

MANIFESTO

of the

AJAYI

ALFRED AGBOOLA

CANDIDATE OF THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY
FOR THE NOVEMBER 16th, 2024

GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION IN
ONDO STATE



...POWER TO THE PEOPLE



PREAMBLE



The primary objective of governance is the safety and welfare of the people. This avowed principle of governance has been denied the people of Ondo State in the last eight years as they have been exploited, oppressed and impoverished. From the above, there is an urgent need to rescue and redeem our people.

This manifesto, therefore, intends to address the challenges facing the state and proffer solutions to the myriads of problems foisted on us by the present APC-led administration in the last eight years. The people of this state cannot afford to take a further step on this trajectory journey. To this end, I, Hon. Alfred Agboola Ajayi, humbly offer to serve the people of the state as their next governor with passion, integrity and dedication to a new Ondo State.





OUR VISION & MISSION



VISION

To transform Ondo State into a beacon of sustainable economic development, where modern infrastructure, efficient transportation, a vibrant marine and blue economy, thriving agriculture, robust industrialisation, quality education, affordable health care, comprehensive human development and adequate security, reign supreme to ensure a prosperous and inclusive society for all residents.

MISSION

To harness the state's abundant human and material resources to actualise the above vision, thereby rescuing our people from the shackles of poverty, oppression, deprivation and insecurity so that the sun can shine again in Ondo State.

The new PDP administration in the state will diligently pursue the following Seven Point Agenda to liberate the state from the strangulating hold of the APC administration in the last eight years that have impoverished the citizens, created massive insecurity in the land and spread hunger in an unknown dimension to our people.





THE SEVEN POINT AGENDA



1



SECURITY



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● SECURITY

Our primary objective is to secure the lives and properties of Ondo State citizens and create an environment that allows all legitimate human endeavours to be conducted without let or hindrance so that we can avert the type of ugly situation that occurred in St. Francis Catholic Church, Owo, where over 40 worshippers were killed and several others injured. Our policy on security shall seek to achieve the following:

Enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies particularly Amotekun, Forest Guards, Vigilantes, and Traditional Hunters through advanced training and provision of appropriate equipment.

With the cooperative engagement of traditional rulers, religious leaders, and other stakeholders implement community policing and neighborhood watch programs to improve public safety.

Deploy modern surveillance and intelligence gathering technologies to effectively monitor hotspots and vulnerable areas such as forest reserves and farms with a view to preventing and responding to crime appropriately.



2



AGRICULTURE



Agriculture

Agriculture remains the mainstay of the state's economy. Food is a necessity of life, and the failure or inability of any government to ensure the production of the bulk of what its citizens eat is the beginning of economic and social woes. Fortunately, Ondo State boasts of a large mass of arable land that can sustain massive agriculture. Our policy on agriculture will be anchored on the following to promote self-sufficiency in food production to meet the United Nations Food Security policy:



Massive production of food to immediately end hunger in the state by purchasing and distributing high yield seeds, seedlings and inputs to farmers.



Encouragement of all households to farm in their immediate environment and anywhere legally permissible



Agriculture (Cont'd)



Provide training and support for farmers to adopt modern farming techniques and technologies by recruiting more agricultural extension officers (AEOs) from the immediate local government areas.



Provisions of incentives to investors to establish agro-processing industries in order to add value to agricultural products, reduce post-harvest losses, create jobs for the youths and grow the economy of the state.



Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices for long-term productivity by ensuring the availability of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs at subsidized rates.



Provision of tractors and other agricultural equipment for farmers' use at subsidized rates.



Establishment of a procurement agency that will provide ready market for all agricultural produce to ensure that farmers are encouraged to produce beyond their subsistence level.



Encouragement of investors to participate in large scale farming, animal husbandry, poultry and aquaculture by providing access to land and enabling environment.



Agriculture (Cont'd)



Aggressive drive for massive production of cocoa and oil palm in the state.



Massive rice production will be prioritised in the three (3) Senatorial Districts to meet local, national and export needs.



Resuscitating farm settlements and plantations to enhance massive agricultural productivity.



2.1 Forestry

01

To meet our obligations on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), all existing MOUs on the State forestry and agroforestry will be reviewed to ensure the system meets its protection, conservation and biodiversity preservation mandate.

02

A review of forestry policies, laws and recent acquisitions to guarantee sustainable sector development and for the protection of the interest of the people of the state.

03

The establishment of the Forest Community Development Agency (FCDA) to implement the reviewed forestry policies and laws to address issues such as enclaves, encroachment, conflicts and sustainable community management.

04

Engagement of the private sector in forestry development and growth to ensure sustainable economic maximisation of forests through public-private partnership.

05

Enforcement of Tree Planting Policy in the state to ensure regeneration of the forest.

06

Integration of trees and shrubs into agricultural landscapes to improve biodiversity and sustainability.



3



...POWER TO THE PEOPLE

EDUCATION



Education



01

Qualitative education is needed for economic development, social equity, health improvement, civic engagement, technological advancement and cultural preservation for sustainable development.

02

To achieve a desirable workforce suitable for a knowledge-driven economy, the input from the primary and secondary schools must be well-prepared; the quality of input to the tertiary institutions will determine the quality of their output.

03

In this regard, premiums will be placed on the quality of curricula and delivery at the primary and secondary levels. Investing in quality education is essential for the holistic development of Ondo State, fostering an environment where individuals can thrive and contribute positively to their communities, which had waned in the last eight years. The narrative must change.

04

With reference to educational infrastructure development in the state, we should recall that Dr Olusegun Agagu (PDP) built 865 6-model classroom blocks for primary schools across the state, while Dr Olusegun Mimiko (PDP) constructed 51 mega school buildings across the state.

05

Since the advent of the APC government – eight years running – there has been no addition to the number of model classroom blocks or mega school buildings and no innovation of their own! Everything has stood still.



3.1 Infrastructure Upgrade



Enumeration of schools and education institutions in the state, to know the available infrastructure and capacities.

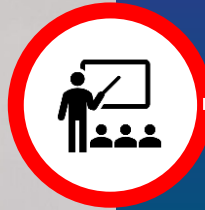


Increase and improve classrooms and other buildings for primary, secondary and tertiary institutions within the state



Provision of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to improve access, quality and delivery of teaching.

3.2 Professional and Career Development of Teachers and Educational Staff



Improvement of the welfare of retired and serving teachers, ensuring that private sector teachers are not left out by seeing that licensed school operators meet the minimum welfare standard for employees that the state would set.



Prompt payment of salaries and other emoluments will be ensured.



Invigoration of continuous training in the education sector for performance enhancement.

3.3 Basic and Senior Secondary Education



Free and compulsory education at the primary and junior secondary levels for all.

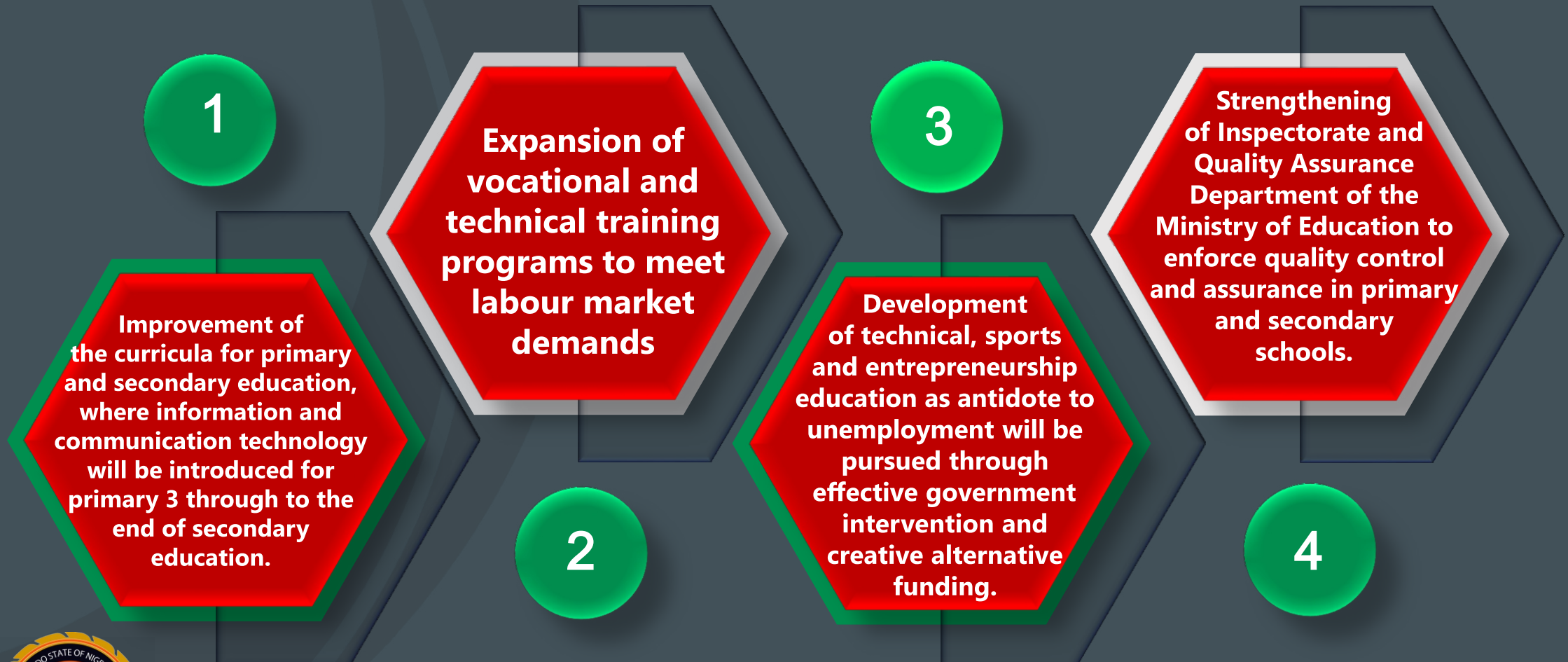


Particular attention and incentives will be accorded to the education of girl-child and the physically challenged.



Payment for National Examination Council (NECO) examinations for all Senior Secondary students.

3.4 Improved Curricula and Control Mechanism



● 3.5 Tertiary Education



The government will ensure that education at this level is well funded through increased budget allocation.

Encouragement of increase in IGR through sellable research, entrepreneurship, agriculture, manufacturing activities and government patronage of their Consultancy outfits, etc.

Affordable tuitions to be negotiated with the stakeholders.



Improvement in the existing scholarship awards and bursary for students.

Creation of enabling environment for the industry to interface with tertiary institutions within the state for industry-driven research and development.

Training and development of technical workforce now dwindling, will be resuscitated to address unemployment in the state.



4

HEALTH



● Health

Our healthcare system in Ondo State has declined under the current administration. With so many human resources that are almost evenly spread across that state, Ondo State can do better than we are currently doing.

In the contemporary economy, human capital is the driving force, particularly in a knowledge-driven economy envisioned in Ondo State.

The state's human capital development principles will be overhauled to create a skilled workforce with modern technology and entrepreneurship tools.

1

2



5

Investing in quality healthcare is crucial for the overall development and prosperity of Ondo State. It will foster a healthier, more productive, and equitable society, paving the way for sustainable growth and development.

7

The existing policy (primary, secondary, and tertiary health institutions), structure, and health care delivery in the state will be reviewed to strengthen and improve services compatible with the 21st century. Particular attention will be paid to Primary Health Centres across the state as a focus of excellent and affordable healthcare delivery.

● Health (Cont'd)



*We desire to take this to **greater heights** with the following policy measures:*



Government shall provide a primary health centre in each of the 203 wards in the state to be staffed by trained and dedicated medical personnel.



Government shall ensure the provision of essential drugs, hospital consumables and laboratory services to patients at affordable costs in all public medical facilities across the state.



Establish Mother and Child hospitals in the other two senatorial districts within the first three years of the administration.



Government shall partner with investors to establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing company in Ondo state to produce drugs for sale to government institutions and the public.



● Health (Cont'd)



Aggressive public enlightenment shall be carried out on the need to maintain healthy environment and attitudinal change to embrace healthy civilized conduct in public such as avoiding defecation in the open and indiscriminate disposal of wastes in particular plastic and other solid materials.



Exploration of partnership with development partners, donor agencies, Nigerians in diaspora, religious bodies and other organizations.



Introduction of a drug revolving fund to guarantee the availability of drugs and essential supplies in health facilities across the state.



● Health (Cont'd)



Government shall endeavour to fill existing vacancies in hospitals and health centres across the state.



Government shall put in place improved system of refereeing patients from the health centres to the nearby secondary and tertiary health facilities.



Establishment of a health care trust fund to be financed by government, private sector, development partners, donor agencies, foreign governments and Nigerians in the diaspora for the drug revolving funding and the purchase of hospital equipment and supplies.



The Health Insurance Scheme will be implemented state-wide to provide affordable health care.



5

INFRASTRUCTURE, INDUSTRY AND MARINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

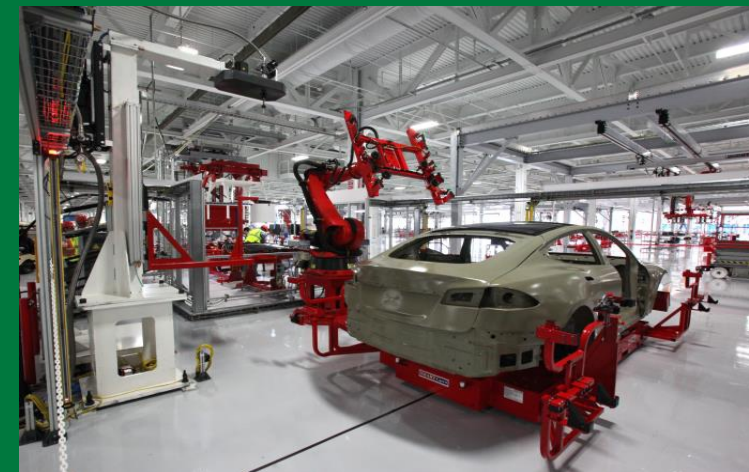


Infrastructure, Industry And Marine Economic Development



- There is a huge infrastructural deficit and poor industrial output in the state. This calls for an urgent need to pay aggressive attention to the construction of more roads, improvement of waterways and the construction of rail network; provision of rural and urban electrification; enhancement and improvement in clean and pipe-borne water delivery, all of which are necessary superstructures for sustainable industrial growth and marine economic development.
- Our government shall embark on correcting the infrastructural deficits in the state to make life liveable for citizens of the state and attract the needed investments to the state with the view to creating jobs, growing the IGR and reversing the status of the state from being a civil service state to an industrial hub.
- Therefore, we envisage a robust economy in the next four years where movement of humans and goods within and outside the state would greatly increase.

To achieve a seamless transition, critical infrastructure such as the following would be provided:



5.1 Road Infrastructure

- Construction and upgrading of essential public facilities such as intra city roads, completion of all abandoned road projects across the state particularly projects in Akure, Ondo, Owo, Okitipupa, and Ikare.
- Expansion and modernization of road networks to ensure connectivity between urban and rural areas. In this regard, the new Ondo State government will vigorously pursue the inclusion of the dualisation of the Ilesha – Akure – Owo, Akure – Ondo – Ore Federal roads in the 2026 national budget.
- Equally, the government will pursue the inclusion of the dualisation of the Owo – Ikare – Isua and reconstruction of Ipele – Isua Federal roads in the 2027 national budget. There is need for this because the share of the state over the years in the national budgets has been very negligible and this must change.



● 5.2 Transportation

- Assist the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) to access facilities at single digit interest rate to acquire new vehicles to provide efficient and accessible public transport systems for citizens of the state.
- Development of safe and efficient sea transport facilities to support trade and tourism particularly in the Southern Senatorial District.
- Development of sustainable and reliable energy solutions to ensure consistent power supply to drive SMEs. In this regard, government will deplore independent renewable energy systems such as Solar, Windmill and Biomass to provide electricity to rural and remote communities in the state.
- Integrate smart city technologies to enhance urban management and service delivery.
- Establishment of Sunshine Airline to fly between Ondo State and other major cities in Nigeria.



● 5.3 Industrialization & Commerce



Embarkment on national and international tours to market the investment potentials of the state in agriculture, oil and gas, and solid minerals to investors.

Development of existing industrial park and creation of new ones in all the Senatorial Districts of the state to attract domestic and foreign investments.

Facilitation of access to finance and resources for industrial enterprises and startups.

Implementation of policies that foster innovation, research and development in key industries.

Supporting the growth of small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) by providing access to finance, training, and resources.

Enhancement of market infrastructure and logistics to facilitate trade and boost economic activities.

Attracting local and foreign investments to add value to our agricultural products, abundant oil and gas resources and solid minerals.



● 5.4 Water Supply Systems

- Rejuvenation of the State Water Management Board to provide portable water for all.
- With the vast coastline, an Ondo Pipeline Company (OPC) will be established for the sole purpose of desalination of seawater and its purification, storing, pumping to transfer and sell to Ondo State Water Management Board (OSWMB) which will have giant reservoirs in cities, towns and rural areas that would be reticulated and sold to households at reasonable and economic rate. OPC will also be able to produce salt as a by-product of the process. The operation of OPC will reduce the stress and rapid depletion of our groundwater.
- A modular reticulation system will be made for every settlement with more than two thousand residents. Cities, towns, and urban centres will have more extensive water reticulation systems.
- This will reduce the pressure on underground water consumption, revitalising the use of the hydro-dams that dot the state.



● 5.5 Sanitation



i. Contractors handling waste collection and disposal will be required to use appropriate vehicles that will not spill the waste collected on the journey to the dump sites.

ii. Market, Landlords and Residents Associations will be critical stakeholders to ensure that wastes are collected and disposed at the authorized locations.

iii. Government will partner with investors to convert wastes in the state to wealth.

iv. Sanitation facilities will be provided for by the state in partnership with stakeholders for the promotion of healthy living and hygiene.



v. The state rural and urban planning and development agency will work with the reinvigorated State Waste Management Board and any other relevant body to ensure that all new buildings are fitted with adequate sanitary facilities.



● 5.6 Development of Sustainable Energy Solutions



Enacting laws that will allow the state to generate and distribute electricity.

01

The state will set up the Sustainable Power Development Master Plan and Power Policy to run the system effectively.

02

Ondo State Power Regulatory Authority (OSPRA) will be established to register/license investors with the authority to generate and distribute electricity within the state.

03



04

The abundant renewable energy (solar energy, wind and waste) in the state will be used to generate electricity for the residents particularly in the rural areas.

05

Segmentation of the state into fragments for the licensees to operate (generate and distribute electricity).

06

All generated, transmitted and distributed power must be metred to homes and businesses.



6



RURAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT



● Rural Development & Environment



There is always a tendency on the part of the governments in developing countries, pushing development in the urban areas at the detriment of the rural areas. This usually lead to regrettable state of poverty, underdevelopment and the notorious mass rural-urban migration.

To arrest this ugly trend, our new administration will apply the following policies:



6.1 Improvement of Rural Road Network

Evaluation of current rural road network and their conditions and identifying critical areas in need of immediate attention.

1



Engagement of local communities in the planning and decision-making, and encouragement of local labour and resources to build a sense of ownership.

2



Application for international aid and grants focused on rural infrastructural development.

3

Usage of appropriate technologies to implement cost-effective and durable construction techniques utilising local materials to reduce costs and increase sustainability.

4



Establishment of a routine maintenance schedule.

5

6

Training of local workers for maintenance tasks.

7

Designing of roads with proper drainage to prevent waterlogging and erosion.

8

Regular cleaning and maintenance of drainage systems.

9

Connection of rural roads to major highways and urban centres and ensuring road networks to link critical facilities like schools, hospitals and markets.

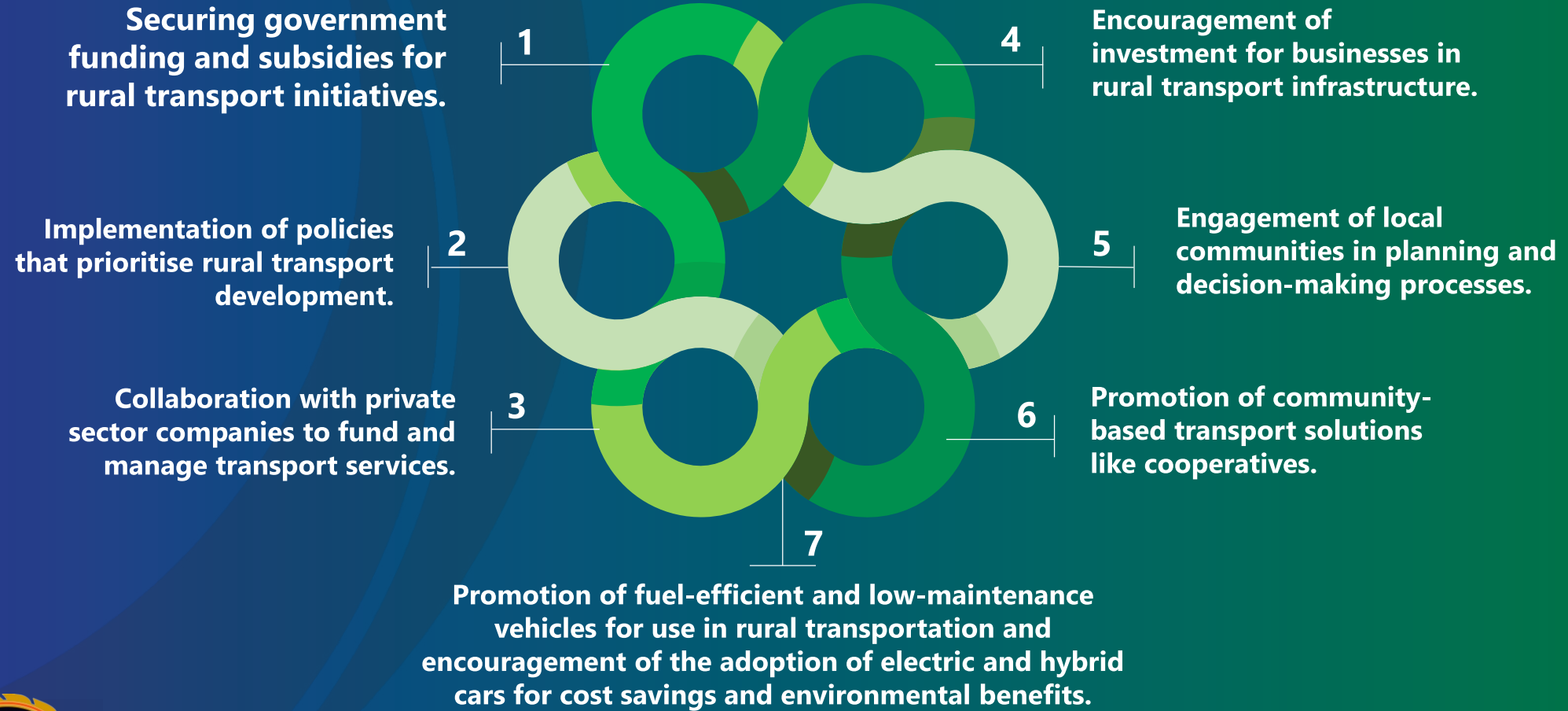
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Installation of road signs, symbols and barriers where necessary and the education of the community on road safety practices.

6.2 Rural Housing Schemes



6.3 Accessible Public Transport



6.4 Tourism Development

- i. Securing of government funding and subsidies for rural tourism initiatives and implementation of policies that promote rural tourism and provide incentives to investors.
- ii. Collaboration with private sector investors and businesses and the encouragement of partnerships between local communities and tourism operators.
- iii. Engagement of local communities in planning and decision-making and the promotion of community-based tourism where locals provide accommodation, guides and cultural experiences.
- iv. Development of eco-tourism initiatives that protect and preserve natural resources and sustainable practices among tourists and local businesses.
- v. Encouragement of the development of budget-friendly lodging such as guesthouses, homestays, and campsites, and the provision of incentives for locals to convert their homes into tourist accommodations.
- vi. Promotion of rural tourism through digital marketing, social media, and travel blogs, and the highlighting of unique cultural, historical and natural attractions in rural areas.



6.5 OSOPADEC



OSOPADEC shall be restored to its core mandate to meet the expectations of oil-producing communities in the state.

Government shall ensure that forty percent of the derivation fund accruing to Ondo State is paid to OSOPADEC to perform its core mandate in line with the enabling law.

The headquarters of OSOPADEC will be relocated to Igbokoda, the headquarters of Ilaje Local Government area.

The government will closely supervise the OSOPADEC activities to ensure the judicious application of funds as budgeted.



● 6.6 Local Government Administration



Granting of full autonomy to local government areas – financial and governance.

Processes of elections into the LGAs and LCDAs will commence within three months of the new administration.

Government will address the grievances of communities in respect of the newly created LCDAs to ensure that no community is marginalized.

All perceived injustices will be promptly looked into and corrected where marginalization is established.



6.7 The Environment

1

Government will ensure the use of the environment by the present generation in a way to preserve it for the future generation.

2

Government shall legislate against indiscriminate tree felling.

3

Government shall legislate against improper domestic and industrial waste disposal.

4

Government will address the issue of poor urban planning and renewal.

5

To prevent erosion and flooding government will provide for the enhancement of free flow of streams, canals and drainages.

6

Ensure that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is carried out on new projects where necessary, according to law.

7

Enforcement of Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in all industries and establishments.

8

Guarantee and ensure periodic Environmental Audit (EA) of all industries and major establishments.



● 6.8 Land Reclamation



Development of sustainable initiatives with private sector participation to reclaim all lost lands along our shoreline – Ayetoro and others.

Development of new cities and towns in the reclaimed areas using the Dubai shoreline's new city development initiatives as a benchmark.



● 6.9 Shoreline Protection



Construction of shoreline protection systems using a combination of these approaches:

- ☐ Natural Approaches, including mangrove restoration; coral reef conservation; vegetation planting; and beach nourishment.
- ☐ Engineering approaches which include seawalls and breakwaters; groynes; geotextile sandbags and revetments.
- ☐ Policy and community-based approaches which encompasses coastal zoning and regulation; community engagement and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM).



7



YOUTH, SPORTS, SOCIAL, WOMEN DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SERVICE



Youth, Sports, Social, Women Development & Civil Service



The role of the youths in the development of a state or nation can never be overemphasised, hence the axiom build the youth, build the nation! In the same vein, the women, who are home managers, mothers and great pillars of society, cannot be pushed over or ignored by any progress-minded administration.

In that regard, the new PDP administration in the state will prioritise programmes that will ensure the accelerated development of youths and women.

Our administration will pursue sports development, not just for entertainment, physical fitness and a unifying factor, but also as a veritable source of empowerment for the youths and young adults within the state and offshore.

Under our watch, great attention will be accorded social development initiatives to the advantage of the youths, women, the aged and vulnerable people in the state, just as government will ensure that civil servants and retirees in the state are honoured with the best of treatment in line with standard global practices.

In specific terms, the government will implement the following policy measures to fast-track progress in these related sectors:



7.1 Entrepreneurial Skills Acquisition

- i. Promotion of initiatives that enhance youth and women's twenty-first-century entrepreneurial skill acquisition for job and wealth creation to eradicate youth decay, hunger and poverty.
- ii. Collaboration with stakeholders to grow the economy with a conscious involvement of the youths and women.
- iii. Identification, nurturing, grooming, and growth of talents needed to improve the youths by promoting state-wide talent-based competitions.



7.2 Grassroot Sports Development



- i. Completion of the abandoned new ultra-modern state stadium complex in Akure.
- ii. Development of sports clubs in every local government area to cater to sports and games thereby creating healthy living and youth development.
- iii. Revival and upgrading of annual state-wide sports festival.
- iv. Construction of one standard stadium in each senatorial district and one grassroot sport centre in each local government area.
- v. Establishment of Sports Development Fund (SDF) to support sporting activities.
- vi. Establishment of sports academies in each of the 3 Senatorial Districts.
- vii. The moribund State Institute of Sports will be revamped.
- viii. Inter-school sports competition will be revived with a view to discovering young talents and developing such talent to world-class athletes.
- ix. Reintroduction of Principal Cup for secondary schools.



● 7.3 Social Welfare

- i. Acquisition of new buses that runs of compressed natural gas (CNG) for the school shuttle program.
- ii. Development of robust social welfare program for the aged such free medical care and monthly food rations.
- iii. Disbursement of bursary to indigenous students at the local and state levels.
- iv. Compliment and improve existing school feeding programs.



7.4 Women Development and Empowerment



- i. Development of skills acquisition programs through the Ministry of Women Affairs to empower women to acquire skills to make them financially stable to contribute meaningfully to family income.
- ii. Empowerment of women cooperative societies with funds to engage in trading and other profitable ventures.
- iii. Encouragement of girl-child and women education.
- iv. Encouragement of women participation in politics and governance.



● 7.5 Civil Service



Government will pay the new minimum wage as approved.

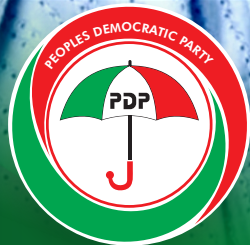
Excellence, discipline, dedication and loyalty will be rewarded.

The welfare of the civil servants will be a priority; promotions, salary, pension and gratuity will be paid as and when due, including prompt remittance of all deductions to the appropriate bodies.

Staff training and re-training will be done to enhance performance quality.

The Public Service Training Institute (PSTI) in Ilara-Mokin will be upgraded to a college, which will be functional, to actualize the above.





...POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Thank you

Yours sincerely,

AJAYI

ALFRED AGBOOLA

**CANDIDATE OF THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY
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