

VOTE NOT FIGHT

Conclusion

Osun youth are passionate about the development of the state and are organizing to build power and speak with one voice as we engage in intergenerational dialogue and stake steps to hold the political parties, candidates and elected officials to account. We are aware that there is power in our numbers and we will put that to good use in the electoral process and governance dialogue in the interests of our dear state.

The Osun Youth Agenda was developed as a non-partisan and non-profit initiative with support from international partners like the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the British Department for International Development (DFID). We call on all Osun youth and other stakeholders to queue behind this initiative to promote good governance and development in our dear state.

How To Vote Correctly



VNF HOTLINE

For more inquiries call

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OSUN STATE YOUTH AGENDA

VOTE NOT FIGHT

Introduction

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with one of the largest populations of youth in the world. Young people under age 35 constitute more than 60% of the population. According to the 2006 Population Census, there are 1,115,394 youth between ages 18 and 35 in Osun state. This represents 32% of the total 3,416,959 Osun population, whereas, persons age 36 years and above only constitute 23.4% of the total population (National Population Commission). The National Bureau of Statistics estimated Osun's population to be 4,705,589 in 2016. 32% of this number is 1,505,788.48. Irrespective of this, both nationally and in Osun, the influence of the country's youth in political processes and decision making remains very limited.

The Osun State Youth Agenda is aimed at aggregating voices of young people to engage political actors and demand government accountability before, during and after the September 22, 2018 governorship election in the state. The youth agenda is a product of a 2018 survey of six hundred Osun youth across the 30 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the state. The youth agenda presents to political parties and their candidates the priority developmental issues of Osun youth.

Osun youth demand that the incoming government focuses more on Education, Employment, Health, Agriculture and Poverty Reduction when inaugurated after the September 22, 2018 election. It is the desire of Osun youth to vote into power and reelect only candidates who would incorporate these demands as part of their campaign manifestoes and take measurable steps to implement them once elected. Osun youth would not bring the discussions on youth priority issues as captured in this agenda to a close after the 2018 governorship election. After the election, the agenda would become a tool for holding government accountable on promises made. It is expected that this agenda would stimulate a conversation among Osun state youth on youth inclusion, decision making, governance and service delivery in the state.

Methodology and Key Findings

The 2018 survey, known as the Youth Priority Needs Questionnaire (YPNQ), was administered by trained #VoteNotFight campaign coordinators in the thirty LGAs of the state. Through random sampling, six hundred youth, twenty in each LGA, were identified and filled the YPNQ. The YPNQ is a three-item questionnaire that seeks to identify the priority needs of youth, how they would measure candidates' commitment to the agenda and their views on the immediate steps that candidates must take to implement the agenda. The first item provides eighteen (18) key priority areas for young people, as captured in the Nigeria National Youth Policy, with an option to add to the list. The youth respondents who filled the questionnaires were asked to identify five top priority issues. The respondents included 285 students, 96 entrepreneurs, 32

farmers, 77 employees, 77 unemployed persons and 23 housewives. As priorities, 18% of respondents chose education, 15% chose employment, 14% chose health, 11% chose agriculture and 8% chose poverty – bringing the total respondents supporting these five issues to 66%.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CANDIDATES OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES

Osun youth make the following recommendations for political parties and their candidates to demonstrate their willingness to support the Osun Youth Agenda:

1. All candidates should make strong commitments to implement this agenda by signing a pledge.
2. All candidates should immediately review their manifestos to include programs and projects for male-youth, female-youth and youth with disabilities in line with this Youth Agenda.
3. Whichever candidate emerges victorious from the September 22, 2018 Osun governorship election should dedicate a minimum of 56% of the state's annual budget to address the issues identified in the Youth Agenda (Education 26%, Employment 10%, Health 10%, Agriculture 10% and Poverty reduction 10%).
4. Whichever candidate emerges victorious from the 2018 governorship election in Osun state should dedicate a minimum of 30% of all appointive positions to qualified youth.

YOUTH DEMANDS FOR THE IN-COMING GOVERNMENT

Osun youth demand that any political party or candidate that wins the 2018 Osun governorship election focuses development efforts to improve education, create employment opportunities, improve health care delivery, promote agriculture and eradicate poverty. Specifically, the government should do the following:

Improve Education

1. Immediately reduce cost of school fees in state-owned higher institutions, give scholarships to students on merit and revive bursary payments to students.
2. Provide adequate teaching and learning materials, including libraries and laboratories for all government-owned schools at all levels in the state.
3. Train and retrain primary and secondary school teachers at least twice a year.
4. Design and implement effective teacher performance monitoring procedures and improve welfare of deserving teachers at all educational levels.
5. Encourage ethics and student discipline in primary and secondary schools.
6. Increase education sector funding to meet the minimum 26% budgetary allocation recommended by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Create Employment Opportunities

1. Immediately partner with the federal government and private sector to resuscitate machine tools, steel rolling mills and other existing industries in the state.
2. Create free interest loans to youth for small-scale businesses.
3. Remove all multiple taxes on small and medium scale businesses.
4. Establish vocational training centers.
5. Create good policies to provide an enabling environment for small and medium scale businesses to thrive.

Improve Health Care Delivery

1. Declare free and qualitative health care for children between ages 0-5, pregnant women and the elderly of ages 80 and above.
2. Make all health care centres accessible to all.
3. Make health care centres in rural areas functional with skilled and qualified medical personnel and adequate facilities.
4. Effectively supervise health workers deployed to rural communities and other primary health care providers.

Promote Agriculture

1. Subsidize agricultural farm inputs for farmers such as fertilizers, tractors and seeds.
2. Commence a youth-targeted farming scheme with interest-free loans and extension support to assist enrollees to grow.
3. Hold training workshops for farmers on new opportunities and use of modern farming technologies.
4. Reduce agricultural business tax to 1%.
5. Use only local agriculture products made in the state for government business.

Poverty Reduction

1. Hold promotion programs for Osun produced goods.
2. Promote small and medium scale business entrepreneurs.
3. Create employment opportunities.
4. Invest in Osun Grove, Erin Ikesa Water Fall and other tourism sites in the state.
5. Carefully harness the natural resources endowed in the state.