

**THE
PEOPLE FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE**

MANIFESTO

PDC

2007 MAIN – EDITION

PDC; LET THE FUTURE BEGIN NOW

MANIFESTO OF THE PDC

The policy objectives and manifesto of the People for Democratic Change (PDC) ay be encapsulated in the various achievable slogan summary:

_____	EQUALITY & EQUITY
_____	BENEFICIAL LEADERSHIP
_____	EDUCATION
_____	AGRICULTURE
_____	NATIONALISM
_____	OPPORTUNITY

The basic essence of the Party’s “**six point agenda**” is to move the Federal Republic of Nigeria forward and away from degeneration of our national psyche arising from monumental corruption and the indiscipline in both leadership and followership in our country. These ills have become manifest in all aspects of our national life in the toga of corruption, lack of patriotism, government insensitivity and neglect, institutionalized injustice, falling standards of and lower quality of education, stalled and/or arrested development, and the dwindling confidence of the citizenry in the civil society institutions the judiciary inclusive. The PDC desires very strongly to turn things around and steer Nigeria into a refreshing brand new era of disciplined, patriotic, knowledgeable Nigerian citizenry striving in unity to attain a well co-ordinated economic, social and political development of a vibrant and productive polity where no man or woman shall stand oppressed.

These objectives will enable the PDC to invigorate and sustain true democracy in Nigeria

Details of the avenues of attainment of six point agenda, including its many branches and details are as hereafter presented.

Relief from Poverty:

Poverty is the worst form of oppression because it withdraws the dignity from the average human persona and pushes him into dependence and susceptibility to the manipulation of anti- democracy forces. It also

reduces the quality of life of the average citizen who is thereby exposed to hunger and disease. The PIJC will develop and implement impactful poverty reduction and eradication programmes, having regard to the immediate term, short-term, medium-term, and long-term phases necessary if the onslaught on poverty is to be, sustainable and successful.

Relief from Tyranny

In order to eliminate pseudo-tyranny from all aspects of civil society and Governance, PDC government will be sensitive to the rule of Law beginning with the restructuring of the electoral process because we believe that except there is a functional, independent, transparent, and credible institutional platform for elections, a real danger of tyranny exists. The PDC shall strive to protect and respect the rights of individuals or groups as enshrined in our Constitution and other extant Legislations, by ensuring that, at all times, government action are restricted to their legal and Constitutional limits, by ensuring respect for the judiciary as an integral institution and in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. We will do justice to all manner of men without fear or favour, affection or ill-will.

The Promotion of Women Rights

PDC even from our Logo exemplifies the primacy of women in the birth, rebirth, and development of any nation. PDC will protect women's rights, redress the many inequities which still exist against equal opportunity and protection for Nigerian Women. PDC will give women more voice, more representation in administrative and other spheres and in an environment free from social prejudices that inhibit social, economic and political growth of women and/or infringe on fundamental rights as citizens of this great country. PDC in government will address very aggressively the issue of obnoxious widow hood practices in some parts of Nigeria, and the general exposure of women to indignities and economic deprivation by the families of their deceased spouses and even community. PDC is committed to gender parity in its most attainable forms.

Our focus for the Nigerian Child

of the Nigerian child or any child on Nigerian soil from abuse and social deprivations like child labour and hunger shall receive high level of

attention from the PDC in government so that the Nigerian child may develop properly both physical and mentally. PDC, as depicted in our logo, will pursue an educational, health and social agenda which will find active relevance situational to the ambience of our logo, part of which will necessarily include the introduction of legislation that impact on prohibit the parental or custodian deprivation of a child of opportunity to educational and other rights.

Commitment to One Nigeria!

PDC is committed to the aspirations ensconced in the ationa1 youth service corps scheme, its end target being to imbue in our population the virtues of nationality and patriotism. A commitment to one indivisible Nigeria.

Corruption and indiscipline

PDC realizes the negative drag-down weight of the twin evils Indiscipline and corruption on Nigeria's national life. Our Party shall focus ever so strongly on the ways and means of redressing these ills and shall through internal scrutiny of elected and appointed political officers, strive to lead by example. To this end PDC in government shall strengthen the, institutions relevant to the fight against corruption, revamp and institutionalize the platforms for ethical reorientation and protect all public officers who stand against corruption and indiscipline in the course of their duties, against the backlash of witch-hunting and/or victimization.

Civic Education, Patriotism, and Citizens Activism

An PDC administration will strive to rekindle national pride in the Nigerian citizenry by instilling in the citizens respect from our national flag, and encouraging the use of it in public and private; providing better welfare (particularly housing and post retirement obligations) for our uniformed citizenry. PDC shall implement a pensions and gratuity payment scheme which shall rekindle the patriotism of retired public servants particularly teachers who are most deprived, and, as a corollary, accord due respect to our senior citizens who have contributed their quota to the development of Nigeria in their respective spheres of service. PDC is also committed to carrying out significant prison reforms with a view to making the Nigerian Prisons System/Service more correctional in orientation than its present pseudo-punitive character.

Foreign Policy

An PDC administration will pursue a foreign policy objective that sustains our national pride and integrity, ensures our relevance in world affairs in the comity of nations and our leadership role in Africa so that Nigeria would enjoy more respect amongst nations in her international relations in trade sports and international politics. The PDC adopts for implementation the foreign policy objectives and principles in section 19 of our constitution,

Development

Resources Development & Management

Sustainable development is inextricably tied to good and well- managed economic policy which necessarily leads to social and infrastructural development. The result of good economic management is a developed society which is the vision of the PDC.

With this in place, PDC in government will provide to attention results in the sectors that are hereunder discussed:

1. Energy

The chaotic state of the energy sector in Nigeria has forced our national economic growth into a state of inertia thereby stalling productivity and creating an unprecedented state of unemployment occasioned by the shutting down of many industries plus the attendant difficulties in setting up new ones.

Conscious that a functional energy sector is the foundation of sustainable development whether in the educational, scientific research, agricultural, industrial or tourism sector of our economy, PDC in government would prioritize and pursue a very aggressive result-oriented energy policy with a view to improving upon the current state of electricity supply within six months of inception, and achieving at least seventy-five percent steady power supply within two years of inception.

2. Health

The PDC recognizes and adopts the adage that health is wealth. Consequently PDC in government will strive to build a healthy nation by pursuing the following objectives:

- (i) Developing a sustainable policy on environmental sanitation at the Federal, State and Local Government Levels of administration, as

an essential element in the fight against diseases like malaria, and in the creation of a decent environment for the upbringing of our children;

- (ii) Emphasizing primary health care which is more of prevention which will always be better than cure. To that end the National Programme on Immunization (NPI) will be sustained with considerable enhancement. Government will sustain both direct and NGO efforts against HIV/AIDS, and monitor more seriously the treatment of persons living with HIV/AIDS to prevent corruptive exploitation by some medical personnel;
- (iii) Investing in the area of medical technology and infrastructure to enhance diagnostic capability in aid of health-care delivery personnel particularly the doctors who are at the present handicapped by the disgraceful level of diagnostic and infrastructural limitations in the country. This will enhance the quality of health-care delivery within the country and reduce traveling abroad in search of such services by Nigerians;
- (iv) Awarding scholarship to encourage specialization in some aspects to medicine like anesthetics, neuro-surgery, forensic pathology etc which are in short supply or completely lacking in Nigeria;
- (v) Upgrading the general infrastructure of our hospitals;
- (vi) Establishing more Specialist Hospitals with diagnostic centres that meet the standards in the developed countries.
- (vii) Improving on the subventions to Teaching and Specialist Hospitals to enable them rehabilitate deteriorating facilities and equipment, undertake proper maintenance and upgrade their capacity in order to provide the type of health care services for which they were established;
- (viii) Reviewing the remuneration and other incentives for the various grades of medical and health personnel in order to improve their morale, and to motivate them to higher levels of performance and commitment.
- (ix) Encouraging State Governments to establish General Hospitals in the Local Government Areas where none exists at the moment, and ensuring the functionality of existing ones;
- (x) Ensuring that all Local Government Areas provide health centres and clinics to bring health care delivery services nearer to the people, especially in the rural communities;

- (xi) Recognizing and encouraging the provision of health care delivery by corporate bodies, industrial establishments, private individuals, voluntary agencies and communities to supplement the effort of Government;
- (xii) Assisting government agencies and communities to provide and maintain potable water facilities in order to improve sanitation and reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases;
- (xiii) Reintroducing health education and schools health services in the states as an integral part of student curriculum and social welfare programme;
- (xiv) Combating the problem of fake drugs in the country by strengthening the National Food and Drugs Administration and Control Agency to improve its operational effectiveness.
- (xv) Encouraging and providing appropriate incentives to enable the local medicine manufacturers meet the nation's basic medicine requirements;
- (xvi) Reviewing the tariff for imported medicine which are not currently produced locally; and
- (xvii) Making sincere effort to prevent industrial actions in our health sector by respecting agreed commitments.

In the achievement of these set objectives the PDC in government will work closely with the Nigerian Medical Association for professional assistance and advice in decision making.

3. Education

The PDC acknowledges and accepts as binding and worthy of implementation the need to pursue the realization of the provisions of the Nigerian Constitution in Section 18 under the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles which provides that government shall

- a) direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities for the citizenry at all levels of governance;
- b) promote science and technology
- c) promote free compulsory primary education;
- d) strive to provide free secondary educations and free university education;
- e) promote the learning of indigenous languages.

The PDC considers education as a cultural process to raise the worth and dignity of mankind, and believes that education being a lifelong activity taking place within the family, the society and educational institutions, is a mutual responsibility of the family, the society and government in partnership with one another. The realization of the policy objectives and directive principles enumerated above shall be guided by the pursuit of the following objectives in educational development:

- (i) Encouraging the active participation of the organized private sector, parents, the community and voluntary organizations in the provisions of educational opportunities.
- (ii) Ensure political and moral education for the citizenry.
- (iii) Provide a supportive and conducive environment for learning at all levels of education.
- (iv) Promote equal educational opportunities for all citizens.
- (v) Ensure the regular and prompt payment of teachers' salaries and allowances and ensure payment of gratuity and pensions as and when due.
- (vi) Recognize and actualize the status of teachers as professionals.
- (vii) Support free education of the disabled and their empowerment thereafter.
 - Provide increased resources, teaching and non-teaching and other infrastructures for mass adult literacy programmes in all parts of the country.
 - Include good citizenry as a component objective of our educational policy and curriculum.
 - Ensure a continuous improvement and monitoring of the quality of teaching at all levels of education
 - Ensure a free compulsory basic education.

The strategy for achieving the objectives above enumerated shall be focused on articulated modalities on the improvement of the quality content of pre-primary education, primary education which shall be compulsory and free, technical and secondary education which shall be functional, infrastructural improvement of and establishment of more unity schools which shall admit students with no regard to ethnic origin, religion, gender or class, establishment of more special education institutions and a training programme to provide more teachers to teach in those schools, and the restoration of the past glory of tertiary institutions.

An PDC government would definitely increase allocation to the education sector in the annual budget from what has so far been the case.

4. Agriculture

The PDC recognizes that in the actualization of true independence the ability of a nation to feed its citizenry is primary. To attain this goal PDC in government will pursue a programme that will reduce for the average farmer, whether crop or livestock, the financial input for production. The following strategies will be adopted for the realization of the objective of feeding the nation:

- (i) Launching of a war against Hunger Campaign to be pursued and implemented with official discipline and close monitoring of the application of Agricultural credits and subsidies;
- (ii) Sustaining the objective of feeding the nation by facilitating the following:
 - a) Seedling multiplication of seed crops and the development of improved varieties.
 - b) Development of improved reproductive capabilities in the livestock sector.
 - c) Accessibility of livestock and seed farmers to livestock feeds and fertilizers at affordable rates.

Consequently PDC in government shall undertake subsidized importation of fertilizer with a target date for self-sufficiency through encouragement by way of incentives, of private sector participation in the local production of quality feeds and fertilizers.

- d) Encouragement, by way of incentives, of Commercial farming for the purpose of exportation in order to restore the capacity of substantial earning of foreign exchange through agricultural production for which Nigeria was known prior to the oil boom. To this end government will encourage mechanized farming.
- e) Construction of more dams and proper maintenance of existing ones to ensure all the year round farming in all parts of the Country.

5. Industrialization

The industrialization process constitutes a fundamental objective in the total range of activities aimed at reducing the country's inter-development and economic dependence on foreign countries. Over

times, the high hopes in the manufacturing sector's campaign to make significant impact on the economy have not been realized. This are partly believed to be largely due to government investment in this sector through mega industries to the detriment of small scale concerns, and the absence of basic infrastructure and incentives to attract entrepreneur to venture into the risk usually associated with industrialization.

The party believes that the development of the industrial sector is the only answer to the, high cost of essential goods even in areas of food, medicine and textile. In pursuit of that belief, the PDC in government will, as part of its industrial development policy, do the following:

- Tackle the scourge of power outage which is the bane of our industrial growth.
- Offer incentives to would-be industrial entrepreneurs in the area of import, tax and provision of land s
- Protect local industrial growth while insisting on standard quality in local manufacturing.
- Get the export promotion zones functional to attract foreign interest in local manufacturing of goods.
- Encourage small scale entrepreneurship in the sector,
- Encourage industrialists through incentives to develop local substitutes for imported raw materials.
- Encourage private sector take-over of the industrial sector under well-defined governmental supervisory rules.
- Encourage of direct foreign investment, and upgrade modernize capacity for competitive produce.
- The government taking the lead by the way of providing infrastructure.

6. Communication

The PDC will continue to improve on communication facilities by encouraging supervised competition in the modernization of the sector through private service providers with the view to providing the cheap and functional telecommunication services through private sector participation.

To that effect, PDC in government will:

- (i) improve the organization of the nation's telecommunications and postal systems to achieve grater efficiency in their operations,.

(ii) Ensure that all operators within the communication sector use modern equipment and comply with approved guidelines and regulations of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), and

- Encourage private participation.

7. Transport

PDC in government will ensure the effective planning, coordination, modernization and maintenance of the various transport systems, i.e. Roads, Rail, Maritime, Air and Inland Inter

The forms and strategy for attainment of the objectives in the subsectors will be as follows:

- Road Transport (in view): Embark on a high quality reconstruction of highways of all levels.
- Commence: programmes of road design and construction aimed at providing six dual carriage cross-cross-by highways to the north and three horizontal highways running from the Western border across the country to the Eastern borders. This will provide road linkage of all the state capitals in the county.
- Seriously consider private sector in the country.
Highways and bridges construction under control guidelines.

i) Rail Transport

- (a) Revitalization of Railways system through modernization of existing trucks, procurement of new rolling stock, and improvement of all operational and management techniques.
- (b) Construction of a modern gauge railway system across the height and breadth of the country beginning with the Lagos-Onitsha-Port-Harcourt line.
- (c) Seriously consider private sector participation in railway service provision.

ii) Air Transport

Improvement and modernization of aviation infrastructure compatible with international safety standard.

- Continued engagement of private airline operators subject to their meeting required conditions and safety.
- Improvement of user-comfort and safety facilities at the airports.

iii) Maritime Transport and Inland Waterways

- Reconstruction and modernization of existing ports to enable them cope with growing traffic.
- Encouragement of Nigerian nationals to participate in international shipping and maritime trade.
- To encourage local manufacture and maintenance of vessels for water transportation.
- Greater focus on inland waterways potentials as an alternative mode of transportation of goods in the country by proper maintenance of existing facilities and routes, and dredging of rivers as a means of exploiting the inland waterway transportation alternative.

8. Labour

PDC in government will encourage respect and cooperate with organized labour for the maintenance of stability in working force. Agreements with labour unions will be honoured. The PDC in government will create jobs through the implementation of the party's economic programme to reduce the level of unemployment in the country.

9. Ecology

Due to natural causes, and by reason of economic activities as a result oil exploration and other mining activities substantial ecological degradation has occurred in many parts of the country particularly in the Niger Delta States where such degradation has polluted rivers, destroyed habitats for aquatic and wild life, and in the process compromised the natural means of livelihood of members of many communities. Erosion menaces have also destroyed villages and devastated roads, farmlands, and still threaten to wreck more havoc. Other industrial emissions have created an intolerable and presently uninhibited and dangerously high level of environmental pollution in Nigeria.

The PDC views this level of environmental degradation as unacceptable, and, if in government would combat the menace through the following strategies.

- a. Ensuring that oil explorers and prospectors abide by internationally accepted environmental protection rules and regulations to protect the neighborhood in which they are' operating;

- b. Ensuring that the communities who suffer environmental degradation are compensated promptly;

10. Privatization

The PJC believes in the divestment of government from commercial entrepreneurship.

But the party rejects the sale of Nigerian industrial and commercial institutions to a few Nigerians masquerading under dubious corporate arrangements at non competitive prices.

The PDC insists that transparency must rule the privatization process which must be carried out in a manner that enables the participation of a greater number of Nigeria.

11. Revenue Allocation

The PDC will pursue a revenue allocation policy that will assuage the hurt feelings in the areas of derivation and satisfy the feeling in rest of the country by a reconciling the present divergent opinions into a situation where no one is oppressed, or could justifiably feel oppressed. The PDC does not encourage intimidation as a way of finding a lasting solution to the issue of revenue allocation.

12. Youth Development

The youth of the nation constitute both the future of the nation and an important human resource for national development. To this end the party shall adopt measures and programmes designed to produce for Nigeria, a healthy, knowledgeable and patriotic youth by exercising the father-care duty expected of a nation for its youth.

- a) healthy development of the youth through sports, disease prevention and eradication,
- b) intellectual development through the provision of functional education in an environment conducive to learning and decency of the mind and body.
- c) protecting the youth from exploitation and abuse of any type,
- d) development of programmes designed to encourage youths to stay off crime, and
- e) the establishment of rehabilitation centres to reclaim derailed youths.

13. Traditional Rulers

The party acknowledges the fact that federalism involves unity in diversity. Therefore in considering the role of traditional institutions and rulers within the context of a republican nation, the party believes that each component state within the federation should feel free to retain and modernize its own peculiar institutions to meet the legitimate yearning of their people.

The PDC believes that Traditional Rulers, in order to protect their position as fathers of the nation, should not be involved in partisan politics.

14. Security

The present state of insecurity in the country today is a source of concern to Nigerians both at home and in Diaspora. The PDC in government will overhaul our security agencies with a view to

- a. enhancing their operational capabilities in the face of the disturbing rise in the crimes of armed robbery and murders,
- b. making it more people oriented,
- c. instilling a sense of pride and, commitment in their personnel, and
- d. enhancing the welfare packages of the Police, Armed Forces, and other security and allied organizations.

To this end PDC in government will take the motivation of the armed forces, the police and other allied organizations as one of its priorities.

CONCLUSION

People of Nigeria, the above is a summary of our programme of action if elected into government. Support the PDC to build a nation where no man is oppressed and **LET THE FUTURE BEGIN NOW!!**