OGBENI RAUF AREGBESOLA

THE POWER OF CONVICTION



100 Reasons Ogbeni

The Power of Conviction. That is what may be used to describe the force behind the creation of www.hundredreasonsogbeni.com, the website that went viral during those fever-pitched days leading up to the last gubernatorial election in the State of Osun. The emergence of that website is a lucid testimony to what can come from inspiration triggered by factual comparison between a manifestly consistent change-making administration and a set of political players of controversial character and questionable agenda.

But, truth be told, the website was also a product of desperation. A desperation born out of an event of utmost incredulity, which unfolded in a neighbouring state, where logic was turned on its head when a sizeable proportion of the electorate voted out (or, so we were told) a performing chief executive. Very few they were, if any, of the Omoluwabi of Osun, that did not fear the worst in view of these happenings, especially with the posturing and utterances (not to mention needless intimidation by the central government) of these pretenders to the seat of governance of Osun State.

Of course, most people saw through their pandering, verbosity and bombastic. But, since the state, in spite of the manifest will of the cross-section of the electorate, would still need to go through the electoral process, thousands of Omoluwabi were apprehensive. How could we be sure that the hitherto "fool-proof" formula so recently used next-door would not be repeated here? We have Providence to thank for the resounding success that attended the re-election of Ogbeni Aregbesola. It was well deserved, through and through. To signify that this victory reflects the wishes and aspiration of the people, there were celebrations all over the state.

In the euphoria of this victory, we may lose sight of some things that affirmed our decisions and convictions to throw our weight behind Aregbesola. This handy volume is produced to remind us of those things that endeared him to us. Not only that, it is to direct our minds to the fact that the process of politics does not end with the election of the political player; it is a continuing conversation. We must put our mouths where we put our votes. We need to contribute to the political process by putting forward constructive criticism, suggestions, even commendations. We need to seize the moment and tell the truth to power. The website need not outlive its usefulness with the conclusion of this electoral process; we think it a good idea that it should serve as a meeting place for all patriotic Omoluwabi to ventilate their ideas, inspirations, contributions, observations, even commendations, so that we'll have an even better (and a politically-conscious) state. After all, Democracy is about giving the power back to the people!

We thank you all, *Omoluwabi Osun.*

Osun a gbe wa o.





ASOUT 100 REASONS

MAN OF THE PEOPLE

THANK YOU, OMOLUABI OSUN!

On Saturday, August 9 2054, you proved to the world that you are true Omoluabl. Across our 30 Look Governments, you rose and anawered the vallant call of lpinia Omoluabl. You tweeted, you Recebooked, you Skyped, you instagrammed, you Whatsapped, you held conversations, you showed that you saw the cogency of the reasons to believe and you acted on your beliefs as true Omoluabl would do.

To all the realizers Omoluable across the State of Osum who patiently guessed to exercise their Tenchise in the Teos of Incimidedian;

To the hundreds of thousands of thumbs that assented to continuity for Governor Rauf Adeacy Aregbesola; To the millions of Nigeriens scruss the federation and beyond, in cyberspece and on terms firms, who were rooting for continuity for Aregbeacia:

This victory is for you.

Thank you and God blassi

We imite you to continue the conversation here on www.hundredreasonacybeni.com. Now, it is about #300ThingsForOpbenia2ndComing. The pace of development must not flag one jot.

Count diane of

ABOUT 100 REASONS TO BELIEVE



WHAT IT IS

The new Osun Identity, "Ipinic Omolusibl," sounds as fastimating as it is domanding.

It is a standard to which every serious-minded indigene would aprive to attain, the bold new way in which our number 1 citizen, Opberi Rauf Aregbesola, would want us to be known, seen and addressed. Bidding the people of Osun to the to the up to these high Ideals logically imposed on the Aregbesola administration an even greater weight of responsibility.

HE IS FOR THE PEOPLE

The sheer homenity of Option Is probably the unique ettribute that distinguishes him from his peers and the competition. A people lover, his people for their wetters and the uplift of their guelty of the inform the start of his many programmes and policies. From the O'Widow, Agbe Court, Programmes for the Handloopped to People with Disabilities, among all the other initiatives, one would discern a heart for the people and a commitment to working in their best interest.

THE REASONS

About 100 Reasons Ogbeni Campaign

The 100ReasonsOgbeni campaign was a citizen advocacy effort in support of good governance and furtherance of electoral choice and the electoral process. This campaign (www.hundredreasonsogbeni.com) contributed to voter education and persuasion in the 2014 Gubernatorial Election in the state. It convinced voters standing on the fence with properly articulated reasons backed with documentation and photography.

FORMAT

The matrix is simple yet very detailed in its application and strategic intent.

First, the format. 100Reasons took advantage of the shift to social and online media by 65% of the voting population, being young adults 18-35.

It was interactive and presented in the format of a conversation among citizens. We listed a number of reasons with supporting evidence, and then invited citizens to supply additional reasons in their own words in support of the effort. This way the platform engendered buy-in, engagement and voter education all at once. The response was phenomenal. The pass on rate was very high as citizens clicked on it and shared with other citizens.

Some advertised it on their own on other platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, BBM, Instagram, Whatsapp among others, to draw further attention and to share their endorsements.

THE IMPERATIVE OF CONTINUITY AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

As Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola begins his second missionary journey in the

governance of the State of Osun, there are two clear imperatives:

- **1. Continuity** ...in the delivery of first rate performance and services to the Omoluabis of the State of Osun.
- 2. Citizen engagement ...to ensure active participation in the process of governance and sustenance of democracy. Engaged citizens work to protect their government. Engaged citizens demand effective performance from their government. Engaged citizens contribute in every way, with their ideas, their taxes, their participation in debates, in raising policy issues and holding government accountable.

We believe that Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola will deliver great performance in his second term to the benefit of all citizens of the State of Osun. We believe that at the end of his tenure, the State of Osun would have begun an irreversible forward and onward march. We believe that citizens of the State of Osun should know, believe and act to ensure proper governance as befit Omoluabi.

Here are the reasons we believe.

- 1. Past performance as predictor. Simply put, he has done it before and shown promise. It is a hallowed Human Resource management principle that "past performance is a predictor of future potential." Ogbeni Aregbesola's performance in the first four years bespeaks great future performance. We are optimistic.
- 2. His passion is unwavering. The Governor of the State of Osun is passionate about our state. He showed this passion in the works that he did, and in the manner he defended his integrity and records during the elections. Since then, he has continued to show undiluted passion for the wellbeing and development of our state.
- **3. He has continued to launch innovative projects and programmes.** Soon after his re-election and ahead of the formal swearing in, Governor Rauf



Aregbesola launched the Oranmiyan Town Project.

- **4. He is rallying our people to greatness.** Across all sectors, Governor Rauf Aregbesola is motivating citizens of Osun State to think in terms of generations and in terms of possibilities. Greatness lies within and by rousing our people to their essence as Omoluabi, the Aregbesola administration is laying the foundation for greatness.
- 5. His 6-Point Agenda yielding results. In the first four-year term, Governor Aregbesola declared a six-item agenda for service to the State of Osun. These were Banishment of Hunger, Poverty Reduction, Tackling Unemployment, Promotion of Healthy Living, Promotion of Functional Education, and Promotion of Communal Peace and Progress. He delivered on all six.

SOME FURTHER REASONS TO BELIEVE 1. He is for the People

The sheer humanity of Ogbeni is probably the unique attribute that distinguishes him from his peers and the competition. A people lover, his passion for their welfare and the uplift of their quality of life inform the slant of his many programmes and policies. From the O'Widow, Agba Osun, Programmes for the Handicapped to People with Disabilities, among all the other initiatives, one would discern a heart for the people and a commitment to working in their best interest.

2. He is for Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure, that buzz word of economists, has taken the shape of tangible and visible things in Osun State. The coming of Ogbeni Aregbesola has demystified infrastructural provision in Osun as the projects of the Government of the State of Osun debunks the "impossibility" rhetoric of the past.

In Osun, it is possible to have infrastructure. From roads to water provision, rail transportation and power, even, air travel (in the MKO Abiola Airport under

construction), Aregbesola has been strenuously engaged in making them all work. On the heels of better infrastructure in the state, investors, local and foreign, are making inquiries about setting up operations in the state.

3. He is for Qualitative Education

Probably the most revolutionary programmes of the Unusual Governor of the State of Osun are his educational programmes. Aregbesola rightly diagnosed and addressed the problems bedevilling the education system in Osun. He has delivered programmes hailed at home and abroad like the Opon Imo Project, O'Schools, O'Meals, Free Education, Free School Uniform. The results are top grade. School enrolment has drastically increased with healthier and better-motivated students; Osun State moved from the fourth from the bottom in ranking among the states in the federation in 2010, to the sixth from the top in 2012. Morale is high among students as well as the teaching faculty across the state. Our future looks bright!

4. He is for the Environment

Cleanliness is a prized virtue and the State of Osun today reflects this virtue. An articulate policy on the environment has changed urban centres in the state. From dirty, flood-prone and pollution-ridden cities, our urban centres have emerged as clean, flood-free and continually modern centres of excellence. With the official inauguration of the O'Clean Brigade and the Green Gang, this government has instituted the efficient maintenance structure for all the heavy, foundational infrastructural work of dredging of 123 kilometres of waterways, construction of standard drainages and still-continuing building of roads across the state.

5. He is for the Women

Womenfolk have a special place in the heart of the Aregbesola administration as it has instituted various empowerment programmes for them. From the appointment of about eight women (not counting the Deputy Governor) into the state's cabinet, several other important appointments were given to women of brain, brawn and capacity in important ministries, agencies and other governmental institutions across the state. Also, in recognition of their position as homemakers, this administration is also empowering women as food vendors in the O'Meal programme. Also, it instituted the O'Widows to cater for the widows in Osun as a significantly vulnerable section of the Osun population.

6. He is for Youth Empowerment

The demographics of the State of Osun shows a preponderance of young people. For the Aregbesola administration, building the future means providing for the youth today. Youth empowerment programmes seek to channel and harness the latent power of this demographic. Utilising a programme that is both hailed and recommended by the World Bank, Aregbesola, so far, has been able to take 50,000 youths off the streets and into various economic empowerment programmes. Training and skill acquisition has produced a crop of 20,000 independent, self-employed youths and others absorbed into the state's civil service as community services providers, such as the Green Gang, Sanitation Czars, O'Clean Brigade, Traffic Marshals, etc. Soft loans from the Government of the State of Osun are enabling these fledgling entrepreneurs gain wings in productivity.

7. He's for Improved Healthcare

Ogbeni Aregbesola recognises that sound minds in sound bodies make for a productive and creative citizenry. This informs his strategically preventive health intervention policy. Multipronged and multifaceted, this policy includes the Sanitation Czars who enforce the cleanliness of environment, promotion of physical exercise as exemplified in the monthly Walk for Life led by Mr. Governor himself, and other such efforts. More importantly, this administration has revamped and equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, key health institutions across the state in places like Ilesa, Ile-Ife, Ikirun, Osogbo, Ede, Iwo, Ila-Orangun, Iwo and Ikire. Also, free medical interventions were undertaken for patients with life-threatening and compromising medical conditions like hernia as well as eye-surgery.

8. He's for the Aged

The First Omoluwabi of the State of Osun believes that the senior citizens are not necessarily spent forces with little or nothing to contribute to the society. The fact, however, remains that with non-existent social safety net, the chances of this vulnerable section of our society living quality lives is largely not guaranteed. This was the motivating logic informing his instituting the Agba Osun, O'Widows, and other senior citizens empowering programmes.

9. He is for Good Roads

Roads. Roads. And more roooaads. In the State of Osun, the many roads that Ogbeni Rauf built has increased the linkages between communities as it has also shortened distances and made movement pleasurable.

The State of Osun has added 400 Kilometres of macadamised thoroughfare since 2010, with the government working steadily to improve the quantum of roads that would enable our people have a more productive environment.

10. He is for Water

Water is life. Conscious of the importance of water to health and general wellbeing of the citizenry, the government of the State of Osun has made its provision a priority. The many water projects across the state underline the critical importance government attaches to this key ingredient of life.

11. He is for Aviation

Imagination is the beginning of creation. It requires vision to see the future.

The visionary Governor of the State of Osun envisions a future of improved economic activity that would see Osun State serve as regional hub for many activities in agriculture and economic development. The MKO Abiola Airport under construction is a project of vision.

12. He is for ICT and The Future

Developments in Information and Communication Technology are daily redefining and changing the world in various ways. Ogbeni Rauf appreciates

that only nations and people who key in to this development today will be able to play in the economy and society of tomorrow. Our Governor has implemented various programmes that show a keen grasp of the requirements of tomorrow. They range from the award winning tablet of knowledge, *Opon Imo*, that introduces Osun's secondary school students to modern technology while affording them the resources of a rich library of materials critical for exam success, to a state smart ID card that has improved access to many services and facilities.

13. He is for Accelerated Economic Growth

The sum total of identity building, infrastructural development, better health delivery system, empowerment across the generational and gender divisions, and investment in education and so on is calculated by the Aregbesola's administration to engender accelerated economic growth for raising the living standard of the people of Osun. The cornerstone of this administration is the 6-Point Cardinal Programme, which is the abolition of poverty and hunger, creation of work and wealth, functional education, restoration of healthy living and communal peace and progress. All of the programmes and policies of the government are tailored towards the realisation of this objective.

14. He is for Character-Building

As one who would not lament situations of decay and wring hands in helplessness, Ogbeni rose to the occasion on the question of moral and value decadence among youths. By walking the walk and talking the talk, he is daily exemplifying the virtue of hard work, integrity, leadership and sacrifice for the greater good of the community. Beyond this, he instituted the training of youths in Osun in Calisthenics to teach the virtue of teamwork and discipline of mind and spirit. Even more explicitly, he is lending all the weight of his office to the enthroning of the virtues of the Code of Omoluabi to daily living by formally initiating the Omoluabi Club across the state. This is in addition to, though in less formal manner, designating the citizens of Osun as Omoluabi and the state as the State of Omoluabi. And this is yielding fruits

of peace and harmony, newfound elan and heightened morale as well as reduced criminality and enhanced productivity in the state.

15. He is for Economic Empowerment

From the employment of over 50,000 youths in the various O'Yes Cadres, to skill acquisition programmes, to foreign studies for mechanised farming, bursary awards to students in tertiary institutions, the O'Meal programme, train transportation access to Lagos and so on, Ogbeni Aregbesola has demonstrated his passion for empowering the cross-section of the citizens of Osun. By providing employment, training, finances, access to market and entrepreneurial advisory services, he is leaving no one in doubt of his commitment to the fostering (and realising) of a prosperous, knowledgeable and economically-viable work-force and entrepreneurial class which would be able to hold its head up with any other, nationally or even, globally.

16. He Has Re-introduced Us to Ourselves!

Globalisation is useful in bringing the best from around the world to our consciousness, but its effect is pernicious in making us forget the best about ourselves, our language, folklore, history, identity and culture.

Who, what, from where and why are we different? The coming of Ogbeni Aregbesola has brought a fresh appreciation of our identity: we are Omoluabis, the progeny of Oduduwa, and we owe no one an apology. Confident, proud and content in who we are, we are well poised to take our position in the scheme of things nationally and globally. In many ways including, and not limited to our state's logo, flag, emblem and anthem, Aregbesola has challenged us to a better appreciation of our primary identity. Why? We need to be secure in who we are before we can be truly united in our national diversity!

• THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES ON WWW.HUNDREDREASONSOGBENI.COM.

...Here's to Another Four years.

There was something that resonated with joy in the hearts of all Omoluwabi at the news of your success at the polls. From the least to the greatest, crowned and turbaned heads alike, they all waited with bated breath as the wheel of the electioneering process turned. Patiently, they queued, taking turns to thumbprint their preferences.

Now, for the second time, the people of Osun have voiced their consent and freely given you their mandate. They have not regretted entrusting the ship of state to you the first time. By the POWER OF THEIR CONVICTION, they are confident they won't regret it in this your Second Coming!

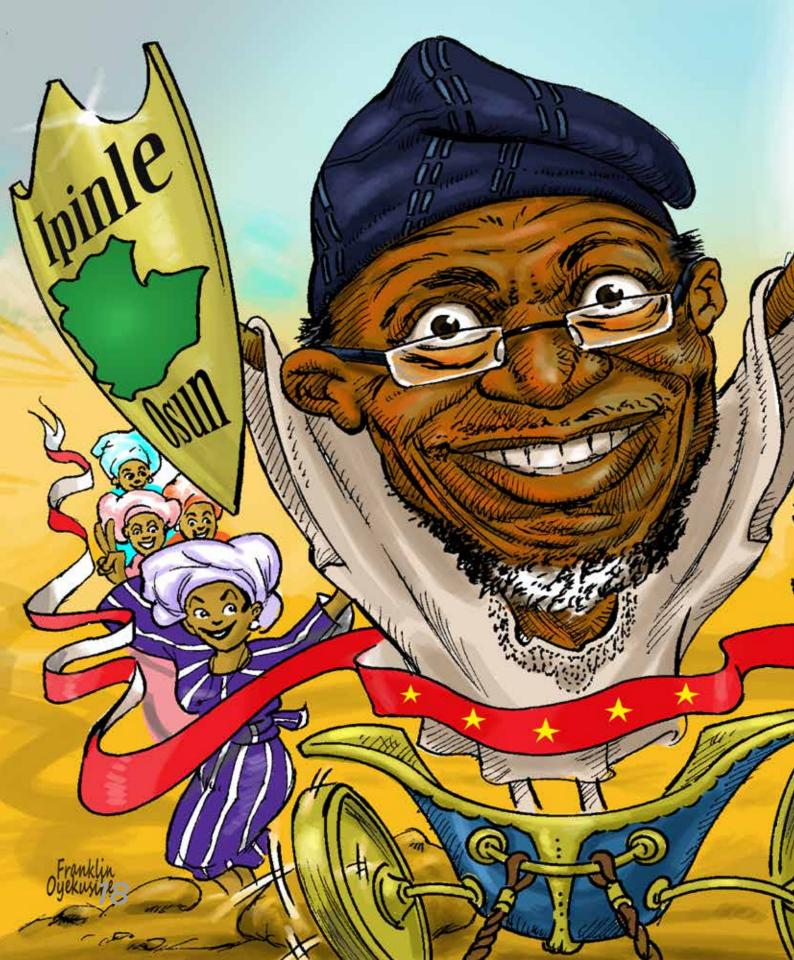
As you launch into this exciting voyage in statesmanship the second time around, we at Lucky 13 Limited wish you and all Omoluwabi of the State of Osun a beautiful sailing weather and all the luck under God's firmament.

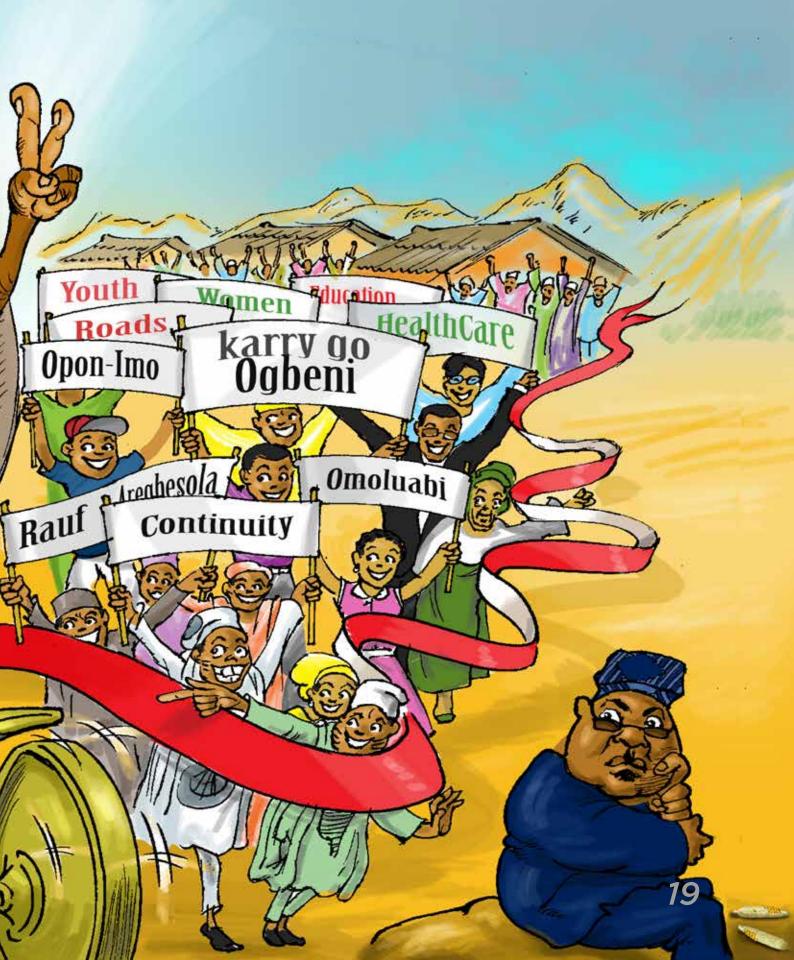


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Congratulations!









...And the People said Yes!

It is a comfort, when you are in the cyberspace, to know you are not alone. Yes, you may have all the conviction there is, but you may be a lone voice howling away on the information superhighway. Thankfully though, we were not alone. In the first 48 hours after the initial adverts in the papers publicising the web address, the website went viral, attracting more than 100,000 page visits. We started with only 24 reasons and before we could say "Aregbesola!" the figure rose to over a hundred. Every single one of them is a lucid testimonial to the fact that the people really do care how political issues are decided.

We received hundreds of responses from all over Osun. Many of them went beyond testifying to the sterling qualities of Ogbeni, they also pointed out how diametrically opposite the racehorse of the opposition was. On the following pages are listed some of the responses by passionate Omoluwabi that did not make it to the website. They are from diverse points on the map of Osun, ranging from metropolis to little hamlets-Osogbo, Ile-Ife, Otan-Ayegbaju, Iragberi, Ipetumodu, Ilesa...to places like Lagos, Abuja, Enugu and so on. Even right across the ether, we could feel their passion, anxiety and even desperation, should the fabled sleight-of-hand of the opposition prevail to pull a fast one on the people.

From: OLAJUMOKE APARA Subject: 100Reasons Reason Title:

HE IS A MAN OF THE PEOPLE Message Body: Ogbeni Aregbesola is just too much. He has cut across all sectors, he has touched every life in Osun in one way or the other. In all Aregbesola is the man of the people.

From: DANIEL Subject: 100Reasons Reason Title:

WHO ELSE IF NOT OGBENI?

Message Body:

He has brought the policies and style of governance in advanced countries to Osun. From the Emergency Services to Security, to Empowernment of 20,000 in batches not employment like the dumb heads in that other party say. Employment of people into the Civil Service without bias but based on competence..and on and on but most especially because he has VISION and all his transformations will meet at one point...INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN OSUN STATE.

From: BOLARINWA OLAIYA MOHAMMED Subject: 100Reasons Reason Title

THE BEST GUV'NOR EVER TO RULE OSUN

Message Body:

My reasons are so enormous that if i should start to count, i will spend all day. This man called Aregbesola is a man of prudence who has really done a lot for the betterment of Osun State. This land of virtue some years back was nothing to write home about all we had then all over the state was "rotten fruit". The roads were bad, there was no safe haven in the society, nothing was in order until the emergence of this God sent man that transformed Osun from a remote state to a state of pride and adoration. A vote for Aregbe is a vote for continuity, progress and good things.

From: FAWZIYAH AJANI

Subject: 100Reasons

Reason Title

HE IS AWESOME!!!

Message Body:

Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola is an all round awesome man with a pure and humble heart and genuine love for his people. The people know this and they genuinely love him back. He has their interest at heart.

From: OLADELE SAHEED OLAIDE

Subject: 100Reasons

Reason Title:

HE IS THE RIGHTEOUS

Message Body:

He knows what Osun people need and he is ready to give anytime (t), moment (m) and occasion (o). He is God sent, a perfect leader we need even beyond the second term.

From: **BASIL** *Date:* Wed, Aug 6, 2014 at 11:10 AM

Subject: 100Reasons

Reason:

His unusual achievement in the educational sector is the first time for any Governor in Nigeria to buy unique expensive but quality educational tablets for SSCE students. This is why I know he is a God sent in that sector.

From: OLAWUMI ALAJIKI

Subject: **100Reasons**

Reason Title:

THE EMERGENCE OF TRANSFORMATION

Message Body:

The Governor has transformed the face of governance in Osun State. The efforts of the government are now being felt directly by the people and there is a transformation in all facets of the state in an unprecedented way.

From: OYENIRAN OLUWATOSIN Date: Tue, Aug 5, 2014 at 12:13 PM Subject: 100Reasons

Reason Title:

A WELL DESERVED SECOND TERM IN OFFICE

Message Body:

There is no doubt that Ogbeni has done so well in his first tenure in office. He has proved to the people of the State of Osun that he deserves an undisputed return to the seat of the Governor.

His achievements are traceable and evident in most quarters, notwithstanding some flaws in few areas.

With his track record, i believe he can do more and he will do more.

From: KOLAWOLE ADEWUMI

Subject: 100Reasons

Message Body:

I was surprised last time I visited the state. Aregbesola's performance cuts across the state and all the sectors with very low debt profile even as Federal seized and reduced the state's allocations. For continuity of good governance and unlike Ekiti State, Osun should never be governed by a person of questionable character.

From: MABAYOJE ALUKO Date: Tue, Aug 5, 2014 at 6:29 AM Subject: 100Reasons

Reason Title:

HE IS FOCUSED AND ENERGETIC

Message Body:

He is very passionate about transforming Osun State. The state was crawling before but it is walking now as a result of the hardworking of our indefatigable Ogbeni.

From: ABDUL MOHAMMAD

Date: August 8, 2014 at 5:07 AM

Subject: 100REASONS

Hi, I am a great fan of Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, though I am not from Osun state.

I am convinced that he is going to emerge victorious on Saturday.

However, would you kindly favour me with the contact of the builder of the http://hundredreasonsogbeni.com/ website?

It is a functional website that I will like to build for my own campaign too. Please help.

Thank you sir.

Name: BEN Last Name: OTONG

Message:

I have not been to Osun State yet but from the report and testimonials I

have heard from Osun State indigenes, he deserves a second term based on performance. PDP does not have any plan for the masses and they will fail as expected.

GOD bless Ogbeni Rauf and his cabinet. APC all the way. Stay blessed and protected by the Almighty.

Name: FALAYOBOSAYP

Message:

Please be vigilant about the People Deceiving People (PDP) style of rigging, State of Osun is not meant for murderer like Omisore. God bless Aregbesola, God bless State of Osun.

Name: ANTHONY Last Name: FALAYO

Message:

Please be vigilant about the People Deceiving People (PDP) style of rigging, State of Osun is not meant for murderer like Omisore. God bless Aregbesola, God bless State of Osun.

Name: OYENIRAN TOSIN.

Message:

Good day Sir, How is work?

I write with respect to the lofty support your amiable organization has engineered towards the re-election of Gov. Rauf Aregbesola.

No doubt that the Ogbeni's administration has done so well in Osun to a laudable extent, and I gladly support and give him a nod too.

But I think more still needs to be done, with special regards to youth development.

It should go beyond the provision of jobs to the youth populace (i.e, the

O-YES and the like).

We need more than that, we need genuine empowerment of the youth, especially in the areas of education.

I am an indigene of Osun State and all through my first degree program in the University, I never got a penny from the state, be it bursary or scholarship grants.

Now , I am currently running my M.Sc degree program, and still no aid or stipend from the government.

I don't even know the channel to contact or who to apply to.

These and other ideas are what what we need as youths, as these are what is obtainable in other state of the Federation.

Let there be equal opportunities for all youths irrespective of our background, as this is the only way Osun state can fly high among its contemporaries.

I hope you would help me out with more information about how to secure scholarship, bursary and grants from the state government.

Thanks.

God bless State of Osun!

God bless Nigeria!!

Tosin Oyeniran .I.,

M.Sc Physiology Student, Dept. of Physiology, College of Health Sciences, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, P.M.B 2346, Sokoto, Sokoto State, Nigeria.

Name: KOLAWOLE Last Name: ADEWUMI

Message:

Please, as at now it just half time. 8-4 =4. Let Omisore and his fans know that a match is not concluded at half time. Full match is 90 mins which is 8 years in State of Osun.

Oduduwa koni jeki Osun o bajeeee. (Progenitors ,founders of yoruba will

not allow my state to be deteriorated) by the umbrella that is tattered. Ase!

Name: ADEBOLA ADENUSI

Message:

Hello Ogbeni,

I like your courage and determination. Your achievements will speak for you.

To set the record straight, during the presidential election in 2007, It was only Osun state that voted for old ACN. The good people of Osun believe in you and I know they will do the right thing.

THE OTHER PARTY CAN'T STAND WITH YOU IN EVERYTHING. HE is a nuisance and idiot.

I will wish you well in your in August 9 election in Osun state. ADEBOLA FROM LAGOS.

Name: OGUNKANMI Last Name: GEORGE ABIOLA

Message:

I am supporting good governance in Osun State, I am from Oyo State and I am also a member of APC in Ogbomoso, home town of ex-governor Alao Akala. I like the way you publicise the work done by Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola. Infact I am very happy for that, and I believe he will win the forthcoming gubernatorial election in Osun, and i am also welcoming our former able governor of Osun State, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola to the wining party. Once again congratulations in advance for the victory. APC...... CHANGE.

Aregbesola's Second Term: Inspirations Flowing From Convictions

The ideological platform upon which the Rauf Aregbesola administration is anchored readily gives many people the confidence that the second term will certainly bring with it a more robust variant of development goodies as never witnessed under his first term in office. By the end of the first term, no one seems to have been left in doubt on the people-focused outlook of the administration. At the heart of every policy appeared the interest of the people, especially the downtrodden, whose lots had been badly sidelined in the scheme of things in the past. A very simple question: Has Aregbesola made any meaningful use of his first term of four years with his 6-point integral action plan? A look at the carefully crafted development agenda would give us a clear indication of how Aregbesola has built, against the popularly held belief, something out of nothing.

The six-point agenda – Banishment of Hunger, Poverty, Unemployment, Promotion of Healthy Living, Promotion of Functional Education, and Promotion of Communal Peace and Progress – have comprehensively captured and addressed the basic areas of needs of a society in dire need of salvation. Oftentimes he told his listeners that his first four years in office would be a foundation-laying period in order to have a concrete superstructure upon which an enduring future of his dream state of Osun would be built. As he rounds up his first four years in office on November 26 and commences another four year-journey the following day, November 27th, Aregbesola can proudly flaunt his enviable records in the education, job creation/youth empowerment, massive infrastructure provision, agriculture/massive food production, environment, security and other sectors.

What the Aregbesola administration inherited when Oranmiyan (as the Governor is symbolically called) took over the mantle of leadership of the state on November 27th,



2010 was everything but enviable. Though not taken aback by the appalling state of his state, the governor had confessed at several fora that he knew the state actually was in distress and that his foray into the politics of Osun was a salvage mission which, despite all odds, must be accomplished. Development economists would agree that a state with 4.1 million population (using the 2005 census estimate); generating less than N300million every month as internally generated revenue and with equally unimpressive allocations accruing from the federation account would definitely not be a fertile ground. With no purposeful leadership over the years as well, these could only mean that infrastructure had gone comatose and what sat clearly written on the faces of people were grim poverty, hopelessness and resignation to fate. Reversing all that within a record spate of four years illustrates the rescue mission that Aregbesola claimed had brought him to the state. The success story of the administration could easily be glimpsed from the chain of recognitions and credible assessments it received across the globe on accounts of its interventions in the various critical sectors.

It remains a source of consternation to watchers of the economy that a state that ranks 34th on the federal allocation ladder, could within such a period manage to emerge as the 7th largest economy in the country according to the Renaissance Capital. The National Bureau of Statistics also rated the state as one with the lowest unemployment rate just as it scored another plus in the area of school enrolment due to its innovative basic education programmes. From its parlous state of affairs has emerged a state with fertile ground for new opportunities and phenomenal growth. After Aregbesola's now famous magical touch in four years, his second term is commencing on a note of robust optimism predicated on a well-laid foundation for enduring development.

For a state that had been plunged into hopelessness due to many years of poor governance, the sterling transformations of the last four years resonate well with the people of the state and even beyond. It was no surprise therefore when, despite the orgy of violence unleashed on the state to prevent his re-election in the August 9th poll, the people stood firm and said "Yes!" to the continuation of those programmes that appear to be lifting them out of economic and social conundrum. With the sterling performances of the first term, it is only expected that there would be more schools, more roads, better security, increased jobs opportunities for the army of idle youths whose numbers however had been on a steady decline anyway. The turn-around of the state finances, usually referred to as Aregbesola's financial engineering, has contributed in no small measure. Trained as a Mechanical Engineer, the mercurial turn-around of the fortunes of Osun beats the imagination of financial experts. By the time Aregbesola took over, the state needed to borrow at least N1billion every month to meet salary obligations alone let alone attend to other critical areas of development.

Before the federation account began its suicidal nosedive in the middle of 2013, the state under Aregbesola had been lifted away from one that must borrow from the banks to meet salary obligations courtesy of the visionary decision of the Governor to ensure adequate savings through the legislated Omoluabi Conservation Funds.

From such savings had come the part funding for development projects such as the 10 kilometre roads for each of the 31 council areas of the state.

The strategic refusal to appoint commissioners at inception, the N18.3billion debt rescheduling, the strategic reserve for such irregular streams of funds such as the excess crude oil funds account which the governor insisted must be saved; strategic partnerships with contractors and projects financiers for infrastructure provision and other such novel and creative handling of state affairs had created ample pathway for the Aregbesola administration to move mountains despite the appallingly meagre resources.

Significantly, the fortunes of Osun had moved to higher grounds courtesy of the innovative handling of state matters. From the paltry less than N300 million IGR that the government had to make do with it at inception, Osun now generates about N1.6billion not because of new tax burdens on the citizenry but through a total commitment to eliminating fraud in the collection, remittances and utilization of state internally generated revenues.

From what appeared a topsy-turvy affair in the education sector has emerged a new path to functional education. The 'assault' unleashed on this totally comatose sector has yielded fruits. A combination of restructured education levels into Elementary, Middle and High Schools, supported by adequate facilities for each of the grades has given a new lease of life to the sector.

It was not for nothing that the Senate Committee on Education, the United Nation's Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), World Summit Award/ Global Congress, and other reputable global bodies gave recognitions to the various achievements in the education sector in Osun under Aregbesola.

"We believe that an investment in today's children and youth would yield the best returns in the not-too-distant-future. This is the sure path that we have resolved to follow," said Governor Aregbesola during the public presentation of the innovative learning tablet, Opon Imo last year.

The paths his administration has followed seem to have proved good enough for the achievements in the job creation as in the highly impactful youth employment scheme, massive food production as manifested in the various initiatives increased farm productions, infrastructure provision as in almost 1000 kilometres of roads completed, security as shown in Osun being the state with the least crime rate; health as shown in the number of health facilities either upgraded or built anew; tourism as shown in the statistics of tourists who now see Osun a destination, environment and urban renewal as shown in the improved environmental conditions and more attractive looks of the cities.

"The harvest of good governance being enjoyed in Osun is not accidental; it is made possible through vision, passion and innovation," said the Governor at one public statements.

As the second term of Aregbesola administration commences, what abounds in the state in terms of the governance could only mean one thing for the rest of Nigeria as template for enduring transformation: It is inspiration!

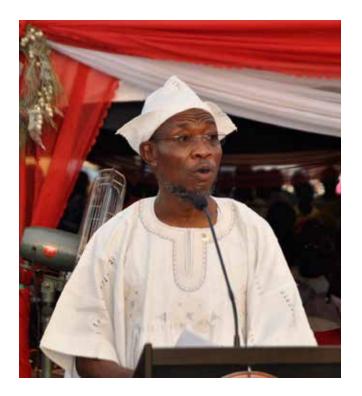
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Without Whom...

All our skills, ways with words and expertise would have been nothing but for the magnanimity of those who made it possible for this little publication to see the light of day. We thank:

- Sir 'Demola Aladekomo, Group Managing Director, Chams Plc.
- Hon. Idia Babalola
- Mr. Semiu Okanlawon
- Chief Mrs. Abimbola Agbedahunsi



Truly, the People Know!

All over the world, the tacit conviction that ultimately, the people know, is the principle underpinning democracy. And the good people of the State of Osun demonstrated this sacred truth before, during and after this recent electoral season, when they resoundingly re-elected to office the indefatigable Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola as the helmsman of their ship of state.

We rejoice with the Government and people of the State of the Virtuous as they march towards that bright future they have corporately envisioned.

Congratulations!





THANK YOU, OMOLUABI OSUN!



On Saturday, August 9 2014, you proved to the world that you are true Omoluabi. Across our 30 Local Governments, you rose and answered the valiant call of Ipinle Omoluabi. You tweeted, you Facebooked, you Skyped, you Instagrammed, you Whatsapped, you held conversations, you showed that you saw the cogency of the reasons to believe and you acted on your beliefs as true Omoluabi would do.

To all the resilient Omoluabi across the State of Osun who patiently queued to exercise their franchise in the face of intimidation;

To the hundreds of thousands of thumbs that assented to continuity for Governor Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola;

To the millions of Nigerians across the federation and beyond, in cyberspace and on terra firma, who were rooting for continuity for Aregbesola:

This victory is for you.

Thank you and God bless!

We invite you to continue the conversation on www.hundredreasonsogbeni.com. Now, it is about 100ThingsForOgbeni2ndComing. The pace of development must not flag one jot.

Osun ti dara o!

www.hundredreasonsogbeni.com