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Dr. Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe Jonathan, GCFR, was born on November 20, 1957, in Otueke, Bayelsa State. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology, a Master's in Hydrobiology and Fisheries Biology, and a Ph.D. degree in Zoology from the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. After working as an education inspector, lecturer, and environmental protection officer, he entered politics in 1998 and was voted deputy governor of Bayelsa State, a position he held from 1999 till 2006 when he became the governor.

In 2007, he was picked as the running mate to Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua in the presidential election. The pair won the election, but President Yar'Adua died on May 5, 2010, paving the way for Jonathan to assume office as the new president. In 2011, he was elected the 14th Head of State and President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by an overwhelming majority, winning 25 of Nigeria's 36 states in an election adjudged by local and international observers as free, fair and credible.

He is married to Dame Patience and they are blessed with children.

*"The stronger the boat (of democracy),
the more it is able to meet the challenges of
its voyage and deliver on its promise
to citizens"*



*"The air of freedom we breathe today is
the result of the sacrifices of thousands of
pro-democracy activists, human rights
campaigners and others who organised as
civil society"*



*"My political ambition
is not worth the blood of any Nigerian"*

*"No minister will be allowed to go on a
mission of endless search for solutions"*



*"In the comfort of our offices,
let us not forget that majority of our people
live below the poverty line"*



*"Terrorism has no conscience
and spares no one"*



*"Any society or country that closes the vital
valves of its democratic space cannot develop
at a reasonable pace"*

*"Where there is
no opportunity for
one man one vote,
there will be no accountability
and no responsibility"*



*"Democracy is a journey
that every nation mindful of
advancing the liberty of its
citizens must undertake"*



*"Nobody's political ambition
is worth the blood
of any Nigerian"*

*"Our votes must count!
One man, one vote!
One woman, one vote!
One youth, one vote!"*



*"Nobody should rig for me.
I am assuring Nigerians
that though I am contesting, nobody must
manipulate votes in my favour.
Our votes must count"*



*"I congratulate the candidates
of the other political parties.
I regard them not as opponents,
but as partners"*

*"In presenting myself for service,
I make no pretence that I have a magic wand
that will solve all of Nigeria's problems or
that I am the most
intelligent Nigerian"*



*"I have come to launch a campaign of
ideas, not one of calumny. I have come to
preach love, not hate. I have come to break
you away from divisive tendencies of the
past which have slowed our drive to true
nationhood. I have no enemies to fight.
You are all my friends and we share a
common destiny."*

*"Democracy calls for
sacrifice and tolerance,
an open ear and a strong voice"*



*"For the PDP family,
the contest for party offices does not produce
winners and losers"*



*"I believe in the politics
of give and take"*



*"Separation of power
is not separation of government"*

*"We are all Nigerians
and I will be a President to all.
This is the new dawn we crave"*



*"Our unity is firm,
our purpose strong,
our determination unshakable"*



*"Being a Nigerian is a blessing
[and] a great responsibility"*



*"We have a duty to
be loyal to our country"*

*"If God did not will it
we will not be Nigerians"*



*"Our founding fathers... did not dream of a
country where neighbours and friends would
exchange bullets
in place of handshakes"*



*"I prefer to see the silver lining
in the dark cloud rather than the
dark cloud in the silver lining"*

*"We may not have overcome our challenges,
but neither have our challenges
overcome us"*



*"We are not sworn enemies... We are
neighbours who sometimes offend each other
but can always sit down to talk over our
differences"*



*"Over-dependence on oil has put an
unpleasant bracket in our national
economic freedom"*

*"Economic diplomacy
does not need to be a zero-sum game where
the gain of partner automatically translates
to the loss of the other"*



*"Peace and security are the barest,
irreducible conditions for social and
economic development"*



*"I am loyal to Nigeria's economy.
I don't have accounts or property abroad. All
my children live
and school in Nigeria"*

*"The time of lamentation is over.
This is the era of transformation.
This is the time for action"*



*"Cynicism and scepticism will not help our
journey to greatness. Let us all believe in a
new Nigeria"*



*"The goal of achieving positive
macroeconomic stability
is no end in itself"*

*"I have no intention
to inflict pain on Nigerians.
To save Nigeria, we must all
be prepared to make sacrifices"*



*"While we may not have landed a spaceship
on the moon or developed nuclear
technology, our inventors and innovators
have made globally acknowledged
contributions"*

“Transformation in my view simply means taking what you have and making the best of it and in so doing produce results that can bring about a paradigm shift”



“I want to assure Nigerians that crude oil is not our ‘Black Gold’. The real ‘Black Gold’ of Nigeria are her people and they can grow in value from gold to diamond via education”



“We must quickly move away from partisan battlegrounds and find the national common ground”

“Let me put you on notice: the assignment of offices is not an allocation of privileges”



“Nigeria is a nation of resilient people. We will never yield to the forces of darkness. Nigeria will never, ever, disintegrate”



“The quality of governance is as good as the quality of the civil service”

*"The best advertisement
for good governance
is its positive expressions of happiness
in the lives of the governed"*



*"In my early days in school, I had no shoes,
no school bags. 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 lanterns but I never despaired.
In spite of these, I finished secondary school,
attended the University of Port Harcourt,
and now hold a doctorate degree"*

*"I was not born rich,
and in my youth, I never imagined that I
would be where I am today, but not once did
I ever give up"*



*"As the most populous black nation on earth,
it seems our manifest destiny is to champion
the cause of African emancipation
and integration"*



*"African renaissance remains an unfinished
business, but the work that remains should
not stop us from focusing on new priorities
and challenges"*

*"I am happy that
the black man has
put the shame of dispossession
behind him and is moving on"*



*"The dark patches
in the Niger Delta
will give way to light"*



*"On the football field, nobody cares who
scores for Nigeria. You can be a Musa or
a Moses; you can be a Christopher or a
Mustapha, nobody cares"*

*"We have a duty to stand firm
against those who threaten the sovereign
integrity of the Nigerian state.
Our will is strong, because our faith lies
in the indivisibility of Nigeria"*



*"Nigerians are peace-loving people; these
sad events perpetrated by those who do not
wish our nation well have not changed the
essential character of our people"*



*"No matter what it takes,
we will win this war against terror"*

*"Africa must declare an end
to the era of self-inflicted wars and conflicts"*



*"Africa must turn its begging bowls
into baskets of prosperity and opportunity"*



*"It is the supreme task of this generation
to give hope to the hopeless,
strength to the weak
and protection to the defenceless"*

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



*"We must develop a democratic culture in
which the will of the people will be treated
as sacred and be immune to subversion by
anti-democratic elements"*



*"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"*

“The beauty of democracy is that its practice is never final and always has room for improvement no matter how old a democratic society may be. Where we falter we must not fall. When we are weak, we must not surrender”



“Our first responsibility as citizens is to use the ballot”



“We are gradually reducing the footprints of government in business activities through privatisation, liberalisation and deregulation based on our recognition that the private sector should be the engine of growth in our economy”