

THE ELISHAMA MANDATE 2019- 7 POINT

AGENDA

Rich Nation Poor People; We Are Better Than This

7-POINT AGENDA

- Security, Law and Order
- Human Capital Development
- Great, Affordable & Accessible Healthcare
- Good Governance
- Industrialisation & Infrastructure
- Women & Youth Inclusion
- Sports & Tourism

THE MANDATE

To Eradicate Extreme Poverty In Nigeria (SDG #1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere)

CRITICAL ISSUES:

- *What is Extreme Poverty? What are its Causes & Effects?*
- *Why is Nigeria 'the World Poverty Capital'?*
- *What Must Be Done?*
- *How Does Each Policy Plank of The 7-Point Agenda ERADICATE Extreme Poverty and Build Sustainable Wealth for Nigerians Now and for Future Generations?*
- The World Bank describes Extreme Poverty as a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs such as food, shelter, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, education and information.

- But extreme poverty, according to the *Multidimensional Poverty Index* is more than just the lack of money or other material resources. It has also been described as a condition where an individual lacks the opportunity to make meaningful choices that will sustainably improve his or her life.
- By this latter definition, then, it is estimated that about 1.6 billion persons live in extreme poverty globally, i.e. they subsist on \$1.25 dollars or less a day. Of this number, 85% live in rural or extremely remote areas; 29% live in sub-Saharan Africa alone – and Nigeria has been adjudged the epicenter of global poverty.
- Nelson Mandela said, “While Poverty persists, there is no true freedom”
- Mahatma Gandhi said, “Poverty is the worst form of violence”

Why So Much Poverty?

Poverty is directly related to leadership- when a nation lacks strategic and patriotic leaders, who believe in the nation and her people, such a situation will breed poverty that multiplies to extreme poverty. India used to be the centre of extreme poverty; but through strategic and patriotic leadership it created a base camp to intentionally ease herself out of this position that Nigeria has decided to inherit this year, 2018. The onus is on us to quickly work to get out of it. It is a national imperative.

The correlation between the causes and effects of extreme poverty is a vicious cycle. Extreme poverty is caused by, and in turn reinforces, the world’s biggest problems: diseases (from preventable diseases such as malaria, to epidemics such as HIV/AIDS and Ebola); child slavery, unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, official corruption and incompetence, civil conflicts (including insurgency and terrorism), trafficking in, and abuse of, drugs, human beings and weapons (from small guns to weapons of mass destruction) and climate change.

What Must Be Done?

- The *Elishama Ideh Campaign 2019* believes that true and sustainable economic and social development entails the creation of an environment and conditions in which people are able to make meaningful choices to improve their lives in the short, medium and long terms, where they can engage in healthy behaviour, feed their families, cope better with adversities, overcome their challenges and freely exercise their God-given freedoms and rights. Such conditions can only be

created by visionary leaders and diligent administrators at all levels combining and leveraging on knowledge, innovation and experience according to global best practices, with the help of an enlightened populace, as well as local and international support and resources.

Various Think tank will be created around this agenda to develop a strategic document through the vision of Dr. Elishama for Nigeria. Dr. Elishama Ideh will create these conditions through her 7-Point Agenda, as follows:

1. SECURITY, LAW AND ORDER- THINK TANK #1

Former American Secretary of State,

Colin Powell argues that “the war against terror is bound up in the war against poverty.” Nigeria is on red alert and now ranked 148 out of 163 on the Global Peace Index.

The Elishama Ideh Administration will address the issues under the following:

SECURITY: The security of lives and property is the fundamental responsibility of Government. The level of insecurity in Nigeria has increased the number of internally displaced persons (IDP) to over 3 million in various parts of the country and has bred abject poverty in the nation.

We need to retrain and train our Military and Para-military to face the threat today and secure our people. We need to raise a new army in size and quality; we need to partner with other African nations to overcome once and for all these security threats and make a history of Boko Haram and Herdsmen terrorism as America has done to ISIS.

We must discuss and decide on States Police to bring Policing closer to the people based on International Standards. We can no longer allow the loss of lives and properties to continue. We must create both job opportunities and effective policing by expanding the force with a reform system from Local to National Level. Cyber security can no longer be ignored, hence the need for population census and the administering of social security numbers. This can no longer be a debate issue as we must of necessity track and protect our people. Nigeria is grossly under policed with 53 policemen to 100, 000 Nigerians while the international standard stands at 300 police per 100, 000 persons. **NIGERIA MUST BE PROPERLY POSITIONED FOR INVESTMENT FROM MULTI-NATIONALS AND LOCAL INVESTORS WITHIN SAFE AND SECURE BORDERS**

LAW AND ORDER - Increase economic opportunities by protecting fundamental human rights. Violation of fundamental human rights is at the base of injustice. And when delayed justice - the kind that puts the rich and famous in favour above the poor - is added, it becomes a perfect alchemy for poverty.

Flora Mutahi says “In 2016’s Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), the category of Safety and Rule of Law was found to have suffered a major decline over the past 10 years in the continent. The report says that, 33 out of 54 African countries have deteriorated in Safety and Rule of Law since 2006; and 15 of these rather significantly”.

Economist Daniel Kaufmann, formerly a director at the World Bank Institute, worked out what he and his colleague Aart Kraay call the 300% dividend to explain this link. Simply that a country’s income per head rises by an approximate 300% if governance improves by one standard variation. So if the rule of law is adhered to, then the nation is on an upward trajectory in economic growth and development.

Nigeria has constantly failed to respect and honour the terms of international contracts like the case with Virgin Atlantic or the Railway lines contract that was terminated sometime past. The resultant economic hardships engendered by these actions are unquantifiable. Over 100 pilots lost their jobs because of the breach of contract between Nigeria and Virgin Atlantic. The cascading effect of this loss brought hardships in many homes.

Therefore, we will

- Build an independent judiciary and overhaul it to become e-compliant, expand its size and capacity with a view to decongesting our courts and speeding up the delivery of justice. We will also lend our weight to the current trend towards alternative dispute resolution (ADR) by supporting mediators and arbitrators to reduce the financial, time and emotional cost of the courtroom process.
- Revamp the anti-corruption agencies (EFCC, ICPC) to minimize political control, which is presently hampering their effectiveness and impartiality in the fight against graft.
- Overhaul and retool the security agencies (police, civil defence) to improve their capacity.
- Introduce state and local policing (an idea whose time has come) and build mutually-reinforcing relationships between security agencies and local communities, using both soft and hard power, with the aim not just of detecting crime, but preventing it wherever possible.

- Build a smarter security infrastructure, with increased reliance on forensic and digital detection and investigation techniques and equipment.
- Through a comprehensive programme of national reorientation, foster a society of law-abiding citizens and communities who see the security services as partners in the quest for a saner society, and support them where possible – rather than as adversaries as is presently the case.
- Co-opt the resources and considerable influence of corporate and faith-based organisations in building civic consciousness and ethics among the interests they represent and cater for.
- Reward virtue in new and innovative ways (including changing the tone and methodology of our National Honours) while sanctioning wickedness and crime in line with our values and the demands of natural and divine justice, decency and common sense.

DISCIPLINE is the base of progressive society. The Police system must be revamped and overhauled with modern systems, processes and procedures.

PUNISHMENT OF CRIME- We cannot ignore crimes and show partiality and expect a prosperous nation. We must improve and expand our Prison system. Have a unity penal code for North and South of Nigeria. We must have corruption laws and punishment spelt out for all. We must have a terrorist law that defines terrorism clearly. The 1999 Constitution must be totally overhauled and a new national constitution that protects the interest of everyone's prosperity is considered.

2. HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT- THINK TANK #2

The potential of all Nigerians must be developed to create a more civil society where every Nigerian reaches their God-given potential and are able to pursue lofty heights to attain prosperity, ridding the nation of poverty and its emblems.

The Elishama Ideh Administration will:

- Approach our human capacity development goals under the following 3 directions:

Education

Training, Retraining & Skills Acquisition

Civic Education & Positive Re-orientation

- Tailor our budgetary allocations to the size of our human-capacity development ambitions by putting our money where our mouth is i.e. allocating at least 15% to 17% of national gross domestic product (GDP) to education, training and reorientation over at least 5 years.

Education- Education must be compulsory for all up to the secondary school level, employing all forms of platforms from Day to Night schools; from E-platforms to Home schooling and part time schooling. No child will be allowed on the streets as a policy. Parents will be punished for children found on the streets. The vision of raising each Nigerian child as an icon of national pride with the capacity to contribute to the nation and as well pursue their dreams is what we will pursue. Consequently, more schools will be built and secured for our future leaders. Education will be practical, applicable, informative and nationalistic. We will create a vibrant teachers' training system using online and offline approaches to cover the teaching gap in order to put our educational system back on the map and also make it competitive, with great accent on science and mathematics.

Pre-School& Primary:

- Make public primary schools attractive once again to parents and pupils by revamping the early school curriculum to replicate what currently internationally acceptable. Our schools will combine the use of highly qualified teachers and the best instructional materials with the creation of environments and experiences that capture the imagination and inspire children to think of possibilities beyond their immediate circumstances. EDUCATION MUST BE APPLICABLE AND NOT JUST INFORMATION BASED.
- Our earliest schools will teach our children to use their heads and hands in equal measure, with a view to building a generation of thinkers and doers.
- Inculcate the values of civic responsibility, character, leadership, solidarity, respect for authority, self-esteem, sportsmanship and the fear of God as soon as our children are old enough to appreciate these lessons and to begin internalizing them.
- Set up a system in which corporate organisations will complement government's efforts in the upgrading of the public school system by supporting them in a number of key areas – in exchange for an attractive package of incentives.

Secondary:

- Under our administration, the secondary school curriculum will lay heavy emphasis on the ***STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)*** model, with a view to churning out professionals capable of meeting the manpower needs of a modern and growing economy, and competing successfully in the 21st century marketplace of goods, services, information and ideas.
- We believe no student is entirely without innate potential. Oftentimes, however, the school system – and societal pressure – tries to steer him or her in a direction for which he/she is not suited, with terrible results for the child and the society at large. Experience has shown that not all children will be high-flying academic scholars; some will manifest outstanding skills in artistic and creative activities, while others will show extraordinary aptitude for sports. All these skill sets will be honed at this level, and encouraged with a wide range of incentives – including scholarships and prizes. Teachers must be re-orientated to set up a new standard without exam malpractices.

Tertiary:

- Our tertiary educational curriculum will be revamped with a view to turning out job creators and entrepreneurs, rather than job-seekers. Government will intervene, through the National Universities Commission and the Polytechnics Commission, to ensure that course content in our institutions of higher learning is rich in practical content, so as to equip our graduates with marketable skills. The national must adopt a Policy of e-learning to cover the gap of the seemingly population that need a Universal education. Nigeria must partner with the best of Universities in America, Europe and Asia to extend their campuses to Nigeria to bridge the gap.

Training

- For many Nigerians, education begins and ends within the four walls of the classroom. For this reason, many enter the world of formal employment with few or outdated skills. We will, in conjunction with the private sector and our foreign development partners, create a robust system of on-the-job training and retraining for Nigerians desirous of expanding their horizons beyond school and beyond the demands of their current jobs.
- The advent of e-learning has removed the barrier of distance, inaccessibility and lack of time as limiting factors in the quest for further training, and given people – especially older people and busy professionals, but also younger people wanting to learn on the go – a distinct advantage. We will maximize this advantage to the fullest in our training policies, in concert with relevant stakeholders. We need to upgrade our professionals to reduce international interferences in our national production. Nigerian professionals must be able to be responsible for Nigeria progress. For example; Nigeria should be able to build their roads, railways and structure with International

standard. Competence is critical and competitiveness will be encouraged following the International Standards to produce jobs and opportunities.

Civic Education & Positive Reorientation- *Revamping Discipline and executing a National orientation focused on the Nigerian vision above tribal or ethnic vision. We must build up a generation of disciplined people with disciplined expertise to create an environment that promotes personal and collective prosperity.*

- Nigerians are believed to be amongst the most corrupt, most unruly and most unpatriotic citizens in the world. This unflattering portrait of our national character, which has some grain of truth in it (thanks to years of misgovernance, Military interferences, bad politics and the prevalence of anachronistic cultural beliefs), presents a challenge to any government desirous of mobilizing its populace in support of a national cause.
- It is a challenge the Elishama Ideh Administration intends to tackle head-on, with an aggressive campaign aimed at awakening the NATIONALIST SPIRIT OF NIGERIANS whatever their socio-cultural background or religious affiliation. This effort will be led by a cabinet-rank Minister of National Orientation whose ministry will be tasked with implementing our government's unique narrative about Nigeria's illustrious past, her rich cultural heritage, her natural beauty, the vibrancy, creativity and innovativeness of our people (especially our youth), her victories on the international stage (especially in sports, literature, the visual arts and entertainment) and her promising future – whose foundation is being laid by the government of Dr. Elishama Rosemary Ideh.
- To this end, the system and criteria for conferring National Honours on deserving Nigerians – which seems to have become the exclusive preserve of prominent politicians, business tycoons, top academicians and clergy, celebrities, etc. – will be revised and expanded to include ordinary Nigerians (including youths, children and rural dwellers) who have gone beyond the call of duty in the face of difficult odds. A special national honours committee will identify such outstanding individuals according to laid-down criteria; the President and her spouse will personally confer their award in a brilliant and colourful gala night, and their stories will be told in a most innovative manner, using all available media platforms, as a way of inspiring all Nigerians, especially the next generations, to emulate the honoree for national greatness.

3. GREAT, AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE- THINK TANK #3

It was Patch Adams that said, "Excellence in health means devoting your life to ending Poverty". There is a need to create a comprehensive humanitarian healthcare system that is affordable and accessible. Our position in global Healthcare is very poor standing at #136 out of 137 in the

world. This is a national disgrace that must be reversed. We must quickly put an end to the consistency with which human lives are being wasted in the nation. This is totally unacceptable. It is not right. Leadership must find workable solutions to these critical issues. We need adequate hospitals across the country in various sizes. Doctor Home Calls and e-response policies should form a significant part of a larger plan to address the reality of population explosion. Moreover, we lack the required number of doctors, healthcare practitioners and other medical personnel to handle this swell in numbers, thus threatening the achievability of accessibility to affordable and great medical care with first world standards.

- Many families have become impoverished because of lack of access to affordable medical care. We see them begging on the streets for assistance with payment of hospital bills. Health, they say, is wealth. There is a direct correlation between the health of a nation's citizens and its level of material prosperity and social cohesion. As a critical Pillar of global competitiveness, this key factor is a major priority for the Elishama Ideh Administration. **We will exponentially increase our investment in primary healthcare by ensuring that, within our first tenure, each LG ward in this country has a well-equipped clinic and maternity centre staffed with competent personnel.** Common but easily-preventable and treatable killers like malaria and typhoid, etc will be tackled with greater vigour than ever before, along with a concerted effort to sensitize people on personal hygiene and public sanitation – as well as a more widespread distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets – as precautions against disease-carrying germs.
- *We will also work to reverse the alarming brain drain that keeps depleting the medical profession in Nigeria of its best hands, by working both with the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), the universities and research institutions (which we will fund afresh, using monies currently being frittered away on extraneous projects with no bearing whatsoever on the people's welfare, as well as grants from our development partners abroad) as incentives to bring some of our best doctors and specialists home from the Diaspora.*
- We will institute a student loan and scholarship schemes for brilliant, but indigent students in the medical sciences with a view to building a pool of home-grown expertise that will drive our quest to reverse the expensive practice of medical tourism among our people.
- We will push for the tougher enforcement of our anti-medical malpractice laws in our statute books, in a bid to end inhumane practices by medical institutions, especially in response to emergencies.

4. GOOD GOVERNANCE- THINK TANK #4

Government is responsible for creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive and one in which job opportunities can be found. She is responsible for monetary and fiscal policies that

will create accessibility and wealth for all. The overregulation of businesses, high taxes, high interest rates and high inflation need to be reversed to create an investment attractive environment for Nigeria. Government must create an environment that encourages and stimulates production. Also in government's purview is the responsibility for creating an industrialized environment driven by innovation and technology, to make Nigeria a hub of exportation to other African nations and advance our large Market.

The Elishama Ideh administration intends to provide good governance for all Nigerians based on the following indices:

- ***Monetary and Fiscal Policy*** must be revised, revamped and re-evaluated to focus on our national development and the interest of our people. The interest rates at 23-26% for the citizens is incredulous and the double digit inflation is destructive for business. We need new Monetary and Fiscal policies which must have a human face and has a national development interest that will attract businesses and investors from small scale to large scale industries.
- ***Reviving our Institutions and Civil service-*** Our Nigeria civil service and Institutions used to be the envy of Africa in the early 70s. Today, the Institutions and civil service are struggling and corruption is now pervasive. Patriotism needs to be restored and must be at the heart of our civil service, so also is the commitment to become a productive society void of tribalism and nepotic tendencies.
- ***Power revolution is the key-*** The issue of power supply has become the bane of Nigeria and has become our Achilles heels almost forever. This Government will be committed to expanding the Power system to cover license for other forms of production from Solar, hydro, bio and nuclear energy to produce enough power for all Nigerians.
- ***Creation of Enabling Atmosphere for Business:*** Business regulation and activities must have a striving environment to expand and increase. On the domestic front, government will institute a comprehensive system of incentives and competitiveness in the national space (but also a new and more rigorous regime of standards, as well as enforcement of anti-monopoly laws) in a bid to engage the private sector for more rapid economic growth. In particular, the administration will put its weight behind the growth and expansion of small and medium scale cottage industries that will increase productivity, as they already account for nearly 70% of economic activities in Nigeria. On the foreign front, government will follow a dual track – bilateral and multilateral. On the bilateral track, government will review all trade agreements with our foreign partners – be they governments, inter-governmental agencies or multinational conglomerates – on a case-by-case basis, and one on its own merits as far as our national interest is concerned. Multinationals which demonstrate a willingness to a) manufacture with considerable local input in terms of raw material and manpower;

b) abide by environmental regulations, impact-assessment reports and labour laws; c) contribute to the overall development of their catchment areas, shall be handsomely encouraged. We shall impose higher tariffs – or even waivers – on imports where necessary, according to our needs. On the multilateral front, we shall review our package of benefits, privileges and obligations under treaties such as ECOWAS, the African Development Bank, and the recently-signed African Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) in a way that ensures wider markets for our products and services while also avoiding the usual pitfalls associated with open borders and the free movement of people and goods – such as dumping, illegal migration, etc.

- ***Entertainment Industry-*** We need to revamp this Industry to represent the values of the nation better and encourage the potentials in the industry to contribute effectively to our national GDP and create the Nigeria culture that we reduce the divisiveness. Only those with such focus will be encouraged above others by the Federal Government with various incentives.
- ***Affordable Housing:*** Any effort to eliminate extreme poverty that does not take cognizance of housing as a key component of wealth-creation is an exercise in futility. Therefore, the Elishama Ideh administration will declare a state of emergency in the housing sector in the first year of our assumption. We will, in partnership with the private sector and development partners local and foreign, explore ways to incorporate an affordable and credible system of loans, mortgages and other mutually beneficial financial packages in a bid to ensure that for the short, medium and long terms, housing can take its rightful place as one of the most visible signs of upward social mobility in our country – especially among young and educated professionals. What happened in the GSM telecoms sector in Nigeria will happen in the housing sector under Elishama’s watch.
- ***Environmental Protection:*** Protection of environment for the promotion of human prosperity is required and must be balanced with climate challenges of erosion and flooding. Our waste management system must be managed for our advantage and not disadvantage.
- Nigeria is no exception to the corrosive effects of climate; we are already seeing the increased ferocity of floods in some parts of the country, and more rapid deforestation – with their devastating human impact. Oil pollution and ineffective waste disposal, especially in the Niger Delta and in most of our urban areas, lay waste to our farmlands and waterways. Under Dr. Ideh, the federal Ministry of the Environment will work with relevant stakeholders to institute a strict regime of environmental regulation for all economic players, big and small. Along with cleaner air and waters, the preservation of our natural environment – including forest and marine reserves, and rare wildlife will be managed effectively with the need to balance environment and human life – will have a multiplier effect, not only on citizens’ public health, but on the nation’s tourism profile and fortunes, and we intend to mine these possibilities to the fullest.

- ***Social Welfare:*** A social welfare system will be created for various levels of human transitions. The rising number of vulnerable persons in our society is a humanitarian crisis, and a source of concern for Dr. Ideh and her team. It is also a wake-up call that we intend to respond to in a decisive manner, with an innovative social welfare programme to be funded from a variety of equally innovative sources of engagement and business initiatives between government and private sector players. The aged, in particular, will be given pride of place in social situations. As a government, we will demonstrate care and honour of the aged at every level. As Africans with a tradition of respect for our elders, we will reverse our elders' waning fortunes and societal influence as a matter of policy. The same goes for our widows and orphans. (See '***Women and Youths Inclusion***' below).

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5. INDUSTRIALISATION & INFRASTRUCTURE- THINK TANK #5

- ***Our cardinal Industries will be focused on Agriculture products as the main feed of our Industrialisation mission. We will exploit the whole value chain of products and process all produce and minerals found in each state to their highest levels. States must be empowered to regulate industries within them in partnership with the Federal government whilst private concerns are encouraged to be the key owners. Today, we lose so much from exporting our raw materials without processing them. For example, years ago it was reported that Nigeria lost 900% for not processing her Cocoa products to the highest levels. Imagine the products from Cassava, from crude oil. Imagine the staggering amount of capital we leave on the table owing to our inability to process products. With industrialisation, we would have found for the nation a cash cow that will account for 70% of our GDP. (The Think tank will think through various paths to make this a possibility.)***
- While the infrastructural development must be affordable, accessible and sufficient for the population expansion Nigeria is experiencing in the 21st century. Industrialisation and Infrastructure are no longer mysteries to mankind and must not be a mystery to Nigeria.
- Ever since the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, nations with advanced technologies have not only achieved a revolution in their living standards and quality of life, but they have also gained supremacy over societies without such technologies.
- The Elishama Ideh Campaign believes that Nigeria's economic progress – and advances in key economic sectors such as agriculture – will depend on how diligently we deploy technology in our activities and innovation centres will be opened to encourage the dreams of many Nigeria. Cottage Industries will be encouraged whilst larger industries will be set up to increase job creation and massive exportation.

- Experts say greater investment in telecommunications and transportation (roads, rail and waterways in particular) to name just two key areas of opportunity, can propel Nigeria's economy into the top 20 in the world by 2050. The profile at present presents a far different picture. There are too many gaps and areas of deficit. We intend to bridge those gaps and plug those deficits.
- Therefore, we will implement our Industrialization and Infrastructure Master plan as contained in our manifesto with a view to developing an industrial base for our economic activities –by developing homegrown technologies that serve our primary needs, and by exporting relevant technologies on acceptable terms.
- Within our means, and with the help of our development partners, we will invest heavily in new rail infrastructure and machinery to relieve the current pressure on our highways as concerns the movement of heavy-duty goods; we will expand the network of rural roads – building new ones where possible and tarring or grading existing ones so as to ease the movement of goods such as farm produce to urban or distant markets.
- Processing and storage are key components of any agricultural and food-security value-chain, but they have been ignored by successive administrations in this country. Storage silos, warehouses, mills, etc which were such a sight on our rural landscape a few decades ago are now a rare sight today. Our administration will revive moribund ones and construct new ones, as our agriculture gradually regains its pride of place in our national scheme of things.
- We do not subscribe to the view that our food security challenges will be automatically solved if we all go back to the farm. The solution, rather, would be to make the most of what we are producing at present. As we say in the Campaign, the solution to the problem of rotting tomatoes in Benue State is not MORE tomatoes, but storage and processing.
- The idea of an oil-exporting nation without a single functional refinery is not only absurd, but a scandal for which we should hang our heads in shame. It is one of the most glaring examples of our failings as a nation. Our government will do its utmost to ensure the rehabilitation of our refineries to their former capacity – while also encouraging private investors to come on board by building new ones, with the help of generous incentives. The proposed Dangote Refinery in Lagos State (to be completed in 2019) will hopefully serve as a template for would-be investors in this critical area.

6. WOMEN & YOUTH INCLUSION- *We have left women and Youth from the mainstream of leadership for too long. Even with the affirmation action women inclusion in leadership has been abysmal. We must increase women and Youth participation in leadership and decision making in*

Nigeria. We must push for a policy of participation and decision making for competent women and youths to be involved in our government at all levels in a deliberate way. We must give an even play field for active competitiveness and opportunity for all Nigeria and never exclude women and youths.

a) Women

- **Women and Youth leadership can no longer be ignored in the development plan of Nigeria since they represent over 49% and 65% respectively of the population. The production value of women and Youths will be encouraged.** Unlike our current leader, Elishama Ideh and her team do not subscribe to the archaic notion that a woman's place is in 'the other room.' The mere fact of Dr. Ideh's undoubted pedigree in business, social entrepreneurship and advocacy (and, of course this divinely-arranged presidential run) speaks volumes about the power and potentials of the feminine gender in today's world, and in particular the potential of a visionary and inspired woman such as Elishama Ideh to birth the New Nigeria of our dream.
- As Elishama herself mentioned during her epoch-making presidential declaration speech in Abuja, women are the unsung heroes of our long and chequered evolution as a society over the centuries, and in particular since the dawn of our nationhood as Nigerians.
- In her administration, however, women will be unsung no more. They will be front and centre in her quest to build an inclusive and equitable society.
- How so? Government will formulate and implement a deliberate policy of affirmative action aimed not just at empowering women in their traditional roles as wives, mothers and caregivers, but also at strategically positioning deserving women to compete favorably for opportunities in education at all levels, business, the public service, the professions, academia and politics / government.
- In conjunction with Private sector; our government will benchmark and support women-oriented initiatives that will protect the potentials and leadership capabilities of all females with special emphasis on widows, the girl-child, indigent women and victims of age-long but inhuman cultural practices.

b) Youths- Nigeria is opportune like India to have a large population of Youths. Our Youths must be activated to boldly lead in this era. We must maximize the potentials of our Youths to the highest level of performance and to lofty heights attain like we say in our national anthem. Our Youths must be

structured in a way to reach their potential through vigorous training, retraining and education required to provide productive solution for Nigeria and thereby achieve their dreams.

Successive administrations in our country have paid no more than lip service to the welfare, education, security and proper orientation of our young people. This shall no longer be the case in the coming Elishama Era.

- The educational policy of the Elishama administration will, as mentioned, be geared towards the development of marketable skills relevant to the current and prospective job market, as well as entrepreneurial skills designed to breed the next innovator of this world like Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala; Ayokunle Adeniran, a mechanical design engineer based in the United States. The Nepalese Iron, also known as “Iron Rhino; Professor Oyekunle Olukotun a Nigerian professor at Stanford University; and Chinedu Echeruo, a former analyst at investment bank and hedge fund- HopStop is his brainchild.
- The concept of respect for the dignity of labour and delayed gratification among our youths is fast dying out, as they see people of questionable character amassing unimaginable wealth apparently with no visible means of income, while diligent and law-abiding citizens struggle to get by, and decide to emulate the former. This paradigm of success without process will be challenged by Elishama’s innovative orientation programme.
- No more will allow our young people brave the high seas, or risk their precious lives in the scorching Sahara desert in search of some European Eldorado without offering them viable alternatives here at home. As they see that we are fighting as hard as they are to secure their futures, we’re confident that they will buy into our programmes and policies.
- We will re-jig the down-defunct YOUWIN scheme instituted by the past administration in our effort to restructure our support for young entrepreneurs and make it more competitive. We will eliminate its inadequacies and maximize its possibilities for as many young entrepreneurs as we can – for we see it as a vehicle for the expansion of the circle of opportunity and prosperity for our youths.

c) People Living with Disability

- The Elishama 2019 mandate lives by one simple and key watchword: INCLUSION. Nobody will be left behind, or left out. That includes our fellow citizens living with disability.
- Elishama has always maintained that Nigeria needs a strong and comprehensive disability law that not only protects the rights of the differently-able, but creates a conducive environment for them to live and function effectively as equal members of society, beginning with the provision and

maintenance of user-friendly infrastructure for people living with disability. We will provide these facilities at strategic locations as a matter of policy.

- As President, Dr. Elishama will push for the enactment of laws by working with Legislative arm of Government and the domestication of international conventions in this regard.

- For people with mental challenges, we will build or maintain special, well-equipped and well-staff sanatoriums, psychiatric clinics and other mental health institutions in order to combat what is fast becoming a major public health crisis.

- As much as we believe that mental illness is not a crime on the part of the affected, allowing them to roam the streets at will not only dehumanizes them, but it also portrays our society as uncivilized and lacking compassion. Mentally ill persons deserve the best of specialized care suitable to their respective conditions. Within the limits of its resources, the Elishama Ideh administration will provide it.

7. **SPORTS AND TOURISM**

SPORTS INDUSTRY- Activate the sports industry to give our youth the space to earn a living through sports- sports at all levels and compete to the highest level possible. We need to expand the Sports industry with adequate leadership that can harness the talents amongst our Youths.

All through history, sports, physical activities and exercising have been important elements that are used to drive and boost the health, well-being and social cohesion of people within and beyond nations. Not only was this an integral part of the make-up of many of our traditional societies complete with wrestling festivals and the likes, but in also recognising the importance of these activities, some of the earliest Nigerian primary, secondary and tertiary schools were fitted with very elaborate sporting facilities even as provision was made for periodic competitions at all levels.

The importance of sports to national development is therefore so crucial and if elected into government, we will drive it in three crucial ways, among others:

1. Sports and the nation: Sports would be deliberately and systematically used to promote and drive national unity and cohesion, as well as additional elements of general human well-being, primary healthcare and the creative and competitive engagement of our people from childhood through adulthood and on to the aged.

2. Sports and demographics: Given the reality of our demographic situation where children and youth make up some two thirds of our population, we will drive a very vigorous sports programme to engage this segment of our population very robustly as creative assets and not liabilities.

3. Sports as Business: Across the world today, sports is a major business stream and revenue earner. We will encourage, sustain and expand on steps to build our sporting business architecture in such a way as to encourage very solid business systems to be put in place and activated to tap the wealth that is abundant and realisable through a proper harnessing of our sports potentials.

Overall, our commitment is to ensure the emergence of an improved sporting order wherein there is ample synergy between the government, sporting associations, investors, promoters, stakeholders and interests, and with all of these translating into well-debated, reasoned, specific and measurable progress milestones. Among other initiatives, we will encourage the organisation of very robust activities at all levels and if elected, our administration would provide matching grants, based on global best practices, terms and conditions, to states and local governments that demonstrate a practical commitment to growing their sports infrastructure and capacities.

Tourism- AS A MEANS TO CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITY IN THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY.

That the Nigerian tourism market is a veritable goldmine that is waiting to be fully tapped is an understatement. Given the richness of our flora and fauna, the diversity of our climate and weather systems and the variety inherent in our human, animal, horticultural and marine endowments, it is clear that what remains is to encourage the right mix of policies and implementation modules to get our tourist gold out. Taxes will be reduced to minimal to jump start the economy and open the doors to training, retraining and expertise in various languages to attract holiday makers and Investor in our viable Tourist opportunity.

If elected, our administration would focus on a proper audit of our tourist endowments, the provision of the right legal and fiscal arrangement to stimulate growth in this area and the provision of support infrastructure and security and information systems that are required to drive growth in the sector.

Not to be left out would be a vigorous drive to boost intra-national tourism through the associated spin-offs that would come from our ancillary activities at unifying our people and driving a renescent campaign for Nigerians themselves to love one another, visit each other, and to vigorously, safely and joyfully experience and explore the vast range of tourism delights that are available in-country. Satisfied Nigerian tourists will sell the pleasures they have experienced in these areas to others.