

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NIGERIAN PEOPLES CONGRESS (NPC) 2002

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1. Introduction

THE PROGRAMME OF NPC

1. Food and Agricultural policy
2. Dairy and Livestock
3. Two Planting Policy
4. Economic Policy
5. Trade and Industrial Policy
6. 1Minerals Policy
7. Housing Policy
8. Education and Culture Awareness
9. Technical Education
10. Health Policy
11. Labour Policy
12. Defence Policy
13. Law and Order
14. Traditional Institution
15. Foreign policy
16. Public Utility Service
17. Legitimate Supremacy of the Constitution of Nigeria

PREAMBLE

The territory known as Nigeria-wrought from Amalgamation of Northern and Southern Protectorates in 1914 was at the behest of its then British colonial rulers. Its borders were drawn without any regard to ethnic or tribal identities. The process did not solicit any input from its component ethnic entities, nor would it have entertained any. In other words, the “state” preceded the “nation,” hence the ongoing struggle to wrest a national consciousness from a plethora of tribes, ethnic groups and religions. It would therefore be erroneous to assume or believe that any section of Nigeria came to be a part thereof by consent, or that they owe each other any debt of gratitude for inclusion in what has become a case study of Africa’s colonial legacy.

As such, we hold the Option that it is more reasonable to build our nation- the delicate child of serendipity-through evolution, and not revolution. This runs contrary to the present circumstances where the influence of twenty-nine years of military dictatorships and their political appendices set the agenda for representative government. Our founding fathers in their wisdom, honesty and courage, chose federalism as the way forward for Nigeria. But the introduction of a unity system of government by the first of many military incursions into governance in 1966 provides a dismal failure. Subsequent civilian administrations have fallen short of achieving “true” federalism and continued to emulate the martial central command structure, culminating in disaffection, and quite often, bloodshed. A parasitic graft system has institutionalized corruption and turned, a country blessed with human and natural resources into an economic *sui generis*.

Let us therefore, have the courage to say no to over-centralization of constitutional power and yes to a truly federal system. Let us tap into our tribal, ethnic, and religious diversity to give our modern institution the legitimacy they require to function optimally in serving our political, economic and social needs. Herein lay the answers to Nigeria’s perspicacious problems and the way forward.

THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1

- a) The name of the party shall be THE NIGERIAN PEOPLES' CONGRESS
- b) The National Head Quarters of the party shall be: PLOT 503, ABOGO LARGEMA STREET, CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, CADASRAL ZONE (AO) PO. BOX 10175, GARKI ABUJA

ARTICLE 2 -MOTTO

The motto of the party shall be - SECURITY AND TRANSPARENCY

ARTICLE 3- EMBLEM

The emblem of the party shall denote a logo of “a hoe and light”

ARTICLE 4- MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the party shall be open to every Nigerian citizen irrespective of religion, creed, ethnicity, origin, sex, or status, as long as the person is not below the age of eighteen years and is not a member of any other political party. Any person(s) who resigns such membership becomes eligible.

- a. Members are required to accept the aims and objectives of the par.
- b. Members are required to abide by, subscribe to and be bound by the party's constitution, rules and regulations.
- c. There shall be only one class of membership, namely individual membership.
- d. Admission into the party shall be through the local branches of the party.
- e. Membership of the Executive Committee or other governing body of the party shall reflect the Federal Character of Nigeria.
- f. Nigerians living abroad may remain or become members of the party by enrolling with authorized party branches.
- g. Each member shall pay a specified annual membership fee as specified from time to time by the national convention of the party.

ARTICLE 5-AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

a. The party shall promote and uphold:

- i. Social justice and welfare for all.
- ii. Equality and equity of opportunity for all.
- iii. Personal liberty, fundamental rights and freedom of all citizens.
- iv. Supremacy of the will of the people, democratically so expressed.
- v. Self-dignity, respect and reliance of all citizens.
- vi. The unity of Nigeria in the existing social-cultural diversity.

b. The party shall promote the following objectives vigorously for harmonious coexistence

- i. To maintain and protect the sovereignty of Nigeria as a federal political entity
- ii. To ensure the practice and maintenance of democracy and the rule of law and social justice, in harmony with the wish of the people of Nigeria.
- iii. To promote mutual respect and true understanding of the religions cultures, traditions and heritage of all the communities in Nigeria.
- iv. To eradicate illiteracy throughout Nigeria and promote learning, science and culture.
- v. To vigorously promote the development and constitution of true political and economic independence and self-respect for all.
- vi. To build and sustain a strong modern economy under the control of ordinary Nigerians.
- vii. To pursue the attainment of a healthy market economy, within which private enterprise shall prosper.
- viii. To promote and enforce the principle of equal opportunity and treatment for all Nigerians
- ix. To join all organizations in the eradication of colonialism, neocolonialism, and racism in all ramifications and to promote Africa Unity.
- x. To co-operate with all member countries of the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Organization (UNO) and all regional groupings that shall be in the interest of Nigeria and Africa and also help to find just and peaceful solutions to international Disputes and/or problems.

- xi. To embark on other activities which in the opinion of the party shall be conducive to the attainment of the objectives of the party and Nigeria.

ARTICLE 6- PARTY ORGANISATION

- a. There shall be four official levels of the party set up in the following order: -
 - i. The Town/Clan/Ward/District otherwise reflected to as level
 - ii. The Local Government Area otherwise called level 11.
 - iii. The State branch otherwise known and called the State Branch
 - iv. The National otherwise referred to as the National.
- b. Each of these levels of the party shall have a functioning secretariat, democratically organized and maintained by the party.
- c. In this section and throughout this constitution the word "STATE" includes the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

ARTICLE 7- CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

There shall be three levels of consultative committees established through democratic process as follows:

- a. The State Constituency Consultative Committee. -
- b. The Federal Constituency Consultative Committee.
- e. The Senatorial Constituency Consultative Committee.

These Consultative Committees shall not maintain separate party offices.

ARTICLE 8- PARTY ORGANS

The following organs of the party shall be established in each level of the party set up:

LEVEL (I)- Town/Clan/Ward/District- The general meeting of level (c) Branch shall consist of all card-bearing members of the party, and must take place once a month. An Executive Committee with a chairman and other officers shall be elected as the branch may deem required.

LEVEL (II) - Local Government Area Branch- The general meeting of level (b) branch shall consist of:

1. **MEMBERSHIP:** All members of the local government area executive committee and not less than five members chosen from each level (A) branch within the local government area including a representative each from women and youth sub-committees. The general meeting shall be held at least once a month. Every level (B) branch shall have an Executive comprising the following:
 - i. All officers of level (A)
 - ii. The Chairman, Secretaries and Treasurer of all level (A) branches in the local government area.
 - iii. One member who shall be selected by the party members in each local government council ward from level (A)
 - iv. Members of the National Assembly in the local government (or candidates in an election year).
 - v. Chairman of the LGA council or party leader on the council.
 - vi. Members of the House of Assembly or candidates in an election year.
 - vii. Chairman and Secretary of women and youth sub-committees of the local area concerned.

2. **POWERS AND FUNCTIONS:** Subject to the powers and functions of the State Executive Committee, the LGA Executive Committee shall exercise all powers in the local government areas as those to be exercised in function as the State branch congress.

3. **MEETINGS:** The Local Government Area Executive Committee shall hold its General meeting at least once in every six months of the year. Quorum shall be one third of his members. There shall be elected officers for level (B) branch of the following: Chairman, one vice chairman for each State constituency, Secretary, An Assistant secretary for each State constituency, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Auditors, legal Adviser, Publicity Secretary and his Assistant.

LEVEL (III) – STATE BRANCH

STATE CONGRESS: A state congress shall consist of the following elected delegates.

- a. Each state constituency -4delegates.

- b. Each local government area – delegates
- c. For each state seat won -2 delegates
- d. To every local LGA providing up to 25% votes in Governorship elections-4 delegates.
- e. For each Federal seat won- 1 delegate.
- f. For each seat won – 1 delegate.
- g. The State Chairman and all State Officers.
- h. The Governor and Deputy, when and if they are members of the party or candidates in election year.
- i. The patrons of the party residing in the state.

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS:

1. A state congress shall have within the area of the state concerned all the powers and functions, which the National Convention of the party exercises at National level.
2. The state congress shall meet once a year on a date and venue determined by the state executive committee and the date must be at least 3 month earlier than that of a National Convention of the party provided that:
3. A special congress may be held at any time, if so requested by two thirds of the local government area committees in writing.
4. The state executive committee shall prepare the agenda for such congress.
5. State congress quorum shall be one-third of all accredited delegates.
6. Voting at the congress shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and procedures determined by the congress. On no account shall a delegate vote more than once on any one issue. No paid official shall have the right to vote.

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The State Executive Committee shall comprise: -
 - a. The state chairman and all state officers of the party.
 - b. The party's state governor and his deputy or in an election year, the candidates for these offices.
 - c. All members of the legislature who are member of the party.

- d. Chairmen of local government councils who are members of the party, or party leaders in the council.
- e. Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of every local government area branch in the state.
- f. Chairmen of women and youth sub-committees of each local government branch executive.
- g. Ten other members elected by state congress on merit.
- h. All national officers and national executive members from the state.
- i. All members of the state working committee.
- j. All commissioners, special advisers, assistants, who are members of the party.
- k. All federal ministers from the state who are members of the party.
- l. Chairmen of the boards of government-run corporations from the state who are members of the party.

2. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

The state executive committee shall have within the area of the state concerned, the same powers and functions that the national executive has throughout the country.

3. MEETINGS

- i. The state executive shall meet not less than three times in a year and at any other time, if so summoned by the chairman or any ten members.
- ii. The quorum for the state executive meeting shall be one-third of the total membership of the committee.

1. STATE OFFICERS

- i. In each state, there shall be elected the following officers of the party:
 - a. State chairman.
 - b. Deputy state chairman.
 - c. One Vice-chairman from each local government area branch.
 - d. State secretary.
 - e. Two assistant state secretaries.

- f. State treasurer.
- g. Assistant state treasurer.
- h. State financial secretary.
- i. State Auditor.
- j. State legal Adviser.
- k. State Publicity Secretary and 3 other professional assistants to be appointed by the State Executive.

2. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

A State working committee shall comprise the following:

- a. a, The state Chairman and his deputy
- b. State Secretary.
- c. The Governor and his deputy or candidate in the election year.
- d. The State Legal Adviser.
- e. The Treasurer.
- f. The State financial secretary.
- g. State Publicity Secretary
- h. Party leader in legislature of state and two other members to be elected as prescribed by the state executive committee. -

STATE STANDING COMMITTEE

The state executive committee shall set up the following standing committees:

- i. Financial sub-committee
- ii. Party Disciplinary sub-committee
- iii. Economic Affairs Sub-committee
- iv. Research/Planning sub-committee
- v. Staff Appointments and Disciplinary committee
- vi. Parliamentary committee
- vii. Education and Economic/Social Services Committee

The standing committee of the party may also set up other ad hoc sub-committees including election and campaign sub-committees but such sub-committees shall disband upon completion of this assignment

STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be a state legislative committee for each state of the federation. The committee shall consist of all members of the party who are members of the State House of Assembly. The committee shall

deliberate strategies on all forthcoming legislative bills and motions for maximization of benefits to the state populace.

LEVEL IV - NATIONAL LEVEL

The party National Convention shall consist of;

- (a) Two delegates per each Federal constituency.
- (b) Three delegates per each Senatorial District.
- (c) One delegate per each senatorial seat won by the party and the Senator to be the delegate officially.
- (d) Two delegates per each Federal seat won (the member of the House of Representative being one of the two.
- (e) Six delegates for 25% votes cast in a state (To be elected two per Senatorial constituency.
- (f) Six delegates for NPC Governor (To be elected two per senatorial constituency).
- (g) One delegate per 20,000 votes cast.
- (h) The President and the Vice President, when they are members of the NPC.
- (i) The National Council and other National Officers of the NPC

1. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

The supreme authority of the party shall rest on the National Convention and it shall, to the exclusion of all other bodies of the party have power to decide the nationwide policies and programmes of the party, in particular, the National Convention shall have power to:

- (a) To amend the constitution, initiate, approve, and adopt amend or reject any programme plan, or policy intended for the party.
- (b) Elect any committee deemed necessary, desirable or expedient and assign to them such powers and functions as it may from time to time deem it;
- (c) Elect the National officers of the Party and remove same from office.
- (d) Nominate the Presidential candidate of the party
- (e) Demand and receive reports from the National executive committee or any other organs of the Party for the discussion and take any decisions or actions thereupon

2. MEETINGS

- (a) The National Convention shall hold once every year in November on a date appointed by the National Executive Committee.
- (b) Approve the agenda for the convention
- (c) A special National Convention may be held at any time, if so requested by National Executive Committee or two third of all the state Executive.

- (d) A special National Convention shall meet only to discuss matters specified in the notice of meeting.

3. QUORUM

- (a) The quorum of the National Convention shall be one third all the delegates provided that no less than two thirds of all the states of the federation are in attendance
- (b) Decisions reached and measures approved at the convention shall be final and binding on all the party organs, branches and members.
- (c) Voting at the convention shall be in a manner to be so determined by rules of procedure for meetings, such that no delegate shall cast more than one vote.
- (d) Paid officers in attendance shall not vote,

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The National Executive Committee shall consist of: -

- (a) The National Chairman and all National Officers of the party
- (b) The President and his Vice where they are members of the party or candidates for these offices in the election year.
- (c) All members of the National Assembly who are members of the Party.
- (d) All state governors and their deputies who are members of the party or candidate for these offices in the election year.
- (e) The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of each state branch
- (f) Three women and three youth from each state elected by state congress
- (g) Four other members elected by each state congress.
- (h) All members, Special Advisers and Assistants who are members of the party shall be ex-officio members of the National Executive Committee.

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for the general nationwide running of the party and for putting into effect the decisions of the National Convention and also:

- (a) Prepare agenda for National Convention
- (b) Prepare and submit policy reports and budget for consideration by the convention.
- (c) Initiate policies and programmes for due consideration by the convention
- (d) Deal with appeals and other complaints referred to it by or from state and or other branches

- (e) Make party electoral rules for the approval of convention for the governance and conduct of all elections to party offices and lay down procedure for selecting party candidates for elective offices nationwide.
- (f) Employ and fix remuneration and condition of service of all paid officials of the party.
- (g) Co-opt such persons as it deems necessary or expedient to attend its meetings and take part in its deliberation but without the right vote.
- (h) Decisions of the National Executive Committee shall be binding on all organs and all members and such decisions can only be questioned or reversed by the National Convention.
- (i) Have the power to make the standing orders for the conduct of all meetings at National level
- (j) Delegate any of its powers and functions to the National working committee or national officer of the party.
- (k) Deal with any matters referred to it by the National convention.

NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

The National Working Committee shall consist of:

- i. The National Chairman
- ii. President and his Vice or the candidates in an election
- iii. Two Deputy National Chairmen and one Vice-Chairman from each state of the federation
- iv. The National Secretary and his deputy
- v. The National Treasurer
- vi. The National Legal Adviser
- vii. The party leaders in the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively. Three other federal legislators appointed by the National Executive Committee and such other members co-opted by the National Working Committee

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

- i. The National Working Committee shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the party and shall be answerable to the National Executive Committee.
- ii. The National working Committee shall perform any other functions and duties assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.
- iii. The National Working Committee has the first level function of looking into all disputes at national level of the party for resolution before referring to the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE-9 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

1. There shall be a Federal Legislative Committee, which will consist of all members of the party who are members of the National Assembly.
 - (a) The Federal Legislative Committee shall co-ordinate the legislative strategy of the party and it also shall be the liaison body between the party and the government.
 - (b) The decision of the Federal Legislative Committee or all matters within its competence shall be binding on all members of the legislative committee of the party.
 - (c) The Federal Legislative Committee shall meet as often & shall make it efficient on its own or at the request of the National Chairman of the party or one third of its members for deliberation

ARTICLE 10-JOINT COMMITTEE

The joint committee shall consist of the representatives of the party the legislature and the executive if applicable It shall meet at the request of the party chain an, the chairman of the legislature committee and/or the executive for deliberations on matters of legislative nature and any decision shall be regarded as party decision and must be adhered to by all legislators of the party.

ARTICLE 11- NATIONAL OFFICERS

There shall be the following National Officers of the party:

- i. National Chairman
- ii. Two Deputy National Chairman
- iii. National Vice Chairman from each state of the federation
- iv. National Secretary
- v. Deputy National Secretary
- vi. Four Assistant Secretaries
- vii. National Treasurer
- viii. Deputy National Treasurer
- ix. National Financial Secretary
- x. Assistant National Financial Secretary
- xi. National Publicity Secretary
- xii. Four Assistant National Publicity Secretaries
- xiii. National Legal Adviser
- xiv. Deputy National Legal Adviser
- xv. Four Assistant Legal Advisers
- xvi. National Auditor
- xvii. Three Assistant National Auditors

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

The National Officer of the Party shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) **National Chairman:** The National Chairman shall preside over the meetings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee
- (b) **Deputy National Chairman:** A Deputy National Chairman chosen from among the two deputy chairmen shall preside at meetings whenever the National Chairman is not available.
- (c) **National Secretary:** The National Secretary shall:
 - 1. Take or cause to be taken and keep in the proper books provided for the purpose, all minutes of the. National Convention, National Executive Committee and National Working Committee of the party.
 - 2. Conduct such correspondence as required.
 - 3. Prepare the order of business for all the National organs of the party with the approval of the National Chairman.
 - 4. Supervise the working of the National Headquarters and be responsible for its control. In the event of his/her unlikely removal or incapacitation, 1 c she shall immediately hand over to the Chairman or his/her deputy all property and records of the party in his/her care.
- (d) **The Deputy National Secretary** shall deputize for the National Secretary in his duties and act for him in his/her absence.
- (e) **National Asst. Secretaries** shall assist the National Secretary and his/her Deputy by performing all duties assigned to them by the National Secretary or his/her deputy.
- (f) **National Treasurer:** The National Treasurer shall:
 - i. Receive and promptly pay into the party account all monies received for and on behalf of the party.
 - ii. Keep imprest account as and when so authorized by the National Executive Committee.
 - iii. Pay or cause to be paid all authorized party expenditure.
 - iv. Keep all assets and monies of the party.
- (g) **The Deputy National Treasurer** shall deputize for the National Treasurer in his duties or act for him in his absence.
- (h) **National Financial Secretary** shall:
 - i. Collect all monies due to the party and pay such monies to the National Treasurer not later than seven days after collection.
 - ii. Ensure that proper books of account and records are kept.
 - iii. Prepare and submit to the National Executive Committee a report on the accounts and balance sheet of the party.

- iv. Maintr.in a detailed annual statement of income and expenditure as well as other assets of the patty.
- v. Prepare and submit proposals for raising of party fund for the consideration of the National Executive Committee.
- (i) ***The Assistant National Financial Secretaries*** shall assist the National Financial Secretary in the performance of his duties and in his absence act for him.
- (j) ***The National Publicity Secretary*** shall be responsible for party propaganda services and activities, which must be consistent with the constitution and party manifesto.
- (k) ***The Assistant National Publicity Secretaries*** shall assist the National Publicity Secretary in his duties and in his absence act for him.
- (l) ***The National Legal Adviser*** shall advice the party on all legal matters and arrange legal defense of the party and its members as and when necessary.
- (m) ***The Deputy Legal Adviser*** shall deputize for and assist the National Legal Adviser in his duties and in his absence act for him.
- (n) ***The National Auditor*** shall audit the books of accounts of the party and report annually to the convention and may be called upon by the National Executive Committee or the National Working Committee to audit such account at any time.

ARTICLE 12- DISQUALIFICATION

No member of the party shall hold any party office and that of government simultaneously either at National, Stat. or Local government levels.

ARTICLE 13- OTHER DUTIES

Not withstanding the provisions of Article 8 of this Constitution, the National Executive Committee may assign any other duties to any National Officers of the party.

ARTICLE 14- TENURE OF THE OFFICE

1. All National officers of the party shall remain in office for a period of four yeas unless re-elected by the convention provided that no officer remains in office for more than twos terms.
2. Should a vacancy occur in any of the National Offices, the National Committee shall appoint a substitute, subject to ratification at the next Convention and such officers so appointed shall remain in the office for the un-expired period of e term.

3. Party elections shall be held every four years and any officer may be removed within the four years through a vote of no confidence against him/her, which carries two-thirds majority.

ARTICLE 15- STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE

All other committees at the National level shall be sub-committees of the National Executive Committee and shall be elected by NEC either from or among themselves or outside the NEC or from both. The following Standing Sub-Committees shall be set up by the NEC:

- a. Economic Affairs Committee.
- b. Foreign Relation Committee.
- c. Research/Planning Committee
- d. Publicity Committee
- e. Education & Social Services Committee
- f. Labour & Employment Committee
- g. Finance & Economy Committee
- h. Staff Appointment/Disciplinary Committee
- i. National Assembly Committee
- j. Party Disciplinary Committee

The National Executive Committee may also appoint, from time to time, Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee on any subject matter and any such committee shall cease to exist on completion of its assignment.

ARTICLE 16- CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

There shall be established a State Consultative Committee which will meet as and when necessary to discuss and decide on matters of common interest to the State Constituency and its composition shall be thus:

- a. All members of the Local Government Area Executive Committee from that State Constituency;
- b. Five members from each of the level 1 branches elected by the Branch Executives.

FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Where the local government area is not coterminous with the Federal Constituency, then it should form a body called "Federal Constituency Committee" to deal with matters of common interest to the Constituency and it shall consist of either:

- a. All members of the local Government Area Executive Committee who come from the Local Government Area, where the Federal Constituency embraces more than one Local Government Area or

- b. Four members from each State Constituency elected by the State Consultative Committee. In either case, the members of the committee shall elect a Chairman and Secretary from among themselves without having other officers.

SENATORIAL DISTRICT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be a Senatorial District Consultative Committee, which shall meet as, and when necessary to discuss matters of common interest to the Senatorial Constituency. The composition of the Committee shall be:

- a. All members of the Local Government Area Executive Committee from the constituency and
- b. Four members from each of the level 1 branches, elected by Branch Executives.

ARTICLE 17- WOMEN AND YOUTH WINGS

The party shall recognize and integrate women and youth organization within the party, giving opportunity and democratic emancipation. Such wings shall institute parallel or independent units and shall be subject to the authority of party organs at all levels where they must be taking active part in the running of the party. No member of the party beyond the age of 30 years shall belong to the youth wing.

ARTICLE 19- STUDENTS' WING

There shall be established Students' Wings in all the Institutions of learning and they shall have a direct relationship with the party at all levels and shall not be subjected to any age limit.

ARTICLE 19- NOMINATION MEETINGS

1. **Councillors:** Party candidates for Local Government Council elections shall be nominated by the Ward Nomination Committee composed of forty members elected by the party in that ward.
2. **State Assembly Candidates:** Party candidates for State election shall be nominated by the State Constituency Nomination Committee, which shall be composed of forty members selected by each of the Local Government Council Wards in each level 1 branch, and all elected NPC councillors, the member of House of Representative and Senator in whose constituency the Local Government from a part thereof.
3. **House of Representatives Candidates:** Party candidates for the House of Representatives shall be nominated by a committee, which would be composed of all members of nomination committees within the Federal Constituency that participated in nominating the state Assembly Candidates.

4. **Senatorial Candidates:** Senatorial Candidates shall be nominated by a meeting, consisting of 60 (sixty) members from each Federal Constituency Nomination Meeting within the Senatorial District and all Members of State Assembly and House of Representatives who are members of the party.

ARTICLE 20- NOMINATION MEETINGS

1. The Executive of the Level 11 Branch shall arrange for the conduct of Meeting for the Local Government Council Candidates.
2. The State Executive Committee shall appoint a person or more to conduct the Nomination Meetings for the candidates for the National Assembly Elections and those of the State Assemblies.
3. The National Executive Committee shall appoint person(s) to conduct the Nomination Meetings for the Gubernatorial and Presidential Candidates.

ARTICLE-21 DISCIPLINE

1. Discipline of members shall be enforced at all levels of the party organization by the Executive Committee at the level.
2. The Executive Committees of all levels shall have the power to suspend from membership any member, but the power to expel is exclusively reserved to the National Executive Committee (N.E.C).
3. A member suspended or disciplined at any level shall have right of appeal to the next higher level and no appeal shall be placed beyond the National Executive Committee (NEC)

ARTICLE 22 - PATRONS

All Branches .of the Party shall be free to appoint their Patrons, but only at the National level shall there be a Grand Patron. At no level shall the number of Patrons exceed three.

ARTICLE 23- ELECTION YEAR

“Election year” shall be deemed to begin upon the date of nomination o a Candidate and end on the date on which the Candidate, if successful, takes oath of office i, if not, the date on which his successful appointment takes office. All benefits enjoyed by such candidates shall then cease.

ARTICLE -24 PARTY CAUCUS OR STEERING COMMITTEE

There shall be effective machinery for co-ordination among the three arms of the party; that is to say, the Executive, the Legislature, and the Party Leadership.

1. The National Executive Caucus shall compose of National Chairman, Deputy National Chairman, the National Secretary, and one Deputy, the President and his Vice and two others nominated by President from among Ministers and Advise the President of the Senate and the Speaker of House of Reps and Leaders of Senate and House of Reps. The Party Chairman shall preside over the meeting which must hold weekly.
2. State level: The Caucus at State Level shall be composed of the following
 - a. Representing Party - The State Chairman and his Deputy, State Secretary or his Deputy.
 - b. Representing the Executive - The Governor and his Deputy and two members to be nominated by the Governor from among his Commissioners and Advisers;
 - c. Representing the State Assembly - The Speaker and his Deputy, the Leader of the Party and his Deputy. The State Chairman shall be the Chairman of the Committee.
3. In respect of states where the party is not in control, the Caucus Committee must include the Highest Federal Government political office holder in the State, the Party Chairman, the Secretary and two party leaders in the State Assembly.

ARTICLE 25- RELATIONSHIP - PARTY AND GOVERNMENT

The policies and manifesto of the Party within the framework of the Constitution of the Federal Republic shall be supreme.

ARTICLE 26- LIFE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

All Ex-Presidents and Senate Ex-Presidents who are members of the party shall be Ex-officio members of the National Executive of the Party for as long as they remain members of the party.

ARTICLE 27- FINANCE

The funds of the Party shall be derived from:

1. a Statutory allocations if any.
- b. Fees, levies and subscriptions and other lawful donations from members and well-wishers within Nigeria
- c. Public collections and other lawful fund raisings
- d. Lawful investments within Nigeria -

ARTICLE 28- TRUSTEES

1. There shall be at least one trustee from each of the States in Nigeria who shall be Members of the Party and in whom all movable and

immovable properties of the Party shall be vested. The Trustees shall be nominated by the State congress and shall be approved and appointed by the National Executive of the party subject to the approval of the National Convention of the Party, and they shall hold office at the pleasure of the Convention.

2. The trustees shall be registered under the Land (Perpetual Succession) Act and hold all properties of the party subject to the direction of the National Executive Committee of the party and shall sign all documents to which the common seal of the party shall be affixed as required by law.
3. In the event of death, resignation or removal from office, the trustee's office shall be filled by the National Executive as laid down by procedure.
4. The National Secretary shall prepare inventory of all properties and or immovable belonging to the party and shall deposit a copy of the inventory with the Trustees.

ARTICLE 29 - COMMON SEAL

The common seal of the party shall be a design approved by the National Executive Committee and shall be in the custody of the National Secretary of the Party.

ARTICLE 30- AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

This Constitution or any section of it may be amended by the National Convention of the Party on a motion supported by the votes of not less than two thirds of all delegates at the convention.

ARTICLE 31- INTERPRETATION

Any question as to the meaning of any section of this constitution shall be referred to the National Executive Committee whose ruling shall be final.

ARTICLE 32-AN NPC ADMINISTRATION

The Nigerian Peoples Congress believes that no Nigerian should starve or suffer any kind of neglect on account of his or her age, poverty and/or disability. An NPC administration shall therefore.

- i. Establish homes to be called "State Homes" to cater for the aged destitute and disabled persons who are absolutely without any means of support; and encourage inhabitants of such Homes to undertake

- rehabilitation courses and to participate in some form of productive activity.
- ii. Introduce legislation to allow all Nigerians to contribute in cash or kind to the maintenance of such homes or directly supporting the disabled relations to claim back the amounts as a relief

MANIFESTO OF THE NPC INTRODUCTION

For four decades, Nigeria has remained a country of unfulfilled potential. Since the wake of the tragic demise of the first republic, most of our development schemes have failed to improve the quality of life for the majority of Nigerians. Our cities have not been able to cope with the strain put upon them by rural - urban migration, the results of which are proliferation of squalors, overcrowding, urban decay, break down of infrastructure, increase in crime rate, pollution and a general decline in the quality of life. Demographic projections indicate that by the second decade of the twenty-first century, 60% of Nigerians shall be living in the cities, or rather conurbations. But the villages do not fare any better; they are lacking adequate water supply, electricity, health care and pliable roads. A system of education once full of potential for providing the requisite developmental resource growth has reversed or become inadequate for the needs of a country with a youthful populace. The quality of education in most of the existing schools across the country is so poor it fails dismally in preparing students for future life. Unemployment is rife in both skilled and unskilled labour pool. Hyperinflation and an erratic exchange rate continue to plague an economy analogous to one ravaged by war. Yet over the years, plan upon plan, reform upon reform, purge after purge have ostensibly fallen short of their often well-intentioned goals. The casualty in all of this is peaceful co-existence, which ipso facto, continues to elude Nigeria.

We make bold to assert that working towards the objectives of the N.P.C. shall lead to the amelioration of the living conditions of all citizens. The Nigeria of the N.P.C. shall be:

- i. A nation in which government and public life shall be run in accordance with the provisions of the constitution at all levels.
- ii. A strong united nation where citizens enjoy peace and harmony with one another, and where tribal, ethnic cultural and religious diversity is harnessed and used as the rich mortar of nation building.

- iii. A country in which the security of life and property shall be extended to all by guaranteeing the external and internal defence of the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity
- iv. A truly federal entity with a high standard of living for all, sustained economic growth, premised to free market capitalism, self-sufficient agricultural sector and industrialized economy.
- v. A nation where the welfare of every citizen will be a prime concern of the state while private enterprise and initiative are fully recognized and enhanced.
- vi. A country where general awareness and patriotic commitment of the citizen shall be vigorously enhanced through adequate and sound qualitative education based on high moral principles and indigenous African values.
- vii. An open society based on the optimum recognition of the democratic rights of individual citizens or groups thereof.
- viii. A land where full respect and recognition of traditional rulers and institutions is promoted and mutual respect for all cultures and religions is observed.
- ix. A society where a fully independent judiciary safeguards law and order, universal freedoms and basic human rights of all citizens.
- x. A nation-state whose standing and respect shall be promoted through a foreign policy that pursues enlightened national interest and adherence to the principles of ECO WAS, AU and the United Nations.
- xi. A country whose constitution is accepted as a legitimate institutional affirmation of the prevalence of law over personal power.
- xii. The party's programme shall also include the provisions of Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy as enshrined in the constitution.

THE PROGRAMME

To achieve these objectives, the NPC has worked out a programme of action based on responsible appreciation of the circumstances of the nation and the realities of the moment. The NPC has carefully examined the needs and priorities of all sections of the nation and developed an

all-encompassing programme, which once put in place, shall address these needs and priorities. To make Nigeria work for the general good the standard of living of those living below the poverty line must be raised by giving every citizen that opportunity to feed, clothe and house himself or herself. While the NPC shall pursue an economic liberalization policy, it will also ensure the provision of basic amenities such as water, electricity, housing, primary healthcare, recreational facilities and security for all Nigerians. The attainment of self sufficiency in food production and storage, sustainable environment-friendly industrial growth and the expansion of social amenities and education form the main plank of the NPC programme, while rural development in all aspects remains a central concerned priority.

1. FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The NPC views the Nigeria's lack of self-sufficiency in food production in the twenty- first century with alarming despair. This concern is underscored by the fact that food has pride of place in the party's emblem. National self-sufficiency in food and cash crops is the top-most priority in the NPC programme. We must return the past glory of agriculture to our farmers. This will be achieved in the case of the individual small-scale farmers through:

- a. The increase in budgetary allocation of funds for agriculture at all levels of government
- b. An assistance scheme to the subsistence farmer to increase his acreage and yield by facilitating
 - i. Early, prompt and punctual supply of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.
 - ii. Technical assistance for land clearance and ploughing through tractor lasing units.
 - iii. A favourable credit scheme for acquiring bullocks ploughs and seeds.
 - iv. Cash credit in the growing months through rural producer and credit societies and the encouragement of rural producer co-operative to channel aid.
 - v. Vigorous irrigation schemes for dry season fanning thus ensuring year- round cultivation

- c. Introduction of modern technology and policies at village level to trigger a green revolution.
- d. Special incentives shall be provided for large-scale agro-based industries. They shall be encouraged and assisted through mechanization, irrigation, credit facilities, and subsidies from both the private and public sector
- e. Special emphasis shall be laid on research and development in agricultural science, and the sector shall be encouraged to absorb as many unemployed Nigerians as possible.
- f. The NPC shall embark on large-scale agricultural training programmes to facilitate extension services throughout the country.

2. DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK

To ameliorate the depleting supply of meat and livestock, which compels Nigeria to import from neighboring countries the NPC dairy and livestock farming programme shall include:

- i. The creation of large grazing reserves with adequate supply of water for the exclusive use of pastoralists.
- ii. The provision of flexible credit to encourage the setting up of ranches, piggeries and large-scale poultry and fish farms.

3. TREE PLANTING POLICY

In order to arrest the dual threat posed by the demand for wood to our rainforest and Sahel savannah regions, the NPC shall be committed to an intensive re-planting programme and the establishment of new plantations. Special incentives shall be provided to plantation owners and developers, while the development of cheap alternatives to fire wood as an energy source shall be encouraged

4. ECONOMIC POLICY

The NPC believes that the only way to raise the standard of living of Nigerians, particularly those living below the poverty line is through rapid and sustained economic growth. While not subscribing to a rash auction of public assets, we remain committed to a privatization and liberalization policy that will benefit the poor and the disenfranchised

through accelerated growth. There is no gain saying the fact that countries with fewer human and natural resources than Nigeria have been able to provide better opportunities for their citizens with the prosperity, efficiency, and improved quality that often accompany privatization, liberalization and foreign investment. But we must also safeguard against the horrors experienced by some countries, such as monopolistic/oligopolistic practices, discriminatory practices towards their citizens, child labour inhumane working conditions and ecological disasters. The NPC puts forth the following primary principles:

- a. Privatise and liberalise inefficient public sector industries and organizations to ensure that they are brought in check by market forces and to also give people a better control of their destinies. Competition is a prerequisite for internal and external growth in a globalize world.
- b. Uphold, define and protect the principle of private ownership of land, capital and mental output, i.e intellectual property.
- c. Deregulate prices in the healthier sectors of the economy to allow for free and fair competition, which more often than not benefits the, populace.
- d. Protect and encourage collective bargaining by Nigerian labour unions to enable improvement in wages, working conditions and productivity.
- e. Employ prudent fiscal and monetary policies to tame inflation, stabilize the exchange rate bring about a unitary foreign exchange market and work towards the growth and prosperity of Nigeria's capital markets.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY

In this sector, an NPC government at any level shall encourage the free flow of goods and services (both domestically and internationally) to ensure Nigeria's participating in such activities get remunerative prices for their products. Such government(s) shall also encourage sustainable, environmentally friendly industrial growth while working towards providing the enabling environment through improvements in infrastructure. Attracting foreign and local investors and improvement of the nation's balance of payments are germane objectives of the party. Second only to agriculture on the NPC's list of priorities, industrialization

under a Federal Government controlled by the party shall be achieved through the following measures:

- a. Make the production of steel “the mission” for the country by tasking the public and private sectors and rekindling interest in the industry.
- b. Revamp the nation’s railway system by tapping directly into the labour pool. Steel production and the railway are two areas where in government has to intervene directly because of the long period of neglect.
- c. Constitute a government agency that would hire direct labour workers for day jobs in kick starting steel production and revamping the railway system. This agency would provide a means for stimulating the Nigerian economy by putting money into the pockets of the citizens while at the same time providing gainful employment for the rural and urban masses.

6. MINERALS POLICY

The NPC’s approach to minerals can be divided into two, namely:

- a. Oil and Gas it is said that Nigeria is a natural gas province with a bit of oil. While recognizing the continuing importance of crude oil and the pivotal role it has played in Nigeria’s history, our future lies in the efficient and effective management of our natural gas resources. Both crude oil and natural gas are finite resources that must be managed infinitely. The NPC shall work towards increasing local participation in oil and gas activities and encourage the participation of Nigerian owned companies in the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) and the International Petroleum Exchange (IPE), as these are two markets where significant amounts of the nation’s petroleum resources are traded. The party shall also support the continued role of Nigeria as a key member of OPEC. Environmental laws shall be enforced to ensure strict compliance with Environmental Impact Assessments in energy related projects, especially in the ecologically fragile Niger Delta wetland. NPC is committed to endowing oil producing areas with more control over resources emanating from their locality, within the context of a federated Nigeria

- b. **Solid Minerals** - It will be the policy of the NPC to bring solid minerals the stepchild of the Nigerian economy - back to the mainstream. The party shall achieve this by influencing the collation of data pertaining to the sector. Some semblance of order and due process is to be brought to ruining activities in the country. Nigeria's influence will be brought to bear in an effort to secure favourable terms for the exportation of tantalite, columbite and other industrial metals. We shall also encourage the private sector to focus on processing activities of those minerals that can be semi or fully refined before export in order to increase the sector's employment and productivity rates. Local and foreign investors shall be encouraged to use locally produced minerals like barite, gypsum and kaolin, instead of importing them, often at higher prices. The local industry for precious stones such as aquamarine, zircon, jade and amethyst shall have the full support of the party.

7. HOUSING POLICY

Shelter is one of the three basic requirements of mankind. Its importance is recognized by the NPC, such that it is an integral component of the party's programme. It is therefore the objective of the NPC to improve the quality of housing in the rural areas and increase the quantity of planned habitations in the urban centers. The problems posed by the quality but more so by the quantity of accommodation in the urban areas need tackling with resource and energy. The objective of this policy is to increase homes through rent-to-own and owner-occupier schemes in conjunction with the private construction and estate development sectors. The policy objective is to have every Nigerian worker in a home of his own through innovative mortgage schemes.

8. EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AWARENESS

- a. An NPC government shall work towards giving free, qualitative and self-supporting primary, vocational secondary university education in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.
- b. Improve the standard of education at all levels with special emphasis on the moral content as it pertains to indigenous and religious values, by involving parents in the formulation of curricula and school

policies. Adequate funding for art councils, museums shall be provided and incoming generating methods exhausted to achieve self-sufficiency.

- c. Ensure provision of well-trained teachers and educational infrastructure in the form of equipped classrooms, laboratories and libraries in addition to other support services.
- d. An NPC government shall encourage private schools to exist side by side with state schools. But carefully conceived regulatory laws shall safeguard pupils against potentially exploitative private schools and prohibitive costs of education.
- e. The NPC shall place primary importance on the interest and welfare of teachers by reordering the priorities of School Boards and teachers. The teaching profession shall undergo an image-makeover and incentives both material and mundane - shall be provided. Existing teacher training institutes shall be revamped and new ones established in conjunction with statistical data and projections of present and future demand.
- f. Universities shall have their full autonomy returned and funding shall be governed by legal provision. Private funding through grants, scholarships and endowment funds shall be solicited and encouraged.

9. TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Nigerian Peoples Congress believes that too little attention has been paid to technical education over the years. Technical manpower is a prerequisite for industrial development, for technology itself determines the fate of civilizations: they either thrive through invention and innovation or die from inertia. The party shall therefore work towards increasing the number of Technical Colleges, Polytechnics and Craft Schools. Special attention shall be paid to Information Technology in all existing learning institutions, from primary schools to tertiary ivory towers. Gaining access to the Internet at affordable prices to students and ordinary citizens alike is a priority for the NPC.

10. HEALTH POLICY

The health of a nation is an essential factor in development. A healthy population ensures a steady supply of efficient manpower. We shall therefore pursue the following programme to remedy the deficiencies in the health sector.

- a. Existing training facilities will be expanded to increase intake and new ones established.
- b. The issue of inadequate supply of drugs shall be addressed by working closely with the local pharmaceutical industry and creating the enabling environment for newcomers.
- c. Local manufacture of hospital and medical equipment will receive attention, with emphasis on the production of spares. This way, even imported equipment can be repaired locally.
- d. NPC Governments at all levels shall embark upon an intensive AIDS enlightenment campaign coupled with the direct purchase and distribution of medication. Government intervention by way of using the prison population in the manufacture of condoms has become a necessity. Furthermore, laws protecting the rights of HIV-infected Nigerians and AIDS patients shall be one of the first acts of an NPC government.
- e. Dental and Eye clinics will receive attention and assistance.
- f. The arm of the NPC to work towards the provision of free primary health care for all Nigerian citizens.
- g. Strict compliance to safety requirements in both private and public buildings shall be enforced through the fire service nationwide.

11. LABOUR POLICY

The Nigerian Peoples Congress believes that the autonomy of the Nigerian Labour Congress and other civil advocacy groups is pertinent for the survival and growth of democracy in Nigeria. It will therefore be the policy of the party to support the notion of a labour movement that is truly independent, democratic, strong and able to serve the best interest of the workers and the nation. We shall vouchsafe the independence of trade unions and insulate their management from control and interference of government and employers. Workers shall be free to associate in unions of their choice. The NPC shall co-operate with labour unions at the national and international levels and they will be

represented at all appropriate organs of government both within Nigeria and abroad. Pension funds shall be protected against speculative adventurism.

12. DEFENCE POLICY

The NPC shall prosecute with vigour, programmes to train, equip and re-organize the armed forces to ensure the emergence of a modern, well equipped, disciplined, au professional military. To achieve this:

- i. Care will be taken to ensure that a balance of arms and personnel is maintained between the needs for internal and external security. No members of the armed forces will be demobilized without full benefits.
- ii. The party will ensure that the nation's security is not endangered and our military strength is enhanced commensurate to foreign policy and domestic demands Defence-related decisions will be taken in 1u11 consultation with the Armed Forces.

13. LAW AND ORDER

Crime, vandalism, and brigandage create insecurity in the land among the majority of decent and law abiding citizens. In addition to an awareness campaign focusing on responsible citizenship, an NPC government will take appropriate practical measures to:

- a. Embark on an upward salary review for the entire police force.
- b. Expand the police force to ensure their effective presence in response to the needs of the nation
- c. Modernize and re-equip the police to improve their mobility and communication systems.
- d. Expand and improve their training and re-training facilities, focusing on crime prevention methods.
- e. As a matter of urgency, re-introduce regular beats for policemen/women in all areas with high population density.
- f. Initiate legislation, which shall provide for severe punishment of officials found to be negligent in mattes of prompt remuneration for tie Armed Forces, Police and other essential services.

14. TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The NPC holds in high regard the role of traditional rulers as the custodians of our cultural/religious heritage, and historically as legitimate institution for the control and management of society and the maintenance of law and order is the view of this party that this role must be exploited for the benefit of present-day Nigeria. The NPC will therefore if and when elected into power take immediate steps to:

- a. Guarantee them befitting functions and commensurate remuneration
- b. Ensure that their participation and consultation in certain affairs of state become enshrined in the constitution.

15. FOREIGN POLICY

Nigeria, under an NPC government, shall continue to have the defence of its sovereignty and its territorial integrity as its principal foreign policy objective. Other objectives include peace with other nations, sustained economic growth and social development. Our nation shall continue to play a special leadership role in Africa. Yet it is incumbent on us to reinvigorate our foreign policy by restructuring the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs and tapping the resources of its research staff. We shall maintain cordial relations with all countries in the world friendly towards us. We intend to promote the ideals of ECOWAS and adhere to the Charters of the AU and the United Nations

16. PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES

The NPC is dissatisfied with the standards and performance of our public utility corporations. In some cases, this is due to by poor management low morale, excessive ministerial control and disregard for professional opinion. A government shall apply solutions in three parts.

- a. The immediate implementation of short-term management contracts/agreements with reputable international firms to run such corporations, and in the interim
- b. Prepare to privatize them along the lines of NPC's cautious privatization policy.
- c. Liberalize the relevant sectors to break any existing or future monopolies/oligopolies thus bringing efficient service to customers at lower prices.

17. LEGITIMATE SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NIGERIA

The NPC and its members shall uphold the sanctity of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and affirm the prevalence of law over governmental fiat. The party holds that:

- a. Its members holding positions of power including the Head of Government and Commander-in Chief shall regard themselves as holding uh office and power in trust for the people.
- b. It shall guarantee freedom of choice and expression to all citizens
- c. An NPC' government shall promote and respect the independence of the judiciary and the federating units. The constitutional notion of the prevalence of law over government fiat has no meaning or effect without an independent judiciary.
- d. Men and women of proven ability and integrity shall be attracted to the lower and higher benches of the judiciary by the provision of attractive conditions of service.
- e. An NPC government shall ensure the quick dispensation of justice in the law courts by building more courtrooms and upholding the sait of habeas corpus. This shall also serve to decongest our prisons.
- f. The nations prison system shall be reformed to focus on reforming inmates instead of simply punishing them.

We hereby declare that the manifesto and constitution of the Nigerian Peoples Congress (NPC) conform with the provisions of the 1999 Constitution.