



# OGBENI LANRE BANJO GOVERNORSHIP CAMPAIGN

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **GENERAL OLUSEGUN OBASANJO SHOULD DISCONTINUE INSULTING THE COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE OF WELL- MEANING AND PATRIOTIC NIGERIANS**

In 1979, General Olusegun Obasanjo glaringly demonstrated his undemocratic norm to all and sundry by ensuring that the “best man” was not given the opportunity to rule Nigeria, even if elected by Nigerians. This action resulted in the destruction of our economy and taking over of power by General Muhammadu Buhari, later by the evil genius, General Ibrahim Babangida, followed by the annulment of the freest and fairest election in the annals of the country, and finally by General Sani Abacha. One would have thought that age and experience of life would have taught Obasanjo better. Twenty eight years later Obasanjo took the same stand that it would “not augur well” for him to hand over power to a Southerner regardless of who Nigerians voted for. This is the most corrosive insulting statement to the collective intelligence of well-meaning and truly patriotic Nigerians.

Ogbeni Lanre Banjo denounced the mindset of Obasanjo who arrogated the power to impose any one he felt on the nation twice that he had had the opportunity. Patriotism includes uniting and building a nation where a Nigerian will see him/herself as a Nigerian rather than a Southerner or Northerner. When General Babangida chased away General Buhari from power, Babangida did not see anything that would not augur well, if a Northerner overthrew another Northerner and shot himself into power. Why can't Obasanjo respect the wishes of the people of Nigeria? Even within the PDP, Obasanjo subverted the wishes of the members of the PDP to ensure that Yar'Adua emerged. In Owu, Obasanjo subverted the wills of the people, tore the result of the votes cast to elect the Olowu of Owu who was not favorable to him, and imposed his choice. This apparently has nothing to do with Southerners or Northerners. So, Obasanjo should not hide under the South/North dichotomy and disunity to deceive the unwary. It is a sickness that needs to be cured. Nigerians should therefore see it as an affront for anyone, whether it is Obasanjo or somebody else, to think that if Nigerians elect a member of the ethnic group of an incumbent president, it would not augur well for the country.



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General Obasanjo has repeatedly told the nation his criteria for imposing Alhaji Yar'Adua on Nigerians. Ogbeni Banjo dissected General Obasanjo's criteria. According to Obasanjo, the first criterion is "somebody with enough intellectual capacity to run the affairs of the country." General Obasanjo did not deny the fact that throughout the then Governor Yar'Adua's tenure in Katsina, he was shuttling between Nigeria and Overseas on health ground. A governor with intellectual capacity would have known that he is not the only one with this ailment in the entire State of Katsina, talk less of the entire North or Nigeria; he would have therefore built a state of the art hospital in Katsina State for all to use. Such hospital should have been manned by some of the best doctors in the world, and should have been built with uninterrupted flow of electricity. The cost incurred by both Katsina and Nigeria governments to maintain the imposed sickly president would have been saved. Further, his achievement in Katsina is nothing to write home about and the poultry business of his uncle was run aground. Based on these records, there is no intellectual capacity quality that Yar'Adua possessed to have warranted Obasanjo's imposition.

As the Governor of Katsina, Yar'Adua was hospitalized for six months abroad and complied with the 1999 oligo-military constitution by handing over power to his deputy. On arrival, Yar'Adua saw it as a mistake, never to be repeated again, to have handed over to his deputy and thus caused his deputy to be impeached. Obasanjo said that he obtained an expert interpretation of the medical report that stated that Yar'Adua was no longer under dialysis before anointing him. Subsequent to the presentation and interpretation of Yar'Adua's medical report to Obasanjo, Yar'Adua collapsed twice, was rushed out of the country and was under dialysis during the campaign. This is an eloquent testimony to the misrepresentation of the medical report, its interpretation and to Yar'Adua's deficiency in personal integrity and political broad mindedness. This again negates the integrity and broad-mindedness quality Obasanjo claimed to have looked for.

Finally, Obasanjo said "I know the sacrifice that I made for this country, both in peace and in war. How can I, who has made huge sacrifices for the country, do what will not be in the interest of this nation." Well, there are chickens in Ota and all over the world, which labored hard, laid golden eggs, and destroyed them with their mouths. Obasanjo would not be the first.

Ogbeni Lanre Banjo

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