NEW GREEN CONGRESS PARTY
WITH GOD, YES, WE MUST!

MANIFESTO

BY

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WRITTEN

FOR THE PEOPLE

FOCUSING ON POLICIES THAT FOSTER DEVELOPMENT AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN NIGERIA

2024

VISION: Turning the Corner For Renewed Hope, Equity, Peace, Prosperity and Security in Nigeria

MOTTO: Civic Empowerment, Envisioning a New Nigeria

WITH GOD, YES, WE MUST!

MISSION STATEMENT and GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The **New Green Congress Party (NGCP)** is dedicated to renewed hope, peace, equality, prosperity, and security for all Nigerians, fostering a sustainable development and environmental resilience model. NGCP envisions a sustainable and prosperous future where ecological stewardship, renewable energy, and green technologies are at the core of national development. We are committed to fostering a society that values inclusivity, diversity, and equitable opportunities while actively combating CRIMES, TERRORISM, and climate change and preserving lives, property, and our planet for future generations. Our mission is to empower new leaders and communities to create innovative solutions for a healthier, greener, and more resilient world. We aim to safeguard our natural heritage, promote health and well-being for all Nigerians, and secure a prosperous future that balances economic advancement with ecological preservation. Together, we stand united in our pursuit to protect the rule of law and a sustainable legacy, ensuring that economic growth and environmental preservation go hand in hand with peace and stability for the benefit of all, making Nigeria a beacon of hope and change for Africa.

Guiding Principles: Democracy, Inclusivity, Sustainability, Innovation, Accountability, and the Rule of Law.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Overview

Nigeria is rich in natural and cultural assets, with vast potential for fostering a thriving economy. At the forefront of these assets is its cultural heritage, which encompasses tangible and intangible aspects. The country is notably diverse, housing approximately 250-300 ethnic groups and over 500 languages spoken across different communities (Nomishan & Sani, 2023). With a population exceeding 210 million according to 2021 Worldometer figures based on United Nations data and covering an area of about 923,768 square kilometers, Nigeria's dynamic nature is evident in its demographics and geography and the rich cultural heritage of its people. This heritage is expressed through various forms such as monuments, art objects, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, historic towns, places, customs, practices, artistic expressions, and values representing the intangible cultural heritage.

Nigeria's cultural diversity is significantly shaped by its major ethnic groups: the Hausa in the north, the Yoruba in the southwest, and the Igbo in the southeast. Besides these, there are numerous other

influential ethnic groups across the country. In the Middle Belt, for instance, groups such as the Tiv, Igala, Berom, Jukun, Gwari, Bassa, Idoma, and Nupe play a vital role. At the same time, in the South-South region, the Ibibio, Edo, Annang, Ijaw, Urhobo, Ogoni, Nkum, Isekiri, Esan, and Efik, among others, are prominent. These diverse groups offer unique intangible cultural heritage resources, which present significant opportunities for cultural tourism, which needs to be effectively enhanced and safeguarded.

True Demo-Cracy: People -Power

In a true democracy, where power belongs to the people, citizens exercise their rights by directly participating or electing representatives answerable to those who elected them. This means citizens have the constitutional right to choose their leaders through regular elections. Democracy opposes the rule of a single dictator (autocracy) or a small group of people (oligarchy) and any form of arbitrary control and authoritarian rule (Umunakwe et al., 2022) because citizens have fundamental rights, including protecting their political opinions.

However, democracy on its own does not guarantee development. For this reason, experts advocate for a liberal form of democracy that encourages cooperation and inclusiveness. Liberal democracy is the key to good governance, involving the wise, accountable, and efficient use of power and public institutions to promote human and material development. It is associated with good governance, effective use of political power, solving problems, managing resources well, and meeting the needs and interests of the people.

Liberal democracy is designed to protect individuals and minorities from oppressive rule, whether by a single ruler or the majority. It creates a society where everyone can reach their full potential, with mutual respect for each other's dignity, rights, responsibilities, and ideas. According to the European Consortium for Political Research, liberal democracy is the only political system that fully supports individual rights and maintains the freedoms it provides to citizens. It promotes economic freedom and political democratization, leading to development that reaches all levels of society.

This development includes economic, social, and cultural progress, connecting all development goals to support human dignity and rights, reduce hunger, drive economic growth, and build peace for the long-term well-being of communities. These principles guide national development and serve as a standard for ensuring a broad range of social and economic rights, representing a universal model of humanity without discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, gender, class, or any other social division.

Nigeria's Challenges Are Myriad

Nigeria faces critical sustainable development and structural challenges, impeding economic growth and development. These challenges include environmental degradation, climate change impacts, and resource depletion. The country is experiencing deforestation, desertification, water scarcity, and pollution, threatening food security, health, and livelihoods. Moreover, climate change exacerbates these issues, with increased risks of flooding. Sustainable development is urgent to ensure that economic growth does not come at the expense of the environment and natural resources, which future generations depend

on. It involves adopting clean energy, sustainable farming practices, and conservation efforts to protect ecosystems while fostering economic growth.

Nigeria also faces enormous challenges, such as poor infrastructure, ill-equipped public health systems, a decline in foreign investments, poor governmental institutions, political instability, security threats, and lagging economic development. Since independence, the country has suffered from one socioeconomic crisis to another. At the same time, the citizenry remains impoverished as the elites and policymakers thrive and pay no heed to the suffering of the masses. This Manifesto for Nigeria discusses the nation's issues and proffers solutions to protect Nigeria's cultural heritage and provide economic prosperity, social justice, law and order, environmental sustainability, and political stability and security in policies and practices.

The universal value of "Leave No One Behind (LNOB) is the central, transformative promise of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals."

(SDGs) (United Nations, 2023, p. 1). It suffices to state that this 2030 agenda is coming too late because, since Nigeria's independence, the problem has persisted with no end in sight; nonetheless, we will admit that socioeconomic development is an evolving sustainable agenda throughout the life of any nation and not a stagnated process, as in the case of Nigeria.

Therefore, this persistent lagging development begs the question: Why is Nigeria, Africa's most prominent and wealthiest country, still behind in structural transformation? This question calls for imperative and decisive action to mitigate and combat the lagging socioeconomic development in the country through comprehensive approaches to ensure that Nigerian citizens enjoy their natural endowment of life and liberty in their pursuit of peace and happiness. It is high time that we start envisioning a Nigeria where economic growth benefits all segments of society, reducing inequality and ensuring access to essential services, which we know are achievable. If China and India have achieved success in economic growth, then yes, we can, too.

Structural Change

Nigeria's economy has long relied heavily on oil, accounting for a significant portion of the government's revenue and export earnings. This dependence on a single commodity exposes the economy to global oil price fluctuations, leading to economic instability. Structural transformation is crucial for promoting economic resilience and sustainability. By diversifying the economy, Nigeria can spread risk, create jobs in new sectors, and build a more stable financial base. Furthermore, structural transformation involves upgrading the agricultural industry and developing manufacturing and services, which are vital for absorbing the expanding workforce and reducing poverty.

In a comparative study by Naiya (2013), Countries that have seen significant improvements in how much money their people make and their overall quality of life have done so by making substantial changes in how their economies work. Essentially, this means improving the old-fashioned ways of making money, like farming and expanding to more modern ways, like manufacturing and providing services. This shift is known as structural transformation. It is about moving resources—like

time and effort—from activities that do not produce much or investing in those areas that make a lot more, which is a crucial part of economic development. This critical change is not just about the economy; it also includes changes in society, culture, and politics, thanks to new ways of doing things, moving people from the countryside to cities, and improving technology, education, and institutions. With education, people's potential is realized. An enlightened society is critical to unlocking ingenuity, creativity, collaboration, security, peace, and sustainable economic growth and development.

The rapid economic growth of some Asian countries and other developing nations has made many people, including scholars and those working to improve countries, very interested in how structural transformation can help developing countries grow. Studying how economic structures change and how this affects growth goes a long way. Early studies divided the economy into three main parts: Primary (like farming), secondary (like manufacturing) and tertiary (services) (Naiya, 2013).

This setup helps researchers understand how economies change over time. For example, as countries develop, they tend to move resources from farming to manufacturing and then to services, which reflects a move toward growth, productivity, and advanced ways of making money. This shift includes moving from one sector to another and improvements within industries due to new technologies and advancements. Farming is a big deal in Nigeria, supporting about 70% of the people (Naiya, 2013).

By investing in modern farming methods, improving rural areas, addressing the problem of insecurity, and focusing on processing farm products, farming can become more productive and help decrease poverty. The Nigerian government can reform the farming sector to make farming more efficient and accessible for everyone. In short, developing agriculture's primary sector is a crucial step in economic development and structural change. Also, manufacturing has great potential to boost the economy; therefore, heavily investing in manufacturing is vital by first addressing our nation's poor infrastructure and ensuring sustainability.

Insecurity: Kidnapping, Banditry, and Terrorism

The threat of insecurity in Nigeria has become an unacceptable way of life in society. The insecurity problems in Nigeria are exacerbated by inequality, rising poverty, poor military training, and mentorship to confront the nation's current security problems. Though Nigeria houses a significant military training school and camps, the country remains plagued with major insecurity problems. Hence, in the 21st Century, the Nigerian government must take the issue of insecurity, which plagues the nation, very seriously.

Insecurity is a threat to the citizens who cannot farm their lands because they are driven away or killed by bandits. Insecurity also threatens our children's safety in schools. This issue of insecurity also threatens foreign investors. This threat significantly contributes to hunger and lagging development, mainly when farmers are afraid to source food for their families because bandits are confiscating their lands. At the same time, the government does little or nothing to address the problems that threaten Nigerians' lives and property.

In a recent work, Olawunmi underscores that since gaining independence in 1960, Nigeria has faced numerous security problems, causing widespread fear. These problems range from civil war, military takeovers, terrorism, and insurgency to poor governance. Adding to these issues are the country's ethnic and linguistic diversity, with around 250 ethnic groups speaking about 500 different languages, leading to ethnic rivalries and conflicts. There is also religious tension between the predominantly Muslim North and the Christian South, despite the country's constitution declaring secularism. Nigeria has its positives, being the fourth largest oil supplier to Europe; therefore, the resources from oil should be invested in building a secure nation where all citizens feel safe at home, school, work, farm, and while traveling on roads.

Furthermore, Nigeria ranks low on the global peace index in terms of safety and security, ongoing domestic and international conflict, and militarization. It is regarded as one of the least peaceful countries in Africa (Olawunmi, 2023). The conflict in the Northeast between government forces and Boko Haram resulted in numerous deaths in 2020 alone, highlighting the ongoing security challenges Nigeria faces.

Insecurity in Nigeria has constrained economic development and structural transformation.

Countering Terrorism in Nigeria

Okafor et al. (2023) and Akin (2018) define security as "the implementation of measures for the protection of individuals, information, and property against hostile persons, influences, and acts" (p. 4). Okafor et al. further point out that when we talk about improving our security forces, it involves giving them training and the right equipment to ensure they gain new skills, knowledge, and attitudes to do their jobs well. Many experts agree that one of the best ways businesses invest in their employees now and will continue to do so in the future to get better results is through training and development. How well an organization does depends significantly on how well its employees perform. The performance of the employees, in turn, depends on their knowledge, skills, and abilities.

The main aim of training and developing employees is to make them more efficient, which will help the organization, in this case, our

military, to be efficient and effective. Thus, our government must spend much time and financial resources training the military at various levels. Furthermore, to address security challenges in Nigeria effectively, Ajayi et al. offer the following clear and decisive suggestions and a proactive stance that is imperative to adopt. Such as:

1. Enhancing training programs, adopting modern intelligence-gathering techniques, facilitating intelligence sharing, and improving logistics. Additionally, deploying cutting-edge technology is crucial in managing security issues effectively. Such measures are vital in mitigating the frequency of bombings, robberies, kidnappings, and violent acts perpetrated by criminals across the nation.

2. Incorporating Security Management into the educational curriculum at all levels is another critical step. This strategy will cultivate a deep understanding among Nigerian youths regarding the significance of maintaining security in a diverse nation like Nigeria. It is a foundational approach to fostering a society that values and actively contributes to national security.

3. Furthermore, combating corruption is essential for progress and development. Corruption leads to political instability, social unrest, and a surge in crime, fostering an environment rife with inefficiency, incompetence, and unethical behaviors. To advance, Nigeria must significantly reduce corruption and injustice, eliminate nepotism, and eradicate the culture of impunity. Emphasizing ethical values and integrity is crucial for the nation's growth and stability.

4. Lastly, but not exhaustively, security personnel's continuous training and development are paramount to concentrating on human rights, weapon handling, communication skills, and modern interrogation techniques and moving away from outdated practices like torture. Security officers should also gain exposure to the latest equipment and technology, with information technology training becoming a mandatory aspect of their education. Raising the entry requirements for these positions can help attract the most qualified individuals in the

country, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of Nigeria's security forces.

Every country needs to keep improving its security forces' skills, knowledge, training, and strategies, and Nigeria is no exception. Without genuine efforts to build these areas, safety performance will not improve, disrupting lives and livelihoods. In Nigeria, not doing enough in this area has made the security situation worse, creating a gap that has led to a high level of insecurity, lagging economic growth, and an increased poverty rate. People are hesitant to go about their daily lives because of the fear of violence.

The insecurity problem has gotten so bad that many people are moving to the southern part of Nigeria. Besides the danger to people's lives, there is also a considerable amount of property destroyed by bombings, costing trillions of naira. It is high time the government took these threats to Nigerian society seriously and examined how training and developing people can help with the problem of insecurity in Nigeria.

In the theory of social contract, people agree to follow the state's rules in return for the protection of their lives and property. Essentially, a government's main job is to keep its citizens safe and improve their lives. However, Nigeria's government's ability to protect its people from outside attacks and internal conflicts is in question. This issue can be traced back to how security matters are handled politically, leading to the rise of harmful ethnic militias. Nigeria's large population, with many uneducated and marginalized people, provides a perfect environment for these militias to recruit young people who feel ignored by bad government policies.

Access to Education and Tertiary Institutions

Education is fundamental to sustainable development in any human society and must begin with every school-age child. Access to education means access to economic freedom, empowerment, and sustainable development for the citizens of Nigeria and the nation at large. Hence, making education accessible to all citizens is crucial to counter the lagging development of Nigeria. Aluede et al. (2012) posit

that education is foundational in politics, healthcare, farming, and keeping us safe. There is a saying: a country can only be as good as the education its people receive. Education helps us figure out what we have to work with, find any roadblocks, and plan the best way to use what we have. It allows us to examine different options and determine the practical choice to ensure we are on the right path. Education does not just help us adapt to changes; it also sparks new ideas and inventions. As people learn and grow through different educational experiences, they become more creative, resourceful, and imaginative.

Therefore, the government must address the challenges of poor infrastructure and inadequate public financing facing the educational system in Nigeria. Our institutions must be up to date with 21st-century learning facilities to ensure that our children are well-equipped to compete globally and our lecturers are well compensated for their knowledge transfer. Our government must get it right for the benefit of all citizens.

Nigeria's Healthcare System

Nigeria's healthcare system is underperforming and a significant disappointment to the citizens, where people lose their lives to malaria and the common cold, including child-bearing. Adeyi (2016) highlights critical issues inhibiting Nigeria's healthcare system.

First, there has been a long-standing issue where the government and the people do not hold each other accountable. This problem exists because the system does not work for people experiencing poverty due to deep-rooted issues like corruption and favoritism. This lack of accountability leads to poor management and corruption in public finances, affecting many health aspects. Moreover, good health is not just about medical care but also about having a good education, proper nutrition, reliable infrastructure like clean water and power, and a clean environment. Unfortunately, these areas are struggling in Nigeria, negatively impacting people's health.

Secondly, how policies are designed and carried out can lead to unexpected problems. Nigeria's federal system divides responsibilities among local, state, and federal governments. However, this setup causes

confusion and inefficiency, making it challenging to provide everyone

with primary health care and to hold the local government accountable.

The biggest issue is that local governments, which are supposed to

handle primary health care, lack the resources and ability to do so

effectively.

Thirdly, there is a big gap in using evidence and research to plan

health policies and decisions. Even though there are many well-trained

experts in health and policy in Nigeria, the institutions themselves are

weak. This means there is much knowledge, but it is not being used

effectively and efficiently to improve the health system due to poor

health institutions, such as hospitals and clinics. Lastly, there are

deficiencies in health development assistance, and its management has

problems, including how aid is provided and used in Nigeria, leading to

inefficiencies and issues in improving health care for everyone. Thus,

transparency and accountability to the citizens are required for public

health services.

Adeyi (2016) proffers the following suggestions for healthcare

policy reforms, which are implementable because people must

understand what they should expect from the government and how well the healthcare system meets their needs. Thus, clear reports should be available to everyone, showing how much is spent, the health targets, how close they are to meeting them, and where there are gaps in health services and outcomes. These reports should be easy to find, in languages people understand, and shared through social media, television, and newspapers.

Additionally, moving towards a combination of pre-paid insurance and government funding could help prevent people from facing huge bills when they need healthcare. Making these changes and ensuring people know how health funds are used can help tackle issues caused by weak agreements between the government and its citizens, problems with how policies are made and carried out, and the lack of planning based on solid evidence.

Nigeria could look at what Mozambique is doing with its Public Financial Management for Results Program as an example. This program is about making health spending more transparent and ensuring that medicines and supplies are well managed and that healthcare

facilities at the local level are transparently managed. Investing in preventive care and strengthening the public health system to manage health crises is imperative. Nigeria's healthcare system needs to be revitalized comprehensively at the local, state, and federal levels to protect the well-being of its citizens.

Nigeria's Natural Resources

Fatehinse (2023) asserts that natural resources like oil, gas, diamonds, minerals, forests, and water can be a significant source of income for a country. However, if these resources are not managed well or shared equitably, they can lead to conflicts and instability. Countries with weak anti-corruption systems often have difficulty dealing with corruption, which results in fighting over who gets the wealth from these resources.

Managing natural resources is especially important in a divided society like Nigeria, where conflict over these resources can often be linked to conflicts between different ethnic or identity groups. This issue is even more critical when natural resources are found in areas that are home to specific ethnic, religious, or language groups and do not benefit

from these resources. How Nigeria handles its natural resources can help unite people or worsen conflicts.

In Nigeria, where a significant portion of its revenue comes from natural resources like oil and a big part of the economy, these resources are not spread evenly among ethnic or religious groups; hence, figuring out who owns these resources is very important. The fight over ownership can involve private companies or individuals, local communities traditionally using the land, or the government itself. To ensure natural resources are managed well, bring benefits to the country, and produce stability, it is vital for the laws to clearly state who has the right to these resources.

Having clear policies about who owns natural resources and who gets to decide about them is critical to stabilizing the country and making investors feel secure. If it is unclear who owns the resources, it can lead to ongoing fights between the federal and local or state governments. Making sure local governments or native communities have a say in how natural resources are used, including decisions about jobs and getting a share of the money made, is essential. However, if

investors see these arrangements as making their investment less appealing, it could make it harder for the country to attract the money it needs to develop these resources (Fatehinse, 2023).

Energy and access to energy are crucial for economic growth and development. Energy is the foundation of every developed economy in the world. When a country has sufficient energy to sell, its economy can grow and work towards sustainability, meaning that the government can improve its citizens' lives if the resources are used wisely and efficiently.

CHAPTER TWO

Economic Development and Diversification

Economic development and diversification are essential for reducing Nigeria's vulnerability to external shocks, such as oil price volatility, and creating a more balanced and resilient economy. Diversification can help to stimulate growth in various sectors, such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services, leading to job creation and income generation. It is also crucial for enhancing competitiveness and innovation. Diversification involves investing in human capital, improving infrastructure, and creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. This strategy is critical to transitioning from an extractive economy to a more knowledge-based and industrialized economy (Naiya, 2013).

Nigeria's agricultural sector holds the key to the country's economic diversification, food security, and poverty reduction. The objective must aim to modernize agriculture, making it a significant driver of economic growth and a source of sustainable livelihoods.

Hence, we propose investing in agricultural technology and

infrastructure to increase productivity. We also suggest supporting

smallholder farmers through access to finance, inputs, markets, and

developing agro-processing industries to add value, reduce post-harvest

losses, and promote sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices.

As one of the world's largest youth populations, Nigeria urgently needs

to create employment opportunities. Structural transformation and

diversification can create jobs in sectors beyond oil and gas, fostering

economic equality. The volatility of oil prices has led to financial

instability in Nigeria. Diversifying the economic base can provide more

stable revenue streams and reduce exposure to global commodity price

swings. Thus, equitable policy practices bolster sustainable agricultural

practices with access to proper farming technology focusing on food

security, such as pest control, irrigation, weed control, pruning,

protection against diseases, and combating hunger in Nigeria (Amusan,

2018).

Despite its vast resources, Nigeria has high levels of inequality and

poverty. Sustainable development and economic diversification can

promote inclusive growth that benefits all segments of society. However, when tax revenues are constrained, Nigeria cannot continue to rely on external borrowing as an attractive option for financing infrastructure development. To compete in the global economy, Nigeria must diversify and innovate. Therefore, resisting foreign borrowing is an excellent start to economic growth and stability, and investing in technology, education, and infrastructure is a must, positioning Nigeria as a competitive player on the international stage.

According to Naiya's comparative analysis, GDP per capita (constant 2000 US$) In 1960, Indonesia had $200.65 per capita, Malaysia $812.62, Nigeria $279.5, and Turkey $1582.57, indicating that Indonesia had the lowest GDP per capita among the four studied countries. The value of $200.65 was just about 25 percent of Malaysia's GDP per capita, 72 percent of Nigeria's, and just 13 percent of Turkey's in 1960. In 1990, Indonesia's GDP per capita was 23 percent of Malaysia's, 165 percent of Nigeria, and 17 percent of Turkish; by 2010, it was 22 percent, 212 percent, and 21 percent of Malaysia, Nigeria, and Turkey, respectively, which indicates that Indonesia overtook Nigeria in

1980. By 2010, Indonesia's GDP per capita had more than doubled that of Nigeria, which suggests that Nigeria's economy is slower in growth and continues in this trajectory.

Country Programme Document for Nigeria (2023-2027, World Bank,2022)

A recent United Nations Country program document for Nigeria (2023-2027) congrues with Naiya's (2013) study on Nigeria's lagging economy compared to other regions. The UN reports that Nigeria had the largest economy ($429 billion US dollars in 2020) and is Africa's most populous (211 million in 2021) country. Despite being Africa's largest crude oil producer, poverty (40 percent or 82.9 million people in 2019) and unemployment (33 percent in 2021) remain high. Nigeria ranked low on the Human Development Index (161 out of 189 countries in 2020).

The UN's document provides some essential programs for development. It posits that it is working on two big goals: helping the country recover economically in the next few years and ensuring

development includes everyone and does not harm the planet, aiming to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. This work is focused on three main areas: boosting economic growth for everyone, tackling climate change, and ensuring peace, security, and good governance. A crucial part of their approach is ensuring no one is left behind, mainly focusing on gender equality, helping vulnerable groups, women-led families, and those with disabilities. They also plan to involve volunteers in their projects as a valuable way to reach the SDGs.

From 2023 to 2027, the UNDP's plan is part of a more extensive United Nations effort to promote development in Nigeria that respects human rights and includes everyone who aims to speed up progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's goals for 2063. The UNDP will help by working towards a more diverse and inclusive economy, building a peaceful and secure society with good governance, improving the country's ability to deal with climate change, and ensuring everyone can access energy.

However, their strategy is contingent on the hope that Nigeria can grow its economy in a way that benefits everyone and make its

environment better and more resilient to climate disasters, and if it improves governance and human rights to ensure everyone, especially the most vulnerable, will enjoy a better, more inclusive development that helps achieve the SDGs. Hence, the buck stops with us—the Nigerian citizens by holding our government accountable. NGC aims to provide solutions for economic growth, sustainability, and accountability.

Economic Growth and Environmental Protection

Balancing economic growth with environmental protection and social equity is anchored in the understanding that development should address the current population's immediate needs and safeguard future generations' resources and well-being. Below is an example of critical areas of sustainable development, emphasizing environmental conservation and climate resilience for Nigeria:

Economic Growth and Environmental Protection

1. Green Economy Transition: We will advocate for a shift towards a green economy that emphasizes low-carbon, resource-efficient, and socially inclusive development, including investing in

renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydro to reduce

dependence on fossil fuels and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Sustainable Agriculture: Fostering sustainable agricultural

practices that increase productivity and resilience to climate

change while minimizing environmental impact involves adopting

climate-smart agriculture techniques, sustainable water

management, and preserving biodiversity.

Social Equity and Inclusivity

1. Access to Basic Services: Ensure equitable access to essential

services such as clean water, sanitation, healthcare, electricity, and

education. Prioritize the development of infrastructure and services

in underserved areas to reduce inequalities and improve the quality

of life.

2. Community Engagement and Empowerment: This strategy

stimulates the active participation of local communities in

sustainable development initiatives, empowering them to manage

natural resources sustainably and participate in decision-making processes that affect their environment and livelihoods.

Climate Resilience and Adaptation

1. Climate Action Plans: The New Green Congress (NGC) will develop and implement comprehensive climate action plans that outline strategies for adaptation and mitigation. These plans will focus on protecting vulnerable communities from the adverse effects of climate change, such as flooding, drought, and erosion.

2. Infrastructure Resilience: NGC will invest in developing resilient infrastructure to mitigate climate change and natural disasters is critical. This includes building flood defenses, creating green spaces to absorb excess rainfall, and designing buildings and roads that withstand extreme weather conditions.

Sustainable Urban Development

1. Eco-friendly Urban Planning: Promoting urban planning and development strategies incorporating green spaces, sustainable transportation systems, and energy-efficient buildings and fostering

the adoption of green architecture and urban farming to enhance food security and improve urban environments.

2. Waste Management and Recycling: Effective waste management systems that promote recycling and reduce landfill use must be implemented. To manage urban waste sustainably, encourage the development of recycling industries and the adoption of waste-to-energy technologies.

Conservation of Natural Resources

1. Protecting Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Conserving Nigeria's rich biodiversity and natural habitats is crucial to economic growth and sustainable development. The program includes establishing protected areas, combating illegal wildlife trade, and supporting conservation projects that preserve ecosystems and endangered species.

2. Sustainable Resource Use: Ensure the sustainable use and management of natural resources such as forests, water bodies, and minerals. Implementing policies promoting sustainable fishing,

forestry management, and mineral extraction practices is vital to resource sustainability.

Policy and Institutional Framework

1. Legislation and Governance: Reforming policies that strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks governing environmental protection and sustainable development is crucial. Such policies involve enacting and enforcing environmental regulations, promoting good governance practices, and ensuring transparency and accountability in environmental management and overall governance.

2. Electoral Reforms: Ensure free, fair, and credible elections for Nigeria's citizens. Nigeria must abandon the old way of rigging elections and exemplify quality elections that are safe and ethical.

3. International Cooperation: Engaging in international cooperation and partnerships to address global environmental challenges to achieve sustainable development goals. Participation in international agreements and initiatives that focus on climate change, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development to

ensure SDG goals are included in government plans, policy reforms based on international best practices, creating better data, supporting inclusive finance and investments, promoting trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area, fostering entrepreneurship, while creating jobs through various programs.

4. Institutional Reform: Institutional Development is about making an organization more potent and capable. It focuses on using people and finances in the best way possible to achieve what the organization wants, whether a public or private entity, which means building up institutions to get better results. Part of this process is working on how the organization is set up and improving the parts that make it work—in other words, looking at how development plans and policies can be reformed to make positive changes within institutions. Take schools, for example; they must constantly update their rules and improve to do their job well, ensuring the education sector works on developing itself to provide better education.

     Implementing these policies will demonstrate a comprehensive and forward-thinking approach to sustainable development, emphasizing the need to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability and social equity to benefit current and future generations.

CHAPTER THREE

Social Protection Programs for the Vulnerable

The World Bank posits that social protection initiatives can significantly reduce poverty, enhance human capital development, and foster social inclusion in Nigeria (World Bank, 2021). Empowering our youth through Social Support operations like skill training for vulnerable youth and encouraging entrepreneurship and human capital development are crucial to reducing poverty, promoting inclusivity, and improving service access that can stimulate economic growth.

Youth Empowerment and Social Support Operation, Community and Social Development Project, and the National Health Insurance Scheme are designed to offer financial aid, particularly to older people and children, skills training for the youth, and healthcare services to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, including impoverished households, the youth, and entire communities need to be revamped. The roles of these social protection programs in Nigeria include:

- Alleviating Poverty: Programs like cash transfers, food aid, and microfinance initiatives provide essential resources to poor and vulnerable families, helping them withstand economic hardships and reducing poverty. By offering a safety net to these groups, social protection efforts decrease both the rate and severity of poverty, enhancing the population's overall quality of life.

- Encouraging Social Inclusion: Social inclusion programs support marginalized groups such as women, children, older people, and those with disabilities, promoting equality and allowing everyone to contribute to and benefit from development activities.

- Enhancing Access to Basic Needs: Social protection schemes aim to make fundamental services like healthcare, education, and housing more accessible. For instance, the National Health Insurance Scheme and Conditional Cash Transfer program improve healthcare and educational access. At the same time, the National Social Safety Nets Project assists vulnerable households in accessing these essential services (World Bank, 2021).

- Fostering Economic Growth: By supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, enhancing financial inclusion, and developing human capital, these programs contribute to economic expansion for a better Nigeria. More crucial sectors requiring effective policies for development and combating poverty are:

- Health and Education: Healthy and educated people are crucial for Nigeria's growth and poverty reduction. Right now, Nigeria struggles with high rates of maternal and infant deaths, and many children do not get a good education. Putting more money into health and education, ensuring people get medical care, and ensuring children attend school can make a big difference.

- Technology (ICT): Nigeria's tech sector has much potential, especially in digital services and mobile payments, with over 200 million mobile phone users. Policies that help more people get online, encourage innovation, and improve tech skills can use this potential to reduce poverty and boost the economy.

Good Governance: Fostering Transparency and Accountability

Good governance is foundational to sustainable development, economic prosperity, and social equity. It encompasses the principles of transparency, accountability, efficiency, participation, and justice, ensuring that government actions and policies are responsive to the needs of the Nigerian populace while safeguarding the rights of all citizens, including the most vulnerable. Enwin et al. (2023) agree that good governance involves the government's effective and efficient administration of public affairs, aiming to advance development, safeguard human rights, and uphold the rule of law. It is a concept centered on transparency, accountability, participation, and responsiveness.

Transparency

- Open Government: The government must commit to an open government initiative that promotes transparency in all governmental operations. Transparent government operations

include the rule of law and the implementation of laws ensuring freedom of information, making government data accessible to the public, and utilizing technology to enhance transparency.

- Public Financial Management: Strengthen public financial management systems to ensure transparency in budgeting, expenditure, and procurement processes. Implement and enforce strict standards for public sector accounting and reporting to prevent wastage and ensure efficient use of resources.

- Independent Oversight: Establish or reform independent oversight bodies such as anti-corruption agencies, auditor-general offices, and ombudsman institutions. These bodies should have the authority and resources to investigate and hold public officials accountable for their actions.

- Legal Framework: Enhance the legal framework to ensure clear and enforceable laws govern the conduct of public officials and institutions, including anti-corruption, public ethics, and conflicts of interest.

Efficiency and Effectiveness

- Public Service Reform: Implement reforms to improve the
  efficiency and Effectiveness of the public service. That means
  training and capacity building for public servants, streamlining
  bureaucratic procedures, and adopting performance management
  systems.

- Service Delivery: Focus on improving the delivery of public
  services by adopting citizen-centric approaches, including
  leveraging technology to provide e-government services and
  establishing mechanisms for feedback and redress.

Civic Participation

- Civic Engagement: Promote active civic engagement and
  participation in governance processes, such as creating public
  consultation and dialogue platforms, involving civil society in
  policy formulation and monitoring, and ensuring that decision-
  making processes are inclusive and representative.

- Decentralization: Advance the decentralization of governance to bring decision-making closer to the people. Strengthen local government institutions by giving them the authority, resources, and capacity to effectively address local needs and priorities.

Justice and Rule of Law

- Judicial Independence and Integrity: Ensure the independence and integrity of the judiciary, including protecting the judiciary from political interference, providing adequate resources for the judicial system, and ensuring timely access to justice for all citizens.

- Human Rights and Equality: Ensures that laws are transparent and fair to all citizens, regardless of status. Laws are consistently applied to uphold human rights and promote equality before the law. They implement policies and measures to protect the rights of minorities, women, and vulnerable groups and ensure that all citizens have equal access to opportunities and resources.

Anti-Corruption

- Comprehensive Anti-Corruption Strategy: Developing and
  implementing a comprehensive strategy that includes prevention,
  education, enforcement, and international cooperation. Strengthen
  anti-corruption institutions and promote a culture of integrity
  within society. Ensures public officials are held responsible for
  their actions and answerable to the public by overseeing
  government bodies, conducting independent audits, and enforcing
  the laws effectively. These anti-corruption measures would help
  safeguard the rule of law and foster equity.

Policy Coherence and Coordination

- Inter-agency Coordination: Enhance coordination among different
  government agencies and levels of government to ensure policy
  coherence and avoid duplication of efforts. Establish mechanisms
  for inter-agency collaboration and integrated planning. These
  policies promote a clear vision for good governance that is vital for
  the progress of Nigeria and its citizenry. These policies are a

commitment to creating a transparent, accountable, and efficient

government that works in the best interest of its citizens, fostering

trust and confidence in public institutions.

CHAPTER FOUR

The World Bank Report

This Manifesto will conclude with a report from the World Bank on Nigeria, suggesting three significant reforms we can make to address inclusive economic growth: (1) Getting the economy stable again by fixing issues with spending and earnings both within the country and with other countries. This report underscores using strategies related to currency exchange, trade, money management, and government spending. Essential steps include using a single exchange rate that reacts to market changes and making more money from oil and other sources like agriculture; (2) Helping the private sector grow and become more competitive by removing obstacles that inhibit productivity and market competition; and (3) Increasing support for the most vulnerable in our society (World Bank, 2022). We believe these structural reforms can mitigate Nigeria's vulnerability to crises and stagnation in economic growth.

Furthermore, creating more, higher-quality jobs is essential to reducing poverty and reform Nigeria's economy. Encouraging private

investment is critical to generating these jobs sustainably. Regaining and maintaining a stable economy is crucial to attracting private investment and opening up more chances for young people. This stability has been compromised lately because of mixed signals in monetary policy, too much dependence on oil exports, limited government budget flexibility, and unwarranted strict trade rules.

Reaffirmation of Our Commitment

As we stand on the brink of a new era for our beloved nation, Nigeria, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the vision and principles in this Manifesto. Our journey towards the change we hope for Nigeria is rooted in our collective desire for a nation where prosperity is shared, governance is transparent and accountable, and every citizen is empowered to achieve their fullest potential. NGC is dedicated to creating and implementing policies and strategies to drive sustainable development, economic diversification, and structural transformation across every corner of our nation.

We understand the magnitude of the challenges ahead, but our resolve is more vital than any obstacle or distraction. Our commitment is not just a promise but a call to action. We pledge to work tirelessly, govern with integrity, and ensure that the benefits of Nigeria's vast resources are equitably shared among all its people. This Manifesto is our contract with Nigeria—a contract for change, progress, and a brighter future for all of us and future generations.

To All Stakeholders

Here is the call to action for all my fellow compatriots and stakeholders. Realizing the Nigeria we all envision and hope to build requires more than just the efforts of a single individual, entity, or sector; it demands a collective endeavor. Therefore, we call upon all stakeholders in government at all levels, private sector partners, civil society organizations, the international community, and most importantly, the Nigerian people to join us in this transformative journey.

- To Government Officials and Institutions: We call on you to embody the principles of good governance, serve with dedication,

and uphold the public trust. Let us work together to implement policies that uplift our people, provide security, and protect our nation's future.

- To the Private Sector: We invite you to be partners in progress, invest in our economy's sustainable development, and innovate solutions that address our most pressing challenges. We can create jobs, foster economic growth, and build resilient industries.

- To Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations: Your role in advocating for social justice, environmental stewardship, and governance accountability is invaluable. We seek your collaboration in monitoring progress, holding us accountable, and ensuring no one is left behind.

- To the International Community: We look forward to strengthening our partnerships, learning from global best practices, and contributing to the international dialogue on sustainable development. Your support and cooperation are vital to achieving our mutual goals.

- To the People of Nigeria: You are the heart of this Manifesto. Your engagement, your voices, and your votes will propel us forward. We urge you to participate actively in the governance process, hold your leaders accountable, and contribute in any way you can to the development of our nation.

With intentional commitment and collaboration, we can rise above these challenges facing our nation, Nigeria. Together, we can build a Nigeria that we all can be proud of—a prosperous, equitable, and unwavering beacon of hope for Africa and the world. Let us embark on this journey with optimism, patriotism, unity, and steadfast determination. The time for a forward-looking and inclusive Nigeria is now. Together, we can, and together, we must.

MAY GOD BLESS NIGERIA AND HELP US AS WE ENDEAVOR TO FOSTER A PROGRESSIVE NIGERIA THROUGH OUR COLLECTIVE WILL AND ZEAL.

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