

A NEW DAWN

*A manifesto for an Uncommon
Transformational Leadership*

SENATOR AYOGU EZE

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Brief Biography



Ayogu Eze hails from Enugu North senatorial zone. His quest for knowledge throughout his teenage years has earned him a master's degree in Public Administration. He began his professional career as a journalist. With the dawn of the present democratic dispensation in 1998, he joined politics and became a party chieftain in his native Enugu State. When his party formed a government in 1999, he became a Special Assistant to the Governor, Special Adviser to the Governor, and later a State Commissioner.

He ran for office in 2007 and won to represent Enugu North Senatorial zone in the National Assembly (NASS). As Senator, Ayogu Eze distinguished himself as a member of various committees: Police Affairs, National Planning, Information and Media, and Federal Character & Inter-Government Affairs.

By 2009, he was the face of the Senate, a darling of the media. He ran the information machinery of the Senate like no other to date, erasing the previous lackluster media image of the red chamber. He was always visible in debates and articulated the needs of his constituency, especially in infrastructural development and the need for human empowerment. His footprints in the Senate speak for themselves.

Eze is indeed one of the few senators who deserve the “Distinguished” appellation. For his stellar successes, he was reelected in April 2011, beating his popular rival by almost 60,000 votes. In 2015, his desire to serve the entire Enugu State compelled him to forgo the safe seat and seek the gubernatorial ticket of the then ruling party. He eventually lost the primaries to the incumbent governor in a very controversial contest that went all the way to the Supreme Court. As a law-abiding citizen, he respected the verdict.

Senator Ayogu Eze presented himself this year to bear the governorship flag of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), a contest he won clearly. Enugu State will benefit immensely from the exquisite education and effective experiences of Distinguished Senator Ayogu Eze.

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PROLOGUE

Greetings, my good people of Enugu State.

Many Nigerians agree that our major problem is the quality of leaders we produce. Yet, it is said that every society deserves the leader it gets. Assuming these statements are true, then our problems are half-solved; the rest is in our hands. On that note, I invite you to join me in producing the leadership we deserve in the great Coal City State, the cradle of independence forged on the backs of massacred Colliery miners, and the political capital of our Igbo nation.

A good leader is not born; he or she is a product of his society. Sadly, it usually takes a minority in our society to produce a leader for all of us. I invite all Enuguites to join hands with me in producing a leader that reflects our values. There is strength in numbers: *Ígwe bu íké*. Like a broom, a united body is not easy to break. Together, we can harness that strength that transforms a society for generations unborn. No mountain becomes insurmountable when we unite and work together. Thus, we shall produce the leadership that is deserving of our respect, an uncommon transformational leadership—not a transactional, pay-to-play leader.

For this reason, I come to you respectfully and ask for your support. Together, we will produce the leadership that our society deserves. I hereby present to you a contract that will guide us in the next four years as we take Enugu State to the next level of development.

Together we can do it; trust me.

Thank you.

Ayogu Eze

APC Gubernatorial Candidate 2019, Enugu State

INTRODUCTION



We are driven by a vision to lift our people to a development pedestal that will make them independent, confident and self-reliant. Our idea is that government can play its catalytic role of rousing a people from inertia and imbuing them with the energy and gravitas to rediscover themselves, their destiny and their mission in life, thereby elevating them to a consciousness where they can rise up and take their future into their own hands.

Our mission in governance will be to make government work for the people in a secure atmosphere where the government will become the true servant of the people. In other words, we want to return power to the people by making them the true drivers of change, schooled in the art of using the levers of government to engineer a redemptive social transformation.

Government has, over the years, usurped the place of the people as the true owners of the power inherent in the structures of governance. This usurpation has impoverished the people and virtually incapacitated them from deploying their God-given talents and resources to better their lives and the society at large.

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Our people are energetic, very talented and hard working. They are willing to deploy their energy and talent in productive ventures that will better their lives and the society at large. Government, under us, shall return to its proper role of serving the people as a vehicle to deploy societal resources for the good of the people.

Government shall only provide the enabling environment, policy and infrastructural backbone necessary for the Government and the private sector, working together where necessary, under public private partnership, to unlock the key sectors of the economy that will usher in the desired development that will positively impact the lives of the people. The positive change shall be permanent and will be people driven without hindrance. Our ultimate goal will be to attract private sector investments into our State. This will create surplus well-paying jobs for our teaming youths, empower our people economically, make Enugu State the hub of talented and skilled workers, and eradicate poverty in the state. We shall do this through a number of initiatives outlined below:

TOURISM

Our government shall exploit Enugu State's topography, history and assets in turning her into one of Africa's tourism capitals. This will feature an aggressive city renewal programme that will change the face of our urban centres, while opening up and transforming our rural communities. We shall jump off with an ambitious tourism centre that will harness our vast potentials.

We shall restore our zoos and museums, revive and energise key cultural and art festivals, develop historic landmarks and nurture events that will bring Nollywood productions back to Enugu, its birth place. We shall build a film village and provide facilities that will compel Nollywood film makers and producers to return to our State.



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SECURITY

We shall put in place a robust security network that will combine the complete digital mapping of Enugu State, high speed internet facility, installation of security cameras with a functional vigilante/community policing model that will guarantee security of lives and property on a permanent and sustainable basis. Our target is to make Enugu State, in one or two years, an innovative, modern city where citizens can have parcels and goods delivered to their doorsteps in their absence and not harbour a flicker of doubt that the deliveries will be intact when they get back.



AGRICULTURE

Our agricultural programme shall focus on developing a model that will guarantee the farmer a ready market as well as adequate and fair pricing for his or her primary produce. One of the major challenges to our farmers is the lack of access road in the rural areas where these farming activities are mostly carried out. Some of the farm produce are perishable, thus the farmers lose a significant amount of their produce before they could get them out to the city, where they can obtain a fair price for their produce. We will focus on building rural road networks across our rural communities with a view to opening up our rural communities and providing them access to markets where they can sell their farm produce at a very competitive price.

Enugu State produces the best quality rice from Uzouwani (Adani rice). We will revive Adarice project by supporting rice farmers to go into mechanized farming, modernize the irrigation infrastructure, and make Enugu State a net supplier of quality rice throughout the country and, ultimately, a net exporter of rice.

We shall partner secondary and tertiary consumers of these produce to set up off-taker value-adding enterprises that will strengthen the value chain and boost productivity. These outfits will turn the farm produce into semi-processed goods, thereby packaging them for export and consumption by local industries as well. We shall divide the state into produce zones, according to each area's comparative advantage.

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We shall establish demonstration farms and out-grower schemes, where we shall channel our young graduates to take charge and walk the ropes of self-employment and wealth creation. Besides, we shall attract large scale farmers from all parts of the world, as part of our resolve to make our state an investment haven, in a bid to pull up our internally generated revenue and ultimately become less dependent on monthly handouts from the federation account.

Our aim is to create at least 100,000 direct and indirect jobs within a year in this sector alone, and ultimately make agriculture an attractive sector to our teeming youths and graduates. More importantly, we aspire to make Enugu State self-sufficient in value-added food production. A people without enough to eat do not devote enough energy and time to other facets of human development.



EDUCATION



The key driver of any economy is education. Without a good foundation in education, no society can thrive. Quality education is the surest guarantee to prosperity, the eradication of poverty and future development of our State. Without well-educated and skilled workers, it would be difficult to eradicate poverty or attract investments that would catalyse development in the State.

One major plank of our policy in education is to stop the inflow of artisans and craftsmen into Enugu State and the Southeast zone in the first instance, and eventually Nigeria at large. We shall bring back the technical colleges. We shall also add community colleges, to promote vocational education with a bias for skilled manpower in carpentry, tailoring, masonry, automotive repair, electronics repair, plumbing, tiling and all craftsmanship currently outsourced to our brothers and sisters from other parts of Africa. In this wise, every senatorial district of the State shall have a minimum of two functional government technical colleges within two years from the date we assume office.

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The community colleges, which shall be sited at locations close to existing universities, polytechnics and colleges of education, will collaborate with these institutions to run programmes that will assist people seeking admission to get some prepping while helping those who are already in these institutions but who are having challenges to make up their grades before returning to complete their studies in those institutions.

Additionally, the community colleges will also produce graduates with varying middle cadre qualifications. Our government shall also give primacy to girl child education, in a manner that will not inflict the girl child with an inferiority complex. To stave off this complex, government shall deliberately mainstream gender issues into its policies, programmes and legislations.

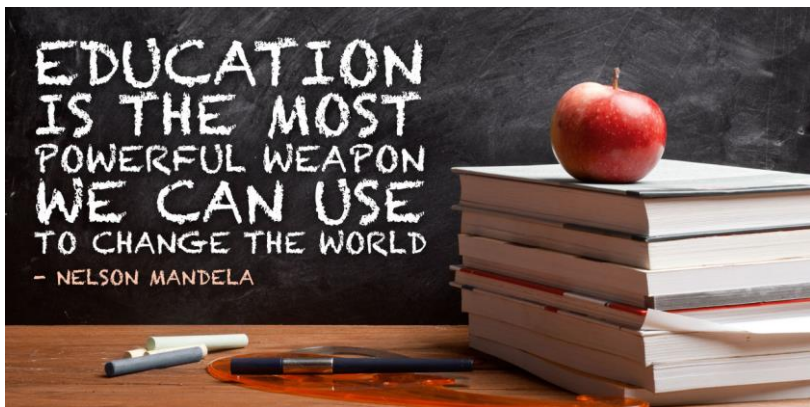
Our primary and secondary education curriculums are becoming obsolete. This is, in part, as a result of the fast pace of technological advancement and globalization. We will do a complete overhaul of our primary and secondary education curriculums to bring them up to date. We will ensure that every secondary school in our state has computers and Internet facilities that are accessible to students. Every secondary school student should be able to operate a computer and deploy it as a learning tool at that early stage.

We will adequately motivate and retrain our teachers to ensure that they are acquiring updated knowledge and skills in order to cope with the impact of advancing technology in the system. This way, the teachers will be in a position to impart the latest

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knowledge to our children. The solid foundation in primary and secondary education will make our children excel in the university and graduate with skills that are valuable to businesses and employers. We will ultimately overhaul our public schools and make it competitive, and less attractive for people to send their children to expensive private schools, which over 70% of the people in the State that cannot afford anyway.

In our firm conviction that readers are leaders, we will restore and renovate our public libraries. Apart from ensuring that every secondary school and technical /community college is equipped with a functional and fully stocked library, the local authorities shall be encouraged to establish libraries in the local government headquarters and in every autonomous community. Teaching of library science will start in the senior classes of our primary schools as a way of stoking the quest for reading at that early stage so that, as the pupils move to the secondary education level, they will be rearing to confront the library culture head on.



HEALTHCARE



Our health sector is in disarray, and our people are dying from treatable and manageable non-communicable diseases, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, among others. This is as a result of lack of information, functional and affordable healthcare system. We will start by reviving community health centres in every community in our state.

These health centres will be equipped so that initial medical consultation and diagnosis such as blood pressure, sugar level, etc. can be conducted in every health centre. Each of these health centres will be manned by well-trained nurses 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There will be qualified doctors' consultation at least three times a week in each of the health centres. The health centres shall also serve as basic health education centres where people can be educated about non-communicable disease such as diabetes, and how to detect it early and manage it.

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We shall shake up our healthcare sector to provide state-of-the-art facilities in existing health institutions while ultramodern diagnostic and investigative centres shall be erected to make Enugu a centre for medical tourism. Primary healthcare shall receive priority attention. Our aim is to make healthcare available and affordable to the people.



SPORTS

In complementing our healthcare programme, we will introduce a robust sports programme in our state. This sports program will be part of the education curriculum in both primary and secondary schools. We will reactivate annual state sports competition in all primary and secondary schools in the state. This will include the compulsory annual inter-house sports competition in all secondary schools in the state. In this century, sports have become a major export and earner of foreign exchange for talents. We will introduce sports programmes that are designed to “catch them young” in our primary and secondary schools.



We will make it compulsory for every primary and secondary school in our state to have a standard football pitch with tracks. In addition, all secondary schools shall also have volleyball court and a well-equipped sports centre for indoor games.

Our Government will leverage our international connections to attract a major European sports club to build football academy in our state. This will facilitate the early identification of football talents in the state and prepare them for a successful career in football. We will properly fund and support Rangers International Football Club to restore it to its past glorious days.

ECONOMIC BLUEPRINT

Our economic blueprint will seek foreign direct investments, against the backdrop of a benevolent tax regime that will grant holidays and moratoria to early bird investors. We shall operate a transparent accounting and reporting system that will attract investments from within and from outside the country. The accounts of the state shall be audited yearly and published publicly. We shall also establish an agency that will seek out donor funds and development grants from donor agencies and our development partners.



HOUSING/URBAN DEVELOPMENT

It is our conviction that Enugu urban is congested and desperately needs to be expanded. We shall open new layouts and deliberately push housing developments to outskirts of the city as part of our resolve to create new and cleaner cities, provide ready and affordable accommodation for our people and grow the housing industry. We shall create incentives to attract local and international developers to provide affordable houses for our people and in the process generate employment for graduates of our technical and community colleges. Government shall also facilitate schemes that will make houses available to workers on owner-occupier basis.



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TRANSPORTATION

Our transportation sector shall be private-sector driven. We shall bring in reputable transport companies from around the globe to help realise our vision of forging a robust transportation system that will complement our tourism efforts while our digital imaging and internet coverage will attract online-oriented cab operators. We shall also attract companies to develop the rail sector by constructing mono and light rails to link the major population hubs of the state. It is also our aim to attract the first tram service in West Africa to Enugu metropolis.

We shall however commission studies on its suitability for our urban populations before deploying it. We shall work with the federal government to improve the Akanu Ibiam International Airport, with a view to attracting more international flights to the airport as Enugu opens her economy to the world.



INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS

To boost our industrial policy, we shall set up independent power plants, with a part of the initiative focusing on tapping solar energy as a source of energy, an option widely acclaimed to be cost effective because of its low maintenance potential and its salutary effect on the environment. As a significant number of our population is not yet connected to the national grid, and almost every house hold runs a small or big power generator with high cost of fuel or diesel, we will embark on massive distributed generation power projects across the state. This way we can deploy solar power solutions in the rural areas that would power a cluster of households at the same time.





This solution will be cleaner and ultimately cheaper for our people. For the communities that have access to the national grid, but are not yet connected, we will provide transformers where needed, and work with the Enugu Electricity Distribution Company to ensure that distribution infrastructure is extended to such communities for connection to electricity.

We will engage with the relevant federal government authorities to reactivate the coal industry in Enugu State. We can then attract investment in clean coal power project in our state. With adequate power supply, we intend to make Enugu to preferred destination for industries and investments. We shall join hands with the private sector under public private partnership scheme to make the investment less burdensome for the government and easier to accomplish.

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The Government will provide the incentives, enabling environment and support, and the private sector will provide the required financing, execute, operate and manage the project. It is our conviction that this is the way to go because the industries and all going concerns, which shall be largely privately owned, shall be the main beneficiaries of stable and predictable power supply. Above all, sustainable power supply will unleash the potentials of our highly gifted people, most especially the artisans of the Coal Camp and such like creative enclaves within Enugu city and beyond, whose growth and capacity had been stunted by epileptic power supply over the decades.

LOCALITY ADMINISTRATION



We shall reform the local government system, to enthrone a locality administration model that will incorporate the town unions, traditional rulers and community leaders in the governance structure, thereby ensuring an inclusiveness capable of arousing and sustaining the interest of all relevant stakeholders in how their localities are run. Apart from promoting accountability and productivity, this model will hand the ownership of governance at the local government level to the people, and at the same time ensuring required development at the grassroots.



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SOCIAL CONTRACT

Our contract with our people shall be to run a goal-oriented administration that is effective, efficient and prudent, and at the same time fully accountable to them. We shall open new vistas of opportunities and bring on board operational procedures that will change our people’s business-as-usual attitude to government affairs. We shall communicate with our people and also listen to them in a feedback channel that will promote mutual respect, understanding and productive engagement.



The conduct of government business shall be thrown open, in a manner that has hitherto never been seen in these parts. We will set goals and timelines for the government to achieve every aspect of this manifesto. We will create a mechanism whereby each project implementation progress will be reviewed and recalibrated to ensure the timely execution of all projects within the given timeframe.

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In executing this contract, we shall ensure that we create jobs for our people, and more importantly, that their salaries are paid timely. Payment of salaries to civil servants is a cardinal function of government, second only to providing security for the people. It shall therefore not be celebrated in the media as an achievement under our government. The worker is entitled to his or her wages. Has he or she not provided services that should be compensated? If he or she has, why the plentiful praises whenever an elementary statutory obligation such as payment of workers' salaries is performed?



CONCLUSION

We shall hold ourselves accountable to the people in the discharge of the tasks we have set for ourselves. It shall by no means be easy. In the course of discharging these tasks, some people may suffer temporary inconvenience. We shall ask for forbearance in such situations. We shall also ask for full engagement by all and every segment of our polity.

We need to get involved either in directly bringing these changes about or in holding the change drivers to account when they seem to be going away from their line of duty or veering off course. We all have our roles properly cut out for us. Let us put all hands on the deck to get it done. It shall be worth its while when it's finally done. Our people shall be the better for it as we would have laid a formidable foundation for our state, and set the benchmark of performance for successive administrations.

May God prosper the works of our hands, for by power shall no man prevail. We need God's grace and mercy. His name be glorified!





ARE YOU READY?

ACT: *Action Changes Things*