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DEMOCRACY DAY CONVERSATIONS

- Recommendation Paper



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Executive Summary

This recommendation paper stems from the Democracy Day X space event held on June 12, 2024, themed "#TheNigeriaWeWant: One Year On."

The event featured a panel discussion with notable speakers and attendees reflecting on the progress made by the new administration, the challenges being faced, and the pathways forward.

The recommendations derived from this event are aimed at fostering a more inclusive, progressive, and accountable Nigeria, as we journey towards building #TheNigeriaWeWant. The day also marked the celebration of 25 years of uninterrupted democracy in Nigeria

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Key Findings and Discussions

Comparing #TheNigeriaWeHave vs #TheNigeriaWeWant Progress Made:

- Significant strides in the digital economy, largely driven by youth innovation.
- Increased tax remittances and government allocation.
- Youth inclusion in governance, characterized by youth appointments, the separation of the Ministry of Youths from Sports, and the appointment of 2 youth Ministers.

Areas Lacking Progress:

- Inflation has risen from 22% to over 33%, with a struggling economy and excessive government borrowing.
- Insecurity, particularly farmer-herder clashes, has worsened.
- The quality of life for the average Nigerian has not improved significantly.
- Calls for policy changes centered on citizens' needs remain unaddressed.

Broader Advocacy Beyond Politics and Economics

- It was highlighted that sectors beyond politics and economics, such as social justice, healthcare, and education, need more advocacy to drive holistic national development.

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Key Findings and Discussions cont'd.

Challenges and Solutions in Achieving #TheNigeriaWeWant

Challenges:

- Long-standing issues stemming from years of neglect.
- Lack of clarity among Nigerian youth about their aspirations.
- Government overspending on non-essential items while citizens suffer.

Solutions:

- Promoting active citizenship to hold the government accountable.
- Engaging in activities that align with the vision of #TheNigeriaWeWant.

Effective Engagement Strategies with the Government

- Advocates need to leave a lasting legacy similar to the founding fathers.
- Utilizing both online and offline platforms to voice concerns and mobilize support.
- Promoting the role of youth in political processes.

Relevance of NYFF Report Recommendations

The recommendations, such as infrastructure and human capital development, remain highly relevant, reflecting global trends and the needs of Nigerian youth to be greatly supported to maximize their full potential and drive #TheNigeriaWeWant.

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Recommendations

For Youth

- **Political Engagement:**
 - Join political parties, participate in the political process, and volunteer for civic causes.
 - Promote secularism and shun violence.
- **Active Citizenship:**
 - Understand how democracy and the Nigerian system work and contribute to driving #TheNigeriaWeWant.
 - Engage in public hearings and provide feedback on draft legislation.
 - Build coalitions and work collaboratively to avoid isolation and potential intimidation.
- **Local Action:**
 - Start advocacy at the local community level and push for impactful policies.

For Government

- **Respect for the Constitution:**
 - Protect and respect the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- **Transparency and Accountability:**
 - Recognize the transient nature of power and make impactful decisions within limited time frames.
 - Ensure financial and operational transparency to build trust and foster development.

Attendees' Recommendations

- Youths should unite across Nigeria and globally to achieve #TheNigeriaWeWant.
- Youths avoid divisive politics and focus on unity.
- Push for policy implementation at all government levels and local government autonomy.
- Hold the government accountable for public projects and policies.

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Conclusion

The Democracy Day event has underscored the urgent need for youth engagement, governmental accountability, and sustained advocacy for democratic values.

These recommendations offer a roadmap for achieving #TheNigeriaWeWant, fostering an environment of innovation, unity, and progress. Stakeholders must collaborate to ensure effective implementation of these recommendations for a better Nigeria.

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