

TRIBUTE TO A REMARKABLE MAN : A LIFE OF SERVICE, LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY -

Late SENATOR MICHAEL ATIJOSAN EMMANUEL ONUKUN OON

By

Prince DONALD AJIBOLA MOREBISE LL.M BL (Ibadan) B L ch M C

(General Secretary, Osooro Leaders of Thought)

We gather here to celebrate the extraordinary life of a remarkable man who would have been 98 years old in just five months before he passed on —a man who lived a full and impactful life, bridging eras and touching the lives of many. A former District Council Officer during Nigeria's colonial era, a trained Book keeper and an Administrator per excellence. Senator Onukun was a leader, a unifier, a devoted family man, and a scholar with a love for the classics.

As a District Council Officer, he served his community with dedication and integrity, laying down the foundational work that would help shape the governance of the region. His commitment to public service did not wane with the end of the colonial era; rather, it grew stronger. During Nigeria's Second Republic, he served as a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. His contributions to nation-building were recognized when former President Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR conferred upon him the national honor of 'Officer of the Order of the Niger' OON.

A proud father and a successful polygamist, he was blessed with many children all of who he trained to become successful academics and professionals in different fields. A great advocate of Education and public enlightenment.

His leadership extended beyond his professional career as he was deeply committed to the unity and development of his community. As the President of Osooro Leaders of Thought, he played a pivotal role in fostering peace and unity between Ilutitun and Igbotako communities. Under his leadership, the long-standing disputes between these communities were resolved, creating a more harmonious and united Osooro. This remarkable initiative, brought together by the efforts of Prince Dr. General Oluyemi Bajowa CFR and Prince Donald Ajibola Morebise was a testament to his vision of a united community.

A highly cerebral man of letters, he had a profound love for literature, especially the works of Shakespeare. His ability to speak Latin fluently and quote classical texts set him apart as a scholar who valued knowledge and intellectual discourse. His wisdom and eloquence were respected by all who knew him, and he often shared his insights with a depth that resonated with both the young and the old. He was an encyclopedia of Ikale History who never failed to recount Ikale beaded crown history, the unity and determination of the founding fathers of Ilutitun Osooro before and after it was founded in 1920 , Tax Agitation in ikaleland etc

Even in his later years, he remained industrious and entrepreneurial. He was actively engaged in various trades and he invested in property, owning a sprawling estate that became a symbol of his hard work and astute business acumen.

He was also a passionate political figure. As a founding member of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in 1999, he remained politically active and interested in Developmental Politics until his final days, always staying abreast of the political dynamics of the nation and advocating for good governance.

In celebrating his life, we honor a man whose journey was marked by dedication to family, community, and country. He was a leader who believed in the power of unity, a scholar who cherished knowledge, and a man whose life was a blend of service, wisdom, and love. His legacy will live on in the lives of those he touched and the community he helped to build.

May his soul rest in perfect peace.