



SENATOR EHIGIE UZAMERE, KSC

MEMBER, 6TH & 7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

AND CAPT HOSA OKUNBO PASSED ON...

"Our life is a gift from the Creator. Your gift back to the Creator is what you do with your life."

- Billy Mills

Death, you have no sting. I will not cry. I will not be weighed down. I will not brood. No, death cannot sadden me. You only took Capt Hosa's voice, eye contact, feelings and emotions. You didn't touch his soul. Capt's soul is with God our Creator.

I am no longer in denial of the fact that Idahosa Wells Okunbo is no more because I have not in the last thirty-seven days, heard "lord uzaaams" from the other end of the telephone, and never will. Yes, Hosa, my dear Capii has gone on the journey of no return.

Apart from his mother, Madam Helen Okunbo being my teacher in St Peter's Primary School, Iyaro, Benin City, we grew up not too far away from each other along Iwehen Street, Benin City. Though I am older than Hosa, we became great friends as adults.

How do I write the eulogy for Capii? What aspect of his life do I drop in order to be brief? Writing about Hosa would certainly be voluminous. Writing about Hosa can be likened to a study of God's grace that touched many lives. The words of Billy Mills quoted above, aptly describes Capt

Hosa - the precious gift he was and his benevolence, while he was on this divide.

Hosa was immensely blessed with wealth and material things and he never shied away from helping both the rich and the poor. He gave to the poor to give them a better lease in life. He gave to society, that we may have a better place to live in. Despite his enormous wealth, his dressing was simple. For him it was just the white dress, Nigerian shokoto and top without agbada, and sometimes shirts and trousers.

Captain Hosa Wells Okunbo had a large heart for kindness just as he had a forgiving spirit. I am privy to his forgiving and accepting them that wronged him; and the many who had betrayed him and caused him pain. Even as he was fighting the illness that took his life, he still made peace with many. May God count his good acts, in his favour.

Hosa was a thoroughbred Benin man. He loved our culture, tradition and heritage. He, at every point promoted Benin people and culture. He was proud to be Benin.

At birth, it is a known fact that, one day we will all surely return to our Creator. Our life is an unsolicited gift from God. It pleased God sixty-three (63) years ago, to gift the house of Reverend Robert Amos Okunbo, a clergyman, teacher and community leader, with a son whom they named Idahosa.

Hosa as he was popularly called appreciated God's immense favour bestowed on him. God gave him intelligence. He gave him wife and children. He gave him wealth. He gave him humility. Hosa touched many lives. He impacted on society through many he employed in his numerous establishments. He was a cheerful giver.

But just as our gift of life is unsolicited, God does not seek our input whenever He wants any of us back. On 8th August 2021, the death knell tolled for the permanent Captain. Heaven opened to heavy downpour the night you passed, in echo of Shakespeare's words in Julius Caesar that: "When beggars die there are no comets seen; the heavens themselves

blaze forth the death of princes." Hosa answered the death knell and passed on in a blaze.

Hosa was not just another Benin man; he was more than a friend and a brother. Fare thee well my brother. You have run your race, and breasted the tape. May God forgive you your sins, and count all your good deeds in your favour.

On behalf of the House of Ehigie Uzamere, I commiserate with his wife, children, his extended family and numerous friends. May God accept your soul and grant you rest in His bosom, Capii.

 13/9/21

Senator Ehigie Uzamere, ksc