Central.
- Cattle rustling in various parts of the country especially in the North West.
- Militancy and kidnapping in the South South, South East, South West and North Central

- Porous borders (with numerous illegal entry points). This issue has been observed for decades but the problem persists, is getting worse and aiding smuggling of small arms and light weapons, drugs and human trafficking.
- Ethno-religious conflicts across the country.
- Ritual killings mainly in the South-West and South-East.
- Robberies across the country.
- Proliferation of small arms and light weapons across the country.
- Crude oil theft and pipeline vandalism in the South South.
- Drug addiction.
- Human trafficking.

### The vision of an SDP Government for the sector

People-oriented, professional and accountable institutions for internal peace and security, territorial integrity, advancing a new, credible and stable political order, designed to deepen democracy, deliver good governance, and produce genuine development, rooted in social justice, peace and security in Nigeria.

### What an SDP Government intends to do to solve the challenges in the sector

- Institute and enforce a systemic approach to career plan and progression premised on merit and proficiency.
- Enquire into public complaints against the institutions and what will make Nigerians to respect, be proud of and happy with the institutions.
- Review and improve the effectiveness of the war against BHT. In addition, revise the Threat Analysis and Strategies with a view to executing a joint operation and injecting new ideas.
- Review comprehensively the Nigerian Security Architecture including National Security Agencies Act and establish specialized agencies for cyber security.
- Enact progressive legislative frameworks to replace out-dated laws for the institutions.
- Acquire state-of-the-art Command, Control, Communication, Computer, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) System, a multi-agency ICT asset to provide Geographic Information System (GIS), border security and early warning. It will also enhance inter-agency communication, collaboration and cooperation.
- Restructure to make the institutions organically connected to the people, operationally effective and neutral, institutionally accountable, and philosophically service-oriented.
- Enforce merit-based employments and appointments across the institutions to increase job satisfaction and security.
- Renew and re-invigorate character building within the peace and security system, alongside professional excellence, focused on securing Nigeria on a sure foundation of integrity and moral uprightness.

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulation of an all-encompassing National Security Policy to set the stage for a more proactive National Security Strategy.</li> <li>• Establish necessary frame-works for effective synergy in the strategies and operations of all the security agencies to bring about sustainable peace.</li> <li>• Craft and implement viable training policy and improve the training facilities and obsolete equipment to ensure professionalism and capacity to combat prevailing and emerging security threats.</li> <li>• Overhaul the Nigeria Police to be able to handle internal security challenges. This can be done by implementing the policy/constitutional recommendation for State Police.</li> <li>• Restructure to make the institutions organically connected to the people, operationally effective and neutral, institutionally accountable, and philosophically service-oriented. This ensures respect for the Rule of Law, sanctity of life and community restorative justice.</li> <li>• Institute and enforce a systemic approach to career plan and progression premised on merit and proficiency. Enforce merit-based employments and appointments across the institutions to increase job satisfaction and security.</li> <li>• Review comprehensively the Nigerian Security Architecture including National Security Agencies Act and establish specialized agencies for cyber security.</li> <li>• Restructure to make the institutions organically connected to the people, operationally effective and neutral, institutionally accountable, and philosophically service-oriented. This ensures respect for the Rule of Law, sanctity of life and community restorative justice.</li> <li>• Renew and re-invigorate character building within the security system, alongside professional excellence, focused on securing Nigeria on a sure foundation of integrity and moral uprightness</li> <li>• Critically re-examine the nature of conflict in Nigeria, their linkages, historical antecedents, related policies and existing laws, possible reviews and implementation strategies.</li> <li>• Appropriately liaise with traditional institutions for enhancement of alternative dispute resolution, intelligence gathering and reporting for effective management of law and order.</li> </ul>
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<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3 yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure the equipment needed to analyze and understand the security pulse and threat analysis of a particular area (like the Operation Lafia Dole).</li> <li>• Develop systems and charge the leadership of the Army, Air Force, Navy, the Police, et al, to collaborate towards achieving a common goal in carrying out operations to secure the country.</li> <li>• Adopt the Homeland Security option to collect data from the various institutions, analyze them to the point of intelligence. It is this intelligence that will be given to them to carry out their operations whether separately or together as a unit as the situation demands.</li> <li>• Purchase modern equipment, facilities and infrastructure to carry out such operations as have been analyzed by the Homeland Security outfit.</li> <li>• Critically re-examine the nature of conflict in Nigeria, their linkages, historical antecedents, related policies and existing laws, possible reviews and implementation strategies.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set-up a Cybersecurity Commission by law under any of the Security Acts as a matter of necessity, development, progress and tandem with the global trends. A partnership with diaspora experts and community can help set up the technical aspect of cyber security.</li> <li>• Craft and implement a viable training policy and improve the training facilities and obsolete equipment to ensure professionalism and capacity to combat prevailing and emerging security threats.</li> </ul>

### Means of funding

- Increased statutory allocations and timely release of funds.
- Special Military Trust Fund as part of Statutory Transfer in Budgeting.
- Military Technology Research & Development (R&D) Fund as part of Statutory Transfer in Budgeting.
- Community initiatives in crime prevention and in-kind support for operational units of the institutions located in their vicinity.

### Expected benefits

- Effective policing, judicial resolution of conflicts, rehabilitation and re-integration of imprisoned offenders.
- Lower rate of criminal victimization or mindless violence, destruction of life and property, and breach of security.

- Higher level of community satisfaction, trust and relationships
- Community engagement in peace and security architecture.
- Improved security of life and property
- Increased employment opportunities
- Optimized harnessing of local resources, indigenous technology and technical skills
- Increased self-reliance in military technology and its spin-off effects.
- Improved R&D and enhanced collaboration among public agencies, tertiary institutions and R&D outfits.
- Mobilized and motivated citizenry to enhance patriotism.
- Improved national security and pride.
- Improved national economy, growth, development and people's welfare.
- Peaceful coordination among the various peoples in Nigeria

## Conclusion

National security, though a global issue, is perceived differently in various nations, depending on their handling of national security issues and challenges. This cuts across all sectors of the economy as security and development are intricately linked. The SDP will therefore explore all opportunities to enhance security, peace and development across the nation. Issues of law and order, justice, equity and fairness will be the key areas to address while ensuring that Nigerians enjoy the dividends of democracy and be proud of their country.



**11****BUILDING A NEW NATIONAL REPUTATION AND INTEGRATING  
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA****Background**

Currently, Nigeria has a poor international reputation and, even within the country, many people know that all is not well with the nation's reputation. This has cost individuals and the country so much in terms of business opportunities and investments both locally and internationally.

Over the years also, Nigerians in Diaspora have contributed more than \$25 billion annually to the Nigerian Economy, through home remittances. This is about 300% of Nigerians annual Foreign Direct Investments of about \$8.9 billion annually. Their contributions are significant despite lack of a coherent policy framework to harness such contributions for national development. It is estimated that over 40 million Nigerians are in the Diaspora, staying in Africa, Europe, Americas and Asia.

At this point, the SDP is not interested in trading blames as this approach has never solved any problem. The most pragmatic step is to involve the political power in conceptualizing, planning and implementing public relations strategies in governance and harnessing the potential of its Diaspora citizens for its National Development by mainstreaming their contributions in its National Development Planning.

**Current issues and challenges in the sector**

- The need to speedily establish a Nigeria Diaspora Commission whose Bill was recently passed by the National Assembly and accented to by the President.
- The lack of a National Database of Nigerians in Diaspora for ease of reference and engagement.
- The Public Relations handlers of the government do not work as a team and they sometimes work at cross-purposes.
- The negative actions that promote the negative reputation are not being addressed frontally.
- Unequal representation of Nigerians in Diaspora
- Employment of non-professional for a professional assignment (reputation management)
- Leaving our narratives in the hands of foreign media and commentators
- Poorly planned national reputation programmes
- Lack of leadership by example.
- Absence of knowledge/skills linkages between Nigeria and its Diaspora through Professional Associations, Universities and Research institutes, and Youth Mentorship Programmes.
- Corruption, poor public service, poor maintenance service and other indecent practices are not considered as serious anti-reputation matters any longer by many public office holders and the citizens.

- Government unconsciously and consciously promoting issues that work against a positive national reputation

### **The vision of an SDP Government on the sector**

To change the old and unworkable style of reputation management which was mainly anchored on media publicity through aggressive promotion of integrity and culture of transparency within and among Nigerians in diaspora.

### **What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenge in the sector**

- Kick-start the Nigeria Diaspora Commission and create a National Database of Nigerians in Diaspora
- Rejig the National Diaspora Day
- Ensure the representation of Nigerians in Diaspora in the design and the implementation of Nigeria Developmental Strategies
- We must begin to see our country as a product or a brand which must be handled with BRAND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES.
- Set up a think-tank to draw up a new approach to doing things in the country with the aim of building and maintaining a positive image

### **How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame**

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think-tank working, discussions, re-orientation training, light publicity/promotion on the need for re-orientation</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-orientation training, motivational talks, publicity/promotion</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training, motivational talks, publicity/promotion on gains of re-orientation programme</li> </ul>

### **Means of funding**

- Federal government budget.
- State government budgets.
- Local government budgets.
- MDAs should also be made to set aside some fund for the programme.
- Fund/sponsorship can also be sourced from private organizations.

## Expected benefits

- Harnessing the large pool of Nigerians in Diaspora as critical manpower resources for effective development.
- Improved national and international reputation.
- Respect for Nigeria and Nigerians within and outside our shores.
- Better business opportunities including foreign direct investments.

## Conclusion

It is impossible for Nigeria to make a head-way at the level of poor reputation we are operating within and outside the country. Everything actually depends on the reputation a person or country has because it is from that point that all other things will take root.

**12****THE FOREIGN POLICY THRUST OF THE INCOMING SDP GOVERNMENT****Background**

The SDP shall reposition Nigeria's foreign policy from an emphasis on bilateral agreements with countries and international organizations to a sector-specific partnership and exchange model, which essentially focuses on the Nigerian economy and the Nigerian people.

This direction of foreign policy will propagate government's actions to deal with defence, security, international political relations and international economic relations on domestic corresponding bases. This purpose in altering or creating a condition outside the sovereign boundaries is to gain national advantage, usually defined in terms of national interest. National image both at home and abroad is an ethical issue. It may appear intangible but the benefits and advantages flowing from a good image are inestimably unquantifiable. The perception of Nigeria by members of the international community, how it pursues relations with others and particularly, the behavior of its citizens at home and abroad can affect the country's image. Thus, appropriate image making will feature fundamentally in our nation's foreign policy.

Improved cooperation with other national military forces would engender peace regional and globally. Similarly, improved bilateral and multilateral trade relations would enhance trade, technology transfer and military training. These in turn promote the welfare of Nigerians abroad to ensure they are treated with respect and dignity in all circumstances.

**Current issues and challenges**

For years, the internal security situation of the nation has been anything but desirable. The insurgency in the North-East of the country has exposed the nation to a series of terror acts that has cost the nation so much in terms of human lives, socio-economic advancement, financial resources, family break-ups and dislocation, destruction of human and critical infrastructure. It has created so much internally displaced persons in the North-eastern part of the country and refugees in neighboring countries.

**The vision of an SDP Government**

A foreign policy thrust that is dynamic, citizen-oriented, investment-driven, security conscious that will put Nigeria first, elicit patriotism in the citizenry and restore Nigeria's respect and prestige in the assembly of nations. The SDP is in favour of a national security architecture that is predicated on its national interest as well as its strategic intentions within the region and in the global stage. The security of the Nigerian people is paramount. As a result an effective and result-oriented national security system will be put in place to restore and maintain a peaceful environment for its citizenry.

## What the SDP intends to do to solve the challenge in the sector

The government of SDP would take a holistic approach in securing the country. A situation where you solicit help to fight and end the menace called Boko-Haram on the one hand and then allow another deadly group, the Fulani herdsmen unhindered freedom to kill and maim Nigerians is absolutely untenable. This APC government seems overwhelmed by the herdsmen menace. No real effort has been made by this administration to safeguard Nigerians of different states of the federation from this evil menace. In reshaping and remaking our foreign policy, the following steps should be implemented.

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION (Diplomacy):** The incoming SDP government must and should be able to put the interests and safety of Nigerians first irrespective of where they are. The idea of abandoning Nigerians outside the country to their fate should be redressed immediately. The government must see it as its responsibility to protect any man or women possessing a Nigerian passport. This is done by responsible states all over the world. They never neglect their citizens in distress. This endears the citizens to their country and makes them patriotic and proud of their state.

**ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INVESTMENT:** Economic and financial growth is always on the foreign policy thrust of every state. Of course, security and economic development go hand in hand. A country with insecurity internally will not be able to attract foreign capital. Economic prosperity and development thrive in a secure and peaceful environment. No investor will invest his funds in an unstable and insecure state. Government should engage in those bilateral agreements that have the tendency and capacity to add value to the economic well-being of the state.

**REGIONAL DOMINANCE:** Nigeria should with all urgency regain its regional dominance of the ECOWAS bloc. Regional dominance attracts respect and prestige. Every signed treaty that no longer benefits the country should be discarded. The treaty that allows Fulani herdsmen to roam all over West Africa with cows observing no boundaries and turning themselves into terrorists and security nightmare for the country should as a matter of urgency, be abrogated.

**OBLIGATIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY:** While striving to reposition Nigeria's foreign policy thrust, every obligation to all international bodies that Nigeria belongs to should be met, this will protect and enhance the country's prestige and respect.

## How the SDP intends to solve the challenges in the sector, and time frame

<b>Short Term:</b> <b>100 days -1yr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The President in his inaugural speech should apologize to Nigerians within and outside the country for the mistakes of the previous governments in neglecting the sanctity of human life. Over the years the worth and value of human life has been debased and brought so low that the value of a Nigerian life is rated below that of a cow as has been shown in the incessant farmers/herdsmen clashes all over the country. Nigerians in diaspora that have been abandoned all over the world like sheep without a shepherd should be apologized to for this devilish and wicked neglect by their government. This has resulted in the massacre and killing of Nigerians all over the world at the slightest provocation knowing that the Nigerian government will not do anything. The President in that address should order all embassies and diplomatic missions to initiate a process of taking a head count of all Nigerians in different countries of the world. This will help to ascertain how many Nigerians live in different countries of the world and what they are engaged in.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b> <b>1 Year – 3yrs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every Nigerian outside the shores of Nigeria must have been counted and a true figure of them known to the government. This will help further in policy formulations of the government. The Nigerian government through the diplomatic missions abroad must encourage Nigerians to be registered with the Nigerian embassies or missions in the countries of their abode. Their qualifications and areas of specialization, addresses and places of work properly documented.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term:</b> <b>3 yrs - above:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every Nigerian in and outside the country must be made to feel important and made to realize that every one of them is an ambassador of Nigeria. The image of Nigeria depends on their actions and activities wherever they are residing.</li> </ul>

**Means of funding**

- Federal government budget

**Expected benefits:**

- Regaining of Nigeria's regional dominance within the ECOWAS bloc.
- Increased foreign investments.
- Restored prestige and respect of Nigeria.
- Give Nigerians self-respect.
- A new and confident Nigerian in the diaspora.

**Conclusion**

Nigeria's foreign policy must have started on citizens-based all-inclusive foreign policy that Nigerians will be proud of. This will engender patriotism from its citizens from across the globe.

It is no secret that most Nigerians abroad are so educated and talented in their respective fields, that the home governments where they reside make good use of them. The incoming SDP government should come up with a policy that can encourage hiring the most exceptional ones for our diplomatic missions abroad and even directly to relevant positions back home.





A black and white photograph showing a massive crowd of people from a high vantage point, looking towards the horizon. The crowd is dense and extends to the edges of the frame.

***Towards Good Governance  
and Social Justice***