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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

In the following manifesto, the **UNITED PROGRESSIVE PARTY** sets out its agenda for the reform of our leadership, politics, economy and civil society. **UPP** will tackle the vexed issue of corruption vigorously and with unequalled boldness and courage. **UPP** shall pay special attention to our judiciary.

The quality of judgments delivered by most of the country's judges has been a source of embarrassment to well-meaning and knowledgeable Nigerians. We have no doubt at all that our country can be transformed. We have offer this manifesto as a covenant between the **UNITED PROGRESSIVE PARTY** and the people of Nigeria and as a binding of what we will do if the nation gives us its support.

Chapter 2

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

The **UNITED PROGRESSIVE PARTY** is committed to the following fundamental principles whether it is in government or not in government:

- i. **National Unity**
It will protect the national unity; territorial integrity sovereign independence of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- ii. **Democratic Order**
It will uphold the will of the people of the federal Republic as the only source of political power and hold the Constitution of the Federal Republic in honour as the supreme law of the land. It will also enforce the

limits prescribed by law on executive and legislative power, promote the fundamental freedoms of all Nigerians and insist on openness and transparency in all organs of government.

True Federalism

It will uphold the principles of true federalism as the constitutional framework in which a plural and diverse nation like Nigeria can keep its unity while promoting the different interests of its different peoples.

Political Pluralism

It will actively promote the diversity and pluralism of the nation as sources of strength. Every state, ethnic group, religion, culture, class, profession and interest groups must be empowered to reach its highest potential. In this regard, UPP believes that a Nigerian is a good citizen if he is a devoted member of his community, ethnic group or state.

A New Role for Government

In compliance with the fundamental principle and directive objectives of state policy emphasized again and again in the Federal Constitution, UPP will do its utmost to change the content of our political culture. It believes that government is a servant of the people. Our political culture must therefore, change to emphasize public service, integrity, merit, justice, consultation, team spirit, transparency and tolerance. To achieve these goals, UPP will impose a mandatory code of conduct on all public office holders.

The Role of the Party

UPP itself will be an instrument of the people for mobilizing diverse opinions, ensuring that nobody is left out in the cold, debating differences, and

enunciating people-centred policies. The failure of the great promise of Nigeria in the past has been largely the result of the seizure of government by partisan interest groups.

vii. The Livelihood of the People

It will promote deregulation, privatization and globalization as policies necessary for the modernization of the economy.

At the same time, it will put in place a programme of domestic reforms to raise the quality of life of the common people and to ensure that all Nigerians have access to the prosperity and increased human scope of the 21st century.

viii. Commitment to the Black World

It will employ every means, diplomatic, political, economic, social and cultural, to advance the image of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as the spiritual home of the black peoples of the world.

Chapter 3 EDUCATION

Education is perhaps the most important formative factor in the life of a nation. As the education is, so is the nation bound to be. In the whole West Africa sub-region, no other government has treated education with as much levity as successive Nigerian governments.

It is no wonder then that school buildings, laboratories, hostels, libraries, bookshops, electricity, water supply and general sanitation in our educational institutions are in a sorry state. Matters have not been helped, unfortunately, by poor accounting

control especially in Universities with consequent misapplication and misappropriation of funds.

The Problems of Teachers and Students

At the same time, it has to be admitted that teachers at all levels have been badly treated. As a profession they fell steeply in incomes and Social esteem as a result of recent social changes. While at independence they were honoured as an intellectual elite, they are today among the wretched of the earth whose wages do not get paid whenever money is in short supply. A Nigerian university lecturer comparing himself today with a British counterpart whose training is exactly equivalent to his own would find that he earns less than a hundredth of the income of the foreign colleague. The result of this deprivation is the so called brain drain, a massive exodus of our best- trained persons to the United States and United Kingdom. Among those left behind, there is resentment and anger which boils over into anti- government rhetoric, strikes and institutional closure on the slightest Provocation.

Students too have been badly treated. It is not just that the infrastructures for their education are in ruin at all levels and that textbooks, and even chalks, are difficult to find. There is the added frustration that there are no jobs even for those who in defiance of impossible conditions manage to obtain good certificates. Graduate destitution in the last thirty years has been indeed scandalous. In the face of such discouragement, the weaker undergraduates turn their attention, wrongly but quite understandably, to the thrills of cult, warfare and other dissipations. We have to agree that several generations of Nigerian youths have been destroyed by these educational policies.

A Basic Misconception

It is clear what has gone wrong in the last thirty years. The control of educational funding and educational decision-making were centralised in the hands of military men who did not really care. Their decision did not merely impact, as they thought, on the classroom and the teacher. They impacted also, on the development of the adaptive skills of the nation, on our competitiveness in a fast-moving global market place, on the propagation and growth of our humanity and the maintenance of the sanity of our world. So important is education that it ought to "be as of right" the first charge on the income of the nation.

Chapter 4 THE REFORM OF THE CIVIL SERVICE

The Nigerian Civil Service has not served the Nigerian people in the last twenty five years. Government secretariats and ministries have, of course, been busy as usual. But the essential public functions for which the Service was set up have virtually ceased. Public light and water are today still in such short supply that every industry, indeed every household has still to provide its own utilities. Telephones were dysfunctional for two decades until the coming of the GSM. The ports are still choked with goods and corruption. The police, as the investigation of the murder of the Justice Minister has demonstrated, cannot do their job. Teachers, much abused, underpaid, or not paid at all, are more often out on strike than in the classroom. And public hospitals, under-funded, understaffed, under-equipped and chronically short of drugs, rare only lit for the destitute. The failure of public service is not, however, simply the result of negligence on the part of civil servants. Even more, it is a sign of terminal distress in government itself. To re-invent the Civil Service, we have to re-invent the Nigerian government as well.

The Challenges of Independence

The colonial Civil Service was small, privileged and powerful elite. Its role was essentially to keep public order, promote trade with the home country, collect taxes and look after its

stall. It did exceptionally well in these limited duties. But with independence, the very conception of government changed. There was an explosion of programmes and of personnel, Public servants gradually began to take charge of every aspect of life and to take decision about forestry, higher education, and mortgage banking, urban housing, the management of exchange rates and interest rates, petroleum exploration and refining, air traffic control, television broadcasting, money laundering etc. In other words, they managed not only the Nigerian economy but Nigerian life as well.

The young men and women who manned our Civil Service could not have dealt with all these difficult challenges. Where could they have learnt the multifarious skills needed to manage the fevers and regulate the heartbeat of a modern state? Moreover, there were other exorbitant demands made upon them. For in addition to the puzzles of the economic and social order, they faced the problem of the ethnic and religious pluralism of the Nigerian nation. Admittedly this was a problem for politicians. But political leadership is only as good as the supporting Civil Service makes it. Similarly, the Civil Service can only deliver public service if it is **supported by the political leadership**.

The failure of the Nigerian Civil Service was mainly the result of the failure of support from national leaders. The politicians who came to power in the 1960s did not want civil servants to tell rules, regulations and law. They wanted subordinates and ethnic brothers if a district officer or an assistant secretary insisted too much on the regulations; he could be changed, instantly. To survive in such a situation, a civil servant did not have to serve the public. He only had to serve his political boss. He did not need brains or devotion to duty. He needed political connections and servility.

Under the military, the situation was even worse, for military

men compounded the indiscipline and greed of their civilian predecessors. The purges of 1976 and 1983 were traumas which ended the age of innocence in the civil service. The sackings swept away some dead wood and some of the finest pillars of the establishment's top. They also swept away the very idea of tenure, fair hearing and institutional order, from then on, it did not really matter what you could do. What counted was whom you knew and how much you saved or stole.

It is clear what we as a nation, should do now to change the situation. We are moving into an astonishing new world of the genomics, the computer revolution, laser guidance, global investment flows and biotechnology. With the on-going reduction in the scope and conception of government, the Nigerian Civil Service will necessarily be small elite, but it must be world class in quality. To compete effectively in the new global market place, the managers and regulators of our society must be equipped with every contemporary skill. Six reforms are envisaged.

1. Professionalization

UPP will take steps to create a professional Civil Service the entrance into which is based, upon a competitive examination. The British and Indian civil service examinations which are open to holders of Upper Second Class degree certificates are models in this regard. Every branch of the Service will be manned by professionals whose skills, will be constantly upgraded. The Service will be numerically very small as its roles will be primarily regulatory.

2 Protection from Interference

DPP will ensure that the Nigerian Civil Service is safeguarded as a democratic institution and protected from political interference in recruitment, promotion

and discipline. The habit of appointing special task forces outside the regular service to take charge of important projects will be discontinued as a practice which undermines the authority of the Civil Service and blunts its competitive cutting edge.

A Code of Conduct

UPP applicable to all public servants from the Presidency, the Cabinet and the National Assembly right down to local government councils. The dos and don'ts of Nigerian public service must be fully spelt out to promote discipline order and probity in the Service.

Improved Conditions of Service

Remuneration and security in the Civil Service will be vastly expanded to make careers in the Service attractive to the brightest and best people in the nation. A successful civil servant ought surely to be as well rewarded as a successful banker.

Internal Surveillance

A mechanism within the Civil Service will be established for monitoring and policing compliance with both the ethical and the procedural codes of the General Order.

Transparency

At the same time, **UPP** will insist that the Nigerian public and the media should have freedom of information to know in detail what government and its agents are doing in the name of the people. Without such unfettered access to information the freedom of the press is a sham and there can be no real public accountability. At the moment the impression is that the actions of government are the private affairs of senior

The Civil Service is the executive arm of government and until it is re-vitalized government itself can achieve nothing.

public officials.

Chapter 5 THE ECONOMY

IT will take the following measures to change the economic life of the nation

- i. It will establish (or reinvigorate) an Inter-governmental Economic Council charged with responsibility for reconciling opinions on all matters of economic policy and procedure. The Presidency, the National Assembly, state governments, the business community, the Trade Union Congress, other stakeholders and resource persons will be members of the council; and it is not the intention that any governmental institution will be in a position to impose its will upon the others.
- ii. **UPP** will reduce the Rediscount Rate and the Interest Rate in order to provide opportunities to business for long-term credit to speed up the expansion of business and employment opportunities.
- iii. **UPP** will insist upon a stricter enforcement of foreign exchange controls with a view to stabilizing the purchasing power of the Naira and making forward planning for businesses more effective.
- iv. **UPP** will intensify the effort to re-build the social and economic infrastructure, most notably roads, telecommunications, electric power and water supply.

Apart from the general enhancement of life, the rehabilitation of utilities will reduce the cost of doing business and contribute to economic expansion.

- v. **UPP** will re-assess the guideline for venture capital and industrial credit with the object of making the banking sector play a more constructive role in the economy.
- vi. To fight inflation and promote financial discipline in the system. **UPP** will insist that all governments shall balance their budgets and desist from extra-budgetary expenditure.

The programme of privatization and bringing foreign capital into power generation, telecommunications, water supply, the oil and gas industries and petrochemicals will certainly have far-reaching consequences in the national economy. But **UPP** believes that equal emphasis should be placed on small-scale enterprises, the rural economy and the informal sector. The party will make every effort, through government-funded research schemes, easier bank credit and technical assistance, to breathe new life into the work and welfare of the people.

Chapter 6 DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Nigeria's leadership position in Africa is presently unquestioned. In consequence of that position, we must have efficiently trained, soundly equipped and professionally led Armed Forces in the continent. The Community of West African States is our immediate operational corridor, in which we have to face incalculable challenges of leadership and self-defence. But we also have commitments in the African Union of which only time will tell what is entailed. From time to time, we have

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been summoned to play a part in United Nations peace keeping in Africa and beyond. Even within our own borders, zonal tensions, religious disturbances and ethnic unrest have created a climate in which combat-readiness is a pre-requisite for peace. The objective of the **UNITED PROGRESSIVE PARTY** for defence and national security is to equip the Nigerian Armed forces to meet these challenges.

- i. **UPP** will ensure that the Nigerian Armed Force is professionally trained, disciplined, equipped with every modern engine of war, compact in size and fully mobile. It should be easily capable of repulsing and attack on our sovereignty, our territorial integrity, our economic interest or the democratic way of life enshrined in our constitution.
- ii. Compulsory training and re-training courses will be mandatory in all services of the Armed Forces and the Nigerian Police. In this regard the Armed Forces University in Zaria the Naval University in Oron, and the Police College will be funded, equipped and staffed to conduct their re-training programmes.
- iii. In the re-training and motivation of our defence forces, it is important that emphasis be placed upon democratic values, the defence of the Federal Constitution and the humane basis of national peace and security. The politicization of the Armed Forces has itself been a source of conflict and insecurity. This fact should be born in minimal programmes for the re-training and professionalization of the men in uniform.
- iv. **UPP** notes the extensive role which the Nigerian Army has to play in patrolling our long and porous national borders and the dependence of modern armies on sophisticated equipment. **UPP** also recognizes the need for combat-readiness to deal with both internal and external emergencies. These needs should clearly be reflected in

appropriate budgetary provisions.

UPP will also give special attention to the training and equipment of the Nigerian Air Force as the service most capable of responding immediately and decisively in military emergencies.

In the programme for industrialization, priority should be given to the manufacture of farm equipment since the mechanization of peasant farms cannot take place with imported dollar-denominated equipment.

To give rural life its rightful place in the mainstream of our economic life, credit must be made available to agriculture. Until an appropriate part of the wealth of the nation is available for food production, our agriculture will remain backward. At the same time the mechanization of farming, the advance to agro-based industries, the production of genetically modified foods and the use of even low-level technology in our farms will not occur **UPP** will ensure that studies which are needed to solve the problems of finding peasant agriculture are undertaken as a matter of national priority.

in local government areas in the deep North where water scarcity is an abiding problem, comprehensive programmes of water management embracing river basins, dams, bore-hole construction, underground water utilization and small-scale irrigation will be undertaken with the support of the federal government for the benefit of farmers, herdsmen and the people as a whole.

It is, however, recognized that rural development is the

responsibility of local government councils and that each council appropriately funded and empowered will accept the challenge of meeting its unique need in its own unique way.

Chapter 7

ENERGY

A government of the **United Progressive Party** will try to realize the following objectives with regard to energy.

- i. **UPP** will initiate a National Energy Policy based upon our proven resources and our need for energy security. It will spell out the roles required for petroleum, gas, coal, hydroelectricity, solar power, nuclear power and any other sources. It will lay the ground rules for indigenous participation in the sector and the rules for foreign investors. It will provide guidelines for energy conservation and energy efficiency, and indicate what must be done for not be done to protect the environment in spirit of the **Kyoto protocol**. It will also set targets for future expansion to meet the unfolding needs of the future.
 - ii. **UPP** will co-operate with the programme of continuing exploration of our energy resources and empower the private sector to increase the exploitation of new discoveries.
 - iii. **UPP** will explore avenues for the exploitation of our coal deposits to increase energy supply. In this regard, the conversion of our coal to a standard required in the production of steel will be put into effect. The production of smokeless coke for domestic use will also be implemented to avoid continued deforestation.
- It is quite clear that apart from large power stations, we need

a vast number of subsidiary stations, small hydroelectric systems, and scale gas-fired turbines, coal stations like Oji, and private sector outfits all of which will contribute to material sufficiency.

UPP recognizes that the NNPC and its subsidiaries were for the most part unable to do their duty. They failed to create reasonable agreement with their most communities in the Niger Delta or to monitor the activities of their technical partners. They did not monitor the activities of their technical partner. They did not satisfy the domestic need for energy or keep a strict account of the revenue due to government. Their facilities were open to vandalism at all times and their dealers frequently delivered the supplies they collected either to bunkerers or across the Nigerian border. UPP is, therefore, of the opinion that what we ' need now is a small professional agency charged with regulatory and inspectorate duties only and having no responsibility for production or marketing.

It follows that prospecting refining, lifting and marketing will be private sector operations. However, Nigerian business and Nigerian public must be guaranteed a share in these commercial operations.

Since the first oil operations started at Oloibiri in 195 1, Nigeria has produced a large number of persons who have undoubted expertise in eveiy aspect of the oil industry. It is clear that the process of operational indigenization can now be insisted upon by government. The same principle applies in the coal industry and hydroelectric power generation.

- viii. Nigerian oil and gas industries will, however, not be substantially indigenous until our universities have developed academic and industrial attachment programmes capable of training our managers in all aspects of prospecting, extracting, refining, lifting and marketing. It is upon this new cadre of trained manpower that the national energy security will depend.

Chapter 8 JUSTICE AND THE JUDICIARY

The policies of the **United Progressive Party** on Justice and the Judiciary will be based upon the following cardinal principles.

- i. Defence of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as the supreme law which prescribes a limit to the exercise of power by all persons and institutions;
- ii. Maintenance of the independence of the Judiciary and the promotion of the principle of the separation of powers as enshrined in the constitution.
- iii. The equality before the law of all persons resident in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the insistence that justice, equity, due process, human rights, and social justice should be available to all.

It is generally admitted that Nigeria has a brilliant Bar. But the administration of justice has often left much to be desired. The pay and conditions of service of judicial officer are not sufficiently competitive as to attract star performers and ambitious advocates to the bench. Appointments have often been treated as benefactions distributed on the basis of favouritism, political influence and a mistaken interpretation of the Federal character rule. Not surprisingly, legal scholarships, firmness of character, discipline, integrity and exemplary character have been on the decline among magistrates and

judges. Corruption has been authoritatively commented on notably by the Justice Kayode Eso Reports. It is generally believed that Federal and State executives are able to exert undue influence in the course of justice. At the same time, the standard of legal education has been falling with devastating consequences especially in the lower ranks of the bench.

To redress these situations, The United Progressive Party will implement the following policies:

- i. UPP will take every step to safeguard the independence of the judiciary and the Judicial Service Commission, in the appointment, conditions of service, discipline, and tenure of judicial officers. It is important to ensure that the judiciary is extricated from executive influence and that, as far as possible judges, are insulated from the pressure of the Executive through such matters as their housing, courtrooms, transportation, personal security and welfare. The budget of the Judiciary will continue to be funded from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.
- ii. Legal qualifications will be important yardstick in all legal recruitments made under the UPP government. Second Class Honours at the EL B will be the minimum acceptable certificate: and preference will be given to lawyers who have postgraduate qualifications or have displayed scholarship through publications and conference papers. Continuing legal education for judges will be promoted. In this regard the work of the National Judicial Institute will be encouraged and greatly increased.

The scrutiny of the moral character and background of prospective appointees to the bench and to other judicial offices will be undertaken as a regular routine. Laws which give corrupt judges any form of immunity from prosecution or restrict in any way the full application of the law to them will be abolished. The

present government is already moving in this direction.

The remuneration and conditions of service of judicial officers must be raised to make the judiciary attractive to brilliant and ambitious members of the Bar. It is of the utmost importance that the best available talent should enter the services and that adequate retirement benefits be guaranteed to minimize temptation.

UPP will greatly increase the number of judges and magistrates. Undertake the building of new court houses, and upgrade support systems in order to expedite the hearing of cases. The enormous delays which occur presently form the basis of the saying that justice delayed is justice denied.

UPP will introduce vocational training within the prison system and promote the rehabilitation of released prisoners partly on the basis of humane consideration and partly to minimize recidivism in Nigerian prisons.

A highly professionalized Police Force that is adequately remunerated and decentralized in matters of safety of life and property would be put in place by UPP. UPP believes that an effective police force is a highly desirable requirement for an effective judiciary.

Chapter 9

A NEW INFORMATION CHARTER

An open society is a precondition for good, accountable and transparent government. It is a well-known fact in the United States of America from where we borrowed the presidential system, that the freedom of the press, as it is known today derives from the belief of the founding fathers that a free press is essential for the protection of democracy. The need was to spread information so that intelligent democratic government would be possible. Had the founding fathers believed that the end of democracy could have been served by the control of the

press or the suppression of information, they would have so provided.

A free press is essential to the building of a modern democratic state. Without it, autocracy becomes the norm and democracy becomes impossible. And it must be understood that the freedom of the press is not a privilege of the publisher or the editor or journalist, but rather the fundamental right of the people to know how they are governed. This right, as advocated by UPP, goes with responsibility.

The essential characteristic of a dictatorship or an authoritarian government is that its action cannot be questioned or enquired into. The business of government is conducted in secrecy without the governed making any input. **Public expenditure pattern is arbitrarily determined by a few persons acting in secret. This not only accounts for the high level of wastage of resources in government, it is a sure recipe for monumental corruption that is the hallmark of our government today.**

The conduct of a UPP government will be open. The Presidency

will be democratized and accountable to the Nigerian people at all times. UPP will, therefore, introduce the following measures:

- i. All documents that do not have national security implication will be declassified
- ii. Assets declaration will be publicly accessible.
- iii. Civil servants will no longer be gagged from giving information as required.
- iv. The laws of defamation and libel will be reviewed in line with the Access to information Act.
- v. The ownership of television stations, radio stations, newspapers, news magazines, and other news media will be fully deregulated and subject to minimum registration fees in order to give full freedom of information to the people.
- vi. Restrictions on the publication of certain classes of official news, such as election results from polling stations and collating stations will be lifted in the interest of transparency.

Chapter 10 AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE

To reform agriculture, attain food security, and revitalize rural life, The **United Progressive Party** will take the following measures.

- i. UPP will empower local government councils as the third tier of government to take responsibility for agriculture, primary education, primary health etc. To re-invigorate rural life, present efforts to improve rural roads, rural water supply, rural electricity and rural banking will be intensified.

Recognition, encouragement and marching grants will be given to community organizations working on community projects.

Local government councils will mobilize carefully structured pools of experts within their services to deal with problems of forestry, sheep and cattle herding, soil maintenance, the upgrading of farm techniques, the distribution of improved seeds, the use of fertilizers and pesticides, farm produce storage and transportation and marketing, and the organization of cooperatives.

UPP will accord priority to the role of the Nigerian Navy as the force which must guard our territorial waters against aggression, piracy and smuggling and ensure security for the increasing exploitation of gas and oil resources in the Gulf of Guinea.

UPP will ensure that our defence industries are funded and repositioned to produce the military equipment we need. In this regard the mobilization of local scientists and technologists for this purpose will greatly enlarge the scope of our Armed Forces.

UPP notes as a matter of course that salaries, barracks, uniforms and personal welfare for both the Armed Forces and the Police must be upgraded immediately.

With regard to internal security, UPP will put into effect the proposal for new recruitment and massive retraining for all ranks in the Police Force. Sophisticated

equipment and communications for combating crime will be provided. And arrangements must be made on the ground to ensure that law enforcement is community based. The Police cannot achieve anything if they do not deserve and receive the cooperation of the people.

- x. UPP notes that the role of State Governors as the Chief

Security Officers of their states is a relatively empty formula. **UPP** will, therefore, request the National Security Council to clarify the idea which is clearly relevant to on-going agitations for State Police Forces.

- xi. **UPP** re-affirms its faith in democracy, good government, good neighborliness and across-the-board consultations between all stakeholders as the ultimate guarantees of peace and security.
- xii. **UPP** shall pursue a policy in which the accommodation of Policemen in Barracks shall be brought to a stop. **UPP** believes that Policemen shall live among the communities they are trained to protect.
- xiii. **UPP** shall explore the possibility of setting-up a special fund for the Police Force.

Chapter 11 HEALTH POLICY

The **United Progressive Party** proposes that duties for the actualization of primary health care should be allocated to the three tiers of government as follows:

1. Duties of the Federal Government

- i. To set up a National Health Council which will develop comprehensive national policies, strategies and plans of action to ensure good medical services, healthy living and socio-economic well being for the people?

To Mobilise health resources, train manpower, establish standards, recommend technologies, monitor and evaluate programmes of action and maintain reliable statistics on the health of the nation.

To vote money and other resources for the actualization of the agreed programme of action.

Through NAFDAC and other inspectorate and standard organizations, to ensure that drugs manufactured in the country or imported into the country conform with medical specifications and the highest international standard.

To mobilize FEPA and other agencies and nongovernmental Organizations concerned with the environment to fight pollution and minimize environmental damage to public health.

The Duties of State Governments

State governments, acting through their Ministries of Health and inter-ministerial Health Management Boards will transform national policies into operational activities. They will take responsibility

To create Health Management Boards to co-ordinate all service producers including the Ministry of Health Education and Finance, the Water Board, environment agencies, donor organizations and organizations. Boards will also be responsible for the co-ordination of work in the local council areas.

To provide funding, technical services, the monitoring of standards, the choice of technologies, lists of essential drugs which must be held in stock evaluation and upgrading of services. To maintain high quality specialist hospitals, laboratories and technical services, to which referrals from communities should be made.

Community Health

Since primary health care is what the people do to promote and preserve their health and wellbeing, local government councils are the places where the real action must be.

The **United Progressive Party** will encourage local councils to create Health Management Committees to set local priorities and targets, to plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and upgrade health related actions. These actions should include programmes for the health of women, reproductive health, nutrition education, diets, hygiene and sanitation, medical care, the care of the elderly, dental health, psychiatric health, accident prevention and rehabilitation.

The entire programme of action aims at mobilizing entire communities to act purposefully for the protection of socio-economic well being, health practices and medical care. Until the government of the day recognizes the need to do this and take measures to stimulate the creative response of our communities to take appropriate action, we cannot begin to think of ourselves as a modern people-centred democracy.

Chapter 12

HOUSING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The programmes of the **United Progressive Party** in the areas Of Housing and Environment should be as follows;

- i. UPP will simplify the processes for the acquisition of land for building purpose by a massive use of the estate system.
- ii. UPP will promote research for new building technologies to reduce costs.
- iii. UPP will support the two tier system of fund mobilization in which the Federal Mortgage Bank is an apex institution working with private savings and loans institutions.
- iv. At the same time UPP will encourage private building societies and private savings and loans funds to be created in local government areas and states for savings mobilization
- v. UPP will use federal mortgage insurance organizations for re-financing mortgages.
- vi. Re-discounting facilities for mortgages will be established to enable insurance companies and banks participate in mortgages thereby raising the enormous loan fund that is needed for housing
- vii. UPP will encourage employers, local government councils and private entrepreneurs, using the low interest housing fund to create low cost estates for sale to the public. No estates will be put on the market until they have paved roads, light, water and drainage, and are environment friendly.

- viii. **UPP** will ensure that public conveniences are created in strategic places and that members of the public are not forced to indecency and the discharge of refuse everywhere in the streets.
- ix. **UPP** will establish agencies for the monitoring of environmental protection, public sanitation, and the restoration of tidiness and order in all public places.

Chapter 13 TRANSPORT POLICY

Nigerian transporters deserve credit for the work they have done in transport services especially in air transport and in inter-state luxury bus services. The transport system lacks coherence, however and several sectors, notably water transport and commuter services within our busy cities need planning and systematization. The transport policy of the United Progressive Party proposes the following aims and objectives:

- i. To create an efficient interlinked national transport network capable of moving people and goods comfortably and safely throughout the country.
- ii. To develop efficient and serviceable capabilities in water transport and rail transport.
- iii. To review the institution and regulations governing transport services.

- iv. To democratize and decentralize the institutions responsible for road construction, road maintenance and transport generally.

Air Transport

UPP will initiate the following measures for the re-organization and development of air transport.

1. **UPP** will constitute the Nigeria Airport Authority into a compact professional agency charged with responsibilities for planning, the supervision of construction, the maintenance of facilities, and inspection. It should raise enough funds, from the fees it charges for it to operate without statutory allocations.
- ii. Every Nigerian airport will be operated on commercial lines by a private limited liability company.
- iii. **UPP** will commercialize the Nigerian Airways immediately and gradually position the undertaking for privatization.
- iv. **UPP** will encourage Nigerian entrepreneurs presently operating in air transport to form a joint stock partnership that will enable them to improve their services and operate long-haul trans-continental services in competition with air carriers of the European Union and the United States of America.

To assist Nigerian airtransport companies in acquiring aircraft, **UPP** will authorize the operation of an Aircraft Purchase Loan on the same basis as the Shipping Fund which facilitated the purchase of ships by Nigerian shipping companies.

UPP will ensure, for the convenience of the public, that every geographical zone in the country has an

international airport.

- vii. For the safety of Nigerian air travelers, there shall be a strict enforcement of the regulations for aircraft maintenance.

Sea & River Transport

- i. **UPP** will constitute the Nigerian Ports Authority into a compact professional agency on the same lines as the Nigerian Airport Authority in 2(i) above.
- ii. Similarly, every Nigerian Seaport or river port will, be operated on commercial lines by a private limited liability company.
- iii. To assist Nigerian shipping lines, in acquiring ships, **UPP** will re-introduce the Ship Acquisition Fund and ensure that it operates without abuse.
- iv. To expand river transport and make it safe, the dredging of major rivers will be continuous.

Railways

Started in 1893, railway services were the mainstream of transport in Nigeria up to the early 1950. But they were slow and did not extend sufficiently throughout the country. Gradually their dominant position was taken over by road and air transport.

- i. **UPP** will continue the process of reconstruction, re-equipment, modernization and expansion of the railways especially for bulk haulage and for cheap long distance travel.
- ii. In this regard, conversion to the standard gauge and the purchase of well-equipped modern coaches for the comfort of long-distance travelers will be a priority.

- iii. New lines from Lagos to Calabar and from Sokoto to Maiduguri and Yola will be built.
- iv. The Nigerian Railways will be fully commercialized, then privatized and its operations decentralized for greater efficiency.

Road Transport

This is a fully privatized public services which should, with the improvement of roads, the training of transport personnel, and the operations of regulatory services, be a model of public self reliance, UPP policies will address the areas of need.

- i. UPP will create Highway Authorities on the analogy of the Ports Authority and the Airports Authority to provide planning, the supervision of construction and maintenance, and inspectorate services for road transport. The Authority will operate in the three tiers of government with the state tier being primarily responsible for operations.
- ii. It is quite clear that the state of the roads is one of the fundamental difficulties of road transport, and that until dualisation, asphaltting, drainage, and sustained maintenance is achieved, road transport will continue to be dangerous. UPP will ensure that these difficulties are removed.
- iii. Highway Authorities will create institutes of transport for the training of personnel in transport services. UPP believes that this measure will lead to greater

knowledge and discipline in the use of the road.

- iv. UPP will continue the programme of financing assistance for mass transit. The programme will be extended to taxi services in the main urban areas where congestions are severe as a result of the increasing cost of new vehicles.
- v. UPP will instruct its local government councils to build fully equipped (with waiting rooms, cafeterias and telephones) for: inter-city and inter-state transport.
- vi. Airports, seaports and railway stations will also have bus stations to ensure easy linkage between various systems.

Chapter 14

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

The **United Progressive Party** will vigorously pursue a policy that will lead Nigeria into the modern communications age with a ten-fold increase in available services. To this effect, **UPP** will proceed along the path of deregulation, privatization and democratization. It will take steps:

- i. To liberalize the sector by licensing more telecommunication carriers;
- ii. To reduce or abolish, as appropriate, all import duties on communications, computer and other IT equipment, raw materials and spares.
- iii. To abolish excise duties on locally manufactured or assembled communications and IT equipment.
- iv. To support local manufacturers and assemblers of communications and IT equipment through differential import duties, tax rebates and duty draw-backs for

exported products made in Nigeria.

- v. To provide basic infrastructure for communications and IT operators.
- vi. To pursue a vigorous programme of rural telephony to bring producers in remote areas into the main stream of national and global markets.
- vii. To introduce compulsory computer studies in the education system.

Chapter 15 LABOUR POLICY

Nigerian labour Unions have shown in the last few years that they are still at the fore front of the movement for good government and a democratic order. Under General Sani Abacha, they were unfailing in the sacrifices they were ready to make to defeat that evil regime. Since 1999 they have pioneered the demand for negotiated agreements and an equitable social order with the purchasing power of the Naira still falling and increasing default of the payment of salaries as and when due, it is clear that in the next few years¹ labour disputes will remain a recurrent factor in our public life. In dealing with labour, UPP will be guided by the principle that a worker alienated from his labour by poor salaries will be a poor worker and that the Nigerian economy cannot prosper until we have industrial peace.

The **United Progressive Party** will take the following measures in its labour relations.

- i. The **United Progressive Party** will set up a permanent Labour Council for discussion of all matter which have to do with workers.

- ii. **UPP** will recognize and encourage independent labour Unions, uphold all laws which protect their right and strengthen the machinery for collective bargaining with public and private sector.
- iii. **UPP** will review all laws dealing with trade disputes and ensure that they conform with democratic practice in other countries.
- iv. **UPP** will ensure that the salaries and other entitlements of workers are paid as and when due.
- v. In addition to the various efforts which are being made to create employment, **UPP** will set up direct labour forces, farm settlements and other emergency agencies to take up some of the unemployed manpower within the nation.
- vi. As the purchasing power of the Naira has not fallen to less than **1%** of the original value, **UPP** will set up a Commission to review the entire question of salaries and conditions of service as they affect the entire economy.

Chapter 16

POLICY ON WOMEN

Although women in Nigerian societies have played every role including those of being monarch, warrior or priest, there is no doubt whatsoever that in the allocation of power and resources, we have favoured men. In the spirit of post- Beijing reconstruction for the achievement of gender parity and a more

inclusive democracy, the **United Progressive Party** will take the following measures for the empowerment of the fair sex who, according to the 1991 National Census, constitute half (49.6%) of the Nigerian electorate.

- i. UPP will sponsor public enlightenment programmes to light gender inequality and gender insensitivities in every aspect of our national life.
- ii. UPP will promote affirmative action by employers to place women in position of authority.
- iii. UPP will use the media and other means of persuasion to promote the education of the girl child on a basis of equality with the boy child; and as we proceed into an era of compulsory education, it will be a breach of the law to withdraw girls from the school system for any reason whatsoever until they attain the age of sixteen years.
- iv. UPP will review credit guidelines in the relevant sections of the banking industry to make it easier for women (who are active in agriculture and the informal sector) to have access to credit.
- v. UPP will sponsor legislation forbidding marriage before the age of 18 which is the recognized age for adulthood. In addition, a deliberate programme of reorientation would be embarked upon to protect the dignity of the girl child by discouraging harmful customary practices and imposition of marriage partners upon young girls.
- vi. UPP will support through scholarships and special grants, girls and women who show exceptional skills in their academic pursuits.
- vii. UPP will review all labour laws which are insensitive to

the special position of women as mothers and home builders.

- viii. UPP will ensure that every facility is made available for women athletes to excel in their special discipline in athletics and sports.
- i. W. UPP will encourage women to seek elective office in local governments, the states and at the federal level.

UPP will give women senior political appointments in the spirit of Beijing Declaration

Chapter 17

YOUTH, SPORT & CULTURE

The **United Progressive Party** considers that policies for the development of youth, sports and culture are an aspect of national education. Their overriding aim is the creation of a new generation sound in body and mind, full of confidence and team spirit that has been developed in the field of competitive sport at the highest level, and capable of every challenge of an unpredictable world with easy assurance. In giving the youth secure footing in our cultural heritage; we give them an anchor which enables them to appropriate the technology and business sophistication of the modern world without losing their grounding in a secure traditional system of values. In club activities and team sports, experience are garnered which are directly applicable to nation building and future leadership responsibilities.

For the attainment of this goal, an UPP government

- i. Will initiate and monitor the implementation of legislations that fully protects the rights of the child,

defend the child against all forms of abuse and, societal exploitation in keeping with Geneva Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- ii. Will support morally and financially all existing youth groups whose programmes are consistent with the moral, physical and intellectual nurturing of the young.
- iii. Will encourage the youth to take part in development activities and programmes as preparing them for future leadership roles.
- iv. Will seek ways of making the National Youth Service programme more attractive to the youth by improving service conditions.
- v. Will use intensive awareness campaign both in the media and through organized youth groups to sensitize the youth to the dangers of cultism, alcoholism, drug abuse, promiscuity and all other forms of social vices.
- vi. Will create vocational and skill acquisition centres for the training of youths who do not have the benefit of formal education.
- vii. Will encourage in more concrete terms, youth who are involved in sports, athletics through the provision of better facilities for training and recreation. In the same vein our national sports team shall receive full government support at all times and youth who excel in this pursuit will receive national recognition.
- viii. Will sponsor individual sportsmen and women to participate in international sports competitions outside the country.
- ix. Will encourage physically disabled youth who show interest in sports by providing specialized equipment and facilities for training.

- x. Will support the building of sports centers in every local government area of the country.
- xi Will lay the foundation for our youth to begin to participate internationally in sports like gymnastics, cycling, fencing swimming etc.
- xii. Will encourage the promotion of our rich cultural heritage through annual cultural fiestas and participating in international cultural festivals.
- xiii. Will promote annual exhibitions of arts, artifacts and crafts during which prizes are awarded.
- xiv. Will ensure that cultural studies are introduced into the academic curriculum at all levels of education. This will keep alive our heritage in the consciousness of the youth.

Chapter 18

NIGERIA AND THE WORLD

To achieve optimal economic growth and a good standing among the nations of the world, **the United Progressive Party** will take the following measures:

UPP will promote and expand all bilateral and multilateral agreements which will strengthen Nigerian democracy and support our economic development.

UPP will strengthen our ties with ECOWAS nations and our leadership position in the West African sub-region and hasten the operation of the treaties for the free movement of goods and persons and for the introduction of a common currency.

UPP will continue to support MINCOMAR, IJASC and other sub-regional treaties of understanding to promote trade and development of shipping in the West African sub-region.

UPP will work for the full realization of the African Union as a platform for African development, for the negotiation of international agreements upon an advantageous footing with great nations of the world, and for the uplifting of the dignity of the black people of the world.

UPP believes that Nigeria, as the sixth largest oil producer and a major player in gas production could become a force to be reckoned with in the world energy sector and that its strength in this regard could be turned to diplomatic advantage.

UPP will work through the African Union and in concert with other organizations of the Third World to achieve better terms for countries of the Third World in the WTO.

UPP will continue to discharge Nigeria's obligations as a member of the United Nations and its agencies and to pursue policies of mutual cooperation and coexistence with all other nations of the world.

UPP will support the establishment, through the United Nations, of a just peace in the world and the end of terrorism as the means of solving political problems.

