

## **RADIO DISCUSSION ON NIGERIA**

- RADIO STATION:** Africa Panorama
- BAND:** 103.8fm. (Website: [www.novfm.com](http://www.novfm.com))
- DATE:** Sunday, 09.04.06
- TIME:** 3pm through 5pm
- TOPIC:** Third Term Agenda
- PARTICIPANTS:** Alice Ukoko.  
Governorship Aspirant for Oyo State 2007  
About ten Nigerians called to participate.

### **Discussion:**

I introduced myself as a woman who has been at the forefront of the campaign to return Nigeria to democratic rule since 1994. I informed the listeners that I consider it important to explain my devotion to the service of Nigeria, Africa and humanity to enable them understand where I am coming from in my position on the “third term agenda” which is now dominating discussion on Nigeria and the way forward for Africa.

### **My Position as discussed on air:**

The **1999 Constitution** is the first one after many years of Military rule to enable Nigeria return to democratic rule with all the benefits attached to Democracies all over the world. I am aware that there is no perfect democracy in the world but I believe that every “democracy” works itself “**PURE**” given the opportunity to evolve in Free and Fair environment.

Thus, my position is that although the present “civil rule” in Nigeria is not a “democracy” per se, if given the opportunity, it could correct itself along the way. To amend the Constitution to enable the present administration to extend their office beyond 2007 is to hinder the progress of our democracy. It is immoral and against the interest of Nigeria as a Nation.

I am aware that the 2003 Elections were the worse in the process of working our democracy, being that that election brought in small arms and unprecedented level of violence in Nigeria’s electoral process.

I cited Chief Tefa Balogun as being wickedly enriched through the part he played using the Nigerian Police to prevent the people of Nigeria from exercising their human and democratic rights of choosing their leaders. Democracy at gun-point would become the norm is allowed to carry on.

At a point, there was heated argument between the Oyo State Governorship aspirant he felt that there is a need for an intelligent debate on the issue. I reminded him that I am a Lawyer just like himself, as such; he cannot claim to be more intelligent than myself. At this juncture, a caller called in to advice that we did not fight over the issues.

Callers called in to contribute and give their views. Nine of the ten callers support the view that the Constitution should not be amended. One of the ten callers opined that the Constitution should not be amended but that Chief Olusegun Obasanjo should be allowed to continue with the good works he has started.

The caller is of the opinion that it is the North trying to take over power from the South which is why there is agitation against the “third term agenda” She advised that Nigerians should not be too sentimental about the call for Mr President to stay on. This caller felt that no person is waiting in the wing to take over as such it would not be feasible for the President to leave office. The response here is “who groomed Chief Olusegun Obasanjo on how to be a President”?

There was major disagreement with this caller on the following grounds:  
That Nigeria has a population of about 130 million people, to claim that Chief Obasanjo is the only person who can govern Nigeria is an insult on the integrity of Nigerians.

I assured listeners that the issue of no other person to take over is not on, as Alice Ukoko is capable of being the next President of Nigeria given the opportunity to govern.

Although the Oyo State governorship aspirant tried to support his position, it was clear from the discussion that he stood alone.

Callers commended Alice Ukoko for speaking for the masses of Nigeria and urged her never to be afraid but to continue to maintain her position.

A Yoruba Traditional Ruler called in to thank Alice Ukoko for speaking fearlessly for the masses of Nigeria and told the Oyo State governorship aspirant that he was disappointed in him. They appeared to know themselves but throughout the two hours discussion, caller after caller commended Alice Ukoko for her position and standing up for “truth”

Like a lame duck, the Oyo State governorship aspirant said that the reason he favours third term for Mr President is because of the creation of the EFCC, I then asked if Mr President would be disbanding EFCC when he goes away.

No one person can complete “project Nigeria” I reminded listeners that Nigerians are very good at preferring an incumbent. It was the same way some Nigerians claimed that Gen. Sani Abacha was the only person who can govern Nigeria. At his demise, Nigerians came who want to govern.

I further challenged the gentleman from Oyo State to list the positive achievements of Mr President in his eight years in Government; the learned gentleman was unable to list the achievements other than the creation of the EFCC. I reminded listeners that there are other creations of this administration that fail to achieve the acclaimed objectives: One of those creations being National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). I am yet to see how NAPEP reduced the level of poverty in the country.

I listed insecurity, the growth of ritual killings, assassinations, proliferation of small arms, 90% rate of youth unemployment in particular in the Niger Delta region of the country; the increase in the rate of absolute poverty in the country; youth unrest in the country in particular hostage takings in the Niger Delta. Total destruction of human dignity amongst the masses of Nigeria, environmental destruction of the Niger Delta amongst others.

I informed listeners that I have nothing against Mr President but that as a person who has continued to campaign for democracy and respect for the rights of Nigerians since 1994, I must insist that Mr President and all his governors should quit office at the end of their tenure to allow other Nigerians to come into government. For it is only through people respecting the Constitution and the “will” of the people of Nigeria that Nigeria’s democracy will work itself “PURE”

At this juncture, my co-discussant reminded me that Delta State is worse in all the ills I mentioned although the State is getting large allocation of resources from Federal Government, I reminded the audience that Delta State is contributing over 40% of all revenue accruing to the country however, I insisted that I did not want to be side tracked from the main issue being discussed that I will leave the issue of Delta State and how the governor of Delta State is the worse thief to another time.

Callers wanted Alice Ukoko’s contact for follow up after the programme. Unfortunately, the radio presenter felt that they did not want Alice Ukoko to use their radio programme to further her cause for the people.

Immediately we went off the air, a Nigerian called the station and asked to speak with Alice Ukoko. Contact details were exchanged at this point for future contact.

On the whole, it was a very positive radio session. **Nigerians do not want the present administration to stay in office longer than 2007.**

Alice Ukoko  
Chief Executive Officer  
Women Of Africa.