

A BETTER ALTERNATIVE

★ ★ OUR PACT WITH BAYELSA STATE ★ ★
AND THE PEOPLE

PEAP



ENGINEER

**UDENGs
ERADIRI**

COMMODORE (RTD)

**BENJAMIN
NATHUS**

FOR

GOVERNOR, BAYELSA STATE



A BETTER ALTERNATIVE

★ BAYELSA 2023 ★

INTRODUCTION

It is not a mistake, neither is it a co-incidence that Bayelsa State is christened as the “GLORY OF ALL LANDS”. This appellation is the true reflection and representation of the potentials, endowments and capacity of Bayelsa State.

In some quarters, it has been said that Bayelsa State is supposed to be the “Dubai of Nigeria”. This is because Bayelsa State is potentially the richest state in Nigeria.

Bayelsa State is supposed to be a tourism, commercial, industrial, recreational, and infrastructural destination of investors across Africa and the world at large.

Some of the potentials and natural endowments of Bayelsa state are specified as follows:

- Provides one third of Nigeria's oil wealth.
- About 40% of onshore crude oil production and about 60% of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) resource
- The largest gas reserves in Nigeria, exceeding 18 trillion cubic feet
- One of the largest crude oil deposits in Nigeria.
- Excellent access to the Atlantic Ocean including a natural deep-sea port.
- Host to the Shell Petroleum Development
- Company's world class \$4 billion gas gathering facility located at Gbaran-Ubie (the largest investment made by the Shell Petroleum

- Development Company in Africa).
- Greatly endowed with vast reserves of oil and gas and other mining resources.
- Fertile soil and vast arable land for agricultural and agro-allied investment.
- Endowed with vast agricultural and innumerable aquatic resources.
- Endowed with several natural tourism sites that can be harnessed. Greatly endowed with invaluable human resources and blessed in abundance with many other natural resources such as water, sand, clay, trees (wood), salt, etc.

The list is virtually endless.

Unfortunately, the above-mentioned blessings of God upon Bayelsa State, are till date, yet to translate to prosperity for Bayelsa State and Bayelsans.

Rather, Bayelsa State is in a squalid condition replete with abject poverty, abysmal under development, infrastructural deficit, and gross darkness. Without any fear of contradiction, the problem of Bayelsa State, is purely that of leadership.

Bayelsa State needs a purposeful, result-oriented, ingenious, people-oriented, honest, updated, bold and courageous leadership. The hallmark of successful political leadership across the world is no longer the control of public resources but wealth creation, promotion of humanity and environmental sustainability. This is the reason why we are offering ourselves to bell the Cat and be the vessel for the deliverance of Bayelsa state under the humble but reliable platform of the Labour Party

OUR RESOLVE:

We are determined and have resolved with our training and experience to re-write the history of Bayelsa State and take Bayelsa State to its pride of place where it can boldly answer to its appellation as **THE GLORY OF ALL LANDS**. In doing this, we have come up with a four (4) Point AGENDA which I have called the **PEAP Agenda**.

PEAP in this instance is an Acronym for:

PEOPLE EDUCATION AGRICULTURE POWER



P - PEOPLE

People are a veritable part of economy and Job creation. We have realized that an average Bayelsan is not lazy. We are very strong, energetic and willing to work. We will engage with the People, make them understand the direction and the vision, find out their needs, work with them to procure solutions, revive their moral statehood and patriotism. We shall operate a participatory leadership. These engagements would help us identify core areas where we can create jobs that will stimulate the economy.

We will together with the people ensure that Healthcare is professionally delivered and made easily accessible. Modern medical equipment shall be provided in our hospitals and medical facilities.

Training and re-training of health workers shall be a priority. Bayelsa has a total of about 28 health centres across the whole state which is not enough. Our Government shall build and equip more health centers across the state. We shall revive and strengthen the Bayelsa Health Insurance Scheme to accommodate students and those in the informal sector.

Decent, healthy and affordable Housing and Accommodation would be made available. We shall make deliberate efforts to commence the new Yenagoa city development plan to attract development to other areas of the state capital and decentralize the Yenagoa metropolis.





We shall build the **Brass Atlantic City** as well as develop the Sagbama, Ogbia, Oporoma and Ekeremor towns in order for us to have alternative cities deliberately built with modern facilities like security, malls, recreation, etc.

Water and Sanitation would be provided in consonance with health principles and environmentally friendly standards.

People especially the youth participation in governance shall be paramount in our government, as not less than 50% of political appointees shall be men and women of 45 years and below. Security of our People shall be paramount as security is the primary responsibility of government. Our government shall ensure the security of lives and property in Bayelsa State.

Our number one strategy for reducing insecurity shall be wealth creation and provision of jobs for our teeming population.

We shall work closely with security agencies in collaboration with community executives to enhance security in Bayelsa State.

We shall strengthen our criminal justice system to ensure that offenders are adequately and promptly punished.

Beyond punishment of offenders for crime, we shall adopt policies and programmes to promote peace, unity and good behaviour so as to reduce the incidents of crime. We shall equally invest in modern security technologies, artificial intelligence, and facilities to enhance surveillance, criminal detection, security alarms and easy identification. "We shall as a state Policy ensure that every home and business in the metropolis install security cameras that will be connected to the central control unit" We shall review the Bayelsa volunteer programme as well as and other neighborhood watch programmes providing training in modern ways of surveillance to ensure effective surveillance of the entire state. We shall introduce the Bayelsa coastal guards to combat illegal activities around our waterways and other blue economy related crimes.

Our government would commit itself to deliberately allocating resources in our first six months into the streets for the delivery of simple environment and aesthetics related services (Quick Wins Projects) by the average youths in each of the 8 local governments in Bayelsa State to ensure that there is money in the hands of its citizens through the Bayelsa Microfinance Bank to do business, pay their bills grow and contribute to the Bayelsa economy.

We shall invest with the sustainability of our environment in mind, considering the topical issues of climate change and decarbonization which are paramount for our continued existence as a people. In addressing the prevalent issue of flood, our government shall dredge all the areas that need to be dredged, dike the boundaries, create new drainages and clean up the existing canals and ensure that they are open for free flow of water, while enforcing all environmental sanitation, environmental protection and urban planning laws.

We would provide an effective transportation system across the state with modern vehicles for mass transit and boats for marine transportation to ease transportation in the state.

We would as a deliberate policy support the Arts, Culture & Entertainment sector of the state by making funds available to discover, support and expose talents of our musicians, artists, entertainers, comedians, movie makers, etc.

Government shall also partner with entertainers in the sponsorships of events, shows and activities that will open up the sector for export and recognition.

We shall develop our natural environment, cultural practices and activities to enhance our tourism potentials and transform the state to a tourism destination.

The physically challenged and people with disabilities would be given special care and well catered for in our government. We shall set up a special commission to look into their issues and manage their disabilities and ensure that life is made a lot easier for them. The aged/elderly people would be given special care and provided with incentives such as medicare, monthly stipends and other support that will cater for their weaknesses and ameliorate issues peculiar to them in a bid to give them a better lease of life.

It is pertinent to mention here, that our government shall be gender sensitive especially as it regards the female gender. We will strive to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls in the public and private spheres.

In keeping to this, we shall adhere to the 35% affirmation for female participation in governance . This will be reflected in our appointments and engagements. The above issues are the basic day to day challenges faced by our people. Therefore, the well being of the people is cardinal to the success of the people oriented leadership that we are offering.





E - EDUCATION

Digital Education, Skills Acquisition, ICT, Youth Capacity Building and Wealth creation. Our Government shall provide quality and functional free education policy for primary and secondary education for all Bayelsans. Rural education would be a priority. Training and re-training of teachers shall be a priority so as to keep them updated. Schools at all levels will be equipped with current and relevant educational materials and facilities. Teachers arrears and salaries would be paid as at when due.

A special Scholarship programme where beneficiaries would sign bonds with the state to work for the state for five or more years as the case may be would be instituted. This scholarships would be for professional skills like Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, Power, ICT, etc and will be awarded to interested students at tertiary levels.

Government shall encourage and support academic contests with handsome prizes. Students having useful and verifiable inventions in science and technology would be identified through idea festivals and supported by government.

We shall upgrade educational facilities and infrastructure to quality and modern standards from the Primary to the tertiary Institutions in Bayelsa.



Emphasis would be laid on skills acquisition, ICT and other technical vocations and human capacity development.

We would establish “Tech Villages and ICT Hubs” for the development, exploration, and promotion of the skills of young Bayelsans in Tech, Artificial Intelligence (AI) , digital technology, skills development, sports, entertainment, entrepreneurship, SMEs, and agriculture. This would be done through training, professional mentoring, start-up guidance, grants, soft loans, contests with attractive prizes attached, guaranteed government patronage, etc.

Government will provide free Broadband Internet access in the state to drive the ICT hubs and Villages that will bring the required knowledge revolution required to function in the global economy.





The State's Students Loan Scheme will be reviewed to function more effectively and made easily accessible to accommodate more students.

We would revive the existing sports Academy and establish more to develop the sports potentials in young Bayelsans and provide them the opportunities that abound in the global sporting sector.

We shall build a University Community/ Village for the Niger Delta University NDU and other state owned tertiary institutions where there will be modern hostels, lecturers and professors quarters, malls and cinemas with 24 hours power to accommodate the teeming students who live off campus.



A - AGRICULTURE

Our government will promote agriculture and food production. We would produce what we consume and would no longer depend solely on food and farm produce that comes from neighboring states. Bayelsa State has the perfect soil and climate suitable for the cultivation of cash crops and food crops such as fruits, vegetables, maize, cassava, rice, plantain, banana, sugar cane, palm oil, tomatoes, pepper, onions, yam, potatoes, cocoa, timber etc. We will harness our crops like Sugar cane that is growing untamed in Southern Ijaw to produce Sugar for our consumption and commercial purposes. We will take advantage of the Rice farming in Otuokpoti to produce and market rice in commercial quantities.

We shall create different agricultural clusters in all the 8 LGAs. Each cluster will concentrate on growing and producing one product where they have comparative advantage and in large commercial quantities with government providing access to land, funding, seedlings, access to market, and agric extension services. This will not only promote food security but also stimulate the economy.

We would identify investment areas where Bayelsa State has comparative advantage in aquatic resources, agro-allied processing, manufacturing and invest massively in these sectors.

We shall create different agricultural clusters in all the 8 LGAs. Each cluster will concentrate on growing and producing one product where they have comparative advantage and in large commercial quantities with government providing access to land, funding, seedlings, access to market, and agric extension services. This will not only promote food security but also stimulate the economy.

We would identify investment areas where Bayelsa State has comparative advantage in aquatic resources, agro-allied processing, manufacturing and invest massively in these sectors.



To stimulate commerce and enhance food security, Government shall revive the Bayelsa Fisheries and woo investors to areas of Commercial large-scale fishing/trawling, Deep-sea fishing, Commercial fish farming/pond development, fresh fish preservation; storage and export; Canning and processing for local and export market; and Fish oil and fish meal production.

We would revive all the moribund agricultural establishments and farms, like the Bayelsa Palm in Elebele, the Cassava processing facility in Ebedebiri. The 45,000 birds poultry farm in Ebedebiri. The one thousand five hundred (1500) fish ponds and processing facility at Yenegue-Igbogene and others would be made productive for the purpose of creating jobs, wealth and a viable economy.



P - POWER

We perfectly understand the importance of power to the economy of a state and in the improvement of the living standards of its populace. We would ensure that we provide power and make deliberate and intentional efforts to industrialize the state.

Thankfully, the recently enacted Electricity Act, 2023 empowers a state to generate, transmit and distribute electricity. Therefore, our government shall invest heavily and strategically in electricity within the confines of the law.



We would identify investment areas where Bayelsa State has comparative advantages in oil & gas, petrochemicals, power generation and agro-allied processing and manufacturing and deploy resources to expand and develop these areas.

Our administration will embark on massive infrastructural development in a bid to cover the embarrassing infrastructural deficit that is evident in Bayelsa State. We shall construct flyovers; ensure quality construction and completion of our senatorial roads; construct and complete internal and link roads in the capital city; Construction of ring roads; befitting beautification of the capital city; uncompromisingly implement the Yenagoa master plan; construct state-of-the-art leisure parks, zoo and tourism sites.

We shall take advantage of the enormous availability of gas resources, water resources and renewables to provide clean, safe and uninterrupted power supply in Bayelsa State. We shall procure Gas turbines for the three senatorial districts for uninterrupted power supply.

We would harness the availability of gas to power an Industrial / Production area which we will advertise to attract industries.

We would revive and strengthen the moribund Bayelsa Oil company to fully participate in the Oil and Gas sector in Bayelsa State.



We shall revive the following moribund state owned companies:

- Bayelsa Construction Company
- Bayelsa Plastic Company
- Bayelsa Palm
- Bayelsa Fisheries
- Bayelsa Oil Company
- Bayelsa Paint Manufacturing Company
- Bayelsa Transport Company
- Bayelsa Cassava Processing Facility
- Bayelsa Dredging Company
- Bayelsa Printing Press
- Bayelsa Drug Distribution Company
- 1500 Fish ponds - Igbogene and 1000 Fish Ponds - Ayama





With this agenda, we would have increased the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), which we shall maximise using technology to block leakages and by so doing would have stimulated the economy for growth.

These and many more areas would be explored beyond our focal points in the agenda.

In all, our goal will be to always identify the needs of the state and meet them accordingly with the ultimate objective of creating positive changes that will impact the people positively.

This we have resolved to do with God helping us.

Thank you and God Bless you.

