



**UCHE
BEN
ODUNZEH**

A PROSPEROUS IMO

PEACE
PRODUCTION
PROSPERITY

**20
23**





PEACE PRODUCTION PROSPERITY

**CHIEF UCHE BEN ODUNZEH
FOR GOVERNOR OF IMO STATE 2023**





Who is Uche Ben Odunzeh?

Chief Ben Odunzeh was born into the family of Chief Austin Nwaoha Odunzeh (the Akajaiku 1 of Eziachi) and Ezinne Victoria Chioma Odunzeh in Eziachi Orlu LGA, Imo State Nigeria, on the 28th October, 1980.

EDUCATION HISTORY

Growing up as an intelligent infant, he was enrolled into Childville Nursery School Yaba, Lagos State where he received his early education between 1983 and 1985.

As the star in him kept increasing in brightness it became necessary for him to receive a primary education. This prompted his acceptance into Our Lady Of Apostles Primary School, Yaba Lagos state between 1986 and 1990 where he acquired his First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC).

He acquired his secondary education from St. Johns College, Palm Groove Secondary School Lagos State between 1991 and 1996 where he acquired his West African Senior School Certificate (WASSCE).

After moving to the USA at the start of the millennium for the love of education, he proceeded to the University Of District Of Columbia Washing DC between 2005 and 2008 to acquire his Bachelor of Arts in Economics.

CAREER PROWESS

As a true builder of enterprise, Chief Uche Ben Odunzeh is the Chairman of the EUC Group, a group of companies with specialty in fields of Advertising, Engineering, Construction and RealEstate.

He is a passionate and renowned successful entrepreneur, businessman and leader with over twenty five years of experience in running and starting businesses both in the United States and Nigeria.

Has been an entrepreneur since age 21, and has ran companies, and handled various investments in numerous industries like Health Care, Energy, I.T, Real Estate, Telecoms, media and he sits on the board of notable companies.

He has a proven track record of building nine-figure businesses and one of the Nigeria's preeminent CEO mentors.

The success of EUC Homes an award winning company in the Real Estate Industries has given birth to other subsidiary Real Estate Companies; Coveland Limited and Riteland Limited which are subsidiaries of the EUC Group.

He has EMPOWERED over 5000 people across the nation through his real estate EUC Realtors and foundation platform and has raised over 1000 CEOs. He was also a founder member of Nigerians in diaspora (NIDO)USA. He his the founder and architect championing the UBOM (Uche Ben Odunzeh Movement) bringing about positive change in the society and helping youths grow across the country.

His deeds has earned him the title; Babalaje of Ibejulang and is a Prince in his community Eziachi kingdom, no wonder the great people of Orlu/Orsu/Oru-East Federal Constituency beckoned on him to have their mandate and represent them at the Federal House of Representatives.

Overview

Democracy that Delivers: Improving Governance through promoting Peace, Production and Prosperity

In many places where democracy has made inroads and elections have been held, the majority of the population has yet to experience tangible improvements in their lives. In these places, many may question the practicality of democracy or acquire a distorted understanding of what democracy really entails. They may become susceptible to populist or authoritarian appeals that are camouflaged as democracy. The best way to improve the lot of these people is to achieve greater reform and more complete democracy, not to compromise political or economic freedoms. The paramount need is for better governance. While elections create a basis for popular representation, a working, responsive government is the sine qua non for improving people's lives.

Similarly, in many places where markets have been substantially liberalized, the majority of the population has yet to benefit from growth. The solution is not to roll back liberalization but to complete reforms by putting in place market institutions that promote responsible behaviour and protect the economic freedoms of all. Citizens of Imo state must be given the opportunity to participate



Overview

in markets, to have their economic rights protected, and be part of the legal economy. These reforms depend on good governance.

This manifesto outlines an actionable social contract with the IMO people, i do not intend to do this alone. I need the people's consent and active participation. I Uche Ben Odunzeh, at this moment outline my pledge for a Prosperous IMO, a state where all our people live a decent life and enjoy a modest standard of living in a safe and secured environment.



SECURITY



Introduction

In recent times, the preponderance of insecurity in Imo state has risen to alarming levels, sending most residents into a state of perpetual fear. Its manifestations are seen in banditry, kidnapping, including wanton killing and destruction of innocent lives and property. The incidences have become so worrisome that residents in over 600 autonomous communities of the 27 local council areas in the state have seemingly resigned to fate while influential persons now find it difficult visiting their ancestral homes for fear of being attacked, kidnapped or even losing their lives. With criminality escalating in geometric magnitude, security operatives have not been spared from the onslaught of the bandits and marauders.

Policy Thrust

To make Imo State the most secure state in Nigeria in order to make it conducive for economic and social development.

Challenges Identified

Challenges in preventing Crime and Security, are:

- A. Insufficient manpower for the security agencies.
- B. Lack of conventional equipment for security agencies.
- C. Poor welfare for security agencies.
- D. Overlapping functions of existing security agencies.

Proposed Strategies

Our proposed strategies to fight crime in Imo State will include:

1. Enhance community participation in crime prevention under the neighbourhood watch program across the 27 LGAs in Imo state.
2. Ensure adequate mechanisms exist for ensuring safety of citizens and property.
3. Advocacy across the 27 LGAs in Imo state to seek reduction of the crime incidence rate.
4. Establish an emergency response system.
5. The installation of closed circuit television cameras in strategic locations to aid security management.
6. Setting up of security control room.
7. Purchase of modern equipment and logistics for security agencies to fight crime.
8. Welfare support to the security agencies.
9. Willingness and ability of government to listen to, hear and respond to the people and address their expressed interest.
10. Ensuring of public vigilance at all levels.
11. Effective capacity building for security agencies (training and re-training).
12. Provision of operational vehicles to security agencies.
13. Enhanced funding support to the security agencies.
14. Provision of toll free line to the citizens to reach security agencies in period of emergencies.
15. Effective provision of crime information across the 27 LGAs in Imo state.

Crime Prevention

This requires a comprehensive approach that targets the underlying socio-political and economic factors contributing to insecurity. Here are some key interventions that can be implemented:

- **Community Engagement and Empowerment:** Foster community participation and engagement by involving local leaders, organizations, and residents in decision-making processes. Empower communities through skills training, education, and job opportunities, which can help reduce unemployment and youth vulnerability to criminal activities.
- **Youth Development Programs:** Create and support programs that focus on the education, skill development, and mentorship of young people. By providing them with alternatives and opportunities, the likelihood of turning to criminal activities diminishes.
- **Economic Development:** Invest in infrastructure, industries, and entrepreneurship in the region to stimulate economic growth and create job opportunities. A stronger economy can reduce poverty and discontent, which are often linked to crime.
- **Social Welfare and Safety Nets:** Establish social welfare programs to provide support to vulnerable individuals and families. Safety nets can include cash transfers, food assistance, and healthcare, helping to alleviate economic pressures that contribute to criminal behavior.
- **Improved Policing and Law Enforcement:** Enhance the capacity and professionalism of law enforcement agencies to ensure they effectively combat crime. This includes better training, equipping officers with necessary resources, and fostering community-oriented policing strategies to build trust between law enforcement and the public.

- **Conflict Resolution and Mediation:** Encourage dialogue and mediation to resolve disputes and conflicts peacefully. Implement conflict resolution mechanisms to address communal tensions and disputes before they escalate into violence.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Strengthen governance structures, promote transparency, and hold public officials accountable for their actions. This can help reduce corruption, which often exacerbates social inequality and fosters crime.
- **Education and Awareness:** Raise awareness about the negative impacts of crime and the benefits of peaceful coexistence. Education campaigns can help change attitudes and promote a culture of law-abiding behavior.
- **Addressing Ethnic and Social Tensions:** Promote social cohesion and understanding among different ethnic and social groups. Encourage initiatives that bring people together, celebrating cultural diversity and emphasizing shared goals and values.
- **Cross-Border Cooperation:** Collaborate with neighboring states to address interstate crimes, such as human trafficking and drug smuggling, which may have an impact on the security situation in the region.
- **Early Intervention Programs:** Implement early intervention strategies that identify at-risk individuals and provide targeted support before they engage in criminal activities. These programs can include counseling, mentoring, and support services.

It is essential to note that crime prevention is a complex and ongoing process that requires the sustained commitment of various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, community leaders, and the general public. The success of these interventions depends on their integration, continuous evaluation, and adaptation based on the evolving socio-political and economic landscape of the region.

AGRICULTURE



Imo State is located within the tropical rainforest which gives it the ecological basis for production of a wide range of tropical agricultural crops with extensive potentialities for industrial usage. The crops produced include oil palm, raffia palm, rice, groundnut, melon, cotton, cocoa, rubber, maize, et cetera. Under livestock's are dairy, poultry, piggery and fisheries.

Agricultural products can be broadly grouped into foods, fibers, fuels, raw materials etc.

(a) Foods include: Cereals, Vegetables, Fruits, and Meat.

(b) Fibers include: Cotton, Wool, Hemp, Silk and Flax.

(c) Raw materials include: Lumber and Bamboo.

(e) Biofuels include: Methane from Biomass, Ethanol, and Biodiesel.

(f) Others include: Cut flowers, Nursery Plants, Tropical Fish and Birds for the pet trade are some of the ornamental products.

The sustainability of the state's economy with inclusive growth can be achieved through the genuine development of the agricultural sector. However, the contribution of the Agricultural sector has been on the decline over the years.

Policy Thrust

The policy thrust is to improve the productivity of farmers in Imo State by strengthening production in areas where the state has comparative advantage for commercial agriculture and link production to markets. In addition, the thrust is to improve the agro-processing activities in the state.

Emphasize the need for the extension agency to regularly identify those sources of information that farmers prefer, or use most, as this will enable them deliver agricultural information effectively to the farmers.

The Songhai-Project Investment Model

This strategy is named after a private-sector-operated agricultural project in Porto Novo, Benin Republic. It involves the identification and use of really dedicated and knowledgeable agricultural investors to establish integrated, resource-recycling, multi-enterprise farm facilities/centers in the state for short-term training of different commodity farmers. After completing their training, these farmers then set up and/or operate their own agro-enterprises with the understanding that they can sell their produce (raw, processed, or semi-processed) through these centers. The idea is to encourage young agriculture graduates from the many universities to set up on their own enterprise after a one - two months practical attachment to any of these farm facilities. The success of this strategy would depend on the provision of microcredit to these young farmers on completion of their attachment. The assured market for the products of the young farmers through the state-wide marketing facilities that will be established under the strategy, should provide a means of reducing graduate unemployment while also ensuring increased food production and national food security.

The Songhai Project Investment Model can contribute to job creation and economic growth in Imo State:

1. **Diversified Agricultural Production:** The Songhai Project emphasizes diverse agricultural practices, including crop cultivation, livestock farming, aquaculture, and agroforestry. By promoting a wide range of agricultural activities, the model can create numerous job opportunities for farmers, agricultural laborers, and agribusiness entrepreneurs.

1. **Skills Training and Capacity Building:** The Songhai Project places a strong emphasis on training and capacity building. It offers vocational training to young people and women, equipping them with practical skills in agriculture, processing, and value addition. This, in turn, enables them to start their own businesses or find employment in the agricultural sector.
2. **Value Addition and Processing:** The model focuses on adding value to agricultural produce through processing and value chain development. This not only increases the income of farmers but also creates jobs in agro-processing industries such as food processing, packaging, and marketing.
3. **Renewable Energy Integration:** The Songhai Project incorporates the use of renewable energy sources such as solar and biogas. The establishment of renewable energy infrastructure can lead to job creation in the installation, maintenance, and management of these systems.
4. **Waste Recycling and Environmental Management:** The project promotes sustainable waste management practices, including composting and recycling. Employment opportunities arise in waste collection, processing, and recycling industries.
5. **Entrepreneurship and Microenterprises:** The Songhai Project encourages the establishment of microenterprises and small businesses in the agricultural and agribusiness sectors. This fosters entrepreneurship and generates employment opportunities for local communities.
6. **Multiplier Effect on Local Economy:** The Songhai Project's integrated approach creates linkages between different economic sectors. For instance, agricultural produce can supply raw materials to other industries, leading to the development of a vibrant local economy and increased job opportunities across various sectors.
7. **Export Potential:** By promoting high-quality agricultural products and value-added goods, the Songhai Project can tap into regional and international markets, leading to potential foreign exchange earnings and increased job opportunities in export-oriented industries.

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9. **Community-Based Development:** The Songhai Project model emphasizes community ownership and participation. As communities actively engage in the development process, they are more likely to benefit from the economic growth and job opportunities that emerge.
10. **Knowledge Transfer and Innovation:** The Songhai Project encourages research and innovation in agriculture and sustainable practices. As knowledge and technology transfer take place, new job opportunities emerge in research institutions, extension services, and agro-industrial innovation.

Overall, the implementation of the Songhai Project Investment Model in Imo State can lead to significant job creation, especially in the agricultural and agribusiness sectors. It can also contribute to the sustainable economic growth of the state by harnessing its agricultural potential, fostering innovation, and empowering local communities.

Proposed Solutions

The solutions to the problems of agriculture are many and include the following:

1. Provision of rural infrastructure, e.g. rural and farm settlements roads, market stalls, provision of 4-wheel pick-up vans for transportation.
2. Availability and timely supply of inputs; land clearing, tractorisation, fertilizer, improved seeds, seedlings, cassava stem cuttings and agrochemicals.
3. Provision of timely credit to farmers at single digit interest rates.
4. Improved agronomic practices through enhanced extension services
5. Update by end-users of farm produce e.g. factories, plants, local consumption, and export opportunities.
6. Establishment of buyback mechanism as a means of last resort.
7. Link up the farmers with private sector processors through well-established contract farming arrangements that will prevent side selling and buying.
8. Upgrading of all the agricultural farm settlements to attract youths to agricultural practices.
9. Expansion of the existing Schools' Agricultural Programme in secondary schools in the state as a form of Catch Them Young to agricultural enterprises.
10. Youth Empowerment in Agriculture Programme.
11. Encouraging dry season vegetable farming by construction of various dams in the state.
12. Provision of conducive environment for the operation of both local and foreign investors; especially roads, electricity and water for production and agricultural processing.



HEALTHCARE

It is well known that government plays an important role in the healthcare sector. The role of government is to steer the overall healthcare development by designing health care policies and programmes, securing essential public health functions and regulating the delivery of healthcare services. This is expected to ensure that citizens of the state have a high standard of living while mortality and morbidity rates are kept low. The government has recognised that it must continue to invest in healthcare and social welfare. Reasons for this include the fact that good health and well being is Goal 3 of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). This implies that the healthcare sector occupies almost half of the global efforts at eradicating poverty. Any serious administration should not feel comfortable leaving the healthcare sector in a lurch as it is under the current administration. This present government has no clear healthcare policies geared towards the citizenry. This is complicated by the dilapidated hospitals facilities and unmotivated staff that require urgent interventions. With the poor budgetary allocation to the healthcare sector, this current administration has shown a morbid distaste for factors that can bring about better health conditions to the poor citizens while more attention is given to contracts induced infrastructural projects. The dire state of funding in the healthcare sector and the inefficient delivery of services calls for drastic measures on the part of the government and this can be realised through the implementation of reforms in this sector.

Healthcare sector reform can be defined as a sustained, purposeful change to improve the efficiency, equity and effectiveness of the healthcare sector. The World Health Organization (WHO) defined healthcare sector reform as a sustained process of fundamental change in 31 policy and institutional arrangements of the healthcare sector, usually guided by the government. It is designed to improve the functioning and performance of the healthcare sector and ultimately the health status of the people.

Reform strategies include:

- ◆ Alternative financing (user-fees, health insurance, community financing, private sector investment)
- ◆ Institutional management (autonomy to hospitals, monitoring and management by local government agencies, contracting).
- ◆ Public sector reforms (civil service reforms, capacity building, productivity improvement).
- ◆ Collaboration with the private sector (public/private partnerships, joint ventures). Partnership with the private sector has emerged as a new avenue of reforms, in part due to resource constraints in the public sector of governments across the world. There is a growing realization that given their respective strengths and weaknesses, neither the Imo State government nor the private sector can operate alone in the best interest of the healthcare system.

Policy Thrust

The policy thrust is to provide and sustain the availability, accessibility and affordability of required healthcare services to the vast majority of people who need it the most. The Challenges Politicians have viewed healthcare as a consumer service with little political payback. Local governments have only built deficient new infrastructure rather than building on and strengthening existing ones for healthcare delivery. They have also not involved local communities in their management.

Primary health care centres have become shops without the required equipment and with deficient structures; erratic provision of essential drugs and non-available skilled and appropriate manpower. The conditions in many of these centre outside Owerri are inhumane.

Proposed Strategies

Primary Health Care - This is the scientifically sound and socially acceptable essential care required by the vast majority of people in a country - with their full participation - at a cost the individual, family, community and country (including states and local governments) can afford to sustain and maintain at every level of their development, in the spirit of self-reliance. The concept of PHC will ensure that the vast majority of Imo State indigenes and residents, irrespective of where they reside and what they do, can receive their desired essential healthcare needs.

Health Insurance Scheme

Health insurance principally ensures that people who require healthcare services can access the services at any time, whether or not they have money at the time. By the pooling of resources, everyone has access to healthcare when they need it. It also ensures availability of resources to obtain required equipment and amenities for health in a sustainable manner.



EDUCATION

In the aspect of education, our belief is that functional and qualitative education is needed to achieve top Imo State strategic visions and development priorities.

The Education Development Plan (EDP) for the state sets out to provide a strategic vision for effective education service delivery in the state for the next four (4) years and beyond. The main emphasis of this plan includes; raising the standard in all state owned educational institutions, and improving academic performance of students at all levels. The essence of the EDP is to ensure that the state fits into the overall objectives and goals of sustainable socio-economic development in both the short and long term. This is because our administration recognises education as a basic human right for all citizens as enshrined in the Nigerian constitution. Education in Imo State runs from pre-primary (Early childhood) to tertiary levels.

Policy Thrust

Major Focus of Intervention Operation

- ◆ Improving access and expanding opportunities.
- ◆ Assuring quality and relevance of education provision.
- ◆ Ensuring the delivery of high quality education.
- ◆ Transform all curricular to emphasize problem solving and life skills and de-emphasize cognition.
- ◆ Adequate training and staff development.
- ◆ Effective school management (motivation of staff, supervision and inspection of schools).
- ◆ Raise government budgetary expenditure on education.
- ◆ Monitor standards of learning and teaching in state schools through an effective team.
- ◆ Ensure attendance and punctuality of staff and students in order to make the schools functional.

- ◆ Take stock of the physical, human, material and other facility needs of public schools and ensuring their supply.
- ◆ Set new targets for high performance of the school system in the state.
- ◆ Ensure judicious use of available resources to meet stakeholders' expectations of the school system in the state.
- ◆ Provision and use of information and communication technology (ICT) facilities in government schools (secondary and tertiary) to enhance teaching and learning. Examples are interactive boards, projectors and computers.
- ◆ Making technical, and polytechnic institutions in the state more practical oriented through real skill acquisition. This could be achieved by linking graduates of these institutions to firms and individuals where they can acquire the relevant
- ◆ skills that will make them practice on their own.
- ◆ Provide financial support to encourage graduates with technical/vocational skill to start their own businesses.
- ◆ Setting up a functional Educational Management Information System (EMIS) for the state. This is a technologically based computer managed data system that aids efficient information management for quality decisions about the education sector.
- ◆ Regulating the operation of private schools in the state. This will ensure that private schools operate in line with the
- ◆ Benchmark Minimum Academic Standard that guarantees quality educational service delivery.
- ◆ Introduction of Adult Literacy Programme to promote lifelong learning among the growing population.
- ◆ Bridge the gender gap.
- ◆ Reduced classroom/pupil ratio to 1:30.
- ◆ Teacher/pupil ratio to 1:30.
- ◆ Ensure that a good number of students of our secondary school graduates score a minimum of 5 credits and above, including English and Mathematics at one sitting.

- ◆ Full implementation of UBE laws.
- ◆ Paying special attention to underserved geographical areas in Imo State.
- ◆ Attention to groups with special needs
- ◆ Ensuring the sustainability of externally supported Initiatives through the enhanced capacity building of officials.
- ◆ Ensuring relevance of curriculum at all levels.
- ◆ Ensure professional and pedagogical upgrading of teachers.
- ◆ Development of sustainable quality assurance mechanisms.
- ◆ Develop a sustainable educational teaching and learning materials policy.
- ◆ Institutionalise the monitoring of learning achievement at school level.
- ◆ Ensure adequate provision of quality buildings and classrooms for all education sub-sectors.
- ◆ Ensure adequate provision of teacher and learner furniture.
- ◆ Ensure learner friendly school and classroom environments.
- ◆ Ensure adequate provisions for the special needs of girls.
- ◆ Institutionalise maintenance culture for physical facilities and infrastructure.
- ◆ Institutionalise Education Sector Expenditure tracking.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure and the provision of it are central to achieving sustainable development in both the urban and rural settings. The most important of these include water supply, all-season roads, electricity supply (solar, hydro etc.) housing, health and educational facilities.

The near monopoly granted to public entities in charge of providing basic infrastructure often leads to under-provision. Frequently, the delivery of infrastructure was rationed to a limited part of the population and associated costs of production were high. Research shows that investing in water, sewerage and electricity positively impacts on the livelihoods of people. Boosting the provision of those services has a great potential in helping to reach the SDGs as a whole. In this context, new ways of approaching the provision of basic infrastructure involving the private sector have been explored. Against this backdrop, our administration will consider alternative ways of infrastructure provision. Independent power projects (IPP), namely, privately financed, greenfield generation, supported by non-recourse or limited recourse loans, with long term power purchase agreements (PPA) with the state utility or another off-taker, has become a priority within overall private sector reform.

Independent Power Producers will be considered a quick and relatively easy solution to persistent electricity supply constraints, and could also serve to benchmark state owned supply and gradually introduce competition. Sustainable forms of small and medium scale electricity generation are possible in Imo State with the proliferation of solar technology. Since the rural areas in Imo State are not being supplied with adequate electricity from the grid extension, renewable energy becomes a viable and cost-competitive option for rural electrification. Such forms of electrifications can more easily be conceived with private sector participation for example, with concessions or lease agreements.

In addition to increasing economic activity and lowering poverty, electrification with renewable energy will help promote a more sustainable development, and could help mitigate climate change. Studies have shown that access to improved water and sanitation in the state still remain low, in spite of the huge commitment of government through its agencies. The citizens' sources of water are still rivers, lakes and ponds, protected wells, vendors, trucks, boreholes and hand pumps. The current administration in the last seven years has not made any effort to address this water problem. Modern civilization also brings in its tow environmental damage. In it lays the realisation of potential for sustainable values. It is estimated by the World Bank that by 2030, this number would reach an all-time high of 5 billion with many of these people poor.

Urbanization is therefore an inevitable, but positive concomitant of economic change. The growth of slums, the concentration of poverty and its attendant social disruptions in our cities does pose a great challenge. Initiating policies and plans to improve the quality of infrastructure and life in cities of Imo State, providing infrastructure that is necessary and central to development in both urban and rural areas all year round; roads, electricity, health and educational facilities and the provision of potable drinking water is therefore, highly imperative for the state to become very competitive.

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Policy Thrust

The policy thrust on infrastructure is to accelerate infrastructure provision by the state government in key areas, and engage public private partnership arrangements in others.

The vision is to make the transport sector in Imo State evolve as the best integrated transport system over the next four years. Transport plays an important role in linking the state together economically, socially and politically and in the exploitation and distribution of its resources. It can help to reduce spatial inequality and can contribute to poverty alleviation in the following areas:

- ◆ The Growth Potential of the State Economy
- ◆ Strategic Alliance in the Sector.
- ◆ Inter-Modal Transport System
- ◆ Security and Defence.

Proposed Strategies - Transportation

- ◆ Ensure safe, adequate and efficient transport infrastructure that can sustain the social and economic development of the state
- ◆ Develop an integrated and cost effective transport infrastructure.
- ◆ Improve urban and rural transportation.
- ◆ Evolve a seamless inter-modal transport system in the state.
- ◆ Evolve a robust institutional and regulatory framework for the transport sector.
- ◆ Make Imo State a transport hub.
- ◆ Evolve a highly skilled manpower for the transport industry.
- ◆ Ensure safety and security in the transport sector.
- ◆ Provide steady and innovative financing scheme for the transport sector in Imo State.
- ◆ Establish a consultative forum for constant interaction among all stakeholders in the transport industry, including private sector concerns and MDAs.
- ◆ Provide adequate transport infrastructure and services for uniform socio-economic development in the state by embarking on reconstruction and rehabilitation of the existing roads and improving rural roads.
- ◆ Upgrading of rural feeders roads in all the 27 local government areas of the state.
- ◆ New roads to be built to enhance economic activities, promote rural-urban linkages and generally facilitate movement around the state. The policy of the government is that all roads must be properly done with engineering designs and adequate provision for drainages.
- ◆ Engage private partnership to improve the road facilities.

- ◆ Provision of modern equipment to the Road Maintenance Agency.
- ◆ Evolve a seamless inter-modal transport system in the state.
- ◆ Evolve a robust institutional and regulatory framework for the transport sector.

Proposed Strategies – Water Supply

Our proposed strategies are all encompassing. They are outlined as follows:

- ◆ Legislation, regulations and standards for water supply and sanitation.
- ◆ Reform of the water supply and sanitation sector to attain and maintain internationally acceptable standards.
- ◆ Revitalisation of the 12 water schemes in the 27LGAs, A program ensuring and sustaining the necessary inputs and maintenance to ensure stable and regular supply of water will be executed. Additional schemes will be provided.
- ◆ Increase service coverage for water supply and sanitation state-wide to meet the level of the socio economic demand of the state.
- ◆ Ensure affordability of water supply and sanitation service for the citizens.
- ◆ Ensure good water quality standards are maintained by water supply undertakings.
- ◆ Monitor the performance of the sector for sound policy adjustment and development for water supply and sanitation

Proposed Strategies – Power

- ◆ Increase generation, transmission and distribution capacity to provide adequate and sustainable power supply
- ◆ Achieve optimal energy mix using most appropriate technologies.
- ◆ Access the potentials of the state renewable technologies.
- ◆ Employ appropriate renewable energy technologies policy for sustainable development.
- ◆ Facilitate renewable energy research with established energy research centres.
- ◆ Facilitate independent power producers to invest in Imo State.

Proposed Strategies – Housing

- ◆ Facilitate acquisition of land for housing and construction by way of prompt payment of compensation through balanced budgetary provisions, granting of titles to individually/corporately acquired lands and prompt registration of land related transactions.
- ◆ Ensure proper planning of neighbourhood, regular design of new layouts, cadastral survey and mapping of the towns taking into consideration the community participation to discourage indiscriminate construction activities.
- ◆ Encourage the use of existing locally manufactured building materials, ensure the identification and research work into the new ones with a view to determine their location, quantity, quality and possible exploitation of the deposits.
- ◆ Promote professionalism in construction and housing through acquisition of requisite knowledge, skills and experience.
- ◆ Adopt appropriate technology and effective manpower training to raise output in the industry.
- ◆ Adopt and sustain the concept of good percentage funding of site and services to facilitate easy access to serviced plots by the low-income and direct relevant bodies.

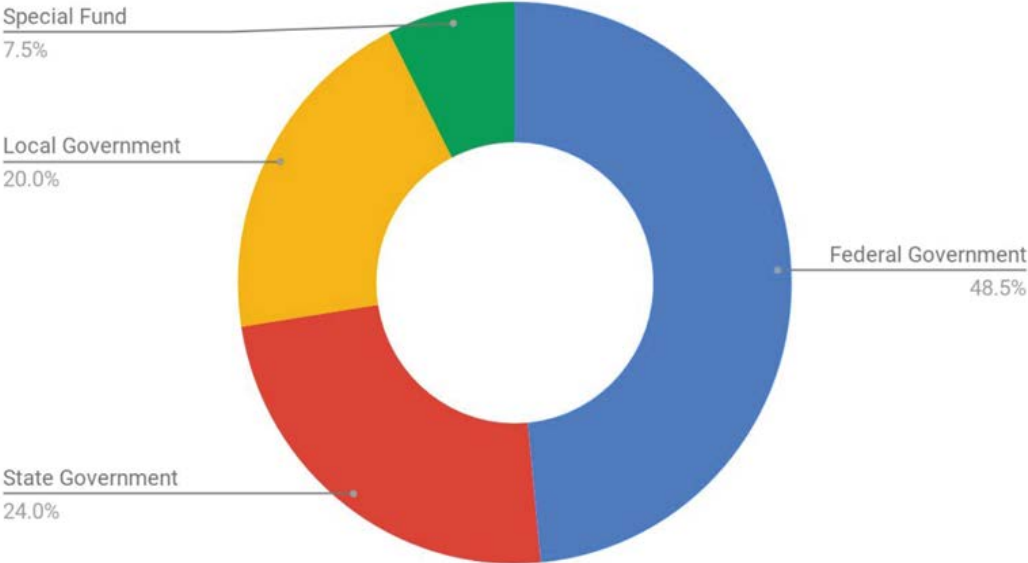
- ◆ Facilitate private sector driven housing delivery through variants of public private partnership (PPP) initiative.
- ◆ Institute urban management system which ensures tariffs due are properly collected to aid the renewal and maintenance of housing infrastructure.
- ◆ Constitute a committee of experts and knowledgeable persons outside government with proven cognate qualifications and experience to evaluate the performance of the housing sector once every two years.
- ◆ Create adequate and affordable housing finance by developing an efficient primary mortgage market.
- ◆ Establish an effective legal and regulatory framework for the control and monitoring of housing delivery.

 **IMO** **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
WELCOME TO
Email: info@irs.gov.ng
website: www.irs.im.gov.ng

DOMESTIC RESOURCE FLOW



Revenue allocation in Nigeria involves a vertical sharing between the federal government and other tiers of government. The subject of this sharing is the federally generated revenue, such as royalties, export duties, import duties, mining rates etc. Inclusive of the 13 percent derivation for oil producing states, the current formula for sharing the federal revenue vertically as follows:



Currently, the Nigerian economy greatly depends on crude oil production and the price of crude oil in the international market thereby driving a monocultural economy for decades in spite of the enormous developmental challenges it faces. Since 2014, the country has lost 70% of its revenues from oil. Although oil accounts for less than 15% of national gross domestic product

(GDP), it accounts for 60% of budget revenues and over 95% of foreign earnings. This has therefore left a huge financing gap for the states in Nigeria given the fall in the crude oil revenue and the lingering global financial crisis. The estimates of the financing needs are indeed staggering.

Consequently, the need for states to generate adequate revenue from internal sources has therefore become a matter of extreme urgency and importance. Research on the nature and scale of states' financing needs consistently demonstrates that financing remains a huge obstacle towards achieving sustainable economic transformation.

At present, the current management of IGR (Internally Generated Revenue) needs to be worked on, these areas of concern need to be addressed and significantly improved to optimize opportunities and bridge the funding gap in the budget effectively. In doing this, there is need for a thorough review of the current IGR process and management in the state, expand the tax net, look for new sources of revenue, be aggressive and innovative in the mode of revenue collection by seasoned professionals in collaboration with the State Board of Internal Revenue Service.

Our strategy will be an Accelerated Revenue Generation Programme (ARGP) to shore up the revenue base of Imo State, embrace a high level of transparency and accountability, reduce overheads, and cut down on debt accumulation without a concrete repayment plan. Our administration has a strong interest to increase domestic resource flows that could be channeled for the much-needed transformational investment in Imo State. We will adopt effective policy measures aimed at mobilizing resources and channeling them into productive investments.

(GDP), it accounts for 60% of budget revenues and over 95% of foreign earnings. This has therefore left a huge financing gap for the states in Nigeria given the fall in the crude oil revenue and the lingering global financial crisis. The estimates of the financing needs are indeed staggering.

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At present, the management of IGR does not appear to be good enough as there are perceived loopholes and leakages in income generation which could be blocked and vastly improved upon to maximize the opportunities in order to bridge the funding gap in the budget. In doing this, there is need for a thorough review of the current IGR process and management in the state, expand the tax net, look for new sources of revenue, be aggressive and innovative in the mode of revenue collection by seasoned professionals in collaboration with the State Board of Internal Revenue Service.

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Policy Thrust

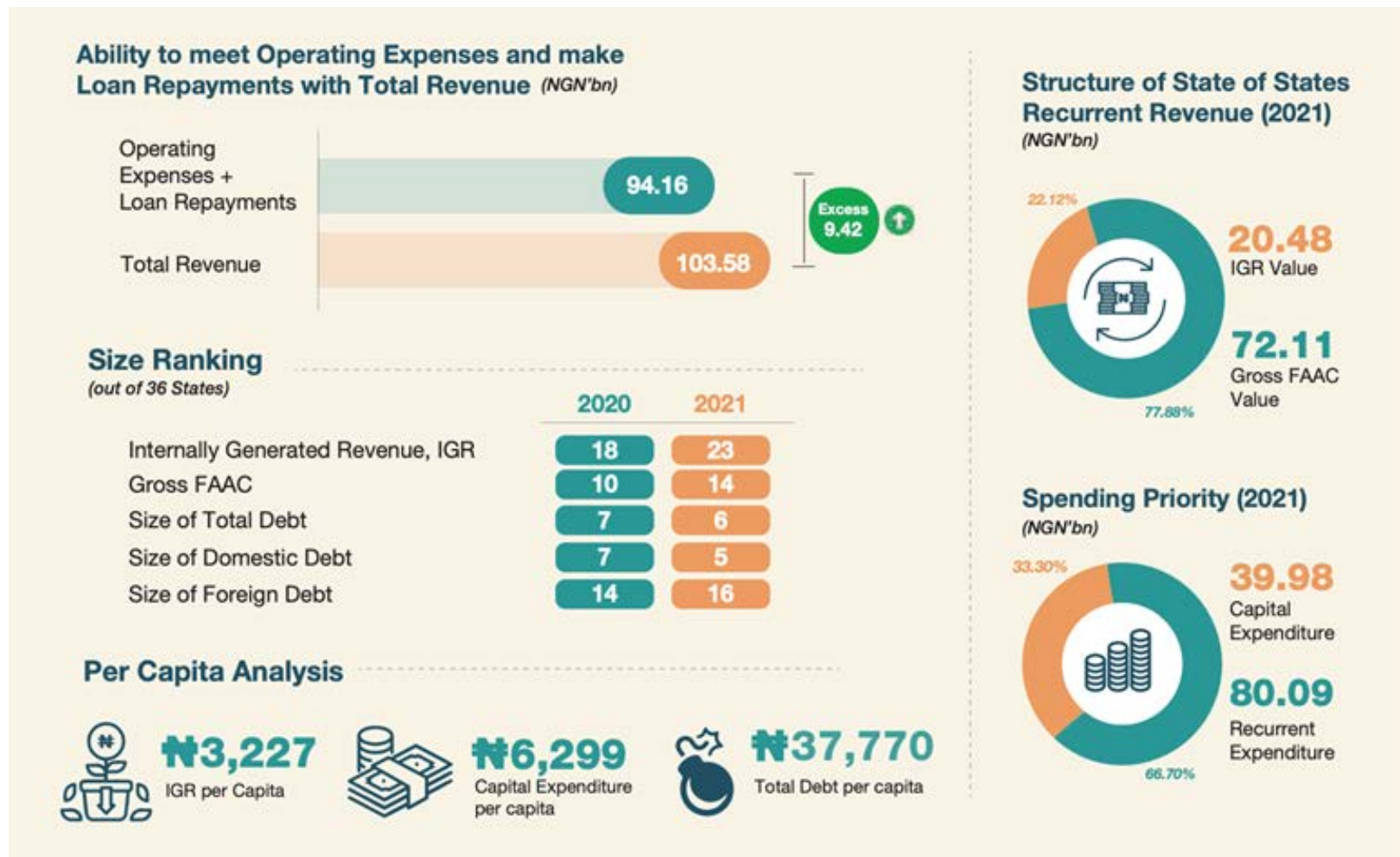
To ensure that Imo State continues to develop new sources of revenue and improve existing ones through innovative and purposeful modes of revenue collection and utilisation to adequately fund the provision of public goods, and execute developmental projects that can improve the living standards of Imo State citizens.

The Challenges

The increasing cost of running government coupled with dwindling revenue has led various state governments in Nigeria to formulate strategies to improve the revenue base. This is as a result of the fluctuations in the price of crude oil and the lingering effect of the global financial crisis. Consequently, the need for states to generate adequate revenue from internal sources has therefore become a matter of extreme urgency and importance. At the moment, the internally generated revenue of the state in a year is about N20.48 billion.

According to the State's 2021 Audited Financial Statement, Imo spent more on operating expenses in 2021, having spent N80.09bn which was 59.7% of the state's total expenditure, than it did on capital expenditure which received N39.98bn (33.3%). Furthermore, the state spent N14.07bn on loan repayment which was 10.49% of its total expenditure. A more disaggregated look at Imo's spending pattern in 2021 revealed that while the state increased in personnel cost marginally by 2.98% from N35.39bn in 2020 to N36.44bn in 2021, it had the largest growth in overhead cost in the South-East region as it saw its overhead cost rise by 68.61% from N10.37bn to N17.49bn in 2021. The State needs to check its ballooning overhead cost as this often signals an increase in the cost of governance which all states, especially in the era of dwindling federal transfers, should be declining.

This need underscores the eagerness on the part of the state to look for new sources of revenue or to become aggressive and innovative in the mode of collecting revenue from existing sources. This is premised on the need to adequately provide public goods and execute developmental projects that can improve the living standards of Imo State citizens.



Major Sources of Imo State Government Internal Revenue

The major components of its IGR had stable degrees of growth; Direct taxes grew considerably by 112.28% from N6.92bn in 2020 to N14.69bn in 2021 while Other Taxes (Fees and Fines) also increased by 113.48% from N2.15bn in 2020 to N4.59bn in 2021. Furthermore, the state's IGR witnessed a tremendous growth in the last 5 years, growing by 199% from N6.85bn in 2017 to N20.48bn in 2021. With an IGR per capita of N3,227, Imo state generated below the subnational average IGR per capita of N5,924 and the highest IGR per capita performance of N37,095 recorded by Lagos state, the nerve center of economic activities in the country during the 2021 fiscal year.

The Reasons for Low Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in Imo State

Tax Evasion

Tax evasion is a deliberate and willful practice of not disclosing full taxable income so as to pay less tax. In other words, it is a contravention of tax laws whereby a taxable person neglects to pay the tax due or reduces tax liability by making fraudulent or untrue claims on the income tax form. Tax is evaded through different methods including: Refusing to register with the relevant tax authority; Failure to furnish a return, statement or information or keep records required; Making an incorrect return by omitting or understating an income liable to tax refusing or neglecting to pay tax; Overstating of expenses so as to reduce taxable profit or income, which will also lead to payment of less tax than otherwise have been paid; A taxpayer hides away totally without making any tax return at all and entering into artificial transactions.

Tax Avoidance

Tax avoidance has been defined as the arrangement of taxpayers' affairs using the tax shelters in the tax law, and avoiding tax traps in the tax laws, so as to pay less tax than he or she would otherwise pay. That is, a person pays less tax than he ought to pay by taking advantage of loopholes in a tax levy. Tax can be avoided in various ways: Incorporating the tax payer's sole proprietor or partnership into a limited liability company; the ability to claim allowances and reliefs that are available in tax laws in order to reduce the amount of income or profit to be charged to tax. Minimizing the incidence of high taxation by the acquisition of a business concern which has sustained heavy loss so as to set off the loss against future profits; Minimizing tax liability by investing in capital asset (for instance through the new form of corporate financing by equipment leasing), and thus sheltering some of the taxpayers income from taxation through capital allowance claims; Sheltering part of the company's taxable income from income tax by capitalizing profit through the issue of bonus shares to the existing members at the (deductible) expenses to the company.

Corruption

The internally generated process is bedevilled by corrupt practices, usually involving revenue collectors. In most cases, the state government funds have been mismanaged. A lot of tax officials connive with taxpayers to evade tax. These manifest in the distortion of the revenue return, embezzlement and misappropriation of funds. Strategies for enhancing internally generated revenue in the state government have been ineffective, hence, the low level of the IGR in the state.

Cumbersome Payment System

The present payment system is quite cumbersome. For example, the acquisition of the Certificate of Occupancy (CofO) is quite challenging and very complex which makes the process difficult.

Tax Revenue is not Being Optimally Utilized

The government does not fully translate the revenue so collected into sufficient adequate public goods and service which to the taxpayer is an evidence of bad governance. Taxpayers watch with dismay as government officials, especially some politicians, display extravagant postures instead of driving infrastructural development. This has created utter disregard to tax compliance in the state. The widespread belief is that any amount paid will be mismanaged.

Hence, the citizens are not willing to pay tax because of the mismanagement of the resources that are collected as taxes. This factor has accounted for the high level of tax evasion and avoidance being witnessed presently in the state. Government has not demonstrated its ability to adequately utilize the revenue to implement what the money is meant for.

The Use of Private Revenue Consultants

The choice of private revenue consultants in the collection of government revenue is not only inefficient but also inadequate for the system. Revenue targets are usually given to the consultants and after meeting the targets they are required to enjoy certain percentage (in some cases between 30 and 40%) of the revenue mobilized. The current target given to the revenue consultants appears low at the moment which has implications for the revenue generated for the state.

Multiple Taxation

Multiplicity of taxation is a serious problem in Imo State that needs to be addressed. Taxpayers are aggrieved for paying different taxes at different levels as is in the case of manufacturing companies, which are subject to import duties, sales tax, excise duty, VAT, income tax, education tax, etc. 76 This occurs in a situation in which government ends up collecting the same tax by different agents, both at the local and state government level. This is another factor that discourages the state citizens from paying tax to the government. Also, the signage law was not made public for the citizens to know the amount that they are supposed to pay to the state. Some signage are not chargeable while some charges appear to be too high. In addition, some of the tenement rate charges that are in existence are arbitrary. For example, landlords are now being billed in an arbitrary manner in the payment of tenement rate.

Taxes of the Affluent and Lack of Political Will Power to Implement Tax Laws

The rich do not want to pay tax. This may be due to their influence in the society. In addition, the rich because of their close connection to the state administration usually avoid paying taxes. The government lacks political will power to implement revenue generating programmes to the letter, especially on the wealthy businessmen who evade tax. The state government in most cases because of political patronage find it difficult to implement tax laws in the state. In addition, because the bulk of the internally generated revenue of the state is from the Federal Government, the state does not have the drive to implement tax laws.

Compliance with Withholding Tax in Imo State

Currently, there is a low level of compliance with withholding tax in the state. Only commercial banks comply with the withholding tax levy at the moment. In addition, there is no revenue-monitoring desk in the Ministry of Works to monitor the withholding tax from the contracts that the ministry awards.

Inadequate Information on Taxpayer's Location, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion

Lack of complete and correct information about taxpayers' residential or business addresses has always inhibited collection efforts. Many taxpayers deliberately give wrong addresses in order to avoid or evade taxes. In specific terms, tax avoidance, which is a device whereby a man arranges his affairs in such a way as to attract less tax, is on a scandalous scale in the state. Businesses, traders, and professionals are the delinquents in this regard.

Low Level of Private Sector Compliance

Private sector participants in the state do not comply with the payment of taxes and levies. For example, the private schools (primary and secondary) have not been paying their dues to the state. In addition, petrol service stations in the state have not been paying their check dues such as fire, ground rent, environmental charges, etc. Only the major marketers have been complying, the independent marketers have refused to comply.

Inadequate Coordination Among Government Agencies

There appears to be little coordination between the various government agencies and the revenue agencies and revenue department e.g. Ministry of Works, the Land Use Allocation Committee, and the Ministry of Commerce to mention only a few. Request for information about taxpayers are often treated with levity.

Collection of Illegal Revenue

Certain revenue collected by the units in the state can be classified illegal. For example, certain secondary schools still collect some levies from students without remitting it to the school. In addition, some patients pay for health care services such as drugs without getting the services required.

Proposed Strategies

While we believe that there is no single set of solutions that would ensure improved domestic resource mobilization in Imo State, our suggested strategies enumerated, though not exhaustive, will be adopted to enhance the domestic resource mobilization effort of Imo State.

Agribusiness Development: Collaborate with private investors to establish agribusiness ventures focused on value addition and processing of agricultural produce. This can include food processing industries, packaging units, and agro-export hubs, which would increase the value of agricultural products and expand export opportunities.

Industrial Zones and Special Economic Zones (SEZs): Partner with private investors to set up industrial zones or SEZs in strategic locations within the state. These zones can attract industries involved in manufacturing, assembly, and processing of various products for both domestic and international markets.

Tourism Infrastructure: Leverage PPPs to develop tourism infrastructure and attractions, such as hotels, resorts, amusement parks, and cultural centers. A well-developed tourism sector can attract visitors, boost local businesses, and generate revenue from tourism-related activities.

Renewable Energy Projects: Form partnerships with private companies to establish renewable energy projects like solar farms, wind farms, or biogas plants. These initiatives can provide clean energy for local consumption and potentially lead to surplus energy for export, generating revenue for the state.

Export-Oriented Manufacturing: Encourage private investors to set up export-oriented manufacturing units in Imo State. Such industries can produce value-added products for international markets, bringing in foreign exchange and enhancing the state's revenue base.

Skills Training and Vocational Centers: Partner with private entities to establish skills training and vocational centers. These centers can equip the local workforce with the necessary skills for employment in emerging industries, increasing productivity and competitiveness.

Logistics and Transportation Infrastructure: Collaborate with private investors to improve logistics and transportation infrastructure within the state. Efficient transport networks

Broadening the Existing Tax Base Our administration's desire to increase the IGR will not rely on increasing the tax rate, rather it will focus on expanding the tax base, and tapping relatively underutilized sources of taxation. Imo State has a very large informal sector and underground economies where cash transactions do not leave any audit trails for tax purposes. It will therefore be necessary to find ways of bringing the large informal sector within the tax net. Addressing this sector will need innovative policies and instruments such as statutory tax declarations but exemptions for low-income earners, tax incentives for small companies reinvesting in local business, increased efficiency in tax collection and support from the banks to encourage greater use of the banking system. Providing business support and information, particularly to SMEs, is one strategy for drawing firms to register formally, given the benefits for their competitiveness, productivity and market access. Another means of tax base broadening is better collection of property taxes. This requires political will, as there is often strong resistance from the wealthy and well-connected property owners.

Reorganisation of the Board of Internal Revenue Service

There is a need for a complete reorganization of the operations of the Imo State Board of Internal Revenue Service. This is needed to chart a clear strategic direction for an improved service delivery with respect to revenue collection in the state. Hence, there will be a need for adequate re-organization and realignment of functions.

Job Creation/Career Development

As a result of the reorganisation and realignment of functions, there will be new job openings in specific skill driven areas that will be created for improved opportunity for career growth and development within the Board of the Internal Revenue Service. The service will then need to encourage staff without the required skills to acquire the necessary skills through institutional support for training and personal improvement of their competency levels. This will enable the staff to perform competitively.

Better Remuneration/Improved Welfare

There should be considerable improvement in the IRS staff remuneration with a new salary scheme. The improved welfare package is to motivate IRS staff to higher performance levels. This is to reduce the tendency of corrupt practices among the IRS staff.

Introduction of Online Payment Services

Given the challenges that abound in the payment of taxes and levies in the state, there is a need for an online payment system to reduce the difficult nature of paper services. Payment platforms can be designed for each agency where the forms are filled and payment made using electronic means. The payee receives email/text messages confirming the payment. In addition, the date for the collection of titles or documents is then communicated by email.

Ensure Adequate Compliance with Withholding Tax in Imo State

There is a need to enact a law that requires all contracts to pass through the Board of Internal Revenue Service so that all individuals, households and agencies comply with the withholding tax requirement in the state.

Audit, Investigation and Enforcement

An audit of major companies in Imo State will be done to ensure that they pay tax. Working in collaboration with the State Board of Internal Revenue, seasoned revenue enhancement professionals armed with documented intelligence information can negotiate and recover tax arrears to the coffers of the state.

Database and Taxpayer Registration

Real time data and information is the live wire of any revenue agency. The development of a robust taxpayer database and registration process will be pursued to support effective taxpayer assessment. The existing Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TIN) process will be strengthened in the state while a tax card scheme, which will provide a one-stop access to taxpayer records and through which taxpayers could pay taxes, should be designed and implemented. This will enable tracking for tax purposes. This can only work effectively with full automation. In Argentina, this same tax number is what is used on driving licenses, passports and other personal documentation.

Taxpayer Education

Since tax must be collected in a professional manner, the state government owes the taxpayers the required education and support services. The taxpaying public needs to be given proper and adequate sensitization on a sustainable basis to let them know their rights, duties and obligations under the relevant tax laws. The tax authorities should also strive to create a friendly tax environment without creating confusion to the taxpayer. The Imo State Board of Internal Revenue Service will carry out a rigorous sensitization of the public on the need to pay their taxes.

Tackling the Underground Economy

The underground economy, otherwise known as the informal sector, is made up of businesses which are not only intractable but also intentionally outside the tax net. All hands should be on deck to work together to effectively tax this sector. For individual taxpayers, apart from those in regular paid employment, the problem of tracking taxpayers outside the tax net is even more challenging especially with certain communities where the house numbering system is a major challenge.

- ◆ Petty businesses such as dress making, car wash, mechanic workshops, hair dressing, etc.
- ◆ Rentals, Barbing Salons, etc.
- ◆ Taxi business (registered and unregistered)
- ◆ Cargo handling
- ◆ Night clubs, Recreation Parks and Bars.

Collaboration with the leadership of vocational bodies, trade associations and community leaders will greatly assist this process.

Review of Government Charges and Rates.

Mostly, current rates and charges by the State Government for services and fines/penalties are low/obsolete and do not reflect the economic realities. There is need to collaborate with the State Government to set up a review committee to examine and work on this.

Effective Collection of Public Utility Service Charge

In conjunction with the relevant Ministries and Agencies, those services which are to be covered by direct fee collection will be identified [a provisional list includes: water (water charges might subsidize the provision of sewerage) refuse, land occupancy certificates and lands surveys, , and various road traffic charges, to contribute to the cost of roads maintenance] and a policy decision should be made for each as to whether these charges are to cover part of the cost of service provision, the whole of the cost of the service, or more than the cost of the service (therefore including a subsidy for other services). In addition,

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PROTECTION



Introduction

Youth empowerment is a process where children and young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives. Youth empowerment is an attitudinal, structural, and cultural process whereby young people gain the ability, authority, and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and the lives of other people, including youths and adults. Youth empowerment is often addressed as a gateway to intergenerational equity, civic engagement and democracy building.

Many local, state, provincial, regional, national, and international government agencies and non-profit community-based organisations provide programs centered on youth empowerment. Youth empowerment is different from youth development because development is centered on developing individuals, while empowerment is focused on creating greater community change and relies on the development of individual capacity. The number of youths in Imo State is growing rapidly, presenting both opportunities and risks. With the right policies and programs in place, a young population offers tremendous opportunities for a demographic dividend. Our administration seeks to empower the youths through various measures of developing their potentials i.e. education, skills acquisition, entrepreneurship training, poverty eradication programmes.

Youth Empowerment

Policy Thrust

To bring together diverse stakeholders through working collaboratively in taking actions that result in productive and sustainable livelihood for the youths in Imo State.

Identified Challenges

- a. Mass illiteracy rate that occasions inadequate skilled manpower.
- b. High unemployment rate among the youths.
- c. Inadequate funding of youth programmes.
- d. Weak infrastructural developments.
- e. Paucity of interest by youths in agriculture.
- f. Absence of required skills development programmes.

Proposed Strategies

- ◆ Situational analysis of the current empowerment programmes.
- ◆ Vocational skills acquisition programme and entrepreneurial training.
- ◆ Establishment of graduate youth employment scheme.
- ◆ Establishment of integrated farm settlement schemes.
- ◆ Establishment of skills acquisition centre.
- ◆ Establishment of waste to wealth creation business clusters.
- ◆ Establishment of state entrepreneurship development centres.
- ◆ Resuscitation of vocational training schools and centres.
- ◆ Establishment of business support centre across the state.
- ◆ Establish entrepreneurship development institute of Imo State.
- ◆ Institute youth mobilization programmes.

- ◆ Establishment of sports centres/facilities.

Social Inclusion and Protection

Social inclusion and protection is about providing equal opportunities for men and women, boys and girls and redressing the disadvantages of vulnerable and marginalized groups. It is a strategy to combat social exclusion and refers to the extent that individuals, families, and communities are able to fully participate in society and control their own destinies, taking into account a variety of factors related to economic resources, employment, health, education, housing, recreation, culture, and civic engagement.

Social exclusion describes a process by which certain groups are systematically disadvantaged because they are discriminated against on the bases of their gender, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, caste, descent, age, disability, HIV status, migrant status or where they live. Poor and vulnerable groups are defined as persons that are prone to danger, attacks, social vices because of their status, background, environment, literacy level, etc. Examples of vulnerable groups are children, women and elderly people. They are also defined as individuals that belong to the lowest socio-economic strata or those who cannot afford the basic standard of living in terms of access to opportunities, social service and wealth. The opportunities for women in Imo State are constrained, not least, due to violence and insecurity. This is because many women have experienced either non-partner sexual violence or physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner, or both.

Policy Thrust

To ensure that all the vulnerable groups are brought within the safety net of Imo State

Major Causes of Vulnerability in Imo State

- ◆ Lack of proper education.
- ◆ Poverty.
- ◆ Insecurity.
- ◆ Gender inequality.
- ◆ Unemployment.
- ◆ Internally displaced individuals.
- ◆ Weak legislation and/or enforcement.
- ◆ Orphanhood.
- ◆ Destitution.
- ◆ Carriers of diseases such as HIV/AIDS.
- ◆ Decayed rural and urban infrastructure.
- ◆ Poor living conditions.
- ◆ Poor database of the vulnerable groups in Nigeria.
- ◆ Inadequate budgetary allocation on issues with respect to the vulnerable groups.
- ◆ Inadequate social facilities for youth and the handicapped.
- ◆ Abandonment of the elderly by family.
- ◆ Loss of memory for the elderly.
- ◆ Inadequate feeding for the elderly.
- ◆ Lack of awareness and stigmatization in the society.

Major Causes of Vulnerability in Imo State

- ◆ Lack of good political will.

Proposed Interventions

Our proposed intervention with respect to social inclusion and protection will cover:

Women's Rights

- ◆ Domestication of International Conventions on violence against women.
- ◆ Ensuring gender balance in all decision-making positions.
- ◆ Institutional framework for combating violence against women.
- ◆ Appointment of women into government positions.

Child Rights

- ◆ Institutions and mechanisms to promote and protect child rights.
- ◆ Adoption of policies to protect child rights.
- ◆ Promotion of child rights and advocacy/awareness.
- ◆ Institute the Save the Children and Action Against Hunger program with Local Government Ministries and Authorities.
- ◆ Enforce the right to education for the girl child.
- ◆ Orphan and Vulnerable Children Education Support Program.

Disability Rights

- ◆ Domestication of international conventions on the rights of the physically challenged.
- ◆ Institutional framework for enforcement of compliance with equal opportunity principle.
- ◆ Establishment of the social trust funds.
- ◆ Enhance access to financial opportunities.
- ◆ Healthcare assistance (healthcare cost reduced fees/subsidized medicines for intended beneficiaries).
- ◆ Targeted income support.
- ◆ Health insurance scheme for the elderly.
- ◆ Establishment of a commission for people living with disabilities.
- ◆ Provide a legal framework that specifically protects intended beneficiaries including children through inheritance rights, birth registration, child care services and breastfeeding.
- ◆ Adequate interaction with PWD association and cluster group for data.
- ◆ Encourage the private sector to hire persons with disabilities or other vulnerable groups by imposing quotas or tax incentives.

Vulnerable Elderly People

- ◆ Domestication of international conventions on the rights of the physically challenged.
- ◆ Construction of the old people's home for elderly people who have no other options for accommodation.
- ◆ Enhanced opportunity to access medical facilities.
- ◆ Enhanced opportunity to access medical/trained nurses.
- ◆ Health insurance scheme for the elderly.

Other Intervention Strategies

Other intervention strategies for social inclusion and protection will include:

- ◆ Conduct a situational analysis of the depth of social inclusion and protection in the state.
- ◆ Adult education programmes to reduce illiteracy.
- ◆ Enhance the capacity of the officials in the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development's departmental records-rehabilitation services.
- ◆ Adequate budgetary allocation on issues with respect to the vulnerable groups.
- ◆ Strengthening the orphan and vulnerable groups monitoring and evaluation system.
- ◆ Planning to conduct census/data capture for the people living with disabilities (PWD).
- ◆ Adequate distribution of social protection facilities across the state
- ◆ Political will especially with respect to the rural areas.
- ◆ Institute policies to address the cases of the mentally challenged.
- ◆ A system of beneficiary identification (ID) will be developed to distinguish program beneficiaries from

non-beneficiaries.

- ◆ Anchor social protection in Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).
- ◆ Introduce analytical tools that would allow policymakers to make informed decisions regarding social protection interventions (cost and benefit analysis, social impact analyses, etc.).

Thank you

PEACE

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