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Jonathan is the first Nigerian to move from deputy governor to governor, from governor to vice president and then, hit the apogee, which is the president. He also made a history as the first incumbent president to lose an election in which he conducted. The loss of the presidential election, instead of diminishing his political career, turned him to a role model and searchlight for other African leaders to follow. He became a man of history and an African hero when he averted the prediction by the Western nations that Nigeria was going to fragment by Jonathan, of course, held the key to that prediction coming to fruition. As a great sportsman, he accepted defeat, which is rare. Many African leaders cling to power long after their mandates have expired and what Jonathan did is uncommon and commendable. So, His concession of victory to Muhammadu Buhari, obviously, helped to abate any looming crisis or uprising as a result of his electoral loss to the opposing candidate in the fiercely contested election. During the elections, nerves had been frayed and the gossamer thread, which holds the nation together, would have broken, and the country would have been in flames, thereby bringing to pass the prediction of the Western nations on the break-up of Nigeria. The winner, President Muhammadu Buhari, was the first to heave a sigh of relief, and eloquently eulogised him for being magnanimous enough to initiate a telephone conversation where he conceded defeat even before the final votes were tallied, thus, saving the nation from a predicted Armageddon. While receiving the handover notes from the former president, Buhari said: For that, you have earned yourself a place in our history, for stabilising this system of multi-party democracy system and you have earned the respect of not only Nigerians, but world leaders. Thank you very much, Your Excellency. The refugees would be difficult to manage, as they would overrun neighbouring West African countries. It is against this background that when he congratulated the winner, Buhari, that the international community that was apprehensive found breath again, and hung him a halo brass. Since then, his image has continued to soar. His first assignment was when he led member nations of the Commonwealth as part of the international observers to monitor the Tanzanian general election on October As Tanzanians prepared to vote in either side, they were happy that high profile observers, including Jonathan, who they consider as "a hero of free and fair election in Africa", would be on ground to monitor the elections. They hoped that their presence would ensure a transparent and peaceful election process. Paying tribute to Jonathan in a recent editorial ahead of the elections, The Daily News of Tanzania commended the former president for taking his defeat in the last presidential election, "in all magnanimity," adding, "Jonathan may very well have averted bloodshed that is characteristic of incumbent leaders who cling in power tooth and nail, fang and claw! What lesson is there in this for us in Tanzania? In its own editorial comment entitled, "High profile figures among observers will add credibility to poll process, results", The Guardian stated: The Hope Global Forum is an annual event that convenes thousands of thought leaders, business professionals and public policy officials from many countries to brainstorm on ways of advancing the social and economic wellbeing of all people around the world. The meeting focuses on broadening inclusiveness for global economies. As the keynote speaker, Jonathan succeeds President Bill Clinton, who performed a similar role at the event, which gathered over 3, leaders from 40 countries and was broadcast and live streamed internationally. The letter of invitation, jointly signed by Amb. Andrew Young, Operation Hope Global spokesman, Honourable Kasim Reed, Mayor of Atlanta, and John Hope Bryant, Operation Hope chief executive, urged the former president to lend his support to an entrepreneurship mentoring programme, by sharing his experience in office with a wider global audience. With the theme, "Reimagining the Global Economy: Inclusive Economics", the annual meeting is set against the backdrop of the Martin Luther King Holiday weekend and gathers leaders from government, community and the private sector to outline a vision for the modern global; economy. A vision where the undeserved, working poor, and struggling middle class are viewed as untapped assets for economic growth, entrepreneurship and job creation. He is the first African leader in and out of office to be so honoured by this revered group for his democratic credentials and

upholding human rights in Africa. The Diplomatic Circle is a group of diplomats from all over the world. The former president, who will also be the guest of honour, is to deliver a keynote address. This goes to show that he has become not just a national asset to Nigeria but to Africa and the global community. Yes, people talk much about how Jonathan handed over power to the opposition with magnanimity and serenity. That is true, but what people do not seem to take into cognisance is that he also embraced his presidency with similar humility and thoughtfulness. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, the sky is not his limit, but remains his starting point. To contact the copyright holder directly for corrections or for permission to republish or make other authorized use of this material, [click here](#).

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