



PRESIDENT GOODLUCK JONATHAN
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Introduction

On the 29th of May, 2011, Nigeria witnessed the inauguration of the 7th Civilian Administration in her political history. The life of the President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan is a story of grass to grace and commitment to the evolution of a better Nigeria. Since destiny threw him up unto the Nigerian national scene, his utterances have focused on the virtues of Peace, Courage, Harmony and Hope for the citizens and the country. This publication is a compilation of some of his memorable speeches which are presented with a view to motivating Nigerians to dream and work for a better tomorrow and a transformed Nigeria.

QUOTES:

*"I am Goodluck Jonathan.....
I was not born rich. In my youth,
I never imagined that I would be where I am
today, but not for once did I ever give up.
Not once did I imagine that a child from
Otuoke, a small village in the Niger Delta,
would one day rise to be President of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria."*

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President Goodluck Jonathan speaking
at the United Nation congress

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*"In my early days in school,
I had no shoes, no school bag
I carried my books in my hands but never
despaired; no car to take me to school but
I never despaired.
There were days I had only one meal but
I never despaired.
I walked miles and crossed rivers to school
every day but I never despaired, didn't
have power, didn't have generators,*

*studied with lantern but I never despaired.
In spite of these, I finished secondary
school, attended the University of Port
Harcourt, and now hold a doctorate
degree.....If I could make it,
you too can make it."*

*"My story is the story of a young Nigerian
whose access to education opened
opportunities that enabled me to attend
my present position."*

"My story symbolizes my dream for Nigeria. The dream that any Nigerian child.....will be able to realize his God-given potential, unhindered by tribe or religion and unrestricted by improvised political institutions.

My story holds out the promise of a new Nigeria; a Nigeria built on the virtues of love and respect for one another, unity, industry, hard work and good governance."

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"As I travel up and down our country, I see a nation blessed by God with rich agricultural and mineral resources and an enterprising people.

I see millions of Nigerians whose potential for greatness are constrained by lack of basic infrastructure.

I see Nigerians who can make a difference in the service of their country but are disadvantaged by lack of opportunities."

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"Our nation has spoken; I will be president to all." "Come, join me.

Let's continue on the road of national transformation."

"Our country is at the threshold of a new era; an era that beckons for a new kind of leadership; a leadership that is uncontaminated by the prejudices of the past; a leadership committed to change; a leadership that reinvents government, to solve the everyday problems that confront the average Nigerian."

"We will not let Nigeria down."

"By this election, we have reaffirmed our unity as a nation."

"With the evident national spread of our victory, we have demonstrated that even in our diversity, the progress of Nigeria remains paramount to all."

"I am humbled by 'my background', 'my long journey' and 'my mandate.'"

*"I have no enemies to fight."
"We will continue to run a government
that is committed to fairness, equity
and justice for all."
"The progress we seek for our country is
in our collective hands."
"This election is further evidence that
Nigeria is secure; that we are stable;
and most of all, that the future of
Nigeria is bright."*

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*"I am greatly pained at the reports of
incidences of unnecessary violence and
loss of lives in some parts of the
country over the past twenty four
hours."
"No political ambition is worth the
blood of any Nigerian."
"Democracy Day is a day to appreciate
our resilience, our patriotism and our
faith in the land
of our common destiny."*

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"The sacrifices that our living and dead have made to enthrone democracy should compel us to take our democratic enterprise more seriously and with greater vigilance. It should no longer be necessary for the tree of freedom to be watered by the blood of yet more martyrs."

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"As we strive to advance our democratic development, there will be times when our will shall be tested, our patience provoked and our belief questioned. We must on those occasions remain resolute."

"We have to win for our children democratic freedoms that guarantee economic and social dividends and that in turn engender and strengthen our nationhood."

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"Against the backdrop of the economic environment of the past few years, the unique challenges we face as a nation demand that we make a break with the past and begin to chart a new path going forward."

"The focus of this Administration is to establish and strengthen the sound macroeconomic environment that Nigeria needs to ensure the prosperity of our citizens."

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"Our policies will attract investments, facilitate private sector growth, boost employment generation and ensure wealth creation and other socio-economic development goals under the Vision 20:2020 framework."

"Nigeria's economy has remained resilient as a result of this Administration's efforts to maintain macroeconomic stability and promote socio-economic development."

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"While it is true that Government, on its own, cannot create every single employment opportunity and while it is the private sector, with its energy and initiative that we depend on to play a major role, this Administration continues to be conscious of the importance of addressing the issue of unemployment holistically."

"One thing that I stand for which is quite significant is the unity of this country and hope for Nigerians."

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"My presidency will encourage Nigerians that irrespective of your background, where you come from, you will have the opportunity to get to the top of your career."

"I will not discriminate against anybody; I will not come up with policies that will bring development to one part of the country at the expense of other parts. I will make sure that resources are distributed uniformly and that all Nigerians have equal opportunities to participate in governance."

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"We have, by this election, reaffirmed our unity as one nation under God, reiterated our faith in democracy, and underscored our determination to fully join the free world where only the will of the people is the foundation of governance. We will not let you down. We will not let Nigeria down."

"Nigerians have proved to the world that we are capable of holding free, fair and credible elections."

"This victory is for the sustenance of our democracy; a victory which all Nigerians, irrespective of creed, ethnicity or state of origin, should celebrate. It is the triumph of our common destiny as a people with shared ideals, shared dreams and shared hopes."

"I am confident that with this new spirit of national reawakening and our sense of collective ownership of the Nigerian Project, a firm foundation has been laid for participatory governance and progress."

"This election is the renewal of hope. As we march towards our centenary as a nation in the year 2014, this election will be remembered as that which reaffirmed our faith and strengthen the bond of our union."

"We must all unite. We must quickly move away from partisan battlegrounds and find the national common ground. We must show the world that this nation of many people will always find the love, the courage and the path to move forward as one."

Let us join hands to build a prosperous nation."

"Now is the time for all Nigerians to reach out to their neighbors. I want all of us to join hands in brotherhood, party affiliation or preferred candidate notwithstanding. We are all Nigerians and I will be President to all."

"This is the new dawn we crave. What is now required is a new commitment, national solidarity and re-dedication to service."

"Let the word go out that my plans for a Sovereign Wealth Fund with an initial capital of \$1billion will begin the journey for economic restoration.....provide new job opportunities and alleviate poverty.....that our health sector will receive maximum priority.....and stop brain drain."

"Let all kidnappers, criminal elements, and miscreants that give us a bad name be ready for the fight that I shall give them.....that

Jonathan will have zero tolerance for corruption."

"I will re-train, revamp, and motivate the civil service."

"Let the International Community hear that today, I have offered myself to lead a country that will engage them in mutual respect and cooperation for the achievement of international peace and understanding."

"Let the word go out..... that 2011 will herald a new era of transformation of our country; an era that will end the agony of power shortage in the country.....that I will be for the students, teachers and parents of Nigeria.....advance quality and competitive education.....that I shall strive to the best of my ability to attain self-sufficiency in food production."

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"Together, we will unite our nation and improve the living standards of all our peoples whether in the North or in the South; in the East or in the West."

"Our decade of development has begun."

"The march is on. The day of transformation begins today. We will not allow anyone exploit differences in creed or tongue, to set us one against another."

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Let me at this point congratulate the elected Governors, Senators, members of the House of Representatives and those of the States Houses of Assembly for their victories at the polls."

"The leadership we have pledged is decidedly transformative. The transformation will be achieved in all the critical sectors, by harnessing the creative energies of our people."

"The leadership and the followership must strive to convert our vast human and natural resources into the force that leads to a greater Nigeria. The Nigeria of our dreams must be built on hard work and not on short cuts. Let me salute the Nigerian workers who build our communities, cities and country. They deserve fair rewards, and so do the women that raise our children, and the rural dwellers that grow our food."

"The moment is right. The signs are heart-warming. We are ready to take off on the path of sustained growth and economic development. In our economic strategy, there will be appropriate policy support to the real sector of the economy, so that Small and Medium Enterprises may thrive.

"A robust private sector is vital to providing jobs for our rapidly expanding population. But this must be a collaborative effort."

"Attention will be

focused on rebuilding our infrastructure.

We will create greater access to quality education and improved health care delivery.

We will pay special attention to the agricultural sector, to enable it play its role of ensuring food security and massive job creation for our people."

"In every decision, I shall always place the common good before all else.

The bane of corruption shall be met by the overwhelming force of our collective determination, to rid our nation of this scourge.

The fight against corruption is a war in which we must all enlist, so that the limited resources of this nation will be used for the growth of our commonwealth."

"This is a new dawn for Africa. We fought for decolonization. We will now fight for democratization. Nigeria, in partnership with the African Union,

will lead the process for democracy and development in Africa. In particular, we will support the consolidation of democracy, good governance and human rights in the continent. Africa must develop its vast resources to tackle poverty and under-development."

*"Nigeria is not just a land of promise;
it shall be a nation where positive change will
continue to take place, for the good of our
people. The time for lamentation is over.*

*This is the era of transformation.
This is the time for action. But Nigeria can
only be transformed if we all play our parts
with commitment and sincerity.
Cynicism and skepticism will not help our
journey to greatness."*

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*"Let us all believe in a new Nigeria. Let us
work together to build a great country
that we will all be proud of.
This is our hour."*

*"Join me now as we begin the journey of
transforming Nigeria."*

*"I will continue to fight, for your future,
because I am one of you.
I will continue to fight, for improved medical*

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care for all our citizens."

"I will continue to fight for all citizens to have access to first class education.

I will continue to fight for electricity to be available to all our citizens.

I will continue to fight for an efficient and affordable public transport system for all our people

I will continue to fight for jobs to be created through productive partnerships."

"Nigeria is blessed with enormous natural wealth, and my Administration will continue to encourage locally owned enterprises to take advantage of our resources in growing the domestic economy."

*"You have trusted me with your mandate,
and I will never, never let you down."*

*"I know your pain, because I have been there.
Look beyond the hardship you have endured.
See a new beginning; a new direction;
a new spirit."*

*"Nigerians, I want you to start to dream
again. What you see in your dreams, we can
achieve together. "*

