

NCP's Slogan

'NCP!'... 'Abolition of poverty'

'NCP!'... 'The Caring Party'

'NCP!'... 'For the people'

'NCP!'... 'The Watchful Party'

'NCP!'... 'To Save the Poor'

'NCP!'... 'For Better Society'

NCP

The
10-Care Programme

And

Emergency Economic Measures

of the

National Conscience Party
For Abolition of Poverty

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THE 10-CARE PROGRAMME OF THE NATIONAL CONSCIENCE PARTY (NCP) FOR ABOLITION OF POVERTY

The National Conscience Party's 10-Care Programme:

1. Employment Care
2. Food Care
3. Health Care
4. Housing Care
5. Education Care
6. Water Care
7. Electricity Care
8. Transportation Care
9. Telecommunications Care
10. Security Care

INTRODUCTION

The NCP believes that good governance means being with the people, knowing their pains, abolishing their poverty, and solving their problems. That is how to govern the people and that is what NCP wants to do for the people. Whereas democracy is popularly defined as government of the people, by the people and for the people, this is not the case in Nigeria. Once conventional politicians have either been 'elected' or rigged into power, they govern for themselves 'and not for the people. The NCP government will practically demonstrate how governance should be for the people. Hence, our slogan henceforth includes

'NCP!'... 'For the people'

'NCP!'... 'The Caring Party'

'NCP!'... 'Abolition of poverty'

The experience of the ordinary people since May 29, 1999 when the conventional politicians took over the reign of power from the military has shown that nothing fundamental has changed. Governance has continued to be for the interest of politicians as opposed to being for the people. Our people fought against military dictatorship not because they hated the military uniform but because they strove to enjoy political freedom and economic comfort. Unfortunately, they have not enjoyed either. The inability of the conventional politicians in power to satisfy the economic interests of our people has unjustly driven government to unleash political repression on the masses.

Many people are now asking: What is the essence of all the sacrifices in fighting military dictatorship? For example, instead of job creation, we witness job losses. In place of increases in real wages, workers experience wage-cuts and non-payment of salaries. Houses are not being built. The roads are death traps. The hospitals not better than mortuaries. Many people die simply because they cannot afford the cost of medical care. There is no water for domestic and industrial uses. To the ordinary person, governance appears to be synonymous with unleashing pains, pangs and tears rather than providing succour.

The people are justifiably shocked at the utter Contradiction of abundance and poverty. Whereas the rulers swim in abundance and engage in ostentatious living, the citizens wallow in abject poverty. It is not only poverty that torments Nigerians; it is the fact of poverty amid plenty and natural bounty. This in itself is a source of internal sadness to many.

However, to change from governance for a few to governance for the people, it is imperative to understand the nature of the root cause of Nigeria's economic crisis.

The crisis of the Nigerian economy is rooted in the development strategy adopted by successive Nigerian governments under the influence of powerful foreign countries, their international, companies and financial institutions such as the IMF/World Bank

From colonial era till today, governance or development strategy in Nigeria has never been people-centred. The colonialists administered the economy and society in the interests of owners of private multinational companies and their home countries. At independence, they made sure that those who took over from them were people who would continue the same development strategy, i.e. governance based on promoting the interests of big' business and foreign countries rather than the interests of the Nigerian people. That is why the 1960 political independence of Nigeria is often tagged 'flag independence', to reflect the idea of change without change, revolution without revolution. The major reason for this is to be found in the economic structure, which had been in operation since the birth of the country. In any society, where the ownership of the commanding heights of the economy is based on private ownership, those who wield political power are those who have economic power. It goes .without saying that such a government will rule, in all fundamental issues, in the interests of the few capital owners as opposed to the interests of the general public, as the analysis below shows.

At the early stage of colonial era when the economy was essentially agrarian, the agricultural policy was foreign interest focused. The policy was to produce cash crops for the British market rather than producing to meet the food needs of the Nigerian people. The peasant farmers were thoroughly exploited. While on the one hand the primary agricultural products were bought cheaply in the world market, intermediation between the peasantry and the world market, initially by a few indigenous companies and foreign ones such as the UAC and later the marketing boards, ensured that the peasant farmers were practically robbed of the gains of their labour. The agricultural sector remains undeveloped for lack of development in the manufacturing sector and the discovery of oil in commercial quantity.

The growth of any economy is dependent largely on the manufacturing sector. Successive Nigerian governments have ensured that the Nigerian 'manufacturing sector is undeveloped. This is, to maintain dependent Nigerian economy, i.e. an economy that is dependent on import of manufactured goods, industrial equipment and machinery from foreign imperialist countries. Thus, the division of labour in the world economy makes Nigeria to produce primary products - raw agricultural product and unprocessed mineral resources which are bought cheaply in the international market, and to import highly priced manufactured goods. This pattern of world division of labour makes it inevitable for societies that are dependent on, import of manufactured goods to resort, to external borrowing to continue to finance their imports. External borrowing 'and the practice of charging high interest rate, coupled with high rate of corruption tend to make a dependent country to remain permanently indebted. That is why, in spite of being oil rich country, the crisis of the Nigerian economy is partly the crisis of external indebtedness. On the long run, difficulties in meeting external debt obligations subject a nation' s economy to the control and conditionalities of the IMF/World 'Bank. That was how Nigeria came to adopt the IMF inspired 'Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1986. The adoption of the programme was the only basis by which Nigeria could obtain additional credit lines and reschedule her debts and keep the economy running within the imperialist paradigm The principal components of SAP consist of anti-people measures devaluation of the national currency,

privatization and commercialization of public enterprises, trade liberalisation low-wage regime and cuts in public expenditure, among others.

As explained below based on practical experiences, the principal goal of SAP is to sap and squeeze the country dry in order first, to repay unjust foreign debts without regard for Conserving resources to meet the needs of the people. It is appropriate to briefly examine the implications of some of the key components of SAP.

Devaluation of the currency practically means devaluation of life in every respect-massive decline in living standards and high cost of imported raw materials, spare parts, etc.

One of the major explanations for liberalization is that it will encourage the inflow of foreign investments through the relaxation of trade and exchange restrictions. However, in reality, liberalization has merely facilitated profit repatriation and export of goods to Nigeria without the previous difficulties posed by import licensing rather than encouraging investment within the country and the setting up of new factories which could employ local labour. In other words, trade liberalization policy, in practice, loosens previous constraints on outflow of capital without encouraging the inflow of capital.

Privatisation policy reflects the false hope that the Nigerian economy can only develop based on foreign capital. The promulgation of indigenisation decrees in the past was partly based on a realization that foreign capital and foreigners could not be relied upon to develop Nigeria. That lesson has now been lost on proponents of privatisation.

The NCP is not opposed to competition in the economy. But we stand opposed to selling the national patrimony to individuals, foreign or indigenous, most of whom amassed their wealth from looting the nation. Individual capital Owners may be encouraged to invest in certain sectors of the economy but it is a crime to sell public enterprises (PEs) without publicly declaring the value of their assets and without obtaining the consent of the people in a referendum.

Competition will not be promoted by selling PEs under the guise of privatization. What will result is having big private monopolies in place of public monopolies. The nation stands to lose at the end. First, it is not automatic that the private monopolies will be more efficient. Second, though they may be more profitable, a system that allows individuals to make higher profits at the expense of jobs, prices, quality of living standards and the welfare of the general public is inhuman. It also poses a threat to harmonious social relations amongst the citizenry.

The policy of low-wage structure regime, which is being facilitated by deregulated wage policy, particularly in the public sector is meant to provide a more profitable atmosphere for investors, based on cheap labour. However, the reason why the industrialized countries capture our internal market in addition to the external markets is the advanced technology used in production. It is not possible to compete with them on the basis of cheap labour.

The combination of the policies of commercialization of public enterprises, rationalization of labour force, reduction of the real wage rates of workers, cuts in public expenditure, removal of fuel and other types of subsidies are all meant primarily to ensure availability of resources to service and repay external debts. These policies cannot lead to a revamped economy. The reason is that to sustain a particular level of production and perhaps increase it, a precondition is that, consumption must take place. The implication is that the consumption capacity of the populace has to be enhanced not undermined. The consumption capacity can be enhanced only if the real wage of the labour force increase, substantially so as to ensure necessary consumption, which is made up of both personal consumption of the "living producers", the working class, and the depreciation of the instruments of production so that worn out machineries can be replaced. The level of personal consumption, it should be noted, is also determined by the level of income of the mass of buyers of goods and services - the teeming masses of the people.

Where the level of necessary consumption is too low to guarantee profitable operation, manufacturers will recoil from production with dire consequences for jobs.

Due to massive opposition to its effects, the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) is no more commonly referred to officially but the components are still being implemented. To govern in the interest of the Nigerian people, SAP and all its components have to be rejected. Imperialist inspired solutions must be rejected. IMF/World Bank solutions must be rejected. We must resist the practice whereby harsh anti-people policies, which cannot be implemented in Europe and America, are forced down the throats of governments in our continent. The danger of it all is that although the World powers in the so called G7 give the impression of supporting democracy, they know that only an authoritarian regime can succeed in implementing anti-people policies. In reality therefore they have no fundamental Opposition to corrupt and repressive regimes in our continent unless the people show in practical terms that they can no longer tolerate such regimes. There is a need to break Nigeria from the stranglehold of imperialism there are need for both economic and political freedom or independence for our people.

The NCP determinedly and resolutely declares that enough is enough. Now is the time for change. Any government that cannot improve the well-being of the people does not have the right to continue to rule. The time has come to stop looking up to foreign powers, and the IMF/World Bank for solutions to our problems. It is high time we stopped running our economy from the standpoint of foreign interests and their local agents. The people must henceforth be the focus of governmental policies.

Based on the foregoing, the NCP has developed a 10-Care Programme. The measure of success of any NCP government at any level will be the attainment of the 10-Care Programme.

The 10-Care Programme Consists of:

1. Employment Care
2. Food Care
3. Health Care
4. Housing Care
5. Education Care
6. Water Care

7. Electricity Care
8. Transportation Care
9. Telecommunications. Care
10. Security Care

In outlining this 10-Careprogramme, the NCP does not lose sight of other responsibilities of governance. This program flows from our assessment of the priority areas dealing with development of infrastructure and enhancement of the quality of life.

1. Employment Care.

The right to life, which is usually guaranteed in all successive Nigerian Constitutions, can only be given practical effect if work is provided for every person of working age. Therefore, to the NCP, work is a fundamental right. The implication of this policy is that unemployment allowance will be given to anyone of working age who is not employed. For this policy to be attained, the NCP regards the public sector or the government as the engine of economic growth. The NCP government will carry out massive investments in state-owned enterprises. Though private sector participation and competition in the economy will be guaranteed, we oppose privatization of the commanding heights of the economy such as the petroleum sector. The NCP will ensure that the wealth of the nation will not be concentrated in a few hands. While successive governments have been crying of a market-driven economy, the NCP is committed to people's needs-driven economy. Corruption and inefficiencies hitherto associated with public enterprises will be discouraged by severe punishment by the power of example of transparent, honest and disciplined life-style of the leadership of the NCP at all strata and levels in and out of government and democratic management and control: of the public concerns.

The alarming rate of unemployment is disturbing. It cuts across all categories of school leavers including university graduates and professionals like doctors, engineers, lawyers, accountants, etc. Today some of our best brains in various fields have been lost to foreign countries in what is generally known as brain drain for lack of jobs and fulfillment. The NCP will solve the problem, of brain, drain, by creating a

conducive socio-economic environment for self-actualization and national service.

There is nothing mythical about job creation. Employment creation is a consequence of political, economic and 'social policies of the particular' government in power. Once conscious, serious, honest, and well organized' efforts are made to deal with the problems of food, agriculture, education, housing, health, transportation, energy, power & steel, electricity, communication & telecommunication, pipe-borne water, industrialization, etc., millions of jobs will be created automatically in the process. There will be .a major shift from contract system syndrome whereby public works andpr0jeCt5 are given out to private firms, foreign and local, 'to a system that will utilize the capability of public sector workers in the execution of public works. All agencies of government that are concerned with public works will be properly equipped and staffed.

The NCP government will not only create jobs, a living minimum wage will be introduced and it will rise periodically as inflation rises. Employment will not only be provided, there will be job security until retirement. The welfare interests of pensioners will be protected. Those who had served the nation in their youthful and productive years would have no cause to regret old age under an NCP governments Policies will be put in place to discourage arbitrary determination of appointment. Full trade Union rights will be jealously protected.

The NCP shall establish a national Research and Development (R & D) centre for employment generation.

2. Food Care

Food is man's most important need. Millions Of Nigerians go about hungry in the midst of abundant natural resources and national income. Although Nigeria is reckoned to be one of the top richest countries in the world in terms of natural endowment, ironically, ordinary Nigerians are one of the poorest groups of people in the world. Starvation is now prevalent throughout the length and breath of this country. The NCP government will put an end to starvation.

Massive investments will be injected into food crop and livestock production. Farmers' cooperatives will be encouraged. Agricultural subsidies in terms of seeds, tools, equipment, machinery, grants and soft loans will be provided. The NCP will ensure that subsidies provided reach the farmers cooperatives, corporate and individual farmers directly and ensure that the subsidies are controlled by them. Farming will never again be at the mercy of rainfall. Irrigation will be made widespread.

Cheap or affordable food will be made available for our people. Producing to meet the food needs of the people internally rather than producing for export shall be the primary focus of our agricultural policy.

The NCP will ensure food security including effective mechanisms for processing, preservation and guaranteed access by all and sundry throughout the year.

The NCP shall establish a national Research and Development (R & D) centre for food production.

3. Health Care

Provision of cost-free medical services is a fundamental right of all Nigerians. Any person who requires medical treatment will receive it free at state expense. We reject the argument that the nation cannot afford free medical services for all Nigerians whereas our rulers go to the best private hospitals abroad at state expense, to treat the commonest of ailments. No NCP public official will travel abroad, at government expense, for medical care. The challenge is to revolutionize the nation's health-care delivery system. More hospitals, clinics, health centres, etc. will be built throughout the nooks and crannies of Nigeria. Modern medical equipment and machines will be bought. Health institutions will not be required to pay water and electricity bills.

Qualified medical personnel will be employed with attractive terms of employment for all categories. The NCP will put an end to a situation in which qualified medical doctors are in short supply, personnel including in our hospitals yet they roam about the streets unemployed. Others who cannot secure employment in state hospitals or in good private hospitals

set up ramshackle hospitals that are poorly equipped thereby the health of the people. Since jeopardizing the health of the people is the health of the nation, the NCP government will give priority attention to health-care.

The NCP will promote the health of the citizenry through:

- Right of access to cost-free preventive and curative health services and facilities.
- State support to promote research and development in both modern and traditional 'medical practices,
- Provision of pipe-borne treated water for domestic use and mass vaccination to reduce the risk of infectious diseases.
- Visits to the sick, the aged, pregnant women and the disabled in their residences by medical personnel on the ground of inability of such categories of people to transport themselves to public hospitals.
- Extension of paid maternity leave period for pregnant women.
- Democratic control and management of health institutions through the involvement of all relevant professional bodies and trade unions.
- Payment of wages as and when due to all medical staff.
- Payment of good salary rates to all medical staff and guaranteed increases to match the rate of inflation.
- Establishment of a national Research and Development (R & D) centre for all aspects of our health care delivery system.

4. Housing Care

Housing is one of the basic inalienable rights of every human being. But the reality is that many Nigerians are homeless. Many able-bodied but unemployed Nigerians live day and night, under bridges and in the streets. Many so-called houses are hardly good enough for animals. Millions of Nigerians in urban cities crowd their families 'in single rooms in various ghettos and slums under the most-unhygienic environment - without kitchens or access to the basic facilities like toilets and water. Yet, the rulers, including their sycophants, minions, stooges, personal assistants, personal secretaries, personal advisers, etc. live in luxurious mansions and palaces in the choicest parts of the country and abroad. The few houses built by the government are out of the reach of the common man because of high prices placed on them.

The NCP solemnly declares that the time has come for a highly determined action to salvage the people of this country from the aching problems of housing and accommodation. All the levels of government-Federal, State and Local-that may be controlled by the NCP shall:

- (i) Guarantee the right of all adults to affordable and decent shelter for them and their dependents.
- (ii) Pursue a massive housing programme in the interest all the poor strata market women, self-employed, artisans, farmers, public sector workers, etc.
- (iii) Formulate and implement policies that will encourage private sector employers to invest in provision of housing units for their employees
- (iv) Provide modern recreational centres for the full development of youths and shopping centres in residential estates.
- (v) Provide pipe-borne treated water, road networks, electricity, etc. in all residential estates.
- (vi) Establish a national Research and Development (R &D) centre for housing provision.

5. Education Care

Education is the means by which society reproduces itself in terms of passing to the new and fresh generation, the shared societal culture, mode and quality of management of different sectors of the economy, technological and scientific skills and knowledge, production of new sets of people with various skills.

In spite of the centrality of education to national transformation, the nation's educational system has virtually collapsed. Only about fifty per cent of school age children are in school at all levels. The national literacy rate of 57% lags behind the average for both industrially underdeveloped and industrially developed countries. From primary to tertiary levels, there is acute shortage of teachers, textbooks, basic infrastructure such as buildings, equipment and furniture. The libraries-where they exist have no current literatures. The laboratories-where they exist, are poorly equipped. The end result i over-crowding, p o o r

sanitation, poor working environment, poor quality of teaching, cult-related violence and general decline in the standard of education.

The problem is compounded by poor conditions of service, non-payment of salaries as and when due, threats of job insecurity, leading to brain-drain. On the whole, the Nigerian education system can be described as schooling without learning. This is because for much of the time, schools are shut down due to legitimate incessant strikes by the staff or justifiable protest by the students themselves. In most cases, only a few months are used to cover the syllabus for a whole year.

At the end of the day, the graduates of the school system are hardly better off, in terms of knowledge acquisition, than they were before they were admitted.

To deal decisively with the crisis of education in Nigeria; the NCP will adopt the following education care policies:

- (a) Adopt and implement the universal policy that regards education as a right not a privilege.
- (b) Build more classrooms, offices, lecture halls, laboratories and libraries at all levels of the educational system
- (c) Properly equip the schools, colleges and universities with the tools, equipment, infrastructure, machines, books, journals, etc. that they may need.
- (d) Carry out massive investment in the training and re-training of teachers at all levels of the educational system.
- (e) Employ, in ore teachers and lecturers as may be appropriate in order to attain the required lecturer - student ratio applicable at different levels, disciplines and faculties.
- (f) Motivate the staff in educational institutions by paying attractive and competitive wages and salaries as and when due and paying attractive and competitive wages and salaries as and when due and paying attention to their other welfare needs.
- (g) Make education free and compulsory up till secondary level.
- (h) Provide free education up to university level for those who desire and are capable of undergoing higher education.

- (i) Ensure equal standards in all public schools in terms of staffing, physical: structure, equipment, etc.
- (j) Provide free and nutritious mid-day meals in all public nursery, primary and secondary levels. In respect of post secondary institutions, the NCP government will heavily subsidize meals.
- (k) Guarantee the right of education irrespective of ethnic, gender, religious or age differences: Educational opportunities shall be provided from cradle to grave. Private involvement in education delivery will not be discouraged but. Established statutory standards relating to private educational institutions will be strictly enforced.
- (l) Invest in higher educational institutions as excellent centres of research. All institutions of learning from nursery to university levels including, adult education shall enjoy, access to advanced telecommunication services and facilities.
- (m) Guarantee the right of independent student and trade unionism in schools and campuses
- (n) Ensure genuine academic autonomy for educational institutions by making direct statutory allocations to them and institutionalizing democratic management by the involvement of students, teachers and the non-academic staff in decision making bodies
- (o) Establish an affirmative action programme to address regional and gender imbalances in education.
- (p) Establish a national Research and Development (R & D) centre for education.

6. Water Care

Majority of Nigerians have no access to clean pipe-borne water in spite of official claims of enormous resources that had been committed to it. In urban cities, majority of the people have no access to pipe-borne water. The rural areas where majority of Nigerians reside are completely forgotten. Enterprises that are heavily water dependent close down for lack of water. In an age where scientific revolution enables people to live in other planets other than the earth, Nigerians lack basic amenities to survive on earth. Many of the diseases ravaging the lives of our people, particularly children, are water-borne. The NCP pledges to commit adequate resources to implement an efficient and effective pipe-borne water programme to encompass the entire nation. All the tiers of

government-federal, state and local-that may be controlled by the NCP will provide subsidised clean pipe-borne water for domestic and industrial uses.

The NCP shall establish a national Research and Development (R & D) centre for water supply.

7. Electricity Care

The power of electricity is at the heart of any industrial growth and business, social and domestic upliftment. Electricity is not available to most of our people. Where it is available to a tiny minority, it is unreliable and epileptic. The unreliability has compelled individuals and businesses to invest in personal plants which push up the cost of production. Consequently, the prices of goods and services rise beyond affordable levels for the ordinary person. This in turn has implication for unsold stocks of goods and services, leading to workers lay-offs. This is unhealthy for the nation's industrial breakthrough.

In attempting to solve the problem of epileptic power supply, successive governments in recent time have been planning to privatize the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA). But privatization is not an automatic solution to the issue of efficiency and effectiveness. Even if privatization ensures efficient and effective power supply, the cost to Nigerian consumers who are already ravaged by poverty in the midst of plenty will most likely be higher, thus leading to the same problems of high cost of production and rise in the prices of goods and services. A disciplined and focused government, which places the needs of the people above profit consideration, can provide subsidized electricity thereby leading to cheap and affordable access by the people. The NCP guarantees efficient and effective supply of electricity based on placing NEPA on public ownership.

The NCP will implement a comprehensive programme for the electrification of the entire country With a view to assuring uninterrupted and affordable power supply for domestic, social and industrial uses. To ensure efficiency, NEPA (or any other public institution(s) responsible for

generation and distribution of electricity that may be created) will be decentralized.

The NCP shall establish a national Research and Development (R & D) Centre for electricity generation and distribution.

8. Transportation Care

Rail, Road, Air and Water transportation systems are in disastrous shambles. They constitute a major obstacle to our national development. Costly, unavailable, mismanaged and based on obsolete technology, the transportation system of this country needs an organized programme of action to meet the yearning and yawning needs in the economic, political and social subsystems of the nation if the country must advance in this competitive world.

The NCP government shall interlink all the states of the Federation with modern dualized motorways. In addition, we shall interlink all local governments with modern tarred roads. The first phase of our motorway transportation will involve the Opening up of River Niger and River Benue and the confluence of both down to the Niger-Delta all the way from the North and vice-versa for the transportation of goods, including agricultural products. Moreover, the NCP will invest in modern railway network interlinking all the strategic parts of the country. In all densely populated cities, we shall implement a programme of surface and underground railway transportation system.

The NCP shall provide cheap or affordable Rail, Road, Air and Water transportation systems. We shall establish a national Research and Development (R & D) centre for all aspects of our transportation system.

9. Telecommunications Care

An effective, efficient, reliable, affordable and modern communication system is a vital engine for rapid promotion of socio-economic and political development, internal integration and participation in the global market. Investment in the communication sector has a positive effect on other sectors of the economy. In this age of globalization, there is an

urgent need for rapid modernization and expansion of the Nigerian telecommunications system. Towards this end, the NCP shall:

- a. Implement a national telecommunications policy that will put effective, efficient, reliable, expansive, affordable and modern telecommunication services at the door-steps of every Nigerian in both the urban and rural areas.
- b. Promote research and development (R&D) in telecommunications infrastructure and domestic hardware and software.
- c. Invest in the domestic production of telecommunication equipment and the development of related software in Nigeria. This will provide a basis for widespread access by Nigerians to advanced telecommunication technologies and services.
- d. Promote education, training and re-training of telecommunications personnel.

10. Security Care

The last but by no means the least of NCP's 10-Care Programme is security care.

Since May 29, 1999, there has been an upsurge in the wave of insecurity of lives and property in Nigeria. - Robbers operate incessantly with relish stealing, snatching, raiding personal properties and leaving a trail of blood-in their routes.

The state of insecurity is compounded by executive lawlessness. Peaceful assemblies, rallies and processions by workers, students and local communities are violently repressed by security agents. Shoot-at-sight orders characterize the conduct of the executive arm of government. Little wonder then that whole communities, e.g. Odi, are militarily wiped out following unilateral Presidential orders. The degree of state terrorism tends to make the experience under military dictatorship to pale into insignificance. Cult related violence is on the rise again. Assassins unleash a reign of terror on their victims. Given the magnitude of today's insecurity, the distinction between robbery and assassination has become very thin. The government has no answer to mounting ethnic intolerance, ethnic violence, communal clashes, religious mayhem, police-induced violence and extra judicial killings.

The root cause of insecurity of lives and property is largely economic and it is particularly occasioned by lack of access to a welfare programme. Economic hardship pushes many otherwise honest people into all sorts of crimes. Therefore, dealing decisively with insecurity of lives and property lies in the adoption of NCP's 10-Care programme. In order to guarantee lives and property, defend and sustain our hard-earned democracy, the NCP shall:

- (a) Demonstrate commitment to solving economic problems afflicting the Nigerian masses as explained in all the other components of the 10-care programme.
- (b) Ensure payment of attractive salary rates, which shall rise as inflation rises, to the rank and file of the security arms of government.
- (c) Revitalise the system of recruitment, operational mechanism and conditions of service of all security apparatus in Nigeria.
- (d) Provide compulsory basic military training for all participants in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC.) programme and other adults between the ages of 18 and 30. All those who have such basic military training will be organized into Security Reserve Core (SRC) for both internal and external security needs.
- (e) Establish Community security committees at local levels to evaluate, assess and complement the security needs of each locality. Members of the committee will include elected representatives of the established security agencies and elected representatives of the civil society.
- (f) Ensure that all the institutions that are, involved in the administration of justice and the promotion of the rule of law and its due process are made to function efficiently and effectively.
- (g) Establish a national Research and Development (R & D) centre for security of lives and property.

CONCLUSION

Military incursion into our body polity can only be prevented by good governance. Good governance has to do with caring for the welfare and freedom of the down-trodden who constitute majority in the society. The people themselves will be prepared to risk their lives against future military adventurists if they have something at stake to lose with the overthrow of an existing government.

Our 10-Care Programme is a bond between the people and us as a party. The implementation of the 10-Care Programme will show for the first time in Nigeria how governance should be people-centered as opposed to the recurrent experience by the people of governance as all burdens and no benefit. The NCP is committed to: **governance to meet the basic needs of the people**. To the NCP, the measure of development is the material upliftment of people. Our concept of a great nation is great people who are not burdened by lack of work, lack of food, lack of water, lack of good health, lack of comfortable homes, lack of education, lack of electricity, lack of access to telecommunication services, lack of means of transportation and lack of security of lives and property.

This 10-Care programme shall be further fortified with 'accountability', which has been lacking in our society.

If you place any value on the 10-Care Programme and agree with us that it deserves being accorded national priority, then join forces with us. Take up membership of the Party. Become a voluntary party organizer. Join the NCP and put your destiny in your own hands.

EMERGENCY ECONOMIC MEASURES

- ❖ **Abolition of corruption** in public office. Towards this end, corrupt past political leaders and key public office holders from January 15, 1966 to May 2003, shall be investigated and punished as a deterrent measure, pursuant to S. 15 (5) of the 1999 Constitution. The loot recovered will fund part of the 10-Care programme.
- ❖ **Reduction in cost of funds**, i.e. Reduction in Bank lending rate from the current rate of 32% to a **single digit interest rate** with a view to promoting economic activities. Within the first 3 months of NCP's government, interest rate will not exceed 9%. There will also be 3-year **moratorium** on loans to enterprises employing 2000 workers and above. Such loans will be guaranteed by Government.
- ❖ To encourage industrial production enhance employment of labour and purchasing power of the masses, a **social security system**,

which includes Payment of a minimum living wage, unemployment benefit, care of the disabled, pensioners and the aged pursuant to S. 16 (2) (d) Of the 1999 Constitution, shall be established.

- ❖ To allow stability in economic planning, the naira exchange rate against other foreign currencies shall be pegged and shall not exceed 10 Naira to 1 US Dollar.
- ❖ Re-nationalization of privatized enterprises in the commanding sectors of the economy while encouraging competitive private sector participation pursuant to Section 16 (1) and 16 (2) (C): of the Constitution.
- ❖ Active **protection of local industries** through prevention of unfair trade practices militating against the growth of local enterprises, including indiscriminate dumping of foreign goods.

I commend this programme to you and all members of your family both immediate and extended so that all of you can live a decent and comfortable life for the promotion of sound socio-economic development of our country.

I sincerely believe that your hopes and aspirations can find fulfillment in this programme.

CHIEF GANI FAW.EHINMI, SAN

National Chairman, National Conscience Party

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