

## TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER

Before I begin, I will admit it is impossible for me to write a page or two characterizing our father, but since we have sourced the work out to the general public, you should bear with me the reasons for my few words, people have spoken out for us.

The people who are really acquainted with him and knew him well can attest to the fact that the Onunkun family together with the Ikale people especially, need to realize that a hard rock has been leveled right before our faces, we have lost a noble Statesman.

Please, if I may have your permissions, I will refer to our late Senator Michael Atijosan Emmanuel Onunkun as “our father”, meaning not only to his children but to most people because, everyone respectfully greeted our father “Baba wo gbo o” meaning “Baba, you are great” and he would amicably responded “Emi ke mo gbo to e” meaning “he is not as great as they are”. In short, I believe the majority called him Baba (father), that is my point.

Accommodative and appreciative, many people might have wondered the reason our father beared two Christian names, Michael is his actual Christian name, but due to the affection and appreciation of his father, he adopted his father’s name Emmanuel, hence the name Michael Atijosan Emmanuel Onunkun. Our father appreciated and welcomed everyone wherever they met him, these included his bedroom, kitchen, living room and even outside in front of his crib. He was a man of class, no pride in his games.

Our father, the late Senator M.A.E. Onunkun survived livelihoods and raised his children the best way he could. We, the children respected him, happy to have him as father and a good provider, we ought to here exhibit our gratitude and admiration for everything he did or suffered to enable us.

Our father was exceptionally intellectually rich, health wise and gracefully blessed as well, but, when it comes to money-rich, he never scaled up that ladder, never quantified to be regarded being a money rich Baba but, he adequately provided for his family, we never lacked necessities. He never borrowed from no one, an outstanding father that believed in generosity, hard work, handwork and working smart to gainfully achieve managing and sustaining a promising lifestyle. He could differentiate between NEEDS and WANTS.

In conclusion, I deeply and respectfully thank everyone that has expended parts of their highly valuable times to pen in whatever experiences they might have had with our father. My name is Sef Onunkun, the first child of Senator M. A. E. Onunkun. Believe me, I know our father clearer than most. Our father was a see no evil, hear no evil and a do no evil man. He was a just being, a human being. Please for goodness sakes, pardon him and forgive his faults, remember no one is perfect.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE, Amen.