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MOSES CHIMEREZE OKPO: MY BROTHER AND MY FRIEND LIKE NO OTHER

"I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the victory price of being put right with God, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day - and not only to me, but to all those who wait with love for him to appear".

2 Timothy 4:7 - 8

When death comes, it defiles all known therapy and confuse all experts. That was the situation with your long battle to live until that inglorious early hours of Saturday, August 29, 2020 when you answered the eternal call of your creator. I was at Ikputu, all alone in my house and as I woke up and opened my phone, I saw Ify's text message "Good Morning Sir, please come to Zenith Medical & Kidney Centre, Apo urgently". Already sensing danger, my heart skipped and I lost composure instantly but I still managed to place a call to Ify to confirm my fears. As I suspected, Ify was not available to speak to me but the sister calmly conveyed the bad news "my in-law is gone"; and it downed on me that my brother and friend had taken his flight to eternity. I recall that just a few days before my trip, my friend invited me to his house and all alone for two consecutive days, we discussed and he shared some personal details with me and committed me to certain obligations. It's not useful here to recall my friends battle for life but it's enough to say that he fought a good battle but the will of God prevailed. In any event, the end yet caught me unprepared. His death indeed came sudden like..... a thief in the night. **1Thesalonians 5:2.**

My brother Moses Okpo caught my fancy through our common heritage and association on different Ngwa platforms and through these long years of acquaintance, the relationship blossomed into closer personal and family intimacy. In him, I saw a friend who understands when his friend is in need and he doesn't need protocols to key into the best way to solve such problem without much ado; and he wouldn't want to be mentioned. That's the man we have lost so cheaply.

Today, on behalf of my family and indeed his college of friends, mourn this uncommon brother and friend of inestimable value, Moses Chimereze Okpo; the amiable People's Warden of the Anglican Church; and Grand Patron of the Oha Ngwa Heritage Association, Abuja to whom I pay this tribute. He was not only a good friend and dependable brother but a trusted husband to Ifeoma; and a caring father to their children; Iheanyichukwu, Onyebuchi, Chinonye, and Chiamaka. That's not all he's worth; his two elder brothers, De Chukwuemeka and Rev. Uzoma and their only Sister; and the Umuopara Amuzu Community and the entire Ngwa Community in Abuja and Abia State whom he had served at varied stages of our community leadership ladder; and we will sorely miss his princely presence, counsel and generous disposition.

As our Christian faith has thought us, this earthly life like everything else has its beginning and its end; as there is time for everything; a time to be born and a time to die (**Ecclesiastes 3:1-13**). I'm therefore not disappointed that my friend took his exit without much ado; no further hassles for the family. He ran his full distance as aptly captured in 2 Timothy 4:4 - 7 "you have done your best in the race, you have run the full distance, and you have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for you the victory price of being put right with God, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give you on that day - and not only to you but to all those who wait with love for him to appear". That's our hope as Christians.

For Ifeoma; his wife and adorable friend, I pray that the Lord God Almighty will comfort you and your children as we also pray God Almighty for the eternal repose of his soul in His eternal kingdom. Amen!

Barr. Cyprian O. Ogumike, KSJI

In Chambers: Sir. Cyprian O. Ogumike B.Sc (Hons), LL.B (Hons) Unilag, BL,
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