

Dear Editor,

My One-Term, Four-Year Vow Is Sacrosanct

One of the greatest American Presidents, Abraham Lincoln, served only four years, yet his legacy endures as a model of principled leadership. Another iconic figure, John F. Kennedy, did not even complete a full term, yet his vision and ideals continue to inspire generations. In Africa, Nelson Mandela, revered globally as a symbol of justice and reconciliation, chose to serve only one term as President of South Africa, despite immense public pressure to stay longer. His decision was a deliberate act of leadership, a statement that power must serve the people, not the self. Indeed, history shows that the longer many African leaders remain in power, the more likely they are to be corrupted by it. Longevity in office is not a mark of success; rather, it is purposeful, accountable service - however brief - that defines true statesmanship.

It is within this context that I reiterate my vow: I will serve only one term of four years if elected President. And that vow is sacrosanct. I am fully aware that the decay in our society has made trust one of the scarcest and most skeptically viewed commodities. Many Nigerians, understandably, no longer take politicians at their word. But even in this climate of cynicism, there are still a few whose actions have matched their words - whose integrity is built on verifiable precedent. Recently, I became aware of two statements aimed, albeit indirectly, at my vow to serve only a single four-year term. One person remarked that even if I swore by a shrine, I still wouldn't be believed. Another suggested that anyone talking about doing only one term should undergo psychiatric evaluation. I understand the basis of their skepticism. They are judging me by their own standards - where political promises are made to be broken. But they forget, or perhaps choose to ignore, that Peter Obi is not cut from that cloth. I have a verifiable track record that speaks louder than speculation.

In my political life, my word is my bond. When I entered politics in Anambra State, I made clear and measurable promises to the people: to improve education and healthcare, to open up rural areas through road construction, and to manage public funds with prudence. I fulfilled each of those promises without deviation. I did not swear by a shrine, nor have I been certified mentally unstable as a result of honoring my word.

My vow to serve only one term of four years is a solemn commitment, rooted in my conviction that purposeful, transparent leadership does not require an eternity.

If making such a promise qualifies me for psychiatric evaluation, then we may as well question the mental fitness of those who framed our Constitution, which clearly stipulates a four-year renewable tenure. I maintain without equivocation: if elected, I will not spend a day longer than four years in office. In fact, I believe that service should be impactful, not eternal.

We must rebuild trust in our country. I have dedicated my public life to demonstrating that leadership with integrity is not a myth. I have done it before, and I do not intend to betray that trust under any circumstances. Forty-eight months is enough for any leader who is focused and prepared to make a meaningful difference. In that time, I intend not merely to make an impression, but to deliver on



By Peter Obi

Dear Editor,

The Consequences of No Consequence

On an Enugu Air flight to Lagos from Abuja this morning, August 16th, another mild drama played out briefly. As the plane taxied, the pilot, a female captain, announced that there was a recalcitrant passenger who had declined switching off his phone as instructed, and that if the fellow insisted, she might be left with no option than to make a U-turn. At this point, she had stopped on the runway. Hearing this warning, other passengers took it upon themselves and started shouting at this potentially disruptive passenger. Eventually, he turned off his phone, and the journey to Lagos continued. But here is why this piece became compelling and timely. While the purser, a calm and well-mannered lady, was appealing to him to turn off his phone and he refused, hear what he said to her: "Wetin happen for Ibom Air go happen for here now now."

That's the result of having a poor reward and sanction system with no consequences. If those who had tried this nonsense had faced the penalties for their action and not the shameful "slap on the wrist" punishment meted out to them, another irreverent passenger would not open his mouth and say, "Wetin happen for Ibom Air go happen for here now now."

No serious nation tramples on its own laws or chooses when to enforce it or not and against whom. The two recent breaches in air safety protocols and their handling have shown how unserious we are as a people and also why our leadership will continue to create strong people as against strong institutions. It is a conscious decision. It has never been an accident.

With the disastrous handling of the K1 and the K2 matters, even though no attention was given to the incident tagged K3, a template has been created already and it will haunt the Aviation Sector for a long time to come. The shame is not just for the leadership. The people, too, share a large chunk of it as intentional enablers of bad behaviors. Fans and supporters of the Fuji king are now buying similar gold flasks as a form of solidarity with him, displaying it with arrogance of "na we dey power." Also, practically every money-miss-road, including government officials, had offered "Auntie Komfo" one form of comfort or the other, obviously because.

But such people will never offer similar encouragement to outstanding students in any field or institution. We celebrate silly things and reward bad behaviors at the expense of more edifying tangibles and intangibles. Indeed, Nigeria and her people are a case study in human civilization.

Olaleye Olawale Abuja