

I am honoured to be given the opportunity to honour the life and legacy of our esteemed beloved father, grandfather great grandfather. Senator M.A.E Onukun OON — A man of honour.

Baba was not only a visionary leader but also a compassionate guide who inspired many to reach for their dreams, besides his contributions to individual and community developments.

The name Onunkun was a household name in our community in my primary school days. But I got to know Baba through his son Dr. Temitope Jos Onukun who I consider my best friend. Tope is an envy of his friends because he has the best mother in this world who embraces every one of her son's friends as hers.

Baba Onunkun is not a man of many words but when he talks his words speak volumes. I learned an important philosophy from this great man. One day he asked me "Son, what are your goals for the future?"

I said Daddy I want to be a Senator like you sir. He said great, Then a follow-up "How do you plan to achieve this son?" I said God will give me my "breakthrough". Then he asked, "How" I said through miracles. Baba laughed and said "Son, God is great but your hands are your miracles" Your hard-work are your miracles, don't sit down waiting for miracles, work hard and miracles will find you.

Baba words will go on to play an important role in my life. He became an elite and political household name through hard work and kindness.

It does not surprise me that he lived to an age where only the honest in this word can attain.

I am not surprised today to see his children following his footsteps. Tope and his siblings are examples of the qualities attributed to this great man of our time.

As we say goodbye to Baba let us carry forward the lessons he imparted and the values he embodied. Though he may no longer be with us, his legacy of inspiration and empowerment will live on in the lives he touched and we can all carry that legacy forward to inspire the next generation.

Tope, it is always sad to lose anyone close to us even at the age of over 100. No doubt we have lost an icon but I will say Baba should be celebrated.

Good night, sir. May your memory be a blessing.

Tubosun Ikumelo (Santa)