

MANIFESTO

OF



APDA

**Advanced Peoples
Democratic Alliance**

“Stronger Together”

TABLE OF CONTENT

Advanced Peoples Democratic Alliance Manifesto 2017.....	4
Our Values.....	4
Our Vision.....	4
Our Mission.....	5
Our Ideology.....	5
The State Of Our Nation.....	5
The Thrust Of Our Manifesto.....	6
Strengthening The Corporate Unity Of Nigeria.....	7
Our Pledge And Commitment.....	7
Economic And Social Development Pillars Of APDA.....	10
Our Social Contract With Nigerians.....	11

ECONOMIC SERVICES

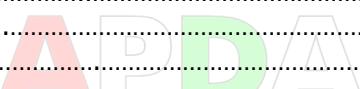
Minerals, Metals and Steel.....	16
Agriculture And Food Security.....	17
Farming And Food Production.....	18
Environmental Protection.....	19
Adaptable Climate Change Programs.....	21
Waste To Wealth.....	22
Water Security As Economic Stimulus For Sustainable Development Of Nigeria.....	23
Real Sector And Rural Development.....	26
Job Creation.....	27
International Trade.....	29
Developing The Creative Industry.....	30
Workers Welfare.....	31
Wage Support Program.....	32
Support For The Vulnerable.....	33
Retirement Support.....	33
Infrastructure Development.....	34
Transport.....	36
Improving Local Public Transport.....	37
Industrialisation.....	37
Small Scale Industrialisation.....	40
Power And Energy Sufficiency.....	41
Power And Diversified Local Energy Generation & Distribution.....	42
Technology Development.....	44

SOCIAL SERVICES

Education.....	45
Education Curriculum And Teacher Qualifications.....	50
Children with Special Needs.....	52
Skill Based Secondary Education.....	53
Tertiary Education.....	54
Health Care.....	57
Strengthening the NHIS.....	58
Mental Health Care.....	59
Housing Development.....	60
Protecting Private Tenants And Leaseholders.....	64
Youth Development.....	65
Sport Development.....	67
Developing The Creative Industry.....	68
Sports And Well-Being.....	69

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Inclusive Governance.....	69
Foreign Policy.....	72
Equal Opportunity for All.....	73
Criminal Justice System.....	76
Access to Justice.....	76
Corruption.....	78
Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls.....	78
Freedom of Speech and Press Freedom.....	81
Improving Standards in Public Services.....	82
Improving The Business Environment.....	84
Taxation.....	84
Inclusive Budgeting.....	86
Banking and Financial Reforms.....	88
Consumers Protection.....	93



INTERNAL SECURITY

Crime Prevention.....	94
Armed Forces and Security Agencies.....	100
Communal Crisis and Herdsmen Clashes.....	101
Terrorism and Violent Extremism.....	102

SPECIAL AREAS OF INTEREST

North East, IDPS And The Lake Chad Region.....	103
Developing The Niger Delta.....	107
Conclusion.....	108

ADVANCED PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE MANIFESTO 2017

We the Advanced Peoples Democratic Alliance (APDA) crave your kind indulgence to present our Manifesto. This document which is our social contract with Nigerians is driven by the consciousness, that if there is any time our country needs political, social and economic restructuring that time is NOW.

OUR VALUES

Advanced Peoples Democratic Alliance (APDA) stands for an inclusive Nigerian society based on principles of freedom, equality, solidarity, diversity and fairness. We are committed to fighting for social justice, job creation and economic growth. We shall initiate policies and programmes that will promote consumer rights, sustainable development and financial market reforms so as to create a stronger, more democratic nation and a better future for every Nigerian. Our priority is to fight unemployment and ensure that our societies and markets become fairer. We are determined to restore hope and trust of Nigerians for and in the future of our country.

OUR VISION

Our values, as encapsulated above, and our vision, mission and ideology include a just, peaceful and democratic Nigeria, free from hunger and premised on freedom and justice. We shall entrench the inalienable rights of Nigerians to work whilst guaranteeing protection of their lives and personal safety as well as shielding them from all acts of torture and degradation. We shall protect freedoms of association, the right to free expression and provide genuine social security.

OUR MISSION

Advanced Peoples Democratic Alliance (APDA) is committed to preserving and fostering support for the rights, liberties and aspirations of all Nigerian citizens with equality and without exclusion. We shall achieve this idea through education, voter registration and personal participation in the political process in all local, state and national campaigns and elections for public office and political initiatives.

The core of our mission is the creation of a Nigeria that is Africa's strongest voice and force for peace and freedom. We are committed to a Nigeria that comes together around our enduring values.

OUR IDEOLOGY

Advanced Peoples Democratic Alliance as a social democratic party is irrevocably committed to curbing inequality, oppression of the underprivileged and poverty in Nigeria. The party will focus on entrenching universally accessible public services for the elderly, children and the physically challenged. For our level of development, we shall pursue a mixed economic that is private sector driven while ensuring that critical essential services would be operated and delivered by the public sector. We pledge to recreate a Nigeria that guarantees all its citizens the right to pursue their aspirations and achieve their full potentials.

THE STATE OF OUR NATION

It is obvious that our nation is in dire need of social, political and economic re-engineering, retooling and remodelling. It is crystal clear that we cannot continue to operate our present system of

governance, which negates the development of our natural endowments, agro-allied, minerals, water and promotes an import substitution model that is encouraging import dependence. We cannot continue to operate a system where a segment of our governance structures decide the fate of the rest.

Fellow Nigerians, it is an incontrovertible fact that the change Nigerians yearned for has not occurred as statistics show our economy is in a free fall with massive loss of jobs and livelihood, increase in crime commission, youth unemployment, poor infrastructure, resulting to more Nigerians vegetating under poverty lines.

In remedying this situation, our social contract with Nigeria and Nigerians is that we shall protect our environment from those who negatively exploit it. This is because if our eco-system is destroyed, mankind would go into extinction. We want to rebuild the industrial base of Nigeria and create a sustainable job opportunity for our people. We shall make infrastructural development (power, transport, housing, etc) not only result and demand based, but hinged on the principles of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to significantly reduce government expenditure on infrastructure.

THE THRUST OF OUR MANIFESTO

In view of the above, we have developed a manifesto that not only considers the current state of affairs in the country, but proffers solutions to address and redress them. These identified concerns are inclusive but not limited to citizen rights, education, gender, power, infrastructure, social inclusion, participatory

governance based on internal democracy, rule of law, climate change and food security, access to social housing water and energy, health, skills based education, insecurity, crime, militancy and insurgency, the youth bulge, the social imperative and vulnerabilities of the majority of citizens of the country, recession, unemployment crisis, environmental degradation, the rise in intolerance and hate.

STRENGTHENING THE CORPORATE UNITY OF NIGERIA

In our belief in the oneness and indivisibility of our country, APDA is totally and irrevocably committed to the corporate existence of our great nation; To this end, APDA would pursue through popular citizenry participation, strengthening the capacities of the sub nationals to harness and value process the natural endowments for the development of such localities as a first charge and subsequently our common good as Nigerians.



We believe that it has become clear to all well-meaning Nigerians that our present governance structures and actors are either enamoured by the magnitude of the issues bedevilling our dear country or they have not been able, like the previous administrations develop a holistic and all-inclusive socio-economic programs that would return our nation to prosperity and social inclusion.

OUR PLEDGE AND COMMITMENT

We assure Nigerians that in spite of the overwhelming infrastructure degradation, lack of electricity, herdsmen/ farmer clashes across the food belts of Nigeria, Insurgencies in the North East and South-South, the agitations arising from the

activities of IPOB, MASSOB, OPC, the Kidnappings all over Nigeria and the growing possibility of famine in the midst of hunger, we will rebuild our country and place it on the path of prosperity.

- ❖ We promise and re-assure Nigerians that we will build a stronger society and fairer economy and spread opportunities to every citizen.
- ❖ We intend to lay the much-needed foundation refocusing our governance structures and strata at all levels, infrastructure and power development programs.
- ❖ We will fund education from pre-primary to junior secondary levels and reintroduce technical education.
- ❖ We will develop and deploy all the necessary legislation, policies and programs to support and improve our sports, creative arts and youth development to the level of international acceptable standards
- ❖ We would focus on the exploration, exploitation, value processing and utilisation of our mineral endowments for the development of such host communities as a charge and the development of national infrastructure and allied services
- ❖ In view of above we will do “all and more” to return all the steel plants and rolling mills back to service and dedicate each of the facilities to the production of the steel based mineral required for infrastructure development and other steel based products (automobiles, air and sea crafts, machinery, equipment etc)

- ❖ We intend to reduce crime by initiating community policing and investing on intelligence gathering. We intend to make health funding a priority, invest in mental health and revive the NHIS program, and,
- ❖ We will protect our environment by reducing degradation, plant back our forest and invest in renewable forms of energy

On a last note, the desire for justice and equity in economic independence, social cohesion, national integration and political stability have been expressed continuously in the convocation of periodic Constitutional and/or National Conferences from the colonial period to the present, the most recent of which is the 2014 National Conference.

APDA identifies with the salient recommendations of the 2014 National Conference and will vigorously pursue a national referendum for its implementation

May God protect and bless you as you join us in this race to rescue and rebuild Nigeria.

APDA!!!!!! STRONGER TOGETHER

MALLAM SHITU KABIRU

INTERIM National Chairperson

DR.EMEKA OKENGWU

INTERIM National Secretary

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PILLARS OF ADVANCED PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (APDA)

INTRODUCTION

Our primary goal as a political party is not only to fix but to grow and return the Nigerian economy to the path of sustainable growth and prosperity. It is clear that Nigeria's prolonged economic depression was largely occasioned and is presently sustained by lack of properly defined socio-economic development structures and policies by the subsisting administrations. This odious situation has been worsened by the present prevailing economic retrogression that has placed our country on the verge of imminent collapse if our economy is not urgently placed on the path of growth.

APDA, through a detailed review of the issues that brought our country to this pitiable state, has a comprehensive understanding of all the dynamics that recessed and continues to depress our economic growth.

APDA has not only developed the blueprint to restore Nigeria's ailing and ebbing economy but has equally thought out the policies and programs that will return her to the path of growth by making Nigerian public institutions and private sector agile and dynamic enough to respond to global opportunities and challenges.

The APDA policies and program in view are inclusive but not limited to retiring the obstacles hindering the competitiveness of Nigerian governance structures and institutions to respond to the rapidly global business environment, notably poor or non-existent legal frameworks and infrastructural facilities that mitigate competitiveness in the business environment.

OUR SOCIAL CONTRACT WITH NIGERIANS

This manifesto which flows from the review of various development documents inclusive but not limited to the Vision 20:10, Vision 20:20 and the 30-year infrastructure masterplan as well as the 2014 National Conference has the sole intention of building a united, progressive, harmonious, safe, and just society in Nigeria.



APDA will be on track to eradicate child illiteracy and innumeracy by strengthening the existing capacities while expanding the human and material scope of formal, non-formal, nomadic and Islamic education systems and infrastructure in Nigeria. Our politics will be open and gender sensitive and we are committed to achieving thirty percent (30%) of all party and public office positions going to women and another twenty-five percent (25%) going to the youths and the physically challenged five percent (5%).

We are determined to create more jobs with steadily higher wages and better employment rights for our citizens. We intend to reform the laws and programmes that address issues of persons with disability; we will set up a benefit

system that pays for them to work, and ensure a better pension system so that those who work, and save can feel confident about life after retirement.

We aim to bring millions more from the informal sector into the workplace pension and cap on the cost to ensure that people who save can afford to be supported properly in old age depending on their needs.

We will introduce Job Creation Partnerships (JCP) that will guarantee that young people will leave school and college confident about their future. Our Party in government will take a long-term approach to supporting business and industry, helping to supply credit, skilled workers and infrastructure.

Our sea, inland waterways, rail and road networks will be made more extensive, safe and reliable, and we will make greater contribution to the skilled workforce addressing technologies for the future.

APDA will invest in urban and regional economic regeneration schemes every year, to ensure graduates and job seekers alike are meaningfully engaged in meeting national and regional goals. Home ownership will be a strategic objective of an APDA government with emphasis on building new green towns, villages and suburbs around economic hubs of the nation.

Our plan will bring together a lifetime of opportunities for every generation, enhancing the quality of all our lives. Mothers and fathers will be able to share the joys and struggles of responsible family planning with tax rebates, grants and benefits which rewards families for sustainable parenting by investing in their children's education – and we will drive up standards by investing in teachers in every nursery and every classroom. We will be on track to eradicate child illiteracy and innumeracy.

Young people will leave school and college confident about their future: we would have doubled our investments in and procurements from businesses hiring apprentices. We will consolidate investments in our Universities to ensure they are Centres of excellence and we will open up polytechnics even further, with more places going to young people from the poorest backgrounds. The cost of living will no longer be a barrier to getting on in life: transportation will be cheaper for young people aged 16–24. And graduates starting out through the NYSC will get help to rent their first place with a government-backed tenancy deposit loan. Our focus is to build more social housing across the communities in Nigeria that will be made available, to let and purchase.

Young families will benefit from our policy of leasing to home ownership, where monthly payments steadily stake in rented apartments. We will introduce the senior life policies that would allow our senior citizens to live their lives to the fullest.

We will introduce policies that will enable young parents share the joys and struggles of early parenthood with extended Shared Parental Leave. We will introduce free, high-quality childcare when the parental leave is over, through the introduction of adequate infrastructure in crèches and nursery/primary schools with qualified teachers in every classroom.

With the growth in insecurity, the issues of the free movement of persons has become an issue, this is also true of the growing intolerance from different ethnic groups. Our National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) will be adequately funded and mental health will have equal status with physical health. Those facing anxiety and depression will be covered while special and better programs will be developed to address the health of pregnant women and the new-born.

We will not only make agriculture our cardinal focus we will equally plant not less than 130 million trees across Nigerian with every state planting at least 10 million trees annually. Similarly, land will be safeguarded as National/state/ community Parks, and green laws will be passed in every state of the country. These laws and our programmes will address issues of protection of nature and wildlife, cleaning up of our air and water and helping fight climate change.

However, before we can achieve the Nigeria of our dreams we must as earlier reiterated, review the structure of the Nigerian state with a view to addressing the conflicting issues which for

too long have diverted the direction of Nigerian leadership along ethnic, religious and tribal sentiments.

We will focus on the Reports of successive Constitutional Reform Conferences which have painstakingly reviewed the National questions and have proffered sound recommendations that address our national challenges ranging from issues of national security such as militancy, insurgency and state security to economic regeneration by way of investments in power, empowerment, food security and national economic support assets.

APDA is committed to reviving and re-engaging Nigerians on conferences recommendations which aim to place Nigeria on a solid footing promoting true federalism, fiscal responsibility and an egalitarian society built on freedom, equity and justice for all citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In striving for these lofty goals, APDA is mindful of the pitfalls of impunity, economic mismanagement, poor governance and corruption which have been the bane of successive governments.

However, we cannot address these issues by wishing these derelict tendencies away, but we will commence the process of cleansing by promoting leadership recruitment criteria that will identify and present candidates for election which have established a track record of good character, capacity, competence, patriotism and success in their respective journeys through life.

As people based political movement, we are irrevocably committed to building a stronger and truly united Nigeria. To this end, APDA will pursue its ideals and social contracts through these under listed five (5) broad thematic areas of Economic Services, Social Services, Good Governance, Security and Special Areas of Focus and fifty six (56) Focal Pillars for the socio-economic and Socio- political development of Nigeria.

A. ECONOMIC SERVICES

1. MINERALS, METALS AND STEEL

APDA recognises that no nation can survive without technology and developing the capacity reverse engineering and technology application. APDA is also conscious of the fact that steel is the basis of infrastructure development and that steel production is based on the sustainable exploration, exploitation and value processing of minerals into metals and then into steel products. In view of the fact that Nigeria is endowed with over four hundred and fifty (450) various types of minerals(metallic, non-metallic and gem grade minerals) that has neither been harnessed or applied to national development as a result of low understanding.

APDA with its full understanding of the lacunas that has created the apathy for this all important sector would develop and deploy initiatives, policies and programs that

would tie exploration activities in the mines, to beneficiation programs at the beneficiation or steel and allied products at facilities like the Ajaokuta Steel Rolling Mill and the other rolling mills in Aladja, Oshogbo, Jos and Katsina with clear off taker programs for such materials coming out of the mills for use in the production of agricultural machinery and allied equipment, rail tracks and rolling stock, automobiles, ships sea crafts, military equipment, heavy duty machinery and soft technological appliances.

APDA is focused and determined to reverse the present trend of total dependence on importation to full home based local production based on locally sources raw materials and technology.

2. **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

APDA recognises that any nation that cannot feed itself and protect its environment is a nation that is on the path of self-destruct, as evident in the present socio-economic realities of our country. To remedy this situation ADPA has developed a framework that will make Nigeria self-sufficient in the production, processing and packaging of quality and highly nutritious food.

APDA also recognises the role of protecting the environment and has developed a holistic blueprint for not only protecting our environment and fighting climate

change but also pursuing green growth and greater commitment to international climate obligations.

3. **FARMING AND FOOD PRODUCTION**

Our farmers do an essential job by putting food on our tables and enhancing the natural environment, but food policy has been neglected for too long. We will encourage investment, growth, innovation and new entrants, securing the future of food and farming industry in Nigeria. This will be done through the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, eliminating the remaining production and export subsidies and supporting the development of environmentally sustainable solutions to growing demand for food.

APDA will:

- ❖ Ensure farming support is concentrated on sustainable food production, conservation and tackling climate change, shifting attention to the active farmer rather than the land owner.
- ❖ Introduce a National Food Strategy such as green revolution so as to promote the production and consumption of healthy, sustainable and affordable food. One key strategy will be to increase the use of locally and sustainably sourced, healthy and seasonal foods.

- ❖ Work to ensure the labelling on meat, meat products, milk and dairy products.
- ❖ Ensure the Food Standards Agency is adequately resourced to enforce food safety standards, and strengthen food fraud surveillance.
- ❖ Develop an Animal Disease Strategy to reduce the risks and costs of animal disease, while continuing to improve standards of animal welfare.
- ❖ Develop and implement reforms on Fisheries Policy, working with industry and others to develop a national plan for sustainable fisheries, with fair treatment for the inshore small fisher communities.

4. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

The environment is at the heart of government policy on environment. APDA will lead the way in the passing of green laws to establish a permanent legal framework for a prosperous, sustainable economy.

APDA will

- ❖ Set out a long-term plan for recovering nature, with annual updates to the National Assembly, including how to reverse the decline of species and their habitats and ensure that bees and other insects are able to fulfil their important role as crop pollinators.

- ❖ The introduction of a new Public Sector Sustainability duty, requiring steadily higher green criteria in public procurement policy, and placing requirements on public authorities to act in a sustainable manner.
- ❖ Implementation of the findings of the Independent Panel on Forestry, creating a new public body, free from political interference and securely funded, to own and manage the national forests.
- ❖ New powers for government to introduce new energy efficiency and heat saving regulations to reduce heat and energy use.

Pollution does not respect national borders, and wildlife and ecosystems are not constrained by political boundaries. Challenges like climate change and deforestation are too massive for individual countries to tackle alone.

APDA will:

- ❖ Continue pushing for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and the greater use of funds to support low-carbon investments, while ensuring the high polluting countries achieve climate commitments and plays a leadership role on efforts to combat climate change.
- ❖ Work to secure agreement on global climate treaty at UN Climate Conferences, and seek to participate in the

Green Climate Fund reserved to assist poorer countries to tackle and adapt to climate change.

- ❖ Work with regulatory bodies and financial investors to establish a global reporting standard for fossil fuel companies on the potential impact of future restrictions on carbon emissions on their asset base.
- ❖ Push for the creation of a marine nature reserve in the Atlantic Ocean, to promote the highest possible environmental standards for companies operating in the region and press for a ban on vessels undertaking industrial fishing.

5. **ADAPTABLE CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMS**

The devastating arid and hot climates including floods experienced over the past few years are a sign of accelerating climate change, exacerbated by changing patterns of land use. We need to find better ways of adapting to changing climate so that it does not put increased pressure on infrastructure, water supplies and ecosystems.

APDA will:

- ❖ Prepare a national resilience plan to help the Nigerian economy, national infrastructure and natural resources adapt to the likely impacts of temperature rise.

- ❖ Work with local government to review incidences of disasters, risks and land drainage, and introduce high standards for resilience in flood risk areas.
- ❖ Implement programmes to help farmers and other land users adapt to climate change impacts including protecting soil and forest carbon sinks, encouraging planting in uplands and restoring flood plains.
- ❖ Update construction and planning standards for buildings against higher temperatures.

6. **WASTE TO WEALTH**

The successful economies of the future will be 'circular' - where waste and the use of non-renewable resources are minimised and recovery, reuse and recycling are maximised. Nigeria has a huge waste management challenge and can lead the way in addressing it by generating sustainable prosperity and jobs. APDA will bring forward a comprehensive waste strategy to build a thriving reuse and recycling industry and pass a Resource Efficiency and Zero Waste Act.

APDA will

- ❖ Use regulation both nationally and in the states to promote sustainable design where reparability, re-use and recyclability are prioritised, to reduce packaging waste.

- ❖ Establish a coherent tax and regulatory framework for landfill, incineration and waste collection to drive continuous increases in re-use and recycling rates and ensure only non-recyclable waste is incinerated, including reinstating the Landfill Tax escalator and extending it to the lower rate and consulting on the introduction of an Incineration Tax.
- ❖ Establish a statutory waste recycling target for Nigeria.
- ❖ Encourage the growth of anaerobic digestion to produce biogas for heat and transport, and sustainable fertiliser, working with Local Authorities to extend separate food waste collections.

7. **WATER SECURITY AS ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA**

Everyone knows that water is essential to life on the planet and to the prosperity of its people. The increasing pressures of climate change, population growth, urbanization, Sahara desertification and evolving energy needs, are together putting unprecedented pressure on our finite freshwater resources.

The Lake Chad basin which supported approximately 9 million people, their communities, agriculture and wildlife is today 1/20th its size of 1980, sparking communal migration by farmers and herdsmen.

The Kainji dam which depends **on the** Kainji Lake as its major resource **utilized** in Nigeria's power generation is subject to droughts which have made River Niger's water flow unpredictable, diminishing the dam's electrical output.

Agriculture being the economic footstool of the country is dependent on water supply for irrigation, yet water scarcity occasioned by droughts, desertification and communities depleting water streams for their existential needs have resulted in diminished output, low crop yields and subsistence farming as opposed to industrial agriculture.

The actions needed to move towards achieving water security need to be embedded into national development plans, such as poverty reduction strategies and comprehensive development frameworks. There is a need to bring together fragmented institutional responsibilities and interests in water, such as finance, planning, agriculture, energy, transport, tourism, industry, education and health.

Achieving water security thus requires cooperation between different water users, and between those sharing river basins and aquifers, within a framework that allows for the protection of vital eco-systems from pollution and other threats.

Whether it is food security, nutrition security, poverty reduction, economic growth, and energy production, human health water is the nexus. Water is a key factor in the achievement of each of the Millennium Development Goals. Without water security, there will be no food security, energy security will be compromised and poverty reduction and economic growth will not be sustainable. Because water is central to development, investing in water delivers immediate benefits as well as long-term social, economic and environmental resilience.

APDA is committed to:

- ❖ Creating economic incentives for large scale investments in the areas of water desalination plants and water transport pipelines, while ensuring that Northern Nigeria benefits from our coastal borders.
- ❖ Investment in industrial agriculture hubs with linked transportation networks within Nigeria so crops, livestock and agricultural-allied produce cultivated across the country will contribute to food security for the Nation and becomes a source of export earnings to neighboring landlocked countries.
- ❖ Task the Ministry of Environment to identify the key natural water resources being used unsustainably and recommend legally binding targets for reducing their

net consumption; and introduce incentives for businesses to improve resource efficiency.

- ❖ Help incentivize investment in last mile urban water distribution by subsidizing rights of way in urban civil works with developmental benefits.

8. **REAL SECTOR AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

To deliver a balanced economy with strengths in every part of Nigeria as the different parts need highly skilled workforce and flexible business support and finance. This means that there is need to continue to invest to grow sectors like agriculture, technology and education so that high-skilled, sustainable jobs will open up in the supply chain to more small and medium-sized businesses and support firms bringing activity back to Nigeria. As a result, APDA is committed to;

- ❖ Double innovation and research spending across the economy, supported by greater public funding to longer timescale, using technology centres and support for green innovation.
- ❖ There is need to increase the science budget and ensure that capital and revenue spending have increased. Get more of the regional bodies such as the Water Basins to devolve more economic decision-making to local areas, building on the success of Township Deals and Growth Deals, which prioritize

transport, housing and infrastructure funding, skills training and back-to-work support.

- ❖ To achieve this, we need to address the support to medium-sized businesses through a one-stop-shop for accessing government support, a dedicated unit and the development of management skills.
- ❖ There is also the issue of ensuring that local economies work by working with Local Enterprise Partnerships to improve their effectiveness and coordination.

9. **JOB CREATION**

If there is any time the Nigerian economy needs to create jobs at all, the time is now. The loss of jobs and livelihoods shows that the present governance structures and actors are not in tune with the digital demands for growth and hence are unable to develop programs that can create jobs for the teeming youth population of Nigeria.

APDA will address the issue of job creation through the policy of intensive focus on human capital development that is demand driven and this policy would be tied to natural and mineral resources exploration, exploitation, beneficiation that would be evidence based and result driven and that is intractably tied to the development of national infrastructure.

In pursuit of this goal, APDA will retool/return all the presently dysfunctional skill development centres and abandoned mines and beneficiations facilities to service. APDA would focus on the exploration of the over 450 different mineral resources across the country and commence with the exploitation of the bentonite belts in the north - east, the coal belts in the south east running to the south- south and the north- central up to the north- east and the bitumen belts in the south-west. The Party would equally focus on the phosphate in the north for the production of fertilizers. Deliver a reformed and improved Work Programme in partnership with states and local governments. By devolving support to local governments, we can ensure help and training which is tailored to local employment markets are better integrated with other services.

- ❖ This we can do by establishing and resourcing Job centre and Work Programme providers to ensure there is real help for those furthest from the labour market.
- ❖ Establish a review of effective ways to promote 'rainy day' saving to improve people's financial resilience, and reform hardship payments, making it easier for people to bring forward part of their benefit payments to deal with emergencies.

- ❖ Develop a package of specialist support for carers seeking part-time work or a return to full-time employment.

10. **INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

As part of the global economy through oil exports, we must promote open markets and free trade, both within Africa and beyond. APDA believes we should welcome talented people from abroad, encourage visitors and tourists who will contribute enormously to our economic growth, and give sanctuary to refugees fleeing persecution.

APDA will:

- 
- ❖ Ensure that Nigeria remains a committed member of ECOWAS which will help to negotiate EU international trade agreements, and other regional economic treaties.
 - ❖ Ensure that Nigeria is attractive destination for ECOWAS students; not least of those who wish to study STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).
 - ❖ Nigeria needs to grow its tourism and heritage economy, and give the sector the status they deserve in government or in wider society.

APDA will:

- ❖ Strengthen the Hospitality and Tourism Council, and give higher status to tourism within the Ministry of Culture, Media and Sport.
- ❖ Develop successful Tourism initiatives to devolve more power, resources and decision-making to local areas to promote their unique tourism propositions.

11. **DEVELOPING THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY**

APDA understands that arts, creative industries and culture are crucial to Nigeria's success and essential for personal fulfilment and quality of life. The Nigerian creative sector has been one of the greatest success stories of the past five years, and a critical driver of employment. Nollywood is the pride of Nigeria and with proper support will deliver access for all, regardless of income, ethnicity, gender, age, belief, sexuality or disability. We believe the arts have an essential role in our education system and will work to encourage creativity in our schools and universities.

APDA will:

- ❖ Support growth in the creative industries, including the movie industry, by continuing to support the relevant agencies, promoting creative skills, supporting modern and flexible patent, copyright and licensing rules, and addressing the barriers to finance faced by small creative businesses.

12. **WORKERS WELFARE**

Working-age benefits make up a significant proportion of public spending, and have long been in need of reform, the priority is to tackle the causes of rising benefit bills – high rents, low pay, sickness and unemployment.

APDA will:

- ❖ Introduce disability and parental leave benefits.
- ❖ Encourage landlords to lower their rent by paying them Housing Benefit directly, with tenants' consent, in return for a fixed reduction. Our plans for a major expansion of house building and new 'family friendly' tenancies, which limit annual rent increases, will also help reduce upward pressure on rents.
- ❖ Create links between Job creation partnership centres and Work Programme providers and the local Health Insurance Schemes to ensure all those in receipt of health-related benefits are getting the care and support to which they are entitled.
- ❖ Work with Local Authorities to tackle fraud and error in a more coordinated way, in particular on Housing Benefit.
- ❖ Help everyone in work on a low wage step up the career ladder and increase their hours, reducing their need for benefits, with tailored in-work careers and job search advice.

13. WAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM

APDA will introduce policies and programmes to get more people earn a decent wage, and see that fewer persons are dependent on benefits or stuck in poverty and;

- ❖ Ensure swift implementation of the new rules requiring companies with more than 25 employees to publish details of the different pay levels of men and women in their organisation. We will build on this platform and extend transparency requirements to include publishing the number of people paid less than a Living Wage.
- ❖ Seek ways of raising the National Minimum Wage, without damaging employment opportunities.
- ❖ Establish an independent review to consult on how to set a fair Living Wage across all sectors and encourage other public sector employers to do likewise.
- ❖ Improve the enforcement of employment rights, reviewing Employment Tribunal fees to ensure they are not a barrier. Ensure employers cannot avoid giving their staff rights or paying the minimum wage by wrongly classifying them.

14. SUPPORT FOR THE VULNERABLE

The aim of this provision is to introduce in Nigeria, a system that supports and helps those in need, both financially and in terms of advice and support. There is need in this case to have transparent rules that ensure that assessments are truly fair, with quick access to financial help for those who cannot work, and support for those who can.

APDA will:

- ❖ Invest in assessments for Disability Living Allowance for persons in need.
- ❖ Simplify and streamline back-to-work support for people with disabilities, mental or physical health problems.
- ❖ Raise awareness of, and seek to expand, access to Work, which supports people with disabilities in work.

15. RETIREMENT SUPPORT

Our pension program is easily one of the worst managed globally and this has resulted to unnecessary hardships by senior citizens. We will introduce auto-enrolment pension where workers both in the public and private sectors of the economy can save for, and enjoy, their retirement.

APDA will:

- ❖ Improve workplace pensions and continue to auto-enrol workers, completing the rollout of a scheme that

covers all in full and on time. This scheme will crack down on charges and encourage people to save more into their pension pot through this scheme.

16. **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

To address the challenge of infrastructure as a basis for returning Nigeria back to growth and prosperity, APDA will focus primarily and heavily on investments in ICT, power, roads, rail, ports and deploying legal frameworks that would guarantee massive and nationwide infrastructure development in Nigeria.

APDA will not only ensure that all viable infrastructures hitherto abandoned or ongoing are completed, it would in line with global business requirements and protocols establish or cause to be established new infrastructure to improve the national infrastructure backbone.

Given the huge capital layout required to address the massive infrastructural deficit in the country, APDA will encourage and support the private sector to play a major role in providing critical infrastructure either directly or in collaboration with Government under Public Private Partnerships (PPP) arrangements. The reactivation and upgrade of Ajaokuta and Delta Steel Complexes shall be given utmost priority as the bedrock of industrialisation.

APDA will lead the renewal of Nigeria's aged infrastructure and address decades of under-investment. We need better transport infrastructure, energy, water, a modern railway system, and less congestion on our roads. There is need for a special fiscal rule precisely so that there is increased investment in productive infrastructure to help the economy grow.

APDA is committed to:

- ❖ Set out 10-year rolling capital investment plans.
- ❖ Develop a comprehensive plan to electrify the overwhelming majority of Nigeria
- ❖ Invest in major transport improvements and infrastructure.
- ❖ Deliver on a national transport strategy for Nigeria.
- ❖ Develop more modern, resilient rail and air links to and within Nigeria to help the development and diversification of regional economies.
- ❖ Complete East-West road/rail, south to North Railway network.
- ❖ Work to encourage further private sector investment in rail freight terminals and rail-connected distribution parks. We will set a clear objective to shift more freight from road to rail and change planning law to

ensure new developments provide good freight access to growth poles.

- ❖ Ensure our airport infrastructure meets the needs of a modern and open economy.
- ❖ Ensure new rail franchises include a stronger focus on customers, including requirements to integrate disabled access to public transport.

17. **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation like every other base infrastructure is a key requirement for sustainable development. The Nigerian transportation sub-sector and infrastructure is at best dysfunctional and this has resulted to major constraint for both large and small businesses.

Developing a functional, sustainable and inter-modal transportation sector for Nigeria would require going beyond the rhetoric to develop an integrated transportation system and infrastructure that would contribute to building the competitive economy envisaged by APDA.

In pursuit of this ideal and given the scale of investment required APDA would deploy legal and governance frameworks required to attract long term investments and private sector partnerships.

18. IMPROVING LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

With more people commuting to work by bus than any other mode of public transport, buses are of significant importance to the economy. Bus services are also particularly important to many rural and isolated communities, where one in five of the population lives.

APDA will:

- ❖ Carry out a review of bus funding and bus policies and introduce a five-year investment plan to give the industry and Local Authorities certainty and help plan investment.
- ❖ Give new powers to Local Authorities and communities to improve transport in their areas, including the ability to introduce network-wide ticketing.
- ❖ Seek funding for local economic and sustainable transport infrastructure through a Local Growth Fund.
- ❖ Reduce the numbers of older, more polluting buses and coaches for newer, low emissions ones, helping to develop the market for low-carbon buses.

19. INDUSTRIALISATION

As a result of poor infrastructure and absence of governing structures and globally rated legal frameworks, Nigeria's industrial growth has been on a

steady decline and has arguably worsened in the past three (3) years. To restore our dwindling industrial base and in our pursuit of our policy of returning our country back to growth, our industrialisation policy will be based on shared prosperity and sustainable development which will be technology driven.

The Party would focus on reviving and returning to service all abandoned industrial support facilities in the power, steel, transport and production sectors with special focus on all existing moribund power stations, the abandoned steel mills, the abandoned fertilizer blending plants, the abandoned textile mills and all land, sea and air transportation infrastructure.

To transform Nigeria socially, politically and economically implies a firm commitment to harnessing current and potential drivers of economic growth. The growth strategy requires divestment from dependence on oil as an engine of growth, transformation of the structure of exports from primary to processed/manufactured goods and the attainment of high levels efficiency in production.

We need to target greater global competitiveness in the production of specific processed and manufactured goods by effectively linking industrial activity with the

primary sector, domestic with foreign trade, and the services sub-sector to all other productive activities.

The aim is to stimulate primary production to enhance the competitiveness of Nigeria's real sector, as well as to significantly increase production of processed and manufactured goods for export, stimulate domestic and foreign trade in value added goods and services and strengthen linkages among key sectors of the economy

Nigeria needs a strong economy not just to help fund public services but because growth and enterprise create jobs and opportunities for all. APDA wants an economy that is strong, green, open and fair. As Nigeria recovers, we must make sure we don't return to growth based on wealth for a few, but build prosperity and wellbeing that last, for everyone.

APDA is committed to:

- ❖ Prosperity for all which also allows support for education, training, infrastructure, innovation and technology, as some of the fastest ways to build a productive society.
- ❖ In addition, there is need for a stable, competitive business environment and investment in green industries and infrastructure, which ensures that growth is embedded in every part of Nigeria.

- ❖ Another area of prosperity is a greener economy. We can make big start in government: reforming the banking system; creating a Green Investment Fund; enabling unprecedented investment in low-carbon energy;

Introducing a bold new Industrial Strategy to support growth and high-skilled jobs; delivering more than two million new apprenticeships around renewables and ensure transparency of company ownership and promoting more diversity in business leadership

20. **SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIALISATION**

Nigeria's economic growth has suffered greatly as a result of the absence of properly developed policies and programs for the support of small scale industries. What has obtained and is getting progressively worse as a result of the economic recession and lack of support programs by government. This situation has inadvertently lead to loss of livelihoods, increase in crime and other social vices and loss of confidence in the Nigerian project by the citizenry. To this end, APDA recognises that the strengthening of small scale business and the promotion of industrialization are priorities for economic recovery and that Nigeria's manufacturing sector has been particularly vulnerable to stagnant economic conditions.

APDA would focus on returning this critical sector of the Nigerian economy to service in the shortest term through the deployment of policies, legal frameworks and programs in partnership with the relevant institutions and the private sector, to improve the usage of existing capacity, through increased availability of foreign exchange and greater domestic value addition. APDA would focus on priority of small scale industrial sectors that would on the immediate to the long term generate jobs, promote exports, boost growth and upgrade skills.

21. POWER AND ENERGY SUFFICIENCY.

The Nigerian economy has been in a state of comatose because of wrong government power and energy policies and programs. In recognition that the energy sector is fundamental to development across all other sectors of the economy, APDA will address issues of energy by clearly defining the issues of governance, funding, legal, and regulatory pricing issues across the three main power segments of generation, transmission and distribution, and ensuring stricter contract and regulatory compliance.

APDA goal is to optimise the delivery of at least 20,000 megawatts of operational capacity by 2023 and to improve the energy mix including through greater use of renewable energy. This target would be achieved and hopefully exceeded by optimizing the available operational capacity, scaling up existing small scale projects, and establishing new large and small scale projects over the long term. An APDA Government will also invest in transmission infrastructure. With regard to the oil and gas sector, APDA will increase the production of crude oil and gas while adding value in the downstream sector.

22. **POWER AND DIVERSIFIED LOCAL ENERGY GENERATION & DISTRIBUTION**

Our reforms of the electricity market have already started although it met with several false starts. We can stimulate up to 2,500,000 jobs across Nigeria through diversified local electricity generation and distribution. The politics and policies on power generation and distribution in Nigeria today need to be entirely overhauled. Nigeria has opportunities to harness power from fossil fuels: natural gas, coal and oil in the south and renewable sustainable sources: hydroelectric, solar and geothermal in the North. What is required in particular, is energy autonomy where every state or region can independently generate, distribute and export generated power. It also means that individual residents

and businesses should be incentivized to optimize investment in energy efficiency with the opportunity to feed/sell excess power, where available, to the grid. This solution will optimize our investments in the power sector to focus on generation and last mile distribution as opposed to expensive, uneconomic and unsustainable investments in national grid distribution infrastructure.

APDA will:

- ❖ Make energy infrastructure a top priority, stimulating private sector investments and promoting new market-shaping energy efficiency standards particularly to support SMEs.
- ❖ Stimulate private investment in autonomous energy infrastructure
- ❖ Encourage investment in energy storage and smart grid technology to minimize energy loss and optimize a higher yield from renewables.
- ❖ Support innovation which enables the use of coal in electricity generation by 2025 because of its high potentials for affordable energy.
- ❖ Create framework for micro scale community energy generation and distribution, by developing a community energy strategy with financial and regulatory support.

- ❖ Accept that new nuclear power stations can play a role in low-carbon electricity supply provided concerns about safety, disposal of waste and cost are adequately addressed and without public subsidy for new build.
- ❖ Use biomass primarily for heating and small-scale power generation, act to encourage the wider use of biogas and argue for ending all support for food-crop-based biofuels by 2020.
- ❖ Continue to back new entrants into the energy market, smart meters and faster switching to promote proper competition, aiming for at least 30% of the household market to be supplied with regular power using local sources by 2024.

APDA will:

Establish a Low-carbon Transition Fund to fund energy efficiency, community energy, low-carbon innovation and renewable heat

23. **TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT**

The Nigerian digital sector is growing at an impressive rate, employing several young persons. There is need to support this important sector of our economy and expand it job creating opportunities.

APDA will:

- ❖ Ensure that private investment in rolling out high-speed broadband, to reach almost 30% of household

in Nigeria as well as small businesses in both rural and urban areas is reached.

- ❖ Develop and Build Tech Cities in all the 6 geo-political zones of the country.
- ❖ Support technology related fast-growing businesses that could create 1 million jobs over 10 years.
- ❖ Promote the take-up of STEM subjects in schools, address the National Curriculum and encourage entrepreneurship at all levels.
- ❖ Ensure the technology implications of government activity are properly considered by introducing Technology Impact Assessments into the policy design process.
- ❖ Develop cutting edge digital skills courses for young people and the unemployed working with private sector employers and education and training providers.

B. SOCIAL SERVICES

24. EDUCATION

Because education is the bedrock of civilization and development, APDA will focus on skill based education at all levels, and would also return technical education and trade centre's back into the education curricula.

APDA puts education at the heart of their agenda for a new generation. APDA believes every child deserves a great start in life, and is determined to make sure that the education system finds and nurtures the best in everyone. This is essential in order to break down the unfair divisions in our society, and to ensure a productive, competitive economy. Too many people have their chances in life determined by who their parents are, rather than by their own efforts and abilities.

Children start learning from the moment they are born, so parents need to be supported right from the start. Our plan stretches from cradle to secondary school: high-quality basic education; qualified teachers and successful schools in every community; more money helping the children who need it most; flexible choices for teenagers and young people; and world-class training at college and university to set every young adult on the path to fulfilment.

If we want a more equal society, we must get help to all those who might fall behind, and their parents, right from the start. That means improving early education and protecting the wide range of family support services offered in Children's Centres. We must improve the quality of early years teaching, and raise the status of those who work in early years.

APDA will:

- ❖ Raise the quality of early years' provision and ensure that all crèches and nursery schools in Nigeria have at least one person who holds an Early Years Teacher qualification. Working with NCE, we will recruit more staff with Early Years Qualified status, and extend full Qualified Teacher status, terms and conditions to all those who are properly trained.
- ❖ Continue to support Local Authorities in providing Children's Centres, especially in areas of high need, encouraging integration with other community services like health visitors, and in particular reviewing the support and advice available for parents on early child nutrition and breastfeeding.
- ❖ Improve the identification of Special Educational needs and disability at the earliest possible stage, so targeted support can be provided and primary schools are better prepared for their intake of pupils.

There isn't much to be proud of in our schools today, and much that seem to be improvement have been less than desired, consequently many children are still failing to get the qualifications they need. The gaps between rich and poor are still too wide. We cannot fail our children – especially when we know it is the children who need the most help who are the most likely to be let down.

APDA will:

- ❖ Protect the education budget in real terms from the early years to age 15.
- ❖ Set a clear ambition for all children to achieve a good grasp of Maths and English, aiming to eradicate child illiteracy and innumeracy by 2024. We will set an interim goal that all children should start school with good language skills by 2019.
- ❖ Strengthen school leadership and governance. We will provide rapid support and intervention to help ensure that all schools become good or outstanding.
- ❖ Increase the number of Teaching Schools – centres of teaching excellence that provide support to other schools.
- ❖ Give democratically accountable Local Authorities clear responsibility for local school places planning.
- ❖ Ensure fair local schools admissions process.
- ❖ Extend free school meals to all children in primary education as resources allow and following a full evaluation of free meals for infants.
- ❖ Continue to promote the local integration of health, care and educational support for children with Special Educational Needs and health problems.

We will allow parents to continue to choose faith-based schools within the state funded sector and allow the establishment of new faith schools. We will ensure all faith schools develop an inclusive admissions policy and end unfair discrimination on grounds of faith when recruiting staff, except for those principally responsible for optional religious instruction.

Great teachers are at the heart of a successful education system. The aim must be to continue to attract the best into the profession and support teachers throughout their careers. We want to build the status of the teaching profession, support and nurture teachers in their work, and so drive up standards in every school.

APDA will:

- ❖ Guarantee all teachers in state-funded schools will be fully qualified or working towards Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)
- ❖ Introduce a clear and properly funded entitlement to professional development for all teachers. We will raise the bar for entry to the profession, requiring a C grade minimum in WASC for Maths and English.
- ❖ Continue to support the Teach First programme to attract high calibre graduates into teaching, in particular in STEM subjects.
- ❖ Tackle unnecessary teacher workload, including by:

- ❖ Avoiding policy changes while children are within a key stage.
- ❖ Establishing the right accountability framework for schools.
- ❖ Ensuring inspections are high-quality, fair to all schools and focus on outcomes and not processes.

We will encourage and inspire more children to study STEM subjects. At primary level, we will encourage schools to have at least one science specialist among the staff and at secondary level work to maximise the number of teachers who have degree qualifications in the subjects they teach.

25. **EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS**

APDA wants schools to have flexibility and freedom, but we also believe that both parents and children need to know that the school curriculum will cover the essentials, and that teachers will be skilled educators who know how to inspire a love of learning. That is why PTAs have to be encouraged to develop a Parents' Guarantee where every child will be taught by qualified teachers, and the core curriculum will be taught at every state-funded school. But we also understand that a great education is about more than just learning facts: creativity should be

nurtured, children should be helped to develop the life skills they will need as adults, and every pupil should be given advice and guidance about their future.

APDA will

- ❖ Establish an independent Educational Standards Authority (ESA) entirely removed from Ministerial interference.
- ❖ Introduce a minimum curriculum entitlement – a slimmed down core national curriculum, which will be taught in all state-funded schools. This will include Personal, Social and Health Education: a ‘curriculum for life’ including financial literacy, first aid and emergency lifesaving skills, citizenship, and age-appropriate sex and relationship education.
- ❖ To ensure all children learn about a wide range of religious and nonreligious world views, religious education will be included in the core curriculum; however, we will give schools the freedom to set policy on whether to hold acts of collective worship, while ensuring any such acts are strictly optional.
- ❖ Improve the quality of vocational education, including skills for entrepreneurship and self-employment, and improve careers advice in schools and colleges.

26. **CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

APDA want to see early intervention to prevent problems before they arise, which means that we need to equip social workers with the skills to address these complex issues which ensure children's safety. Where children do have to be taken into care we must make sure they find a loving home with as little disruption and instability as possible.

APDA will:

- ❖ Continue to invest in early intervention, further expanding the Troubled Families Programme.
- ❖ Work with Local Authorities to set out care systems: to promote emotional wellbeing and resilience, provide a secure base on which children can be supported in their development and provide individually tailored help with recovery.
- ❖ Raise the quality and profile of children's social work, particularly in situations where there are IDPs and expand the Frontline programme – to attract more phyco-socio workers each year.
- ❖ Tackle delay and instability in foster care, with better support and training for foster carers, including on mental health issues.
- ❖ Continue to make it easier for children in care to find a loving home, through the national Adoption Register

and the new national gateway for adoption, a first point of contact for potential adopters.

- ❖ Prevent looked after children and young people being drawn into the criminal justice system unnecessarily by promoting restorative justice.

27. **SKILL BASED SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Secondary schools and Universities have to look into apprenticeship schemes which grow the economy, protect and enhance adult skills training and further education. This will grow skill base, especially in the technologies and industries that are most important to our economic future. We want it to become the norm for businesses to take on and train up young people as apprentices in every sector of our economy, and for higher level apprenticeships to be understood as a respected alternative to university education.

APDA will:

- ❖ Increase the number of apprenticeships and improve their quality, extending the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers and expanding the number of degree-equivalent Higher Apprenticeships.
- ❖ Aim to double the number of businesses which hire apprentices, including extending them to new sectors of our economy, like creative and digital industries.

- ❖ Develop National Colleges as national centres of expertise for key sectors, like renewable energy, to deliver the high-level vocational skills that businesses need.
- ❖ Establish a cross-party commission to secure a long-term settlement for the public funding of lifelong learning.
- ❖ Work with the Apprenticeship Advisory Group to increase the number of apprentices and ensure gender balance across industry sectors, and encourage underrepresented groups to apply.
- ❖ Identify and seek to solve skills gaps like the lack of advanced technicians by expanding higher vocational training like foundation degrees, Higher National Diplomas, Higher National Certificates and Higher Apprenticeships.

28. **TERTIARY EDUCATION**

APDA will ensure that undergraduate students in Nigerian universities get bursary. This is to ensure that higher education is accessible to all those who ought to benefit, including at postgraduate level. As a ruling government, we will secure the contingent student loans scheme for post-graduate degrees.

APDA will:

- ❖ Ensure that all universities work to widen participation across the sector, prioritising early intervention in

schools and colleges. This will include running summer schools and setting up mentoring programmes between students or alumni and school pupils.

- ❖ Require universities to be transparent about their selection criteria.
- ❖ Work with university 'mission groups' to develop a comprehensive credit accumulation and transfer framework to help students transfer between and within institutions, enable more part-time learning, and help more people to complete qualifications.

Work out a support system to cover undergraduate and postgraduate courses, with an emphasis on support for living costs for students, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds. We want young people to face the future with optimism and confidence. The education leaving age is about 18, but as children grow, their independence grow too, and the support that education and youth services provide to them and their families need to adapt. Whether it is supporting people with the costs of travel to college or apprenticeships, or promoting positive images of young people by celebrating their successes: the APDA has to be on the side of the next generation.

APDA will:

- ❖ Work to introduce a new Student Discount Card, for young people aged 16–21, to get discount on bus and rail travel.
- ❖ Enable government departments, local Councils and private businesses to add discount offers to the Student Discount Card.
- ❖ Review access to transport for students and apprentices in rural areas where no scheduled services may be available.
- ❖ Develop a Health Insurance Scheme 'student guarantee', making it easier for students to get care and support while at university, particularly those with long-term health conditions or caring responsibilities.
- ❖ Promote social action and volunteering at school, college and university and work to raise the status of youth work and youth workers.
- ❖ Improve links between employers and schools, encouraging all schools to participate in mentoring schemes and programmes that seek to raise aspiration like Speakers for Schools and Inspiring the Future. In particular, seek to inspire more children and young people to follow technical and scientific careers through partnership with relevant businesses.

29. **HEALTH CARE**

APDA will concentrate on providing access to basic health care and affordable drugs, training more community health workers and extending medical insurance coverage through creative partnerships with the private sector.

Good health is one of the most important assets we can have in life, and we must do all we can to help people stay healthy, as well as provide high-quality care when they are ill.

Our National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) needs to be properly funded so that there is an end to discrimination against mental health and there can be delivery of equal care. The fact that people are living longer also means that they are faced with conditions like cancer, diabetes and dementia that need attention. We must set the highest standards in care, with a well-trained and motivated workforce, and get health and care services to work together without artificial boundaries.

APDA will act to ensure that everything government does in turn supports people to improve their wellbeing: we will work to improve the wider factors that affect our health like clean environment, good air quality and access to healthy food so everyone can have the best opportunity to live a healthy life.

30. STRENGTHENING THE NHIS

The NHIS has to become a well treasured public service. APDA is committed to the founding principles of the NHIS as a peoples-funded system. To ensure this principle is maintained even as demand for health care grows, government needs to give the NHIS the investment it needs.

APDA will:

- ❖ Always ensure access to health care is based on need not ability to pay and that the NHIS remains a transparent and accountable institution.
- ❖ Deliver the money needed for NHIS by:
- ❖ Shielding the monies raised from abuse and protecting the principles of the NHIS budget.
- ❖ Increasing NHIS spending in line with demands and existing economic situation.
- ❖ Make sure the NHIS is funded and organised to carry out diagnostic tests and necessary treatments in a timely and effective manner, so that waiting times meet public expectations without distorting clinical priorities.
- ❖ Join up health and care at national level, shifting full responsibility for care policy and funding to the Department of Health

31. MENTAL HEALTH CARE

One in four people are expected to experience some mental health problem, but for decades, mental health has been the last in the queue for funding and attention. Those with mental health problems such as depression should have access to treatment. APDA has to make progress, by introducing standards in mental health. This means delivering genuine equality between mental and physical health in the NHIS.

APDA will:

- ❖ Our long-term goal is to see everyone who can benefit being treated, but we will set an interim target of getting 10% of those suffering into treatment by 2024.
- ❖ Transform care for pregnant women, new mothers and those who have experienced miscarriage or stillbirth, and help them get the early care they need.
- ❖ Revolutionise children's mental health services. This means building better links with schools, ensuring all children develop mental resilience, and getting support and care quickly to those who are struggling.
- ❖ Ensure no one in crisis is turned away, with new waiting time standards and better crisis care in Accident and Emergency (A & E), in the community and via phone lines. This will enable us to end the use of police cells for people facing a mental health crisis.

- ❖ Introduce care navigators so people get help finding their way around the system, and set stretching standards to improve the physical health of people with mental health problems.

32. **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

We will be committed to developing not just social housing but affordable housing that would be built using local building and construction materials; we will emplace policies that will allow for long term mortgages for all citizens in both the public and private sectors of the Nigerian economy.

For people to live fulfilled lives, they need decent homes at a cost they can afford. But that simple ambition is getting more and more out of reach as Nigeria lack decent homes for most of its citizens. Meanwhile many older people in homes that are no longer right for their circumstances would like to move but do not have suitable options. There is need to speed up house building and stop prices of homes from getting any further out of reach of families.

Within the first year of government, APDA will publish a long-term plan that sets out how it will achieve housing for all.

APDA will include:

- ❖ At least three new green cities per state, providing tens of thousands of high-quality new homes, with gardens and shared green space, jobs, schools and public transport. Encourage rural Local Authorities to follow these principles on a smaller scale, developing new garden villages or suburbs as part of their plans for growth.
- ❖ A government commissioned programme to boost house building towards 300,000 target annually; where the market alone fails to deliver sufficient numbers, government agencies will directly commission homes for sale and to let in other to fill the gap.
- ❖ A new government-backed Housing Investment Bank to provide long-term capital for major new settlements and help attract finance for major house building projects.

Good planning is essential to delivering sustainable communities. With effective planning rules, we can ensure the new homes we build are well connected to public transport, resilient to the threats of climate change, safe, warm and secure, and situated in real communities where people can easily come together. We will work with Local Authorities to ensure they think for

the long term, and use their powers to facilitate an affordable local housing market.

APDA will:

- ❖ Put Local Authorities in the driving seat for plan-led development by requiring them to make a plan for 15 years of housing need, working collaboratively with neighbouring Councils where necessary to identify sites.
- ❖ Improve housing needs assessments to ensure they respond to demand, including through price signals, rather than simply need, and segment more effectively demand from different kinds of household, including high-quality shared accommodation for young people. All areas will be expected to plan for the needs of older people for age-appropriate housing and we will work with Local Authorities to help people who wish to 'right size', particularly later in life.
- ❖ Update planning law to introduce the concept of 'landscape scale planning' and ensure new developments promote walking, cycling, car sharing and public transport and improve rather than diminish access to green spaces.
- ❖ Prioritise development on brownfield and town centre sites and bring to an end the permitted development rights for converting offices to residential.

The government has an essential role to play in supporting the development of affordable housing. APDA will develop a substantial programme of affordable house building over a period of five years, in part enabled by designing innovative products that can deliver new homes at a lower cost. We will continue to innovate, enabling Local Authorities, Housing Associations and central government alike to build many more homes.

APDA will:

- ❖ Allow Local Authorities more flexibility to borrow to build affordable housing, including traditional council housing.
- ❖ Encourage affordable housing providers – both Councils and Housing Associations – to innovate, including using the development of homes for sale or market rent to help subsidise new affordable homes.
- ❖ Tackle overcrowding with a new system to incentivise social landlords to reduce the number of tenants occupying their homes, freeing up larger properties.
- ❖ We recognise that most people aspire to own their own home, and believe in supporting people on the journey to home ownership.

33. PROTECTING PRIVATE TENANTS AND LEASEHOLDERS

More and more people take up leases in the private sector for a long term. We believe private renting is an important part of the housing market, but the balance has shifted too far against the tenant, and more needs to be done to help people making a home in rented property.

APDA will:

- ❖ Enable Local Authorities to operate licensing schemes for rental properties in areas where they believe it is needed.
- ❖ Establish a voluntary register of rented property where either the landlord or the tenant can register the property, to improve enforcement and tax transparency.
- ❖ Ban letting agent fees to tenants and ensure transparency requirements to successfully bring fees down to affordable levels.
- ❖ Conduct a full review of the help single people get under homelessness legislation

34. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

APDA as a political party committed to inclusive governance and youth development has approximated 60% of all elective and appointive positions in the party to the Nigerian Youth.

In light of the above the party will put in motion all the necessary legal and operational frameworks for

- ❖ The full implementation of the 2nd National Youth Policy and the Nigerian Youth Employment Action Plan (NYEAP);
- ❖ Creation of an Agency backed by law to be saddled with the responsibility of drawing up policy framework and work plan for Youth development. The Agency shall facilitate the enactment of a law to fund and regulate the activities of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) and its affiliates without undermining its independence;
- ❖ Make adequate budgetary and special funding provisions to enhance the activities of government and non-governmental Agencies, institutions and organisations involved in Youth development programmes
- ❖ Initiate an enterprise and innovation development fund geared primarily at supporting creativity, arts, innovation and sports development for the Nigerian youth.

- ❖ Creation of the National Youth Development Fund to:
 - ❖ APDA shall as a matter of priority revitalizes skill acquisition, Vocational Training Centres, which are lying fallow across the country;
 - ❖ APDA shall seek the required legislation to restructure the NYSC Scheme in line with the under listed recommendations of the National Conference
 - ❖ The one year time tenure should be split in three phases as follows:
 - a. One month of orientation;
 - b. Six month of primary assignment, integration and industrial exposure; and
 - c. Five months of vocational and entrepreneurial skills acquisition.

APDA would pursue the relevant legislation to review the existing school curriculum at all levels to be inclusive of:

- (a) Healthy living styles/sex education
- (b) Managing time, money and self
- (c) Effective communication skills
- (d) Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- (e) Leadership training
- (f) An understanding of Nigeria and its peoples
- (g) Introduction to total quality concept
- (h) Civic responsibilities
- (i) Agricultural orientation

APDA shall pursue the deployment of legal and operational instruments and programs for integrating all agencies (public, private and multilateral) for the purposes of creating common infrastructure and shared knowledge for youth development in Nigeria. APDA would create and sustain all the programs, infrastructure, human capital and funding required to integrate Nigerians living with disabilities to effectively function in the society.

35. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Being a party that is focused on youth development and inclusion, APDA shall develop and deploy all the required legislation, policy and actionable programs for the development of sporting infrastructure and sports training and practice facilities in all the 774 local government areas (LGAs) of the country;

APDA will give greater emphasis to sports and well-being through the provision of sports facilities at the community level. APDA will strengthen and broaden the instruments in charge of sports development and give greater impetus to school sport activities and give greater impetus to school sporting activities at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

In pursuit of this ideal APDA would provide the enabling laws that would

- ❖ Align, promote and sustain Forty Four (44) Sporting Federations;
- ❖ Maximum compliance with global regulations and collaborations.
- ❖ Ensure the inclusion of all Nigerians, irrespective of gender, age, religion, tribe, ability or disability in sports;
- ❖ Initiate programs for the identification of prospective talents and consequential multiplication of training facilities across the nation to complement and consolidate harvested talents;
- ❖ Initiate Public Private Partnerships for the local production of sporting equipment;

36. **DEVELOPING THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY**

APDA understands that arts, creative industries and culture are crucial to Nigeria's success and essential for personal fulfilment and quality of life. The Nigerian creative sector has been one of the great success stories of the past five years, and a critical driver of employment. Nollywood is the pride of Nigeria and with proper support will deliver access for all, regardless of income, ethnicity, gender, age, belief, sexuality or disability. We believe the arts have an essential role in

our education system and will work to encourage creativity in our schools and universities.

APDA will:

Support growth in the creative industries, including the movie industry, by continuing to support the relevant agencies, promoting creative skills, supporting modern and flexible patent, copyright and licensing rules, and addressing the barriers to finance faced by small creative businesses

37. SPORTS AND WELL-BEING

APDA will give greater emphasis to sports and well-being through the provision of sports facilities at the community level. APDA will strengthen and broaden the instruments in charge of sports development and give greater impetus to school sport activities and give greater impetus to school sporting activities at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

C. GOOD GOVERNANCE

38. INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

For many nationalities in Nigeria, the greatest short coming of the Nigerian structure is the over-centralisation of decision-making. The power of patronage and the influence of powerful corporate interests over those of ordinary citizens and local communities are too often excluded and side-lined in

politics today. This calls for reform of Nigerian politics to make it more representative and more empowering of its citizens in order to command greater public confidence. We are committed to restructuring the country socially, politically and economically and we believe that this is a good start for modernising and decentralising the states. This means not only giving more power particularly to the states, local councils and communities but also focusing on harnessing their natural resources and endowments. We will encourage transfer of fiscal power from the federal government to the states and from the states to the local governments.

APDA will:

- ❖ Work to take big money out of politics by capping donations to political parties at the level prescribed by the Electoral Act, and introduce wider reforms to party funding along the lines of the Uwais Report on electoral challenges in Nigeria.
- ❖ Protect the rights of trade union members to have their subscriptions, including political levies, deducted from their salary, and strengthen members' political freedoms by letting them choose which political party they wish to support through such automatic payments. We will encourage wider participation in trade union ballots through electronic voting.

- ❖ Reform the voting systems for elections to local government and national levels to ensure better representation.
- ❖ Explore options to strengthen and simplify the voting rights of citizens living abroad and address disenfranchisement experienced by some.

To reform National Assembly in particular, APDA will:

- ❖ Strengthen the role of legislators in amending the Budget and scrutinising government spending proposals.
- ❖ Make National Assembly more accountable, and establish a review to pave the way for legislators to open themselves to public scrutiny.

APDA will lead the way in giving greater powers to the states and local government particularly in addressing issues such as security, education, health, transportation etc. In particular, it will address the need of transferring more financial autonomy to Local government councils. The party will work with the NASS committees on constitutional reforms and state governors to deliver on further decentralization of power. In short, we will deliver powers which will help us build a stronger federal system in Nigeria. This devolution will help reduce the agitation of nationalities and other groups. In the failure to address the many reports of National Conferences,

constitutional change can take place rapidly by making sure new arrangements work which coherently provide assurances of self-rule. There are many powers that should be devolved on an equal basis to the existing states and LGAs. This means that APDA will take the issue of constitutional reforms seriously and look at the issues on the exclusive and concurrent list to see where things truly belong.

39. **FOREIGN POLICY**

Nigeria has a proud record of playing a leading role in the African Union and in international institutions like the UN, and the Commonwealth and should continue to do so, wherever possible promoting our values of freedom and opportunity for all.

APDA will:

- ❖ Use all aspects of government policy, trade, aid and diplomacy as well as military cooperation – to focus Nigeria policy on conflict prevention. This will require a joint approach across the MDAs as Nigeria continues to assess its actions and impact on conflict prevention and security. The party will develop a Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), which should begin immediately after the election.
- ❖ Engage with and strengthen multilateral UN and treaty-based institutions worldwide.

- ❖ Support the UN principle of Responsibility to Protect. This principle focuses on the security of individuals, rather than states.
- ❖ Recognise where necessary the need to consider military interventions to protect lives and fulfil our international obligations. However, in these circumstances, APDA believes that Nigeria should intervene only when there is a clear legal and/or humanitarian case, endorsed by a vote in the National Assembly and working within the limit of international institutions wherever and whenever possible.

40. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL**

A fair society is one in which everyone has the means to get by and the chance to get on. We cannot promise to provide adequate welfare support for every man, woman and child, but we can ensure that we put in place the requisite legislation to ensure we alleviate the hardships of life for all especially the youths and the working class. Our vision of a fair society is to leave no family behind whilst providing opportunity for all. To achieve this we propose the largest transfer of wealth from the state to its citizens. For far too long, corruption in government has been sustained by individuals staking claims of ownership or privileges from National assets. We believe the state has no business owning national corporations as the role of government should be limited to creating enabling environment for indigenous industries to thrive

and overseeing the management of National assets in trust for the people of Nigeria. Our proposals below will seek to assign an economic asset to every Nigerian which they may sell, use as collateral to start a small business, fund their children's education or to offset their medical bills.

Furthermore, we will re-balance our tax system away from hard-work towards unearned wealth (inheritance tax), reinvesting in growth sectors of the National economy and providing incentives for businesses which create employment with tax breaks. As such, if elected;

APDA will ensure that:

- ❖ The government divests its shareholding in all National corporations into a holding company which will be open for subscription to all Nigerians registered to vote with a Tax Identification Number (TIN);
- ❖ Our promise of privatization of National assets mean that every Nigerian will become a shareholder and a stakeholder in Nigeria's commonwealth, giving a sense of ownership and responsibility to patriotically defend and protect the Nigerian interest as each citizens' very own personal interest.
- ❖ Nigeria must explore ways of making taxes fairer and simpler, help those on low and middle incomes, and

ensure those on the highest incomes make a fair contribution.

APDA will:

- ❖ Ensure that those with the highest incomes and wealth are making a fair contribution. There are several identified distortions, loopholes and excess reliefs that should be removed, raising money to contribute to deficit reduction.
- ❖ Take tough action against corporate tax evasion and avoidance, including:
- ❖ Setting a target for revenue from the Customs to reduce the tax gap and continuing to invest in staff to enable them to meet it.
- ❖ Introducing a general anti-avoidance rule which would outlaw contrived structures designed purely or largely to avoid tax.
- ❖ Implementing the planned new offence of corporate failure to prevent economic crime, including tax evasion, with penalties for directors up to and including custodial sentences.
- ❖ Levying penalties on firms proven to facilitate tax evasion, equivalent to the amount of tax evaded by their clients.

41. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The criminal justice system exists to protect the public from crime; where crime does occur, victims are our first priority. APDA will make sure that victims of crime, and their families, are supported both in the aftermath of crimes and throughout the justice system.

APDA will:

- ❖ Enact a Victims' law.
- ❖ Create a single point of contact for victims to give early access to information and support.
- ❖ Change sentencing guidelines to increase sentences available for hate crimes.
- ❖ Give victims of crime a right to review what progress police have made to investigate the crime committed against them including cases where the police have declined to investigate.
- ❖ Give victims a right to choose restorative justice.
- ❖ Implement the Modern Slavery Strategy to reduce human trafficking and support victims.

42. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Access to justice is an essential part of a free society and a functioning legal system. In addition, there is the Legal Aid budget, but more need to be done to deliver efficiently in the Ministry of Justice, prison and court

reform, use of technology and innovation to reduce costs.

APDA will:

- ❖ Review the criminal Legal Aid and ensure there are no further budgets without an impact assessment as to the viability of Legal Aid providers.
- ❖ Carry out an immediate review of civil Legal Aid, judicial review and court fees, in consultation with the judiciary, to ensure Legal Aid is available to all those who need it, that those of modest means can bring applications for judicial review of allegedly unlawful government action and that court and tribunal fees will not put justice beyond the reach of those who seek it.
- ❖ Promote the use of alternative buildings for magistrates' courts and local dispute resolution programmes like Community Justice Panels to bring justice back into the community.
- ❖ Support innovation like the provision of civil justice online and expansion of alternative dispute resolution procedures.
- ❖ Encourage the widespread use of mediation for separating couples, while protecting access to the family courts where necessary.

- ❖ Develop a strategy that will deliver advice and legal support to help people with everyday problems like personal debt and social welfare issues, working across government and involving non-profit advice agencies.

43. CORRUPTION

Nigeria is currently one of the most corrupt nations in the world according to the ranking of the Corruption Perception Index (CPI).

ADPA will;

- ❖ Seek to eliminate corruption by creating wealth and employment opportunities; reducing poverty and ensuring the social security of Nigerians.
- ❖ By strengthening the institutions fighting corruption and giving political and financial freedom to anti-corruption agencies,
- ❖ Ensuring severe punishment for corrupt officials and promotion of transparency and accountability in the management of public finances.

44. TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

A fair society cannot tolerate today's unacceptable level of violence against women and girls in Nigeria. APDA is committed to make progress towards ensuring that women and girls feel safe and respected.

APDA will:

- ❖ Ensure teachers, social workers, police officers and health workers in areas where there is high prevalence of female genital mutilation or forced marriage are trained to help those at risk.
- ❖ Require the teaching of sexual consent in schools as part of age-appropriate sex and relationships education.
- ❖ Improve the provision of rape crisis centres and refuges for victims of domestic violence with a national network and national sources of funding.
- ❖ Protect funding for tackling violence against women and girls and maintain the post of International Champion for preventing this violence.
- ❖ Create a national helpline for victims of domestic and sexual violence – regardless of gender – to provide support, encourage reporting and secure more convictions.
- ❖ Work to ensure the whole criminal justice system updates practice in line with guidance on sexual consent.

The criminal justice system can do more to turn people away from a life of crime. The return of remand homes to the system is key, such first-time offenders are

provided probation support and those serving sentences of less than twelve months. With the congestion in prisons, far too many people are simply warehoused in prison, instead of learning skills that will enable them to earn an honest living when they are released. APDA will work to reduce the large prison population and address the failure to rehabilitate. We plan to significantly reduce the prison population by using more effective alternative punishments and correcting offending behaviour.

APDA will:

- ❖ Prioritise prison for dangerous offenders and those who commit the most serious offences with increased use of tough non-custodial punishments including weekend or evening custody, curfews, and unpaid work in the community. This will enable the introduction of short-term sentences that will help reduce the prison population and cut crime.
- ❖ Promote Community Justice Panels and other local schemes designed to stop problems from escalating.
- ❖ Extend the role of the Youth Justice Board to all offenders aged under 21, give them the power to commission mental health services and devolve youth custody budgets to Local Authorities.
- ❖ Create a Women's Justice Board, modelled on the Youth Justice Board, to improve rehabilitation of female offenders.

- ❖ Reform prisons so they become places of work, rehabilitation and learning, with offenders receiving education and skills assessment within one week, starting a relevant course and programme of support within one month and able to complete courses on release.
- ❖ Improve prison governance and accountability with a new value added measure to assess progress in reducing reoffending, providing education and tackling addiction and mental health issues, enabling good prisons to earn greater autonomy. We will strengthen the independence of Inspectors of Prisons and Probation.
- ❖ Provide experts in courts and police stations to identify where mental health or a drug problem is behind an offender's behaviour so they can be dealt with in a way that is appropriate. We will pilot US-style drug and alcohol courts.

45. **FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS FREEDOM**

In an open society there can be no right 'not to be offended', so there is need to strengthen the law to make it harder for prosecutions to be brought for using 'insulting words'. However, censorship and self-censorship are still rife, and the threat of prosecution can have a chilling effect on the willingness of people to

speak out against injustice and corruption. To change this and promote investigative journalism

APDA will:

- ❖ Ensure judicial authorisation is required for the acquisition of communications data which might reveal journalists' sources or other privileged communications and allow journalists the opportunity to address the court before authorisation is granted, where this would not jeopardise the investigation.
- ❖ To nurture public interest journalism and protect the public from press abuse, we are committed to a system of accountability that is totally independent of both government and the newspaper industry, as set out in Press Regulations.

46. IMPROVING STANDARDS IN PUBLIC SERVICES

Citizens expect a good service from their public services, and rightly so. While many schools, hospitals, libraries and other public institutions offer standards services, we could do so much better: integrating services and making them more accessible, as well as improving the response when things go wrong. We value the important role the voluntary, independent and community sectors play in the life of our communities and in delivering public services. To ensure all providers of public services are accountable to their users and the public;

APDA will:

- ❖ Improve consumer protections in public services, with a review of complaints handling processes, exploring the options of mirroring the private sector ‘super-complaint’ system in the public sector and reforms to the current system of ombudsmen.
- ❖ Introduce a ‘community trigger’ mechanism to enable the public to require a review of the provision of a particular service often poorly delivered.
- ❖ Extend Freedom of Information laws to cover private companies delivering public services.
- ❖ Work with Local Authorities to bring services together at a local level to provide a better service to citizens, and support users in pooling their personal budgets into mutual support arrangements.
- ❖ Establish a “What Works Network” to promote evidence-based policy making, establish an incubator for social enterprises developing innovative solutions to policy problems and expand the use of public competitions to encourage innovation in public services.
- ❖ Require the highest standards of data protection by public service providers, including requiring that where data is used for research purposes it must be declared

anonymous whenever possible, and impose a moratorium on the creation of new government databases.

47. IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Nigeria's difficult and often opaque business environment adds to the cost of doing business and is a disincentive to domestic and foreign investors alike.

Regulatory requirements must be more transparent, processing times must be faster, the overall economy must be more business friendly. APDA will build on all existing efforts in this direction and track progress using the metrics of the World Banks – Doing Business Report. The target is to achieve a top 50 ranking in the World Bank's Doing Business index of 2004.

48. TAXATION

In terms of taxation, excessive taxing of the poor has been a standard recently and this has affected many micro businesses. There is need to change the scourge and ensure that we effectively capture the tax receipts from the wealthiest of our society, especially big/intermediary businesses and bear down on tax avoidance and evasion, to limit the impact of deficit reduction on public services. In making for a fairer budget, the low and middle income earners should not bear the burden of tax rises but rather should be

encouraged to pay their tax contributions by incentivizing them through direct benefits of social services and amenities which ordinarily people on low and middle incomes would not afford.

APDA is committed to taxation goals that:

- ❖ Protect the least well off in society and users of public services from the impact of measures taken to tackle the deficit.
- ❖ Invest money in Universal Health Services initiatives as essential vehicles for protecting universal access to healthcare service.
- ❖ Declare a state of emergency in our education sector with significant investments in teacher training, student skill acquisition programs, infrastructure development and maintenance, provision of ICT facilities and computerization of student training and assessment methodologies from early years up to tertiary education.
- ❖ Limit reductions in the budget that affect poverty alleviation programs so we do not destroy the essential safety nets that protect the most vulnerable members of our society.
- ❖ Increase spending under a social investment programme to provide access and opportunities for all to higher education, housing and start-up business

finance for meritorious applicants especially from poor backgrounds.

Our tax system will ensure that persons below a certain income threshold and above the retirement ages do not pay income tax. Strict rules will be in place to make sure the richest pay their fair share and corporations cannot dodge their tax responsibilities. Targeted green taxes will discourage pollution and reward sustainability.

49. **INCLUSIVE BUDGETING**

Responsible finances underpin every good government. High debt and deficits are a risk to economic stability and it is simply not right to borrow too much money and expect our children to pay it back. Debt interest payments over the last four years have amounted to more than we spent on schools and primary health care facilities. A responsible approach to tackling the deficit and our country's debts is essential because it underpins everything else we want to achieve. As a Peoples driven Party, we will make strides towards a fair economy which enables sustainable growth and protects public services.

The APDA objective is to eradicate the current budget deficit and the structural impediments to the budget. Over the years, the Nigerian budget has hardly been implemented and debts are not falling as an acceptable percentage of national income, so getting back to sustainable levels of income and budget implementation

is needed if we are to invest meaningfully in development.

In terms of taxation, excessive taxing of the poor has been a standard recently and this has affected many micro businesses. There is need to change the scourge and ensure that we tax the wealthiest, including banks and big/intermediary businesses and bear down on tax avoidance and evasion, to limit the impact of deficit reduction on public services. In making for a fairer budget, the low and middle income earners should not bear the burden of tax hikes but to explore ways of cutting multiple taxes for people on low and middle incomes.

APDA is committed to taxation goals that;

- ❖ Invest money in Universal Health Services chiefs as essential to protect our health service.
- ❖ Extend protection of schools' budgets to include early years and up to junior secondary education.
- ❖ Limit reductions in the budget that affect welfare so we do not destroy the essential safety net that protects us all in times of crisis.
- ❖ Increase social spending under the social investment programme to help the poorest in Nigeria.

Our bond is to present a party manifesto that demonstrates that we can be a force for good in Nigeria

and Africa, leading global action against climate change, tax avoidance and international crime, working to prevent conflict and aiding where needed and promoting trade, development and prosperity.

We will stand tall with our own neighbours in ECOWAS, a leader at the African Union and working to secure real reform of the AU to deliver more opportunities, more growth, and more security. Hopefully we will work to ensure that our borders are better secured and the forced emigration of Nigerians is halted. We will be working across borders to tackle crime and keep Nigeria safe.

50. **BANKING AND FINANCIAL REFORMS**

The recession of 2015 has caused real damage to our economy including one of the largest budget deficits and banks struggling to support the real economy.

APDA is committed to develop the banking sector to promote competition and innovation by:

- ❖ Facilitating new entrants, including through public procurement policy.
- ❖ Encouraging the growth of crowd funding and alternative finance models, encouraging Local Authorities to use these platforms to improve credit access in their areas.

- ❖ Promoting a new community banking sector to support small and medium-sized Enterprises and social enterprises.
- ❖ Ensure access to finance for all, tackling discrimination particularly against women and youth in the provision of financial services and supporting products that increase financial inclusion.

APDA recognises that Nigeria's contribution to non-oil global trade is negligible. In particular, non-oil exports account for 2 per cent Nigeria's trade compared with countries having similar demographics and resources. Consequently, this Manifesto envisages diversification from primary commodities and increasing market share in new export markets; especially higher value processed and refined products. In this regard, the party wishes to make the manufacturing, processing, and exportation of value-added goods the focal point of Nigeria's trade strategy.

APDA will:

- ❖ Commission an Inter-Ministerial/Agency Committee to streamline the functions of export/investment promotion agencies within the Cluster Development Strategy.
- ❖ Place economic diplomacy as the main theme of Nigeria's foreign policy and the central point for the active promotion of 'Made in Nigeria' goods. This will

be achieved by nurturing strategic partnerships with other countries.

- ❖ See how to link millions of jobs to our trade with the other counties.
- ❖ Consider ways of securing significant reforms like cutting the waste and shifting the balance of spending towards jobs, growth and innovation.
- ❖ Work to deepen the energy sector, in the digital economy and for services.
- ❖ Continue to work closely with other EU governments on foreign policy issues towards Africa and build close defence cooperation with France, Britain, the US and other European countries, as a reliable basis for Nigeria's security.

Now, we need to build on progress made since the agreement of the Millennium Development Goals and work to eliminate absolute poverty by 2030 – through investment and economic development.

ADPA will:

- ❖ Develop a whole-government approach to development.
- ❖ Continue to promote private sector economic development, ensuring this benefits local people and small businesses not just multinational corporations.

- ❖ Support international action to ensure global companies pay fair taxes in the developing countries in which they operate, including tightening anti-tax haven rules and requiring large companies to publish their tax payments and profits for each country in which they operate.
- ❖ Work with the global economic community to maintain global commitment to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income on overseas development.
- ❖ Conduct Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Review to ensure countries continue to work in the right places and through the right channels.
- ❖ Work to ensure that Sustainable Development Goals aim to:
 - ❖ Safeguard the sustainability of the planet.
 - ❖ Leave no one behind, helping the vulnerable as well as improving average living standards. We will ensure people do not suffer discrimination or disadvantage because of gender, sexual orientation, disability or ethnic origin.
 - ❖ Eliminate absolute poverty by 2030.
 - ❖ Invest to eliminate within a generation of preventable diseases like TB, HIV, malaria, etc and explore new ways to support public and private research and development into treatment for these deadly diseases and infections.

- ❖ Create a new civil society partnership scheme to build links between peoples in rich and poor countries, including partnerships between communities, trades unions or emergency services.

APDA will use its foreign policy and international standing to seek the advancement of human rights and democracy throughout the world, especially in Africa. This it will do regardless of ethnicity, disability, age, belief, gender or sexual orientation and work for a freer, fairer and more prosperous world.

APDA will:

- ❖ Continue to support free media and a free and open Internet around the world, championing the free flow of information.
- ❖ Prioritise support, protection and equal rights for women and girls, which is essential for effective, sustainable economic development.
- ❖ We will pursue an International Gender Equality Strategy, work to secure women and girls rights to education and freedom from forced marriage; and aim to end female genital mutilation worldwide within a generation.
- ❖ Extend existing reporting rules to establish consistent requirements on all large companies to report on the

social, environmental and human rights impacts of their activities and those of their supply chains

51. **CONSUMERS PROTECTION**

Confident consumers encourage innovation and competition, which strengthen our economy. There is need to address and overhaul consumer rights law, making it simpler and clearer and for the first time protect consumers buying goods and services. We need to clamp down on unscrupulous payday lenders and strengthened protections for vulnerable consumers against rogue traders.

APDA will:

- ❖ Force telco companies to allow customers to change to any cheaper suppliers in just 24 hours, and extend the principle of 'gainer led' switching, where your new provider organizes your switch for you, into new sectors, including banking, insurance and mortgages.
- ❖ Help people form new energy cooperatives so they can benefit from group discounts and cut their bills.
- ❖ Ensure transport fares do not rise faster than inflation as a whole.

- ❖ Invigorate the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) as well as NAFDAC through independent sampling of their certifications to check the quality of their assessments as well as publicize guidance under which domestic producers get a technical assessment of how their products compete against each other.

D. INTERNAL SECURITY

52. CRIME PREVENTION

Crime and fear of crime are amongst the greatest threats to our security and our ability to live our lives in full. Our focus is on trying to prevent crime from happening in the first place.

APDA will:

- ❖ Design out opportunities for crime, by improving the built environment, the design of new technologies, and community resilience.
- ❖ Build on the success of crime maps to use data more effectively to reduce crime, working towards the publication of business-by-business data for crimes committed on commercial premises, and exploring the feasibility of mandatory reporting of fraud losses by individual credit and debit card providers.

APDA will bring down crime and improve the efficiency of police forces, but there is more to do. The police could

be far more effective with proper support and shared best practice.

APDA will:

- ❖ Guarantee the police pursue the public's priorities by replacing Police and Crime Commissioners with Police Boards made up of Councillors from across the force area.
- ❖ Encourage police forces and other emergency services to work together at a local, regional and national level to reduce back office costs and deliver efficiency savings.
- ❖ Support and expand Police Units, by bringing high-flying graduates and skilled mid-career professionals into our police forces.

APDA is alarmed at the degradation in security in Nigeria and believes security and liberty are two sides of the same coin: you cannot have one without the other. The police and intelligence agencies do vital work to protect the public but citizens have to be vigilant that the state does not overreach itself, as it has done at times through corruption, heavy-handedness or illiberal laws.

APDA will:

- ❖ Ensure proper oversight of the security services.

- ❖ Establish in legislation that the police and intelligence agencies should not obtain data from Nigerians in law.
- ❖ Introduce and sustain restrictions on the indefinite use of police bail.
- ❖ Require judicial authorisation for the use of undercover police officers to infiltrate alleged criminal groups.

In the modern digital age, the power of the state and of corporate interests can threaten our privacy and liberty. There will be a complete overhaul of surveillance powers by state agencies. This is to control excessive state power, and ensure that in an era when surveillance is easier than ever before, we maintain the right to privacy and free speech.

APDA will:

- ❖ Pass a Digital law, to define and enshrine the digital rights of the citizen.
- ❖ Safeguard the essential freedom of the internet and back net neutrality, the principle that internet service providers should enable access to all lawful content and applications regardless of the source, and without favouring or blocking particular products or websites.
- ❖ Oppose the introduction of the so-called Snooper's Charter which allows companies to store a record of everyone's internet activities for a year or to collect

third-party communications data for non-business purposes is disproportionate and unacceptable, as is the blanket surveillance of our paper post.

With the fundamental rights enshrined in the 1999 Constitution as amended, legal guarantees of rights and liberties is still very much guaranteed.

APDA will:

- ❖ Protect the Fundamental Human Rights and pursue the implementation of the Child Rights Act. Appropriate action to comply with decisions of courts particularly as relates to Human Rights will be advanced.
- ❖ Block any further attempts to limit the right to trial by courts.
- ❖ Ensure the implementation of the Freedoms of Information Act, to protect citizens from excessive state powers.
- ❖ Protect free speech by ensuring insulting words, jokes, and non-intentional acts, are not treated as criminal, and that social media communications are not treated more harshly than other media.
- ❖ Prevent heavy-handed policing of demonstrations by tightly regulating the use of force.

- ❖ Strengthen safeguards to prevent pre-emptive arrests and misuse of pre-charge bail conditions to restrict civil liberties and stifle peaceful protest.
- ❖ Cut back on the petty over-regulation of everyday life, like removing licensing requirements for leafleting for community events, liberalising the restrictions on songs and readings at wedding ceremonies, and others.

Our Digital Rights Law will:

- ❖ Enshrine the principle that everyone has the right to control their own personal data, and that everyone should be able to view, correct, and (where appropriate and proportionate) delete their personal data, wherever it is held.
- ❖ Forbid any public body from collecting, storing or processing personal data without statutory authority, and require any such legislation to be regularly reviewed.
- ❖ Ensure that privacy policies and terms and conditions of online services, including smartphone apps, must be clear, concise, and easy for the user to understand.
- ❖ Uphold the right of individuals, businesses and public bodies to use strong encryption to protect their privacy and security online.

- ❖ Make it clear that online services have a duty to provide age-appropriate policies, guidance and support to the children and young people who use their services.
- ❖ Secure communities: policing, justice and the border force

No one can fulfil their potential if they live in fear. By ensuring our laws are upheld, we can build strong communities with opportunity for all. We will bring down crime which means fewer homes burgled, fewer communities blighted and fewer people hurt. But there is much more to do to reduce crime and free people from fear.



The best way to protect the public is to stop crime from happening in the first place, whether by designing out crime, intervening early, or with effective punishments that challenge offenders and address their criminal behaviour.

APDA will make sure the number one priority for the criminal justice system is to prevent crime by cutting reoffending.

- ❖ Explore the case for transferring responsibility for more serious national crime to a National Crime Agency, enabling local police forces to focus on local crime and anti-social behaviour.

- ❖ Step up work with ECOWAS and global development partners to tackle serious and organised crimes.

53. **ARMED FORCES AND SECURITY AGENCIES**

The Nigerian armed forces have been stretched on many fronts particularly in the North East where it is fighting against insurgency. Its internal and external commitments are huge and so is the responsibility to support its neighbours and work with allies. Many of the security challenges that Nigeria faces are shared by other allies and for Nigeria to be more effective and more resilient, she has to work closely with partners.

APDA will:

- ❖ Conduct a five year Strategic Defence and Security Review in which it will revisit and update the Future Force vision and ensure that capabilities are invested as relevant to the safety of Nigeria.
- ❖ Use the Strategic Defence and Security Review to establish a Single Security Budget, including not just conventional defence spending but the work of security agencies, cyber defences and soft power interventions. The Single Security Budget will be distributed by the SDSR process, as part of an overall Spending Review. This integrated approach will ensure spending choices follow the capabilities we need, not traditional departmental silos.

- ❖ Maintain strong and effective armed forces and the capability to deploy rapidly expeditionary forces.
- ❖ Set long-term budgets to invest in the right equipment at competitive prices.
- ❖ Recognise the expansion of warfare into the cyber sphere, by investing in our security and intelligence services and acting to counter cyber-attacks.
- ❖ Remain fully engaged in international nuclear disarmament efforts.
- ❖ Work for new global standards to end the use of conventional explosive weapons.

54. **COMMUNAL CRISIS AND HERDSMEN CLASHES**

Some communities have been plagued by communal crisis and the challenge of pastoralists also known as herdsmen. Whether it is crisis in Enugu State, Nassarawa state, Benue with the Agatu people, or Kaduna with Southern Zaria and Plateau with non-indigenous groups, the problems seem to be growing. Internal security has remained a big challenge in Nigeria, as internal conflicts, such as religious, ethnic and economic crises have negatively impacted national development.

APDA will:

- ❖ Entrench a constitutionally independent judicial system that ensures respect for the rule of law and equal access to justice.

- ❖ Strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to respond to national security emergencies
- ❖ Overhaul all discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promote a culture of respect for human rights.
- ❖ Promote prompt settlement of disputes and ensure timeliness in the trials of criminals.
- ❖ Implement powers to states to be more involved in security and protection of lives and property.

55. **TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

Terrorism and violent extremism remain serious threat which has taken over parts of Nigeria with the problem in the North East caused by Boko Haram and the militancy in the Niger Delta region. These require proportionate responses.

APDA will:

- ❖ Work with the military, donor agencies, religious and community leaders, civil society groups to address the scourge of internally displaced persons and casualties of the insurgency in the regions.
- ❖ There will also be concerted effort to counter the narratives put forward by extremists, and create the space for the expression of contrary viewpoints and religious interpretations.

- ❖ Maintain laws that provide an effective defence against terrorist activity, including proscription of terrorist groups, Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures, and Temporary Exclusion Orders, which enable the security services to manage the return of those who have fought illegally.
- ❖ Ensure we continue to provide the appropriate resources to the police and intelligence agencies to meet the threat, including of cyber-attack.
- ❖ Ensure efforts to tackle terrorism do not stigmatise or alienate groups or any other ethnic or faith group, and that government supports communities to help prevent those at risk of radicalisation from being drawn into illegal activity.
- ❖ Review the process of assessing threats against different ethnic and religious communities to ensure all groups in Nigeria are properly protected

E. SPECIAL AREAS OF INTEREST

56. NORTH EAST, IDPS AND THE LAKE CHAD REGION

A recent protection-focused report by the Assessment Capacities Project of USAID, details the extensive risks faced by people in conflict-affected areas of north-eastern Nigeria; in addition to the ongoing threat of Boko Haram-related violence, familial separation, gender-based violence, and other threats to physical safety and

mental wellbeing remain. Nigerians continue to face food insecurity due to the ongoing conflict in the region. Although humanitarian assistance has improved the situation, persistent conflict has caused conditions to deteriorate. In other parts, an increase in IDPs and refugees is straining host community resources and exacerbating food insecurity. Conditions among affected populations are likely to worsen with poor climatic conditions and the decline in agriculture. There are challenges of responding to food and nutrition conditions

APDA will

- ❖ Continue to work with international partners – Western, African and Arab – to tackle religious extremism embodied by organisations like the ISIS and their links in Africa with Boko Haram in Nigeria. These extremist organisations pervert Islam and carry out appalling atrocities against Muslims as well as non-Muslims.
- ❖ Address this as a generational challenge which requires time and patience while favouring the broadening of the international coalition against Boko Haram.
- ❖ Reduce the effects of many years of insurgency, through quick win jobs and boost of growth in the North East as a means of addressing its economic disadvantage.

- ❖ Provide reasonable resources to the North-East Development Commission, while reducing the distorting effects of having a regional development body operate alongside the state and local governments.
- ❖ Ensure greater cooperation between the government and the humanitarian actors, sharing information and enhancing coordination efforts is designed to give the humanitarian response the impetus required to address urgent life-saving assistance.
- ❖ Acknowledgement of the scale and depth of the crisis and work out a certain sense of urgency to ensure momentum is maintained in targeting the response.
- ❖ Promote a strong mechanism for working constructively with civic society in North-East Nigeria.
- ❖ Work to ensure the interface is smooth and effective between national security and counter-terrorism policing on the one hand, and local policing and criminal justice activities on the other.
- ❖ Work with various agencies at different levels to tackle the cost of insurgency and ensure all Government policies on North-Eastern Nigeria support the aim of a genuine Shared Future for all.
- ❖ To rejuvenate local government in North East Nigeria;

APDA will:

- ❖ Reduce the powers of state MDAs to interfere in democratically elected local government.
- ❖ Devolve more power and resources to groups of Local Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships, starting with back-to-work support.
- ❖ Establish a Government process to deliver greater devolution of financial responsibility to Local Authorities and ensure that the changes balance the objectives of more local autonomy and fair equalisation between communities.
- ❖ Adopt supporting initiatives to return to long-term use of farmlands and put in place clear property rights.
- ❖ Re-establish access to quality/affordable healthcare to enhance access to quality and affordable healthcare through the establishment of at least one functional general hospital in each local government areas in the Region.
- ❖ Address access to Portable Water and Basic Sanitation by developing unified programmes and manuals of management, operation and maintenance for urban, small town and rural water and sanitation services. Also implement programmes to control environmental degradation and pollution and promote sustainable use and conservation of natural resources.

57. DEVELOPING THE NIGER DELTA

The New Vision 20:2020 emphasises the continued development of the oil and gas sector due to the nation's huge reserves. The Vision aims to increase crude oil production and refining capacity to stimulate local value-addition and to put the country in a position to meet its domestic demand for refined products and even export refined products. There is also the aim of developing the gas sector to meet domestic and industrial demand and to take advantage of global markets. To this end, the local content initiative in the sector will be revived through the Local Content Bill and the Petroleum Industry Bill when passed into law. The APDA will prioritize both laws particularly in the face of violent attacks on oil installation and the role of militancy and agitators.

APDA will

- ❖ Consider the development of the Niger Delta as a major challenge and promote lasting poverty reduction through strengthening local governance and participatory planning, ensuring sustainable use of renewable natural resources and providing critical social infrastructure.
- ❖ Priority will also be given to the provision of basic education and health facilities in the region.

- ❖ The Niger Delta Master plan will be the instrument for promoting sound environmental management, alleviating poverty, developing the infrastructure base and improving local participation in the oil and gas industry.

58. **CONCLUSION**

Building on the above, this manifesto seeks to focus on delivering efficiency, funding proven spend-to-save initiatives, pursuing local to community integration to drive efficiency, and investing in technology to get public services and frontline staff on-line. The aim is to improve the quality of life and wellbeing, especially of the vulnerable and least well off.

