

Celebrating Baba: A Life Filled with Knowledge and Heartfelt Generosity

With a heavy heart and deep appreciation for a life well lived, I write this tribute to my father, affectionately known as Baba, a man whose wisdom was as vast as his compassion. Baba's deep understanding of Ikale history and culture made him a valuable informal counsel on matters affecting the Ikale people as well as more general national issues.

I was often amazed by how effortlessly he could recite passages from classic novels he had read decades earlier. He was likely one of the few remaining individuals in Ikale land who could still converse in Latin.

One of Baba's core principles was education. He was determined that his children should have every chance to excel academically since he thought that education was the path to a better future. It was particularly surprising to see how he coped so well even when six of us were scattered across various tertiary institutions throughout the country. It is still a tribute to his incredible commitment and ingenuity that he was able to overcome these challenges with such grace and effectiveness. Baba's lifelong commitment to the welfare of his children and the community is one of his lasting legacies.

Baba may have seemed strict to those who viewed him from afar, but those who were close to him realized that he had a heart full of love, compassion, and integrity. His seeming firmness served to shield and mentor us. We will forever cherish the lessons he imparted, the love he showed, and the precious memories we shared. Baba, your legacy of wisdom, kindness, and strength will endure in us forever. Rest in peace.