

We must Interrogate their Performance before voting?



serious consideration for another term.

However, if after four or eight years the constituency remains exactly where it was—or even worse—then Nigerians owe themselves and future generations the responsibility of saying "Enough is enough." Before casting our votes, every Nigerian should ask: What

projects did this person execute? How many lives were positively impacted? Did they remain accessible to the people? Did they represent the interests of their constituency effectively? What bills did they sponsor? What oversight functions did they perform? What developmental initiatives did they facilitate? What exactly is their scorecard? If convincing answers cannot be provided, then another four-year mandate should not even be under consideration.

As Nigeria gradually approaches another election cycle, politicians are once again preparing to flood our communities with promises, campaign posters, jingles, and slogans. They will tell us that they deserve another chance. They will ask for another four-year mandate. Some will remind us of their party affiliations, while others will attempt to appeal to our ethnic, religious, or regional sentiments. But before we listen to another promise, Nigerians must ask one simple question: What have you done with the mandate we already gave you? Democracy is built on accountability. Elections are not merely an opportunity to change governments; they are a mechanism through which citizens assess the performance of those entrusted with public office. Every election should be an examination, and every elected official should present a scorecard before asking for another opportunity. From councilors to Local Government Chairmen, members of the State Houses of Assembly, members of the House of Representatives, Senators, Governors, and even the President, every public office holder should be judged first by performance before seeking re-election. Unfortunately, our politics has been dominated by political parties instead of performance. For decades, many Nigerians have voted based on party symbols, ethnic identity, religious affiliation, or the influence of political godfathers. The result is evident all around us: poor roads, unemployment, failing schools, inadequate healthcare, insecurity, poverty, and communities abandoned by those elected to represent them. Many politicians spend four or even eight years in office with little or nothing to show for it. They hardly visit their constituencies except during election campaigns. They sponsor few meaningful bills, initiate little developmental projects, and fail to attract government interventions to their communities. Yet, when another election approaches, they confidently return asking for another mandate.

On what basis? A second term should not be an entitlement. It should be a reward for excellent service. Political office is not a lifetime appointment. It is a public trust. If an elected official has performed exceptionally well, fulfilled campaign promises, remained accessible to constituents, attracted development, and used public resources responsibly, then such a person deserves

Our votes are too valuable to be exchanged for bags of rice, cash handouts, or empty promises. They determine the future of our children, our economy, our security, and our national development. Political parties should no longer be our primary consideration. Competence should be. Performance should matter. Integrity should matter. Capacity should matter. Results should matter. Nigeria cannot continue rewarding mediocrity while expecting excellence. We cannot continue electing people simply because they belong to our preferred political party. Democracy flourishes when voters reward performance and reject failure.

The 2027 elections—and every election thereafter—must mark a turning point in our democratic journey. Let every aspirant come before the people with evidence of service rather than empty rhetoric. The era of voting blindly must end. Let us begin to vote for those who have demonstrated competence. Let us vote for those who have delivered the dividends of democracy. Let us vote for those with proven character and measurable performance. Because ultimately, one good tenure should be the strongest campaign for another. Nigeria deserves leaders who earn our votes—not politicians who merely ask for them.