



GOODBYE IS THE HARDEST THING TO SAY

Capitano was a great guy. He was a good man. A generous man, with a forgiving heart, filled with compassion. He was a lively fellow! Even his most vicious adversaries would attest to this fact. As a man, he had his moments. He never pretended to be perfect and indeed, he was not. Only God is perfect.

What else can I really pen down to do justice to the memory of this illustrious son of Edo State and Nigeria that others have not said about him?

Capitano lived a fulfilling life until the cold hands of death snatched him from us. His passing came as a shock to all who knew and admired him. It was most difficult for me as I woke up to the sad news of his death, especially because my wife only just visited him two weeks prior. She called me on video and I spoke to my dear Capitano! He still had enough life in him to joke and ask questions and he wanted to know if I heard of the death of his boy CY. When my wife returned from that trip, we were hopeful of his eventual return by year-end to a thanksgiving. You can now imagine my shock. My wife who last saw him physically was an emotional wreck.

Our paths crossed in the early 90's as we struggled to make life worthwhile in Lagos because unlike most of our friends and contemporaries, our parents handed nothing down to us. Capitano was tenacious and focused in his business. He never took no for an answer. He dealt with his setbacks incredibly well and moved quickly on to the next thing. He was never one to moan and complain of disappointments. He turned them into opportunities. It did not come as a surprise to see how successful he later turned out in his business life. Capitano had so many pies in the oven at all times. He was a multitasker.

He pioneered Security & Surveillance in the Marine, Ports & Oil & Gas sectors with state of the art technology unmatched in the field. Ocean Marine Services Limited remains the leading company in Marine Security in Nigeria.

The Wells Carlton Group of Hotels is a well-known and respected chain in Nigeria's hospitality space. He established one of the best greenhouse farming initiatives in Nigeria with a model farm in Benin City. Capitano strove and stood for excellence all his life. It was therefore unsurprising that his commitment to the greater good of society and humanity turned him into a closet politician that never sought political office, but supported politicians running for public office who shared the same vision with him.

He supported good causes and stood by the needy whenever he was called upon to do so and as such, impacted his immediate and larger society in very profound ways.



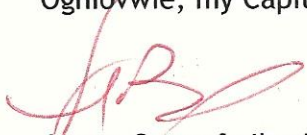
'Cappi' as he was widely known amongst his vast network of friends and family, will be sorely missed. The emotions that his passage triggered in me is indescribable, as I find it very difficult to come to terms with the fact that Captain Hosa has truly and really transcended to another realm. What a world!

I will brace myself to say goodnight, my friend and brother, Captain Hosa. You ran a good race and departed earlier than expected. However, you left this world an accomplished man, who by all human measures fulfilled his destiny.

I pray God Almighty grant you eternal rest. May He bless all that you left behind, and give your family the spirit and countenance to continue in your indelible footstep.

My condolences to Nosa and the entire family. We Captain Hosa's friends are here for you till we draw our last breath.

Oghiovwie, my Capitano!



James Onanefe Ibori
Governor of Delta State, 1999 - 2007

