

Educational

Yar'Adua's Seven Point + Two Special Interest issues Agenda for Nigeria

The Presidential Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, enunciated a seven-point agenda **Plus Two Special Interest Areas** to tackle the numerous problems facing The Nigerian economy.

These include:

POWER AND ENERGY – The infrastructural reforms in the power sector would aim at the development of sufficient and adequate power supply to ensure Nigeria's ability to compete as a modern economy and achieve full industrialization by the year 2015. He declared a national emergency on energy and power supply. The plan is to increase power supply to 10,000 megawatts (mw) in 2011 and 50,000 mw by 2015.

INFRASTRUCTURE- At the core of the infrastructural reform is the need to move from an extractive industry fraught with corruption with no value added to the productive sector of the economy. The aim is to free resource currently deployed through joint venture cash calls for for development of the social sector institutions such as education and health. It will also end the attendant lack of transparency currently associated with NNPC operations.

FOOD SECURITY – Food reforms is primarily agrarian based, anchored on the desire for wealth creation in order to make a shift from the undue emphasis on oil and gas. The emphasis would be on the development of modern technology, research, financial injection into research, production and the development of agricultural inputs. This is expected to revolutionize the agricultural sector leading to a 5-10 fold increase in yield and food production. This will result in massive domestic and commercial outputs and technological knowledge transfer to farmers.

WEALTH CREATION – By virtue of its reliance on revenue from non-renewal oil, Nigeria is yet to develop industrial capacity. This reform is focused on wealth creation through the diversification of production, especially, in the agricultural and solid mineral sub-sectors.

TRANSPORT SECTOR – The transport sector in Nigeria, characterized by poor state and network of roads is an inefficient means of mass transportation of people and goods. Transport reforms would involve road and rail development. This would be kicked off with the rehabilitation and modernization of the Nigerian railway and the construction of new road network across the country as well as constant rehabilitation of existing ones. The goal is to modernize the Nigerian transport system.

LAND REFORMS – the main thrust of the land reform is to change the existing land laws and ensure the emergence of land reforms that will optimize Nigeria's growth through the release of land for commercial farming and other large scale business by the private sector. The final result will ensure unhindered access to land to boost output and improve capacity for wealth creation.

SECURITY – The assurance of security of life and property is to improve the internal and external investment climate. Thus, security is seen as not only a constitutional requirement but also a necessary infrastructure for the development of a modern Nigeria. With its particular needs, the Niger Delta security issue is the primary focus; organize not with physical policing or military security, but through honest and accurate dialogue between the people and the Federal Government.

EDUCATION – The two-fold reforms in the educational sector is to ensure the minimum acceptable international standards of education for all. With that achieved, a strategic educational development plan will ensure excellence in both the tutoring and learning of skills in science and technology by students who will be seen as the future innovators and industrialists of Nigeria. This reform will

be achieved through massive injection of both funds and human capital into the Education sector.