Stephen Keshi was a Nigerian footballer and coach who is widely regarded as one of the greatest African footballers of all time. He was born on January 23, 1962, in Azare, Nigeria, and passed away on June 7, 2016, in Benin City, Nigeria. Keshi had an illustrious playing career, representing clubs like Anderlecht, Strasbourg, and Sacramento Scorpions, and also played for the Nigerian national team, earning 64 caps. Keshi's greatest achievement as a player came in 1994 when he captained the Nigerian national team to its first-ever FIFA World Cup appearance. He led the team to the Round of 16, where they narrowly lost to Italy. Keshi's leadership and defensive prowess were instrumental in Nigeria's success in the tournament, and he became a national hero. After retiring as a player, Keshi transitioned into coaching and achieved remarkable success. He managed the Togo national team and led them to their first-ever World Cup appearance in 2006. Keshi's tactical acumen and ability to inspire his players earned him widespread praise. Keshi's crowning achievement as a coach came in 2013 when he guided the Nigerian national team to victory in the Africa Cup of Nations. The Super Eagles, under Keshi's guidance, defeated Burkina Faso in the final to claim their third AFCON title. Keshi's tactical astuteness and man-management skills were pivotal in Nigeria's triumph. In a remarkable feat, Keshi became the second person to win the Africa Cup of Nations as both a player and a coach, solidifying his legendary status in African football. His impact on Nigerian football and African football, in general, is immeasurable, and he is revered as a trailblazer for future generations of African players and coaches. Keshi's coaching career also saw him take charge of the Nigerian national team for two separate stints, during which he successfully guided the team to the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. His leadership and tactical ingenuity were instrumental in Nigeria's qualification for the tournament. Throughout his career, Keshi was known for his strong personality, unwavering determination, and commitment to excellence. He was a mentor to many young players and coaches, and his influence extended far beyond the football pitch. Keshi's legacy continues to inspire aspiring footballers and coaches across Africa. Keshi's impact on African football was recognized on the global stage, earning him numerous accolades and honors. He was inducted into the African Football Hall of Fame and received the prestigious CAF Coach of the Year award in 2013 for his outstanding achievements with the Nigerian national team. In addition to his coaching exploits, Keshi was known for his philanthropy and dedication to giving back to his community. He established the Stephen Keshi Foundation, which aimed to develop and nurture young football talent in Nigeria, providing them with opportunities to pursue their dreams. Keshi's untimely passing in 2016 sent shockwaves throughout the footballing world, and his legacy continues to be celebrated and honored. He left an indelible mark on African football and remains a revered figure whose influence transcends the sport. Stephen Keshi will forever be remembered as a true icon of African football.