

TRIBUTE TO DADDY T. A AKINYELE

Words are not enough to describe Daddy Akinyele as he is fondly called in our family. You were a mentor and inspiration to me in the civil service since 1963 till you retired in 1978. We became intimate with the family in 1993 when Mummy Akinyele and my wife were the only female members representing their local governments (ONA- ARA and IBADAN NORTH –WEST) at Oyo State Primary Education Board (now SUBEB).

In the course of our close relationship with him, we can describe him as:

- a) a responsible, supportive and loving husband to the wife, a caring, fantastic and reliable father to his children and grandchildren and indeed a dependable father to members of his extended family. He extended these qualities to his community, church and civil service families and all the people he related with as he was endued with the ministry of HELP. He was a great PHILANTROPIST.
- b) a unique, gifted and talented man with exceptional intellectual capabilities represented by his outstanding, honest, disciplined and efficient performance in his civil service career which made him reach the pinnacle of his career and served meritoriously in various capacities in government even after retirement. He was indeed a doyen of administration.
- c) a man of integrity and dignity who made accountability his watchword and paid attention to details.
- d) a man who loved reading, writing and documentation. He treasured his library! Little wonder, his control and command of English language is unparalleled.
- e) a man full of knowledge and wisdom. He would foresee the outcome of things and proffer solutions to solve problems. He can be called the present – day Jeremiah. Yet he was so gentle, loving, friendly, humble and a gentleman to the core.
- f) a time-conscious man. He would arrive at events promptly and wait patiently till the end.
- g) a man who showed appreciation to whatever was done for him not minding his status and would bless you with prayers from the depth of his heart.
- h) a patriotic man who loved his community, Ajia and Ibadan with great passion.
- i) A man who came to this world and did his best in his service to mankind.
- j) Above all and most importantly he loved, served and sacrificially supported the work of God and evangelism till the end of his life.

It can be said of him as Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:7 & 8 *“I have fought the good fight , I have finished my course ,I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day and not to me only but unto all them also that love his appearing”*.

This can be affirmed by what he said and heard from heaven towards the end of his transition from this earth.

Though we shall miss your smiles, words of wisdom, advice, prayers and blessings, we are comforted that you are rejoicing and singing with the saints in the presence of Almighty God. The grace and mercy of God indeed have spoken for you. Hallelujah!!!.

Daddy, continue to rest in peace till the resurrection morning.

Mr & Mrs Banji & Tomi Laniya.
Ibadan