

UGANDA PEOPLES CONGRESS

2011-2016 MANIFESTO HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAMMES FOR THE REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION AND MODERNISATION OF A FAILED STATE

Employment

- Create 2 million new jobs in 4 years; in rehabilitation, reconstruction, modernization of schools, hospitals and health centres;
- Create new graduates employment programmes for employers to buy into in exchange for tax and other investments incentives for giving our youths opportunity to work and gain experience;

Health

- Increase health spending from current 8% to 15 % of national budget;
- Fully rehabilitate, staff and stock the 22 rural hospitals built by UPC, and the 13 regional referral hospitals;
- Provide Anti-Retroviral drugs / treatment to all HIV positive persons;
- Build three 100 bed hospitals in metropolitan Kampala within 5 years in order to relieve Mulago Hospital, and reserve its role as a National Referral Hospital;
- Construct 4 specialized regional hospitals for children's specialist medical care within 5 years;
- Construct 4 specialized regional hospitals for women's specialist medical care within 5 years;
- Provide special motivation to healthcare workers and medical personnel through significant increase in remuneration, improved housing and other conditions of service to be at least comparable to neighbouring countries.

Education

- Increase budget allocation from the current 12% to 20%;

Primary

- Fully rehabilitate and reconstruct existing primary schools within 4 years;
- Eliminate automatic promotion in UPE schools and introduce standardized testing;
- Provide education facilities for children with special needs to ensure access, equity and inclusion;
- Provide free lunch for all primary school pupils.

Secondary

- Fully rehabilitate and expand collapsed government secondary schools, within 4 years;
- Create 30,000 more secondary school classrooms, within 5 years;

University

- Abolish government sponsorship for university education that favours the wealthy and replace it with universal student loans for all who need it;
- Abolish State House scholarship and reintroduce National Scholarship Board to administer and award on merits all scholarships for university education in and outside Uganda;

Agriculture

- Increase budget allocation from the current 12% to 15 % of the total budget;
- Re-establish cooperatives and primary societies to uplift farmers from poverty;
- Revive the Cooperative Bank and the Produce Marketing Board;
- Subsidize farm inputs, such as fertilisers, machineries, seeds, tractors, to enable farmers increase production.

Security service

- Review and provide living wages and improved conditions for security services;
- Improve and provide decent and dignified living conditions for the police and army personnel;
- Pay long- over due arrears to all retired soldiers and ex servicemen, within 6 months;

Economy

- Pursue economic policy which promotes free enterprise and entrepreneurship, with limited measures of government strategic intervention;
- Attract and reward genuine investors who bring capital and innovation; who are prepared to assume reasonable investments risks and who are adding value to our economy;
- Lower taxation for the SMEs entrepreneurs to create favourable conditions for entrepreneurs, who are mostly women, to grow business and create employment and ensure in particular that the informal business investors -most of whom are women- do not pay unfair taxes that keep them in poverty.

Women

- Ensure that women are appointed to 50% of all appointive positions in national leadership, including cabinet ministers, ambassadors, commissioners, heads of statutory bodies, etc;
- Rehabilitate and expand all the girls schools built by the previous UPC governments;
- Rehabilitate and re-establish Community Development Centres to benefit women;
- See policy action on taxation under SMEs, aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs and lifting women out of poverty.

Youth

- Establish National Youth Corps to be engaged in national rehabilitation and reconstruction work throughout the country, develop leadership and technical skills, and to promote social and national integration.

Workers

- Set cross industry minimum wage rates for all workers.
- Provide for automatic unionizing in work places.

Uganda Diaspora

- Immediately establish Diaspora Affairs Department in the Office of the President, to be headed by a Minister of State;
- All Ugandans in Diaspora eligible to compete for all posts in the country from local to the presidency;

Oil

- Allocate 25%- 30% of oil revenues to local communities on whose land oil fields are situated;
- Review all land acquisition around oil fields since 1990.

Environment

- Ensure permanent legal protection of Mabira forest and similar national environmental patrimonies, so that they will never be sold or in any way destroyed.

Cost of fuel, electricity, telephone and basic necessities

- Review current highly inflated tax regimes on telephone, electricity and fuel and ensure that they are comparable to what our neighbours pay.
- Review current taxation and pricing mechanisms on salt, sugar, paraffin, soap and cooking oil, etc with a view to easing the burdens on ordinary consumers.

Population

- Develop a national population policy that links population growth with the country's capacity to deliver services and create employment.
- Develop and carry out a major national campaign on the benefits of proper family planning.

Infrastructures

- Rebuild all 'All Weather' roads that have fallen into ruins, within 5 years;
- Build dual carriageway road access into Juba, southern Sudan, within 5 years;
- Reconstruct Jinja-Malaba Road into dual carriageway, within 5 years
- Reconstruct Jinja-Busia Road into dual carriageway, within 5 years;

- Reconstruct Jinja- Kampala Road into dual carriageway, within 5 years.

Jinja

- Setup a Jinja Industrial Renewal Commission, to rebuild Jinja's former industrial infrastructure and make it once again Uganda's manufacturing hub.

Tororo

- Revive Tororo's industrial infrastructures.

Metropolitan Kampala

- Setup a Metropolitan Kampala Commission to study and recommend on transportation, land use, waste management, housing, utilities and emergency services.

National convention

- Convene a national convention to settle issues of federalism, land, unity in diversity and marginalised communities and groups.
- Establish democratic government.

Truth, accountability and reconciliation commission

- Set up truth-telling commission, in 6 months, to examine and bring to closure tragic episodes in our national experiences;

Luwero

- Immediately establish a special Recovery and Reconstruction Programme for Luwero;
- Compensate those who lost property and life.
- Rehabilitate, reconstruct and modernize schools, health and other social and economic infrastructures that were destroyed.
- Investigate land acquisition and land grabbing in the area during and after the war with the view to returning them to the rightful owners.

Northern Uganda

- Immediately begin to work with religious and traditional leaders and the international community to bring a definitive end and closure to the LRA war, within 12 months, preferably through a negotiated settlement, although military solution remains an option of last resort;
- Compensate within 2 years, affected communities for livestock confiscated and plundered by the NRM government between 1986-1994.

Karamoja

- End the current brutal disarmament exercise and replace it with community-led and supported disarmament.
- Compensate the Karamojong for their losses;
- Stop human rights abuses in and plunder of Karamoja.

Funding Sources

- Savings from ending corruption
- Cutting costs of public administration
- External funding
- Oil
- Redirecting from over-resourced institutions, eg. State House.