

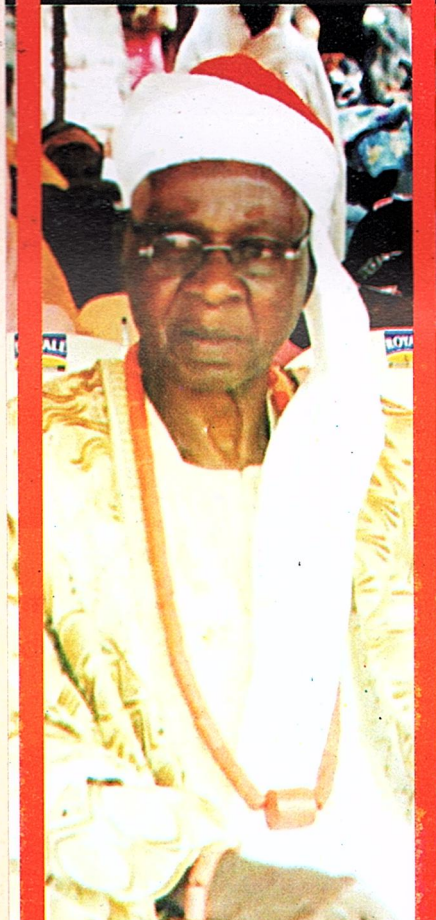
Prince Saliu Braimah Ikharo (aka SB). He was a man of noble birth with humble beginnings. Born on 3rd April 1926 into the Ikharo Royal Family, Ikelebe Ruling House of Auchi kingdom, Prince SB Ikharo was the first son of the famous Prince Braimah Ikhelovhalkharo, the Kesalaki of Auchi Kingdom. Undeterred by overwhelming obstacles and challenges along his childhood upbringing, Prince SB Ikharo had his primary education at Government School Auchi, attended the teacher training college, Abudu, and had a General Certificate of Education later in life at the University of Benin. His leadership skills were noticed while in school and was made house prefect at the Teachers College.

Prince SB Ikharo started his teaching career in 1962, he had several teaching stops in primary schools around Etsakowhere he made indelible impressions on the pupils that passed through his class. He would later retire as a headmaster at the Ansarudeen Primary School, Auchi.

Prince SB claim to fame was however not in his noble birth nor his renown and successful teaching career, rather his uncommon dedication to service, ever willing to add value to society and to the individual stood him out. He established the

Post Humous Award

PRINCE SALIU BRAIMAH IKHARO



Ikharo Nursery/Primary School to improve on the quality and quantity of pupils' output in Auchi Kingdom; he established the Ikharo

Academy Secondary School, and also wrote and published the now famous "OBOWENANITSEIKPISHA LA GILIGHO" in response to lack of a reference book on Afemai Language in Afemai Land.

Known for doing little things that make lots of impact, Prince Ikharo had gone out of his way in several instances to assist those in need. He took care of orphans and care much about improving the human condition.

His uprightness and consistency on the side of justice and accountability earned him the Daudu of Ughidane Village in Auchi Kingdom, a position he held until his eternal exit. He was a member of several focused committees in Auchi Kingdom and served as not just the conscience of such committees but a symbol of transparency.

A father of 18 children, he did not only teach children moral values in and out of school he also practiced these values on his children at home amongst whom are Prince Nasiru Ikharo, the General Manager, NHIS and Princess Rahfat Ikharo Umaru (USA). A devout Muslim, community leader, mentor, disciplined and accomplished gentleman, Prince S. B. Ikharo departed this world on 8th December, 2008 at the ripe age of 82.



AA/AC/PHA/2015/09/1

**LATE ALHAJI (CHIEF) S.B. IKHARO FAMILY
C/O ALHAJI NASIRU IKHARO
BENIN**

Dear Sir,

2015 AFENMAI POST HUMOUS AWARD

We have the honour to inform you that Afenmai Newsmagazine, will on 27th December, 2015 will be celebrating excellence and honour some distinguished sons and daughters of Afenmai origin in Edo State of Nigeria comprising of Akoko-Edo, Etsako and Owan Local Government councils in Edo North.

This award ceremony is for Afenmai citizens at the same time non indigenes that have excelled in their various fields of endeavour through their contributions to the development of Afenmai community and Nigeria in general in the areas of Education, Philanthropy, Business, Medicine, Economic Empowerment, Human Capacity Building, Law, Unity & Peaceful Co-existence, Public Advocacy, Employment Generation of our people and Post Humous Award for past heroes.

Based on the aforementioned, we are pleased to inform you that we have recognized his contributions to humanity during his era with a Post Humous Award

Date: 27th December, 2015
Venue: Lecky Convention Centre, Auchi
Time: 2.00 pm

Also as part of activities lined up for the event, we would request you forward your biography and photograph not later than 30th November, 2015 to enable us produce a befitting programme brochure which will be distributed to our numerous guests at the event.

While congratulating you in advance, please confirm your acceptance of the Award as your presence to personally receive the award will be highly appreciated and keep this date in your diary to honour us as invitation cards will be forwarded to you before the memorable date.

Yours Sincerely,

**Inuwanu Columbus Jnr.
Project Consultant**

24, Taiwo Road Koya, Street, Ilupeju, Lagos
25, Otaru Road, Auchi, Edo State
0803 332 0170, 0805 790 9251
afenmainews@yahoo.com



A TRIBUTE: PRINCE S

There is no space more prominent than the village square in the rich Igbo tradition. It is a place where significant traditional events take place. Meetings that add to society's values and shape the people's future are held at the village square. It is also a place of cultural convergence and social gathering where the people come to dance to rhythms of talking drums meant to uplift the soul and spirit from life worries at least for the particular moment. When the people dance they do so because they simply want to have fun and feel a sense of togetherness and with pure intension of lifting the spirit. Then enters the masquerades.

When the masquerades enter the dancing floor, the people naturally step aside. They step aside because the rhythm changes to incongruous witty tunes, the steps are different, the attire is different, the glitters and colours of the masquerades symbolizing the intended display of arrogance, each masquerade outwitting the other to differentiate its status of significance on the scale of vain earthly materialism. Mere mortals cheer on because they are mesmerised by the diabolic euphoria or because there is no alternate to the deceptive charade of the greedy. Then enters the Ijele.

Who is the Ijele? When the Ijele enters the stage, the village square stands still. The masquerades step aside because they know the Ijele is not one of them; they know the rhythm too has changed requiring a whole new stepping. The mere mortals stand in awe by the presence of a near immortal character of the Ijele. A fearless courageous man of the people with uncommon humble mien, despite his destined nobility. The Ijele is not petty, he is always frank with no coloration on issues no matter how brutal the situation presents. An Ijele does not boast of his deeds, his deeds boast of him. He is not known for big things but for small things that make the big impact. His impact on humanity needs no coloration, the impact makes him glitter, a glitter that dazzle mere mortals into a hypnotic state of abstraction.

When the famous Ikharo Ikelebe entered the village square, he left no one in doubt about his true character of the Ijele. He was not a masquerade, neither did he need to dress like one. He was a natural leader, tall in character and physic but humble in dignity. His amiable nature made him a natural choice for the kingship of Auchi Kingdom in 1905. Once on the throne, he demonstrated transformational leadership abandoning primordial practices that were embedded in idol worshipping and completely embraced Islam as the new way of worship. To demonstrate his full commitment to the Islamic faith, he adopted Abubakar as his Muslim name and gave all his children Muslim names. It was during his reign (1905 – 1919) that idols were destroyed in Auchi Kingdom and Islam took its roots in Auchi Kingdom. The people embraced Islam. He did not discriminate and led a united Ikelebe family with pervading love from one to the other. There were no divisions, no rancour and there was a common purpose. He had children but love the children of his brothers equally. He demonstrated this true spirit of an Ijele by mentoring his nephew to take over the leadership of Auchi Kingdom ahead of his demise in the year 1919.

Then entered Chief (Prince) Braimah Ikhelovha Ikharo. Who was Prince Braimah Ikhelovha? He was the famous Kesalaki of Auchi Kingdom. He was one of the sons of Otaru Ikharo Ikelebe the Great. A complex character of immense proportions. His presence drew admiration from friends and foes, perplexed by his courage, humbled by his fearlessness and uncanny disposition to invisibility. An Ijele can only give birth to an Ijele. The masquerades had no place at the village square when Chief Ikhelovha's stepped to the stage. Charlatans hid their faces in evil countenance when the Kesalaki made his appearance. Like his father, the impostors knew his steps to the new rhythm of leadership tradition resonates with the people and that his popularity is real and not fake. He was dependable and trustworthy, not petty, and his stance was always steady on the path of truth – no matter whose ox was gored. With sincerity he stood for truth never giving up to the tag-team conspiracy of colonial vectors and local agent provocateurs bent on denying him his princely and providential rights. A quintessential gentleman sent on exile by the tag-team for claiming his Divine rights, yet treaded the path of peace due to the love and concern for the Auchi people. A man who not only outlived the masquerades to the amiable age of 96

IS AWARD *By Nasiru Ikharo*

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When Alhaji (Prince) Saliu Braimah Ikharo (aka SB) was born on 3rd April 1926, the oracles stepped aside. The oracles stepped aside because they knew the predictions that his father may never have a male son only exposed the limit of their hindsight, especially about the Ijele tradition. The life and times of Prince SB Ikharo further confirmed that an Ijele can only give birth to an Ijele. Being the first son of his polygamous father in prehistoric Auchi customs and tradition meant overwhelming obstacles and challenges along his childhood upbringing. At a tender age of nine, his brilliance and natural intelligence were countered by unexplained near death afflictions; his attempt at education were hampered by cradle-to-grave eyesight problems. Yet, he was undeterred. Prince SB Ikharo pushed against odds and had his primary education at Government School Auchi, attended the Teachers' Training College, Abudu, and had the Nigeria Certificate of Education (NCE) later in life at the University of Ibadan. His strengths included a strong desire for growth by continued formal education, cultural sensitivity and respect, patience and empathy. He was a well-respected professional by his students, parents, and colleagues because of his genuine commitment and giving of his time to serve others.

Prince SB Ikharo started his teaching career in 1962, he had several teaching stops in several schools around Etsako where he made indelible impressions on the pupils that passed through him. He later retired as headmaster at the Ansarudeen Primary School, Auchi – now Otaru Primary School. Perhaps, what many never knew about Prince SB, as fondly called, is that he was a police constable at one time in his career before jump-starting his teaching profession.

Prince SB's rise to fame was neither in his noble and royal birth nor his renowned and successful teaching career. It was rather in his uncommon dedication to service, ever willing to add value to people and society. This stood him out. He established the Ikharo Nursery/Primary School to improve on the quality and quantity of pupils' output in Auchi Kingdom; he established the Ikharo Academy Secondary School, and also wrote and published the now famous 'OBE OWENA NITSE IKPISHA LA GI LIGHO" (meaning: Book of Learning for Adults and Children) in response to the huge deficit of reference learning materials on Afemai Language.

Known for doing little things that make lots of impact, Prince Ikharo had gone out of his way in several instances to assist those in need. A father of 18 children, he did not only teach children moral values in and out of school he also practised these values on his children at home. He took care of orphans and cared much about other people's children, rendering discipline and coaching them to become useful adults. Those around him always appreciated his presence because he added value at all times. He was an organizer and would organize people into cooperatives in order to improve on the human condition.

His uprightness and consistency on the side of justice and accountability earned him the Daudu of Ughidane Village in Auchi Kingdom, a position he held until his eternal exit. As the Daudu, he led the people with sincerity and was dependable. He settled disputes with justice and was loved for his uncommon candidness. He was a member of several focused committees in Auchi Kingdom and served as not just the conscience of such committees but also a symbol of their transparency. His selection, therefore, as recipient of the posthumous life time Award of Excellence by the Afemai News Magazine may have come to some as a surprise but for those who were close to this man of destiny, it is an award well deserved.

A devout Muslim, community leader, mentor, disciplined and accomplished gentleman, Alhaji (Prince) Saliu Braimah Ikharo departed this world on 8th December, 2008 at the ripe age of 82. Till we meet again, Adieu papa, Adieu.

FELICITATION

On behalf of my family, I heartily felicitate with the family of
late Alhaji (Prince) S. B. Ikharo
on the occasion of a posthumous Award of Excellence
to their father by Afenmai News Magazine
on Sunday, 27 December, 2015.



The award is a testimony of a life well spent and society's recognition and appreciation of his Selfless service while he was alive. Having touched many lives as a teacher and fighter of several community causes while he was alive, Alhaji (Prince) S. B. Ikharo is no doubt deserving of this prestigious award. It testifies to the popular saying that to live in the hearts of those who love is to live forever.

We are convinced that Allah has since accepted Alhaji (Prince) S.B. Ikharo's return and admitted him into Al-Jannatul Firdaus.

Rest in Peace!

Prince Momoh-Jimoh M. Ikharo & Family

□ (Ohio, USA)

A TRIBUTE: PRINCE SB IKHARO POSTHUMOUS AWARD *By Nasiru Ikharo*

ADVERTISEMENT

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