

**MANIFESTO**

**OF**

**INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS**

**OF THE**

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

## **MANIFESTO OF INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS**

We, the INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS believes in the sanctity of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and its sovereignty, also we attest to the fact that Nigeria, like any nation in the world derives this sovereignty from her people, which is why the peoples' welfare is the cornerstone of our existence.

We, hereby affirm as follows:

### **ARTICLES:**

THAT every citizens of Nigeria are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be founded only upon the general good. THAT foremost among the transcendent values is every citizen's use of his God given free will, whence derives his right to be free from the restrictions of arbitrary force;

THAT the aim of The Independent Democrats is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of every citizen. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.

THAT law is the expression of the general will. Every citizen has a right to participate personally, or through his representative, in its foundation. It must be the same for all, whether it protects or punishes. All citizens, being equal in the eyes of the law, are equally eligible to all dignities and to all public positions and occupations, according to their abilities, and without distinction except that of their virtues and talents.

THAT Law can only prohibit such actions as are hurtful to society. Nothing may be prevented which is not forbidden by law, and no one may be forced to do anything not provided for by law. THAT independence is indivisible, and that political freedom cannot long exist without economic freedom;

That liberty consists in the freedom to do everything which injures no one else; hence the exercise of the natural rights of each citizen has no limits except those which assure to the other members of the society the

enjoyment of the same rights. These limits can only be determined by law.

That the principle of all sovereignty resides essentially in the nation. Neither body nor individual may exercise any authority which does not proceed directly from the nation.

THAT the purpose of government is to protect those freedoms through the preservation of internal order, the provision of national defense, and the administration of justice;

THAT when government ventures beyond these rightful functions, it accumulates power, which tends to diminish order and independence;

THAT the market economy, allocating resources by the free play of supply and demand, is the single economic system compatible with the requirements of personal freedom and constitutional government, and that it is at the same time the most productive supplier of human needs;

THAT when government interferes with the work of the market economy, it tends to reduce the moral and physical strength of the nation, that when it takes from one to bestow on another, it diminishes the incentive of the first, the integrity of the second, and the moral autonomy of both.

## **IDEOLOGY OF THE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS**

As a political Party founded on equality, freedom and patriotism, our cardinal objectives shall be firmly rooted in; Legitimacy, Performance, Direction, Accountability and Fairness.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS**

- To attain political power through legitimate, democratic and constitutional means for the purpose of establishing a better society where every citizens will be guaranteed economic freedom, security, justice and prosperity.
- To establish and empower institutions of governance that will guarantee principles of separation of power, fiscal federalism in a corrupt-free society.

- Institutionalization of structures that will boost the economic freedom of the citizens through harnessing of our various God gifted natural resources while putting emphasis on human capital development.
- Re-affirm the faith of the citizens on the viability of the country and the certain possibility that Nigeria can attain economic power and dominance not only in the sub-Saharan Africa, but also across the globe.
- Promote national integration and harmonious co-existence of all citizens.
- Deployment of collective efforts of every citizens in provision and ensuring security of life and property, and in effect, better stability of the country.
- Ensure the continuous entrenchment of democracy, democratic values and tenets in all spheres of our polity.
- Eradicate illiteracy among the citizens with concerted efforts to sensitize the people that economic and political emancipation are heavily dependent on education.
- Revolutionize industrial growth of the country through increase encouragement of private sector participation, with emphasis on cottage industry development and other small medium enterprises. This, we plan to achieve through the further provision of enabling environment.
- Deepen the fight against corruption and every corrupt tendency in the society through appropriate legislation that will seek to broaden participation in this regard beyond existing structure.
- Evolve a national policy on energy (including renewable energy) generation, distribution and transmission that will better ensure rapid growth of our energy production from the present state, to a more acceptable and dignifying status. This will have a resultant positive effect on our national growth indices and commonwealth.
- Refocusing of the public service towards the provision of better positive indices of national growth, while reducing the cost of

governance to the minimum. This will in effect, translate to increase in capital above recurrent expenditure in national budget.

## **STRATEGIC NATIONAL PLAN**

### **Anti-Corruption:**

- Disbandment of the EFCC and the ICPC and restoring their power back to the Nigeria Police Force who will be better empowered and encouraged to fight corruption. This is the primary responsibility of the Special Fraud Unit of the Nigeria Police. Presently, what we have is duplication of function with its antecedent heavy toll on our national budget, but which unfortunately has not translated to a better result. It is noteworthy that even the EFCC and the ICPC heavily rely on men and officers of Nigeria Police Force in their operations.
- Removal of immunity clause from our Constitution. This will pave way for better transparency in the running of state affairs, it will help check impunity and executive recklessness.
- Amendment of our laws such that the Penal Code and the Criminal Code will be unified to have more punitive terms for corruption cases.

### **Energy Sector**

- Evolving a policy that will make the use of renewable energy part of our system. This will reduce heavy dependent on national grid. This will be achieved through developing a national building code that will enshrine renewable energy in the approval.
- Ensuring that every electricity consumer in Nigeria is metered. This will help measure consumption and production indices. At present, study shows that over 60% of electricity consumers in Nigeria are not metered. This is unacceptable.
- Through enabling legislation, the Party will make generation and distribution of electricity more flexible as experienced in western countries where peasants can generate electricity to add up to the National grid at a cost.

### **Security:**

- Ensuring that every enlistment into Nigeria Police Force or any security agencies are carried out in ways and manners that ONLY patriotic citizens of unquestionable characters are eligible.

Recommendations will be required from well-meaning Nigerians including that from the applicants native town/village/clan.

- Diligent emphasis will be on community policing and surveillance with a view to extending efficacy of policing to the grassroots for early detection of imminent security threats before it escalates. By so doing, more of crime prevention than fighting will be achieved.
- Re-organizing the Nigeria Police Force by every means and standards to meet present day security challenges.
- Put in place measures that will eradicate the unauthorized inflow of arms and ammunition into the country.

### **Electoral Reform**

- Independent Democrats, upon assumption of power shall make the INEC the only statutory body empower by law to conduct all elections in Nigeria, thereby abolishing the State Independent Electoral Commissions and transferring the right and to conduct local government election to INEC. This will ensure sanctity and transparency in our electoral system.

### **Local Government Administration**

- Local Government allocations shall be credited directly to their respective accounts, hence joint revenue allocation system of States and Local Government shall be abolished. This will give room for better performance and bringing governance closer to the people.
- The party shall constitute a special monitoring committee to ensure compliance by all local government areas in the country in the area of transparent and judicious application of funds.
- Education
- Education at primary and secondary levels will be made free and compulsory.
- Regulations will be evolved and implemented to ensure provision of qualitative education at a very affordable cost in private schools including universities.

- Establishment of a special unity school in all the Local Government Areas of the country.
- Award of tertiary/higher institution scholarship to 10 best student in every class in secondary schools.
- Concerted efforts will be made to link our education sector with the manufacturing sector. This will enhance production and rapid technological development.

### **Public Sector**

- Reducing the present size of Ministries, Department and Agencies to a realistic figure. This will imply the reduction of number of Federal Ministries to 12. The measure will help reduce cost of governance, with gains derived from such exercise diverted towards national industrial growth which will in turn creates jobs in many folds in the private sector.
- Ensure the full implementation of the monetization policy that will ensure that government funds are not frittered away in the provision of basic luxuries for public office holders under any guise.
- Bring up reform that will re-engineer and refocus the public sector toward better productivity and national growth.

### **Health**

- The Party will introduce a National Health Service scheme that will provide high quality health services to the citizens
- Priority attention will be given to the aged, children and the disabled in the dispensation of basic health care services. Medical fee shall be free for students and children of up to six years of age.
- Each of the seven hundred and seventy four local government areas of the country will have a specialist hospital, and six national hospitals will be built across each zone. This is to ensure that qualitative health care delivery is brought to the door step of every citizen.
- Independent Democrats will introduce a workable Health Tax Fund (HTF) where eligible contributors and contributory method will be mapped out to guarantee longevity of scheme.

## **Pension and Labour**

- Review of our labour and pension laws to accommodate certain realities on ground with a view of better enhancing social security of all citizens. These realities include; poverty at old age, widowhood pension scheme, health system, housing etc. Creation of more employment opportunities for the teeming youth. This can be made possible through the implantation of our variously outlined policies stated above.

## **Petroleum Sector**

Ensure full deregulation of the downstream petroleum sector for the optimal performance of our economy and encouragement of investment.

## **Transport**

- Ensure the construction of fast speed railway system that will connect all state capitals in the country. The project will enhance economic growth, integration, safety of goods and passengers and reduction of pressure on our highways.

## **Housing**

- The Party will enhance passage of legislation that will seek to prohibit payment of yearly rents for houses across the federation, and the establishment of rent tribunal to try offenders who will have severe punishment under the law. The law shall make it mandatory for rent payment not to exceed one month as against the one year regime currently in place.