



CHANGE



NIGER 2015 RESTORATION

**ABUBAKAR
SANI BELLO
(ABULOLO)**

**MANIFESTO
2015**

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MANIFESTOS



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1. INTRODUCTION

Niger State; the Power State, is one of the oldest States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria created in 1976. It is currently home to the three hydropower stations namely: **Kainji Dam** (the Premier Hydro power station), **Jebba and Shiroro dams**. The state has a total landmass of 76, 481 Square km making it the largest state in terms of land area. It has a population of 3, 950,249 (2006 census, NPCom).

It has a diverse population spread across its vast territory with rich cultural and historical heritage that are cherished by its lovely people. It is a unique pool of human and natural resources.

The state unfortunately is still in dire need of massive, innovative and genuine development for the benefits of its diverse, hardworking and passionate citizens; who are yearning to have and enjoy a good life.

The indices of development and mere observations shows clearly that the State needs an injection of great and innovative ideas, quality and self-less leadership to turn things around for the benefit of all Nigerlites and to take the State to greatness and glory. This is a fact that the founding fathers of the State clearly envisaged, and will be glad to see its realization.

...the labour of our heroes past
shall never be in vain





2. CONTEXT FOR CHANGE

The context for change is seen in the current realities of our citizens. Nigerlites are affected by developments within their State and those of other States and the world. The socio-economic environment is harsh, volatile, complex and uncertain. Nigerlites are wondering:

- *Why is development in our great State low and poor compared to other less endowed States?*
- *Why is our poverty level still high given our large agricultural and natural resources potential?*
- *Why are our youths unemployed and unemployable?*
- *Why are the youths feeling alienated, the elderly in our communities feeling abandoned, the women feeling unattended despite our rich value system and past heritage to the contrary?*
- *Why are we lacking portable water despite huge water resources in our towns and villages?*
- *Why are our roads deplorable and a death trap?*
- *Why are we generally not making progress?*

While we are surrounded by States that are making some progress, our situation has remained static!!!

3. THE URGENCY FOR CHANGE

The urgency for change by Nigerlites is very obvious giving the hard realities of our communities. The most basics of services are lacking, inadequate, abandoned and/or obsolete. Nigerlites are very dissatisfied with the lack of good governance characterized by unfulfilled promises, abandoned projects, decaying and obsolete infrastructure.





4. WHY APC

The All Progressive Congress (APC) is on a RESCUE MISSION to salvage Nigeria from the throes of bad governance, maladministration, leadership lethargy, corruption of high propensity and lack of accountability to the people.



According to the APC national manifesto:

“Nigeria is changing. We are a young and dynamic nation, where individual citizens strive hard to improve their lives and those of their families. Yet a culture of greed and corruption is holding us back, with trust in the government's ability to create jobs and address basic needs at an all-time low. The disappointment of people in their national government is understandable, as more than 100 million Nigerians are forced to live on less than 160 Naira per day”. (APC Road Map, 2014).

In the light of the above, the APC as a truly national party pledged its commitment further in the following statements:

The APC's philosophy is the welfare of the common man, the assurance of a great future for the youth, and a decent quality of life for all. The APC is determined to give a voice to the youth, mekunu, the umu obenye, and the talakawa.

The test we have adopted for all our policies is: “Will this policy create jobs and benefit the youth and ordinary Nigerians?”

We are committed to a nation where every citizen has the opportunity to work and earn a decent wage, and where the disadvantaged elderly, the disadvantaged disabled and the unemployed are





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assisted by the state, a nation where the curse of corruption is no longer tolerated in our political, social and civic affairs; a nation that is economically and socially vibrant and a nation that recognises our diversity as a source of strength. A Nation we can all be proud of. (APC Road Map 2014)

In this case, Abu Sani Bello is committed to providing quality leadership that will **RESCUE** Niger State in the great APC Vision of a New Nigeria. It's time for change in Niger State; Please Join APC and be part of **CHANGE**.

5. VISION STATEMENT

A state with strong economy and growing prosperity, peace and security

6. MISSION STATEMENT

To provide quality leadership that promote a democratic and economically promising Niger State that unlocks the energies and resourcefulness of Nigerlites for greater good and prosperity, while assuring their peace and security. In doing this we shall irrevocably strive to **RESTORE** and promote our strong societal values and robust institutions that utilize the talents of our people using innovative processes and technologies.

7. GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

The Niger State Government under my humble leadership shall be guided by some common sense values and principles as our guiding philosophy. These are as follows:





- ✓ People First
- ✓ Respect for the dignity of Nigerlites
- ✓ Accountability to the people
- ✓ Integrity of government and governance
- ✓ Collaboration at all levels
- ✓ Excellence in all our endeavours
- ✓ Good governance based on:
 - Transparency
 - Participation and inclusion of all citizens
 - Upholding the rule of law

The above values are in consonance with the diversity and rich cultural heritage of the State. We strongly believe and subscribe to the fact that power belongs to the people and that leadership is a **TRUST (AMANA)**.

8. CARDINAL PRIORITY PROGRAMMES

To deliver on the urgency for change which Nigerlites are yearning for, our government under my leadership shall execute some cardinal priority programmes. The programmes are designed to achieve maximum impact with emphasis on immediate, short term, medium term and long term. Issues requiring immediate to short term solutions mean we have to hit the ground running while laying a solid and genuine foundation for the medium to long term issues. Our programmes are anchored on the overall mission priorities of our great party, the APC.



8.1 The following shall be our Flagship Priority Programmes:

1. Job Creation and Youth Empowerment

This is our number one priority. The poverty level and unemployment rate in the state leaves us with no other option than to tackle this challenge head-on. The youths in Niger state constitute **about 45%** of the total population.

The huge natural and human resources of our State must be harnessed to build a diverse economy that provides gainful employment and revenue through industrialization and services delivery so that Nigerlites can earn a living and better care for their family. This is our number one priority.

Roadmap for Job Creation and Youth Empowerment Includes:

- Create jobs per Local Government immediately for those with a minimum qualification of secondary school leaving certificate and who participate in technology and vocational training.
- Ensure actualization of Job Matching Scheme by matching every one job created by the Local Government through funding with two jobs created by the State Government in the same Local Government Area.
- Ensure implementation of the APC Direct conditional monthly cash transfers to the poorest and most vulnerable citizens upon demonstration of children's enrolment in school and immunization, to help promote job empowerment
- Establish Technology/Industrial Estates fully equipped with ICT, power and





other support across the LGAs to attract and encourage small-scale technology businesses and other entrepreneurs.

- Provide support and guidance to discharged but unemployed Youth Corps members of Niger State while they seek jobs or acquire training and skills for job placement or entrepreneurship.
- Promote the establishment of plants for the assembly and ultimately the manufacture of phones, tablets, computers and other devices.
- Participate in the Initiative that Pay a guaranteed indexed-linked price to farmers to ensure that there is always a ready market for their produce, which will create more jobs, agricultural related employment and sustain existing jobs.
- Provide One Meal a Day for all primary school students that will create jobs in agriculture, including poultry, catering and delivery services.
- Create a scheme that provides matching funds for businesses that have already been validated and secured funding elsewhere, including by borrowing, if such business will create an approved minimum number of skilled jobs.
- Support training centers created for skills acquisition or vocational training by providing infrastructure for such institutions and matching grants where necessary, and organize job fair and recruitment exercises at such institutions.
- Embark on vocational retraining and skills acquisition for unemployed graduates, school leavers and drop-outs emphasizing technology and construction such as plumbers, electricians and tillers, which will feed the public works and social housing schemes among others.

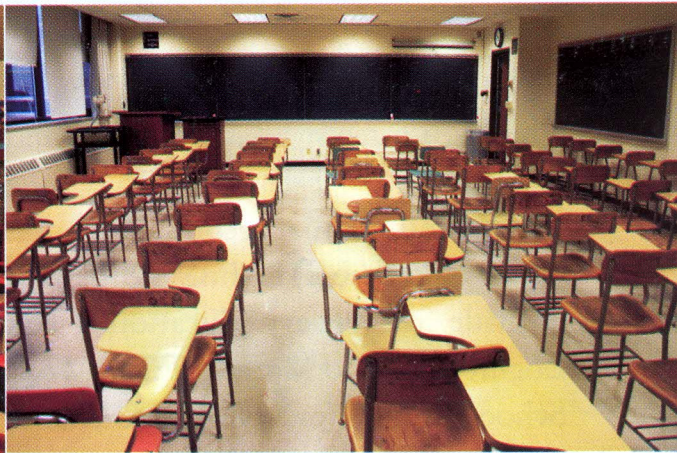


- Implement a social housing policy of low-cost housing units in the first four years, which will create housing and increase skilled and unskilled employment.
- Promote technology transfer, including investing in new and less expensive technologies (as in the building of affordable homes) to create more jobs.
- Make Niger State a national hub for Internet and telecommunications services, including outsourcing and cloud computing, to create new jobs.
- Dramatically increase the number of small and medium-sized enterprises that produce new jobs, with industrial hubs focused on their creation and growth in the areas with comparative advantage.
- Increase investments in State specific research and development, particularly in the areas of science and technology, to create jobs in high-demand fields.
- Improve the entrepreneurial, vocational and technical skills of youth in areas such as technology, agriculture, manufacturing and other important fields, to prepare them for the jobs of the future.
- Ensure women receive fair treatment in employment, education and housing, and encourage affirmative action for women based on merit.

2. Education

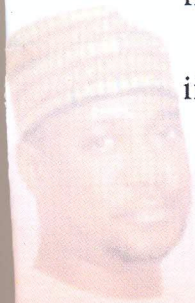
Quality education is essential to prepare our youth for the jobs of tomorrow. Unfortunately, our system is failing them: half of our children who complete primary six cannot read, and many children of primary school age do not attend school.





Our education programme shall be based on the need to address the three cardinal problem areas in education which are:

- i. Infrastructure: we shall ensure that our schools have conducive environment support learning. The schools must be environmentally friendly and based on the new concept of green economy- (Green Schools). This will inculcate a culture of climate change conscious students.
- ii. Teaching and Instructional materials: Our schools must have the appropriate materials to promote learning and innovation among students.
- iii. Skills and competency of Teachers: Our Teachers must be trained and retrained to enable them mentor and train our students for the challenges of 21st century.





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Roadmap for Free Relevant Quality Education Includes:

- Make the right of every Niger State child to receive a free, relevant and quality education a reality, based on free and comprehensive primary and secondary education.
- Upgrade all premier secondary schools (the very old schools that produced our leaders and heroes) in the State to model standards.
- Provide free tertiary education to students pursuing Science and Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). We shall return the Model Science Secondary Schools as hubs for STEM education and to promote unity among our youths
- Provide free tertiary education to education majors and stipends prior to their employment as teachers.
- Create incentives and dedicate special attention to the education of girls.
- Ensure every child attending primary school is properly nourished and ready to learn by providing a Free Meal a Day.
- Invest in better equipping and staffing of Teacher Training Colleges and provide financial and progression incentives to attract and retain good teachers.
- Re-introduce the Advance Teachers Training Colleges (one in each of our three zones) to focus on training and re-training of our Teachers within the confines of the 21st century skills and competencies.
- Revamp and restructure education curricula from primary to tertiary levels with a view to ensuring students acquire the right skills for employment, entrepreneurship and innovation.





- Promote a culture of civic and cultural education with emphasis on the dangers of corruption to society; know your community and its values to prepare our youths for leadership and challenges of the 21 century.
- Prepare young adults for the jobs of the future by expanding the focus on science and technology at our colleges and universities.
- Improve the ability of people to gain employment in a variety of fields through greater access to technical and vocational training.
- Strengthen the educational quality assurance system, inspectorate services and introduce a Teachers and Schools Reward System for performance improvement.

We must invest in quality teachers, schools and colleges to equip current and future generations with the knowledge and skills they need to gain employment, live productive lives and contribute to the welfare of their communities. Our future depends on it.

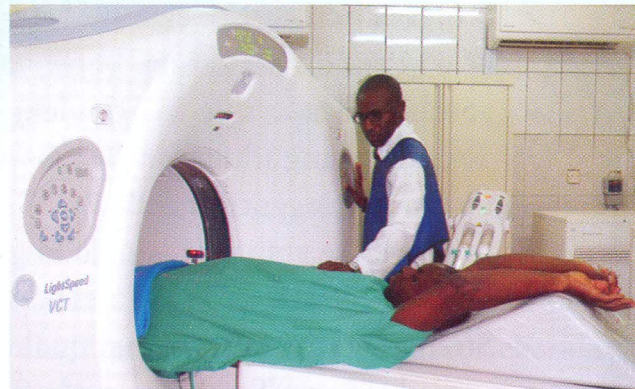
3. Health

The wealth of our nation depends on the health of our people. Today, the life expectancy of the average Nigerian is a mere 52 years; and invariably so in Niger State. This is unacceptable.

Most families lack money for adequate health care, and too few communities have access to quality health facilities or medical professionals.



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Roadmap for Health Care Includes:

- Ensure the State benefits and key into the free quality comprehensive health care based on a national health insurance scheme.
- Undertake comprehensive renovation and rehabilitation of existing General Hospitals and other health facilities to meet basic standards.
- Encourage medical professionals to establish practices and work in rural and medically underserved areas, by providing incentives including tuition and other training reimbursement for such professionals.
- Provide incentives for Nigerlite doctors and health practitioners working abroad to return home, to strengthen the health care industry in Nigeria and provide quality care to those who need it.
- Double the number of practicing physicians and health care professionals in Niger State through increase in the quality of General Hospitals to world-class





standards.

- Upgrade the IBB specialists' hospital and establish three more specialists' hospital in each of the State's zones (A, B and C).
- Promote the integration of traditional health care into modern health care system.
- Review and promulgate laws that promote quality healthcare delivery and stamp out quackery in the system.
- Establish Medical College to support the training and re-training of medical professionals in the State.

4. Agriculture and Food Security

Nigeria was once a leading agricultural producer, helping feed other parts of the world. Today, our decline in productivity means we must import essential goods like wheat, rice, sugar and milk, costing us billions every year.

Niger State has the largest land area for agricultural production, with very good weather conditions being located in the savannah zone (both the Sudan and Guinea savannah and some areas of forest zone). Agriculture in Niger State is still largely subsistence. We must move Niger State Agriculture away from subsistence level to





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agriculture as a business and wealth creation sector. Agriculture must create jobs across its value chains while providing needed revenue for critical development of the State.

Roadmap for Restoring Agriculture Includes:

- Ensure maximum participation in the planned Federal government-guaranteed market for agricultural produce at world index-linked prices.
- Revive agriculture as an engine for economic growth and new jobs, including the expansion of agricultural processing and manufacturing.
- Strengthened farmers in increasing food production and creating jobs by modernizing and commercializing farm production, and increase the availability



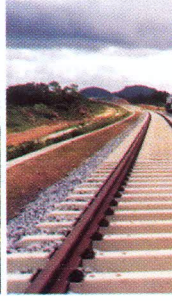


- of loans and capital investments for small and medium-scale farmers.
- Make more land available and prepared for farming, and encourage young people to enter into farming through incentives such as incubator hubs, enterprise clusters and price guarantees.
 - Make sure farmers have access to the resources they need, such as seeds and fertilizer, by enhancing agricultural extension services and food inspectorate divisions.
 - Ensure food supply is affordable, reduces food-borne illnesses and improves nutrition through a reinvigorated and strengthened food inspectorate system.
 - Promote the upgrading of the value chains of major agricultural commodities in Niger State based on comparative advantage.
 - Ensure farmers receive continuous training and retraining in modern agricultural production practices and other value chain activities.
 - Ensure partnership and collaboration with national and international agricultural institutions' to promote good agricultural practices of our farmers

5. Infrastructure

A Niger State economy that produces jobs requires a modern day infrastructure that includes affordable and reliable power, quality roads and improved transportation. Nigeria's lack of reliable electricity and poor transportation system have made business activity and the movement of people and goods more difficult, raised our cost of living and caused needless deaths and property loss

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Roadmap for Roads, Power and Infrastructure Includes:

- Pursue the provision of quality roads to our towns and villages;
- Promote feeder roads provision to areas of high economic value.
- Pursue a policy that ensures all Local Government Headquarters are linked to the State Capital through quality and motorable roads.
- Pursue a policy that provides roads and its maintenance to villages especially those that are hubs of agricultural activities
- Pursue and Promote the Policy that will provide captive power to critical factories and industries;
- Pursue the linkage of the State capital (Minna) to the Kaduna-Abuja mode rail line;
- Increase Niger States' connectivity to broadband Internet capacity through national fibre-optics network to spur economic growth and create thousands of new jobs.
- Develop an integrated transport system that maximizes the transportation of goods, raw materials and people.



Corruption and mismanagement have cost Nigeria dearly and indeed Niger State. While 80 percent of the government's revenues are derived from oil and gas – a resource that belongs to all Nigerians – considerable money is lost every day to inefficiency and corruption.

6. Peace and Security

Peace and security are fundamental to Nigeria's social and economic wellbeing. Every Nigerian should be safe and free to work in any part of the country regardless of tribe, ethnicity, or religious beliefs.



Our law enforcement agencies face significant challenges on many fronts: terrorism, especially in the Northeast, unresolved high-profile homicides and the rise in new crimes such as kidnapping, abductions and cyber-crime. The result is an international perception of Nigeria as a failing state where violent crime, corruption and fraud are rife.



Roadmap to Peace and Security

- Reform and strengthen the Justice System for faster, more efficient justice in cases of terrorism, corruption, and kidnapping, drug trafficking and similar cases of national importance.
- Provide leadership that promotes cooperation and synergy among the security agencies in the state
- Provide support to the security formations in the State for quick actions that guarantees peace and security.
- Support and promote traditional and community level vigilance and security for harmonious and peaceful co-existence in the State.

7. Public Service Reform

The Public service is the engine of governance and service delivery. We shall reposition the public service to meet the challenges of governance in a 21st century Niger State.

8. Value Re-Orientation

Values are the water of society. A society without values had lost its bearing and direction. We shall promote all-inclusive value reorientation initiatives that involve our traditional institutions, religious bodies and other interest groups through continuous enlightenment, mobilization and education of our citizens. We shall also introduce specific programmes that will ensure its success through participatory and diversity management initiatives.





9. Industrialization and Natural Resources Management

Niger is blessed with a wealth of natural resources, from its rich agricultural land to reserves to minerals such as gold, limestone, and tantalite.

These precious natural resources belong to the Nigerlites and must be managed in a way that improves lives and ensures their availability for future generations.

Roadmap for Industrialization:

- Make sure people at a local level benefits from mining and mineral wealth.
- Promote industrial parks development and small scale industries based on the comparative advantage of Niger State.
- Promote development of one product (and more in special cases) for each Local Government based on the cooperative and lead entrepreneurship approach.

Roadmap for Managing Our Natural Resources Includes:

- Make sure people at a local level benefits from mining and mineral wealth.
- Promote industrial parks development and small scale industries based on the comparative advantage of Niger State.
- Protect people from dangerous pollution and operational hazards by enforcing laws to promote good operating practices.
- Promote urban and village waste collection and management
- Promote a waste to wealth programme that generates employment; reduce environmental degradation and pollution while generating income for operators.
- Promote shelterbelt development and planting of trees while enforcing





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environmental and forest laws.

- Promote sound environmental management and mitigate climate change based on principles of sustainable development

8.2 Key Governance Outcomes

The very essence of governments as enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution and to which they shall be held accountable is the protection of life and property of the citizenry. The way these simple but critical services are delivered defines all governments. Accordingly, government shall ensure that the purpose of governance meets this expectation. All programmes, initiatives and projects shall be focused on delivering the following outcomes:

1. Guarantee security of life and property of Nigerlites and all citizens in the State
2. Generate employment
3. Reduce poverty
4. Improve the quality and reach of basic education;
5. Promote food security;
6. Promote healthy living and public safety;
7. Promote a skilled and capable workforce to support inclusive growth;
8. Promote the development of efficient, competitive and responsive infrastructure network;
9. Promote vibrant and sustainable rural communities with improved quality of household life;
10. A responsive, accountable and visible local government system;
11. Environmental assets and natural resources that are well protected and continually enhanced;





12. An efficient, effective and responsive public institutions and services
13. Empowered, fair, tolerant and inclusive Niger State as a place to live and prosper

8.3 The above flagship programmes shall be a radar and guide that will serve to focus the execution of government programmes, projects and initiatives. All sectors must be aligned to delivery of the governance outcomes noted above. Accordingly, different sectors will have different levels of contribution to the attainment of these outcomes. This will be spelt out in the strategy plan for implementation; which is a companion document that detailed how we shall deliver on this Manifesto

9. Implementation and execution strategy

The implementation and execution of these programmes to deliver on the governance outcomes shall be guided by our core guiding philosophy. Emphasis shall be place in empowering government institutions to deliver on the promises of our programmes; supported by the private sector under a mutually beneficial Public-Private-Partnership.

We are not unmindful of the existing and on-going programmes and projects in the State. Moving forward we shall conduct thorough and quality-focused assessment and evaluation of all government projects. We must determine what is on ground, what is working, what is not working, what needs to be remodelled, renovated and upgraded for proper execution. On the bases of this we shall re-focus, re-design and or re-direct all projects to contribute to our governance outcomes. These governance outcomes were carefully selected to enhance



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the chances of Niger State meeting the various national development goals such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), educational goals of functional literacy, food and nutrition security, industrialization, environmental management, gender and vulnerable groups' inclusion in governance among others. We shall ensure that value for money is obtained in all our transactions while also maximising the generation of internal revenue from our vast natural resources pool using innovative and model approaches. We shall restore peoples' confidence in government and governance at all levels.

The key drivers of our programmes shall be **PEOPLE, PROCESS** and **TECHNOLOGY**. The governance model we shall adopt has **PEOPLE** as its core. In the same vein, people must be the anchor for implementation with processes and technology as the tools and instruments for service delivery. The Model is depicted in Figure 1 below:





Figure 1: Abulolo Governance Framework:



7-Point Index of Performance

1. Guaranteed Peace , security and rule of law
2. Youth Employment
3. Prosperity – reduced poverty
4. Popular support and participation –in government programmes
5. Infrastructural development – to promote economic growth
6. High values, and equity
7. Happiness of citizens





10. How to deliver

The business of delivery of services to the citizens is a very serious and crucial matter. Accordingly, the question of "How do we deliver to the people" is answered by a companion document to this manifesto titled: **"IMPLEMENTATION AND EXECUTION STRATEGY PLAN: How we shall deliver our Manifesto promises.**

Principally however, each of our programmes/projects/initiatives shall have the following facts clearly spelt out in such a way that Nigerlites can confirm, verify and critic on their delivery and performance.

Goal: A goal is a high level or end outcome. It shall describe what the general public sector is trying to achieve to deliver on our manifesto promises. Each goal shall be endorsed by popular participation of stakeholders and Nigerlites such that indicators are developed to track progress.

Desired results:

Desired results are outcomes that either contribute directly to the attainment of the stated goal or constitute a component part of the more generally expressed goal. Outcomes differ from either outputs or organisational objectives in that they refer to the effects experienced by someone (citizens, communities, etc) or something (the economy, the environment, etc) outside of government. It is Nigerlites that will give us our scorecard of performance based on how our projects are impacting their lives and those of their families.





Services: Services represent outputs produced by general government agencies. They are based on the service efforts described by the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in response to our Manifesto and other statutory responsibilities. For example are Nigerlites able to access affordable health care? Are Nigerlites able to access and use portable water?

11. Accountability framework

The accountability of governance shall be to the people. Accordingly, Nigerlites shall be regularly furnished with progress scorecard on a monthly basis. There shall be a policy on regular interaction and feedback from the people to further guide our programme and projects implementation.

To further ensure that all operations of government are accountable to the people, we shall adopt a **"Whole of Government Accountability Framework"** which shall spell out how all projects shall deliver on the **OUTCOMES** promised in their design and execution. Accountability shall also be tied to free flow of information and communication with the citizens using both formal and informal (traditional) channels and media.

12. Reporting and communication strategy

Reporting our progress to those who gave us mandate to govern is a top priority of our governance system. Accordingly, we shall maintain a flexible and result-based communication strategy. Emphasis must be on getting feedback that adds value to our governance and programmes implementation.



13. Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning: Consolidating Our gains

All programmes must conform to the Results Framework. We shall constantly evaluate our actions, to identify successes that need to be outscaled and upscaled while also learning from past mistakes; never to repeat them again.

