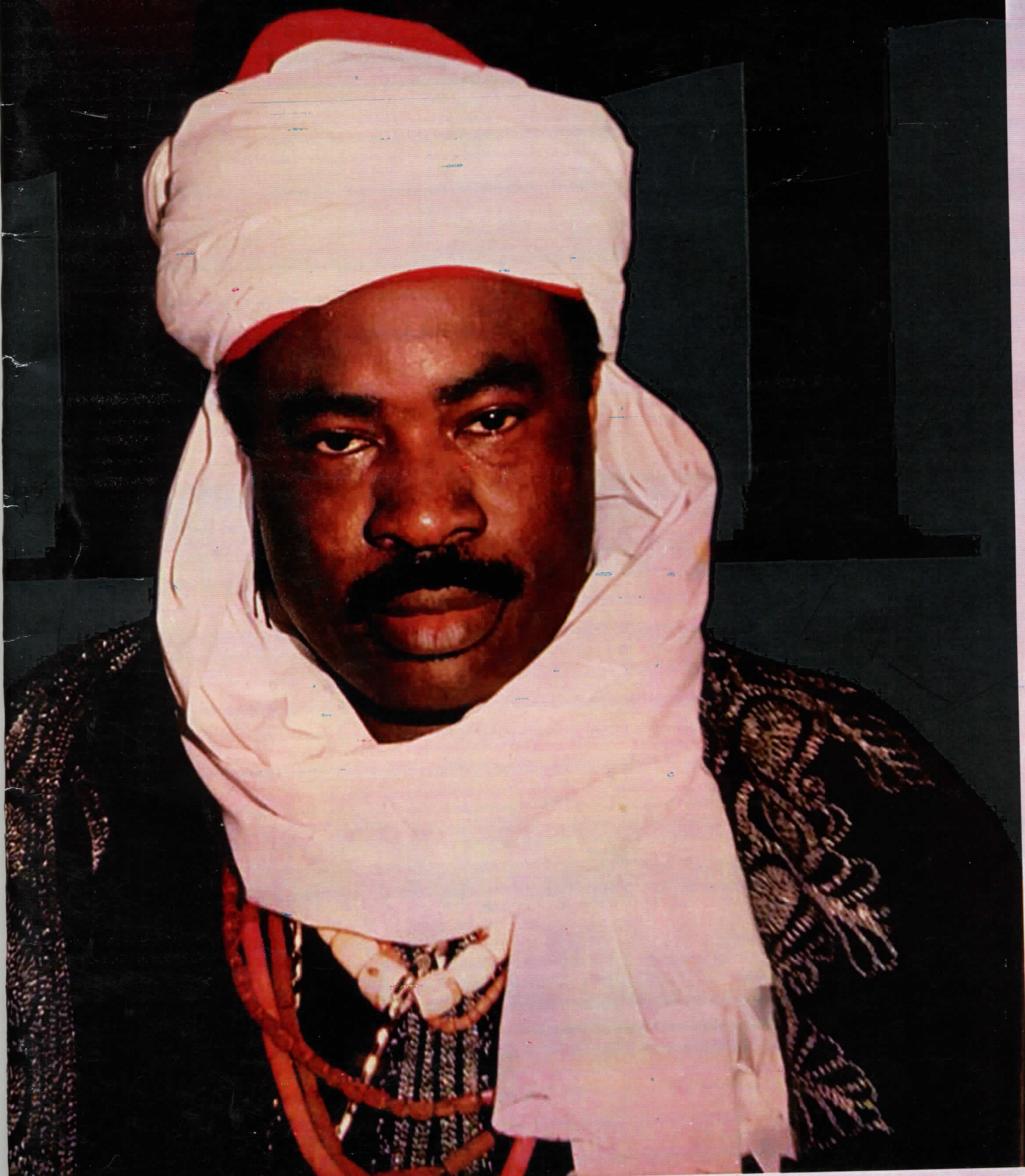


Remembering a
PRINCE





PRINCE

PRINCE (CHIEF)
ISMAILA
IBRAHIM
IKHARO

AUGUST 19, 1952 – DECEMBER 19, 2020

SURAH AL-FĀTIḤAH

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

al-hamdu lillāhi rabbil 'ālamīn
All praise belongs to Allah, Lord of all the worlds

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ar-rahmānir-rahīm
The All-compassionate, the All-merciful

مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

malikid yawmid-dīn
Master of the Day of Judgement

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

īyāka na'budu wa īyāka nasta'īn
You [alone] do we worship, and You [alone] do we ask for help

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

ihdinā-ṣ-ṣirāṭal mustaqīm
Guide us to the straight path

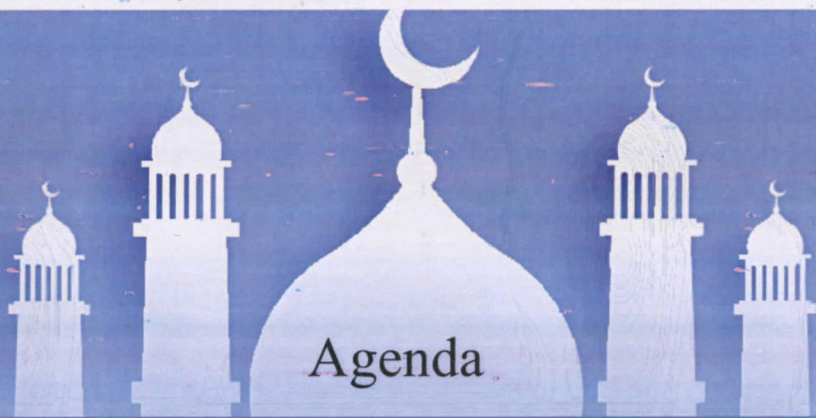
صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ

ṣirāṭal-ladhīna an'amta 'alayhim
The path of those whom You have favoured

غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

ghayril maghḡūbi 'alayhim wa lāḡ-ḡāllīn
Not of those who earned your anger nor those who have gone astray.

Remembering a Prince – Homegoing of Chief Ismaila Ikharo



Agenda

Thursday – 7 January 2021

Time	Event	Lead
Upon Arrival	Salat Al-Janazah	Chief Imam of Auchi, Professor Zakariyau Oseni

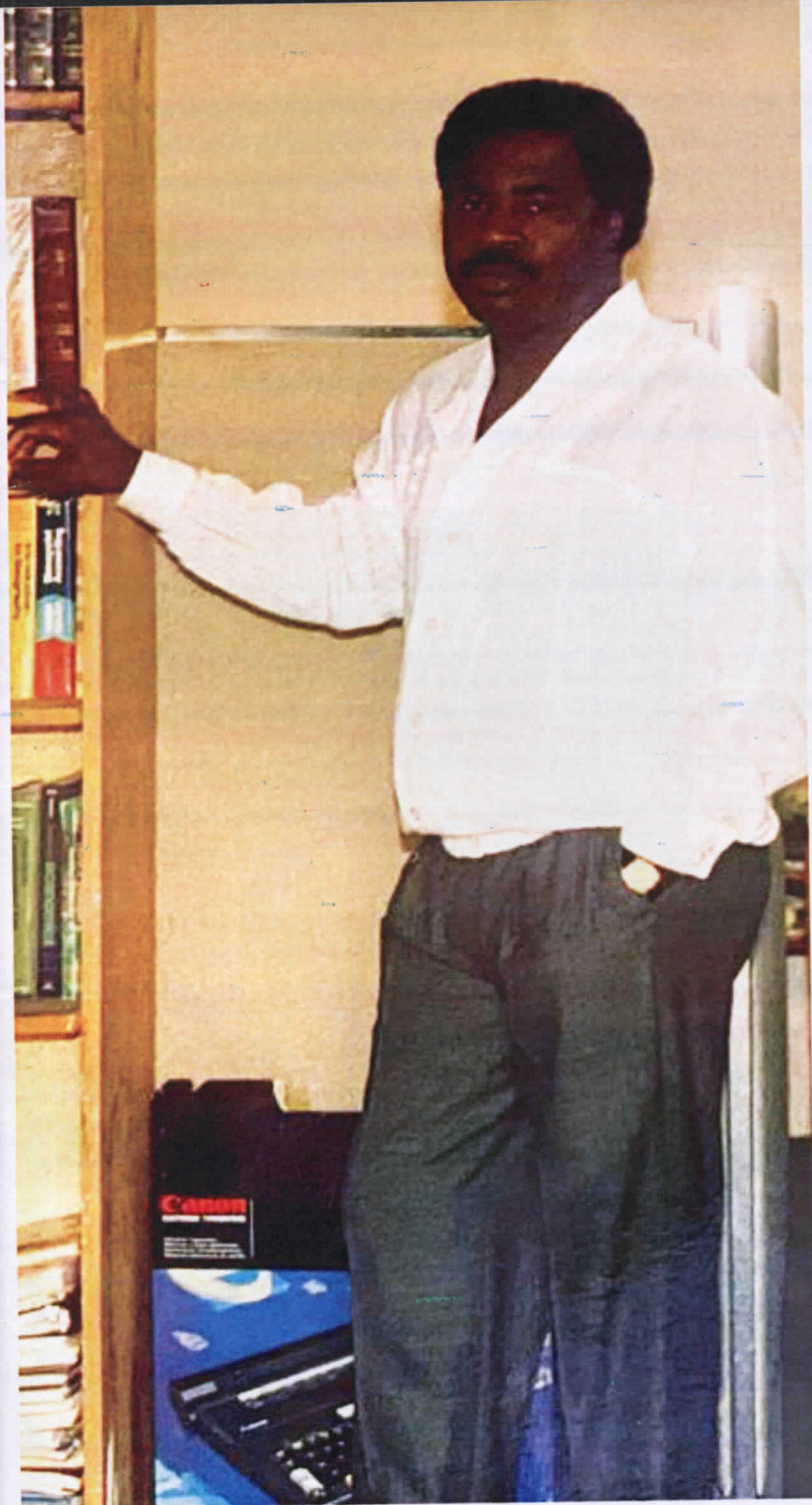
Friday – 8 January 2021

4:00pm	Hosting of Age Group at Chief's Compound	Mallam Akibu (State) Ikharo
4:30pm	Laying of Foundation Stone for III Mosque	Princess Tahirah Ikharo

Saturday – 9 January 2021

10:00am	Cooking and Distribution of Food at Ikharo Family Mosque	Mallam Akibu (State) Ikharo
	EVENING OF REMEMBRANCE (All events to be held at the "White House")	Master of Ceremonies, KD Ikharo
4:00pm	Recitation of Surat al-Fatihah	Prince Taulib Ikharo
4:05pm	Welcome Remarks	Prince Teslim Ikharo
4:10pm	Tribute to Chief	Princess Tareah Ikharo
4:30pm	Remarks representative of the Family and Friends of the Seriki Samali	Princess Raufat Ikharo
5:00pm	Remarks representative of the "Age group" of the Seriki Samali	Mallam Akibu (State) Ikharo
5:20pm	Presentation of Books to Ikharo Youth Chairman	Prince Tariq Ikharo
5:30pm	Acknowledgements	Prince Teslim Ikharo
6:00pm	Recitation of The Holy Quran	Chief Imam of Auchi, Professor Zakariyau Oseni

Biography of **PRINCE ISMAILA BRAIMAH IKHARO, the SERIKI SAMALI of AUCHI**



Prince Ismaila Braimah Ikharo, the Seriki Samali of Auchi (“Chief”), died on December 19, 2020 in Oakland, California from sudden cardiac arrest. At the time of death, he was surrounded by his three sons and enveloped in the prayers of the global Nigerian community as a leader who inspired a generation of Nigerians in America to reach back and uplift the youth in their home country.

The son of the late Prince Braimah and Princess Melemu (Afegbua) Ikharo, Chief Ismaila, born August 19, 1952, never let his position as the youngest of 7 children necessitate taking a back seat to his siblings. Instead, from a young age, he was propelled by a desire to help bring prominence to his family, the Ikharo royal family of Auchi Kingdom. He yearned to see more role models and professionals within the ranks of Ikharos, figures that could inspire young people like himself and expand their realm of possibility. From the time of his journey to America in 1977, and through the many arcs of his life, he unwittingly became such a figure himself.

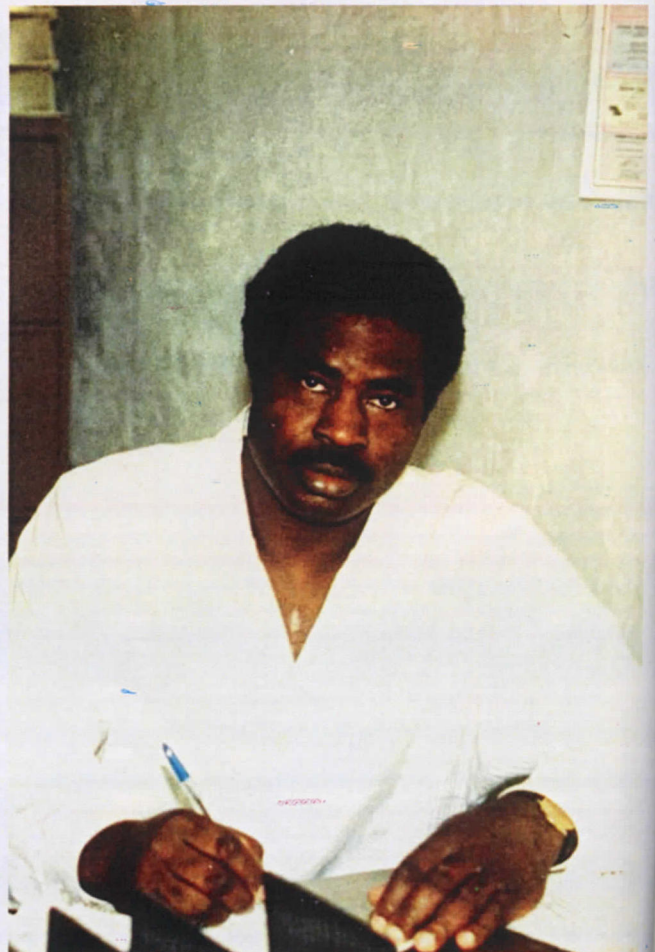
For thirty years, Chief Ismaila anticipated his own death. He'd tell his children regularly how he was going to die soon, even as the decades passed. At the age of 39, a mere four days after the

birth of his fifth child and in his prime, Chief suffered a heart attack and underwent triple bypass surgery, the first of many ailments related to Chief's gentle heart. Facing his own mortality at an early age seemed to spur in Chief a sense of urgency – all we have is the present moment to achieve the goals we set for ourselves. Chief rarely wasted a moment and was almost pedantic about cultivating habits for success.

At his core, Chief was a helper. His passion was education, but he was charitable to a fault, willing to use his last kobo to help someone in need and always available to counsel. Chief extended himself in ways few would do, as he found enriching the lives of others personally rewarding. “I do for others even when I know they would not do for me,” he'd say. On a personal level, he was always first in line to offer financial support, a meal or a warm place to stay to friends, acquaintances and strangers alike, whether in the Bay Area or abroad. In the community, he was civic minded, hosting political fundraisers for local leaders and actively engaging in community development initiatives. In the last days of his life, as he lay in his hospital bed, still, Chief answered every incoming call, offering words of advice or financial assistance where he could. Chief was, at his core, deeply good.

He was also an amiable man with a thirst for life, and his positive energy was infectious. Even facing down life's greatest travails, Chief would say, “Everything is in divine order.” He believed in the power of God's plan, and this belief seemed to inspire his clarity of purpose and enable his generosity. God would provide and make a way, even where the road proved winding.

To his community of friends and acquaintances, Chief was a problem-solver and the ultimate connector, building enduring relationships across



cultures, nationalities, religions and ethnic groups. He was a son of Auchi, yes, but a Nigerian nationalist in action and at heart, assisting, befriending and endearing himself to Nigerians across tribal divisions. Chief never hesitated to leverage existing relationships on behalf of others, seeing only the potential positive outcome of building bridges. Those who knew him well often remarked on how popular Chief was, both within and outside of the Nigerian community. His quiet confidence made those around him feel safe and content in his presence, but also like the possibilities for their own lives were limitless, if only because Chief said so. His faith in and sponsorship of others was propelling.

Empowerment of his family and community through education was principally important to Chief Ismaila, which he demonstrated throughout his life. Education, he believed, was the best legacy you could bequeath to any generation. It was also a key step in developing the network of Ikharo professionals he so greatly sought. While a secondary school teacher in Nigeria, Chief helped indigent parents navigate the high school admissions process for their children and was a vocal advocate for the right to an education for all young people.

When he subsequently journeyed to America to attend college, Chief did two things: First, he became the first person in the Ikharo family to obtain a college degree, graduating from Wilberforce University in Xenia, Ohio with a Bachelor of Science degree in Investment Management, and later attained a Master of Sciences degree in Social and Applied Economics from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio and a Master of Business Administration degree from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California. Second, he demonstrated to the young people of Auchi that poverty and lack of connections were not fixed barriers to educational attainment. Where educating in America or the UK was once seen as a privilege reserved for the children of wealthy Nigerians, Chief showed that it was within reach for those from humbler beginnings. In the process of bettering himself, Chief blazed a trail for others to follow.

It was during his time as a graduate student that Chief began sponsoring the education of young Nigerians in America. He began first with members of the extended Ikharo family, helping them obtain student visas to study in the US, enrolling them in local colleges around the US, paying school fees and housing some in his small apartment (and, later, in his family home). He

soon expanded his vision to include young people from around Nigeria, recognizing that, regardless of religion or tribe, the country as a whole would benefit if its populace had greater access to higher education.

Not everyone had faith in the plausibility of Chief's vision, no matter how noble. Many needed to be shown to believe, even some closest to him. Many others simply did not believe that one man could be so generous and expect nothing in return. But Chief's benevolence was not without expectation. Instead, it was part of an implied contract: as he poured his resources into others, he hoped they might pay it back, but he expected that they'd pay it forward. His life was a call to action for Nigerians around the world – true success is not attained until your resources have been used in the service of others.

Those closest to Chief often remarked that, if he lived for himself, he'd be a very rich man. Though he was undoubtedly enterprising – at points, Chief served as an insurance broker, built and sustained a successful courier service and thrived as a licensed real estate agent – Chief prioritized his greater vision for a mobilized, educated Nigerian youth over his own individual success. To some, Chief was excessively

rigid in his fixation on educational achievement. To others, his definition of “success” was too narrowly drawn and divisive. In this, Chief was undoubtedly polarizing throughout his life, notwithstanding his personal sacrifices and good intentions. Nevertheless, on May 17, 1997, Chief's many decades of work to help uplift his people was formally recognized in Auchi during his investiture as the Seriki Samali (“Leader of the Youth”) of Auchi Kingdom.

Chief Ismaila was a righteous visionary, but he was also a husband, a father, a man of faith and a devoted friend. Chief's aspirations were and have always been nurtured by his supportive wife, Hauwa. The two met when Chief was a charismatic 25-year-old teacher in Agenebode with big dreams of schooling in America, and Hauwa was a beautiful, vibrant go-getter from Jattu. They were friends first and above all else, and both aspired to experience a dynamic life outside of their respective villages. Over the years, Hauwa has been the stable force behind Chief and his nuclear family, his primary counsel helping propel him towards his dreams.

As a father, Chief was dogged in his emphasis on education. He shuttled his five children to school each day, usually with the radio off to ensure that their

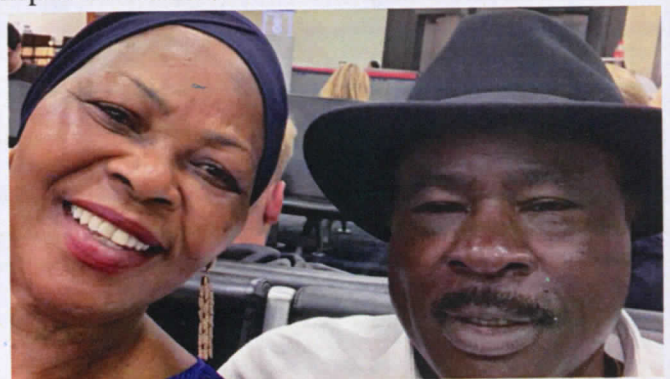
days began with a values-based lecture. "Obedience pays, humility pays, they make you beloved to God and to man," he'd remind them each morning. Never afraid to ruffle feathers, Chief was known by fellow parents and teachers to be an actively engaged member of the school community and a passionate activist for his children's academic and extracurricular success. As he watched his five children grow into accomplished lawyers, creatives and entrepreneurs, Chief was filled with joyful satisfaction.

Chief's sons always marveled at and sought to replicate his keen sense of style, quiet humor and incredible determination in the face of adversity. To his daughters, Chief was a source of great support and strength, a mentor available at all hours (and in all time zones) to lend an ear to complaints, provide a word of advice, or just add levity to a bad situation with one of his many jokes or proverbs. To his children, Chief was magic: he was a beloved man of the people, but a fully engaged and present father; a guiding force whose lessons endured in his absence.

The world is never ready for the loss of a giant. Though death is certain for everyone, there are some people whose lives feel bigger, whose continued presence is taken as inevitable. Chief

was the pillar of the Ikharo family, a revered leader of the Nigerian community at home and abroad, and a testament to the power of selfless generosity to uplift communities and inspire generations to follow. He was, as his friends will tell you, one of one.

In the end, though, we all become stories. Our legacy lives on through the memories shared with those we leave behind, and the lasting marks we make in the hearts and lives of others. As the poet Rumi wrote, "goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes. Because for those who love with heart and soul, there is no such thing as separation." In this, Chief's many friends and followers can take solace. The story of Chief Ismaila's life will endure so long as those he touched continue to share memories and take actions in furtherance of the ideals Chief stood for in his life. So many plans were left unfinished, but that simply means there is more work for the rest of us to do. The Auchi community, the global Nigerian community, those touched by him around the world... it is time to get to work and determine how we, individually and collectively, can use our lives and our resources to empower others.





A Tribute to
OMOI,
BY HAUWA (EVE) AHMED

I met my friend (Omoi) in early 1974 when we were introduced by a mutual friend at a gathering at Auchi. He was very popular amongst the youth in the Etsako Local Government Area, so his reputation preceded him.

We spoke throughout the course of the evening, as he animatedly told me about the kind of life he would like for himself, his plans to pursue a higher education, and his desire to uplift his family. He talked about the kind of woman he wanted in his life, one that would be supportive of his vision to assist as many people as he could, in any way possible. He simply wanted to be of service.

My initial thought on that day was, “why is this guy pouring his heart out to me, a total stranger?!” Little did I know he, too, knew of me from afar, and had been in love with me for some time, something he only admitted to me many years later.

There was something spiritual and special about my husband. From that first day we met up to today, I have never called him by his given name - he is simply “omoi,” my dear friend. A good friend of mine once remarked that I seem to put my husband on a pedestal, holding him in the highest esteem. My response was, “I can't do it any other way because he's my friend.” That friendship was the glue that has held us together for over 45 years, as we became partners, parents and then grandparents. Despite all of life's challenges thrown our way, of which there were many, we never doubted that the love was there and we would be partners until the end.

We had a full life together, mostly spent in the San Francisco Bay Area with our 5 amazing children who were our pride and joy. We had a good life together, a dynamic and rich life that only two souls joined for a common purpose could manifest.

Over the years, as a team, we trained, clothed, fed, housed and otherwise assisted hundreds, regardless of how meager our resources were at the time. Being of service to others was my husband's life purpose, and Allah provided.

Omoi, not only will your legacy live on forever in the lives of those you touched within our community and beyond, but I will love you forever and carry the torch for you over and over again, each day. It is only now that the world will understand the full weight of the impact you have had. You did well.

"We met when I was 19 years old. Five children and many life experiences later, he was my best friend."

- Hauwa Eve Ahmed Ikharo

Tributes to
CHIEF

Our dearly beloved uncle, father, grandfather, and brother, Chief Ishmael Braimah Ikharo a.k.a. Delta the Seriki of Samali of Auchi was a man sent by God Almighty to bestride this world like a colossus. He lived his life service to mankind and to the empowerment of humanity. You couldn't have encountered this icon without feeling his positive impact and compassion flowing from him to all and sundry. He derived joy from helping people progress. He was a completely detribalized Nigerian who had friends from all walks of life. He always used to tell me that helping and assisting others in every way you would was the true essence of life and creation. He positively impacted the lives of the young, the middle aged, and the old. He changed the narrative of the Ikharo royal dynasty and many others too numerous to mention.

He was a man that was clearly ahead of his time. He was a true legend and his legacy shall continue to live with those who he left behind. I am proud to be directly associated with this great man. (He was my late mother's direct and last sibling.) He truly came, saw, and conquered. Adieu to our great uncle and scion of the Ikharo royal dynasty of Auchi. (His grandfather Abubakar Ikharo was the Otaru of Auchi from 1905 to 1919 and his father, Braimah Kaisaraki, was the then Daudu of Utsogun quarters in Auchi. His mother, Meremu Ikharo, was a direct daughter of the illustrious King Afegbua of Okpella in Etsako East local government in Edo

state. He was truly blue-blooded and royalty par excellence. May his gentle soul continue to rest in Aljanah Firdaus and may Allah SWT forgive his shortcomings and comfort his family, friends, and well wishers.

-Abubakar Haruna

A Tribute to

UNCLE ISMAILA

By: Dr. Faustina Osagiede Omon

As a trailblazer, Chief Ismaila Ikhara embraced education as a vital currency for economic and social mobility. His personal growth vision was unselfishly meshed with conscious painstaking efforts for communal improvements, as evidenced in his tireless support and mentoring of others in their academic and business endeavors. Chief's actions heralded a new beginning and unveiled the possibility of life's chances for many family members and friends at home and in the diaspora. His good deeds leave an indelible impression in the lives of many.

I reminisce on Uncle Ismaila's good nature, especially the last day I saw him. It is hard not to be numb with grief, knowing that he is no longer here with us. I remember and cherish his exuberant kind gestures, jokes, and laughter, which added zest to family gatherings.

Although Uncle Ismaila is no longer with us, his legacy is etched in the lives of the numerous people he touched. My condolences to his wife, who stood beside him for decades, and his children through whom his legacy continues. Rest in Peace, Uncle Ismaila.

Considered a man who left his place of origin for a country he lived to witness pluralistic racism, an era where discrimination was directed against a person typically that is a minority. Who could persevere with hope, and persist in that matchless resentment through all this except someone infused by a unique determination? Chief Ishmael Delta Ikhara rose from that abyss of challenge and not only survived but became a fountain of positive reference for people. He has a

double master's degree in the united states of America, one of his daughters graduated from the prestigious University, Harvard Law school. Others graduated from various Universities in the USA.

Chief Ishmael Delta Ikharo lived a life full of many achievements. He was a good shade for many, he represents a leader, a mentor, a motivator, and an inspiration. He carried a lot of responsibilities and played a big role in many lives. He was often under pressure to ensure that everyone is filled with love and joy. He inspired me to achieve the best college education in the United State. Take him for all in all; he was a great man, he lived diligently, he placed kindness above materialism, humanity over self-seeking, and he left in the pages of history a legacy of kindness and dignify personality.

Devoutly, death leaves a heartache no one can heal, nature shocks, thousand mourns, words of eulogy seized every nock and crannies, and even the heavens themselves blaze out for a great man has finally laid to rest in his hometown, Auchi Sacred Kingdom. Though, you'll be miss. To live in the hearts of those we love is not to die. You'll always be remembered in our prayers.

R.I.P to a great father-in-law, the Seriki Samali of Auchi Sacred Kingdom.

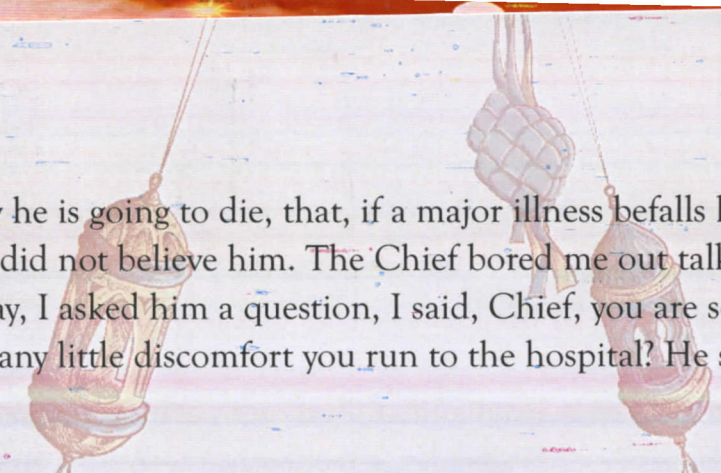
U.S. Ikelebe & Family

About 60 days before the Seriki Samali fell sick, he told me that he is going to die.

I did not take him seriously because for some years, the chief has been telling me about his death. He was so eager about death as if he had five mansions waiting for him in the other life.

He also told me that he doesn't want to live long.

He told me of his Spanish neighbor married to an ex beauty queen, who is much older than him, how the man at his age uses the ladder to climb his rooftop, cuts his grass by himself and he will be looking at him.

Two decorative hanging lanterns with intricate patterns and tassels are positioned at the top of the page, partially overlapping the text.

He told me how he is going to die, that, if a major illness befalls him that he will not survive it. I still did not believe him. The Chief bored me out talking about his death, so one day, I asked him a question, I said, Chief, you are so eager about dying why is it that at any little discomfort you run to the hospital? He said one has to take care of himself.

He definitely had a premonition of his death. When I heard that he was in ICU, that gave me some concerns. Eventually, the Chief died. The picture below was the last that we took during Dr Faustina Ilunamhie's graduation in 2019.

The Chief was always there for the Ikharo descendants. He was a good coordinator of the Ikharo descendants. He related with people all over Nigeria. He paid school fees, house rent, gave money to people to start businesses, bought food and clothes for people and some of these people he didn't even know.

This is a guy who will defer the payment of his bills to help someone. I can not count the number of people he helped to travel overseas to better their lives.

He told me how someone told him he can not change the world, he has actually changed the world. When I heard about his death, my family was more concerned about me than the dead. My family knows the relationship that existed between us. When my family found out that I am coping well, that greatly encouraged them.

This is a guy that we spoke almost every day for an average time of one hour. Even my visitors are aware of this.

Seriki Samali and I spoke on almost every little thing from how he used to go to River Orle with Bahamas to dig sand, to our days in Amadiya primary school and so on. We never ran out of something to talk about. Both of us loved talking with each other, that gave us a lot of fun and we laughed so hard. He trusted me with the information he volunteered to me. We talked about our respective nuclear families. Sometime, when we are having fun talking, Princess will call breaking our conversation. Sometimes I will say in my mind, why is this young lady distracting us? I guess I forget that he has to give some attentions to his own.

Oh men, I will miss him. When I heard about his passing, I was forced to say to one

of my cousins that, this was not a better time for the Chief to pass on.

He told me that he is helping people so that when he is no more he will be greatly missed. Even when people told him that he has done enough, the Chief will say there is nothing like that, that there is no scale to measure that.

He related with people knowing fully well that he did not have the whole time in the world. He related with people as if he was in a hurry. The Ikharo family was his world. Despite the obstacles that he went through, he never gave up on Ikharo family. He was unique. I yet to see someone else who has touched lives as Seriki Samali.

SERIKI SAMALI WILL BE GREATLY MISSED.

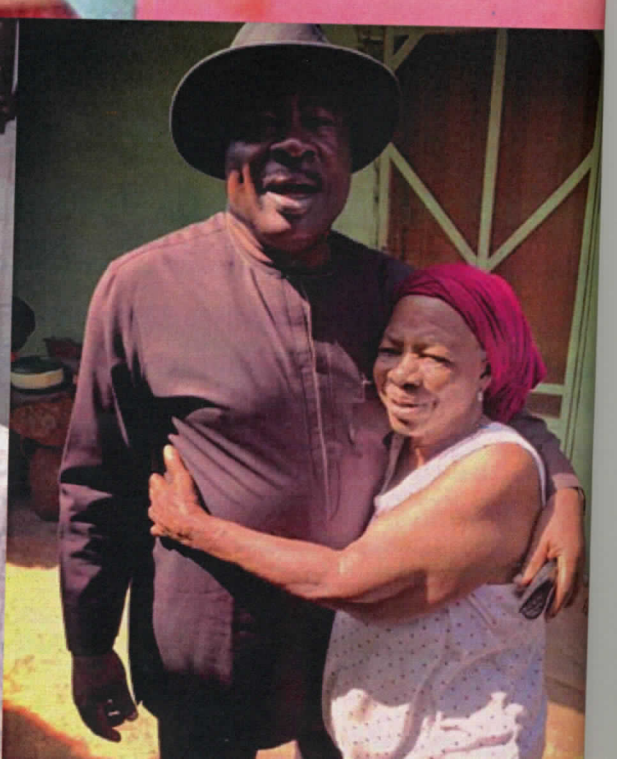
Reverend Isa Ikharo

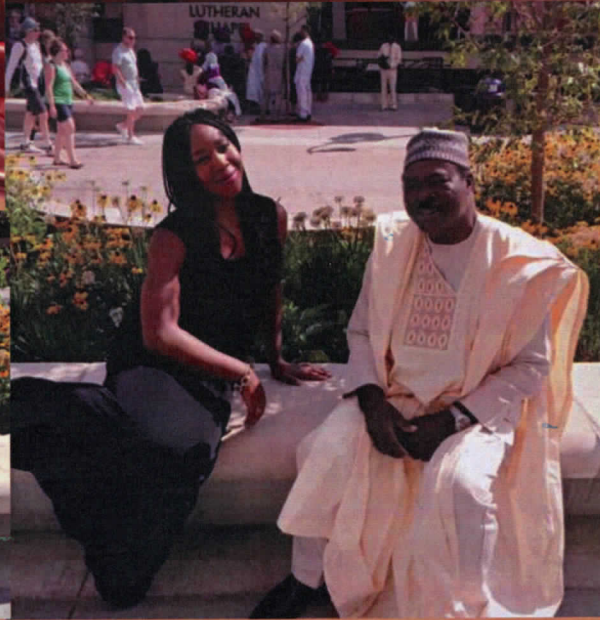
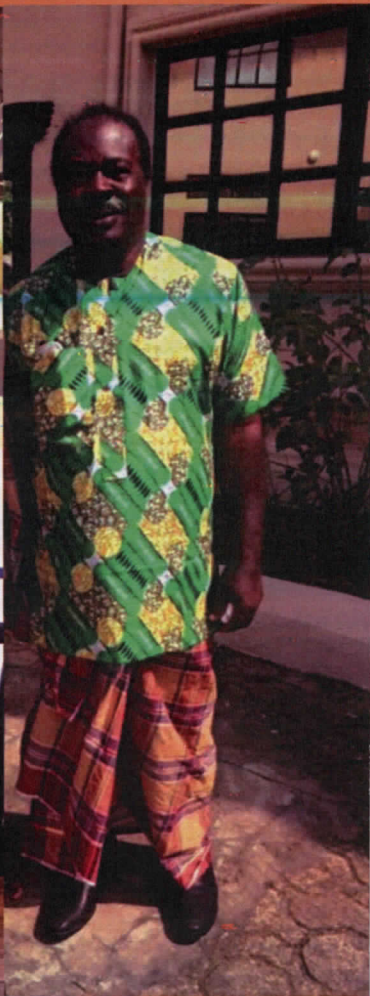
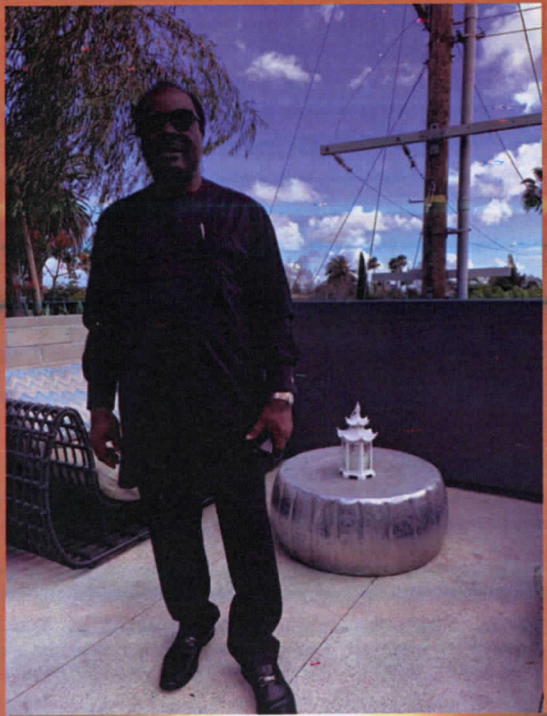
ODE TO
SERIKI SAMALI OF
AUCHI KINGDOM

As Nigerians, we are broken into tribes and religions. We are often quick to retire to our sectarian and tribal cocoons. We regularly coalesce on and gravitate towards our own Kporakpos. Even for those of us that are in diaspora. But Prince Ismaila Ikharo is a rare breed. Although an abused phraseology, Seriki was truly a “detrribalized” Nigerian. Beyond helping bring lots of his townsmen and women to the U.S., he facilitated the entry of many Igbos and Yorubas to the U.S. He was a benefactor to hundreds of Nigerians in the San Francisco Bay Area, including yours truly.

Majority of his friends and business associates were Igbos. Sometimes, it seems like that fact tended to create tensions between him and some of his townsmen here. At least I had that sense.

He was a very humble gentleman and had no airs about him. He was deferential to accomplished people and was accommodating of less accomplished beings. He had a lasting impression on everyone that crossed paths with him and left indelible mark on any place he set foot on. He would routinely call me from time to time to check on me. He loved to pry my knowledge and analysis of Nigerian politics. He had an oversized idea of how he can make a difference to his native Auchi and its citizens.





He had a burning desire to reach out and lift as many people of Auchi up as he possibly can. He truly tried.

The last time I spoke to him, he was looking forward to going home to move in and celebrate the opening of his country home. Sadly, his dead body will now grace his last edifice. His passing is a big blow to those of us that considered him a friend and a big brother. We pray Allah to accept his kind soul, while we pray that Allah grant Eve and his kids the fortitude to bear this loss.

Dr. Dozie Ikem Ezeife

A Farewell Tribute to
PRINCE ISMAILA BRAIMAH IKHARO
The Seriki Samali of Auchi Kingdom
My Friend
By: E. Eugene Elendu

The news of the passing of my friend, Prince Ismaila Braimah Ikharo, the Seriki Samali of Auchi Kingdom came to us as a shock and has remained a re-occurring nightmare. Nothing prepared any of us for this and we are yet to grasp it.

Prince Ismaila was my friend. We first met at graduate school in San Francisco California about thirty seven years ago. At the time Seriki was a post master's degree student pursuing a second master's degree. Our friendship grew in bounty and eventually extended to our wives and children, and I came to know him very well.

My friend, you were extraordinary, but lived an ordinary life that was so remarkable in the many lives you touched. Your willingness to assist others was your trademark. I know nothing gave you more joy than seeing others succeed. You were decent and classy. Being petty or jealous was not in your DNA. You were model of what a true global citizen should be. As a Nigerian, you were a detribalized Nigerian, whose reach transcended tribes, religion and creed. There are not many Nigerians that can pride themselves to have your reach in connecting to people of all tribes and faith of our great country, Nigeria. I recall when my father-in-law passed away, here comes the Prince of Auchi in my remote village, in the heart land of Igboland. For our diaspora San Francisco Bay Area - Nigeria Community, you were a steady pillar and presence in all sections of the community. As a true son of Auchi, you wore the kingdom as a robe. You had a special auto license plate engraved "AUCHI 1". By that singular act, Auchi became a household name in San Francisco Bay Area. Your

effort to uplift the lives of your expansive family and brethren of Auchi by assisting or affording them the opportunity for university education in the US cannot go unnoticed and will forever be remembered.

As we mourn your death, I pray to God (Allah) to grant you eternal peace, and for all of us to look on to God and take solace from our faith, knowing that death is a transition, spanning from mortality on this earthly plane to immortality in God's Kingdom. I also use this opportunity to once again commiserate with your immediate family, your beloved wife, Hauwa and children, your entire Royal family and people of Auchi Kingdom.

My friend, Rest In Peace.

Chief, I am still very sick of your sudden death Your life was a true example of hardworking, integrity, love, and selfless clarity. You touched the lives of countless Nigeria at home and abroad. Your concern and love for your fellow man was clear from your determination to always try to find a solution for others, even when it meant putting others before yourself. Yours was a life of exemplary leader and courage. A life which we will all try to emulate.

On behalf of myself and my entire family, we love you and we trust you are in the perfect hands of God now.

Rest in peace, until we meet again. Eve, please be strong for the family. We are behind you.

Joseph Oiyemhonlan and family

The passing of a great man, Seriki for 30 years you have remained an unwavering friend. You did not mix words when it was about the truth ~ the Seriki I knew, always had a solution to any situation. My dear friend, saying that I or indeed most of your friends and anyone who came in contact with you misses and will continue to miss you is an understatement. And thus, your new address will remain #1 Peace Avenue. Rest in peace till we meet again to part no more,

I remain your friend,

Athan Uwakiwe.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Ikhara family especially at this time of losing their beloved and illustrious son, CHIEF ISMAILA BRAIMAH IKHARO, THE SERIKI SAMALI OF AUCHI SACRED KINGDOM.

Chief Ikhara's legacy continues in his lovely wife, Mrs. Hauwa Eve Ahmed Ikhara, his children and all those whom he touched, inspired and impacted while here on earth.

Chief Ikhara will surely be missed in the communities around the world where he lived, the Auchi Community and the Community-at-Large.

A Man that believed in education and the upliftment of his community.

Adieu Chief Ikhara, may your soul rest in peace, Amen.

Osagie A.D. Enabulele & Family

**A REQUIEM and ODE
ISMAILA IBRAHIM IKHARO 1952-2020**

I have read with much awe the tributes to the departed: Ishmael, colloquially so called. The tributes weaved a common thread - kind, generous, helpful, committed, friendly, loving and wise beyond his years.

So, on this first day after his burial, an Islamic epiphany of sorts, in the place of this birth, a region that I have aptly described as the "Valley of the Rising Sun" I gathered some courage after weeks of sadness and despair to offer a requiem for the repose of his great soul, and an Ode to both the joy of his numerous triumphs, sadness of a few failures - the ultimate sadness being with his untimely death.

I first met Ismaila in 1982 while visiting California during a break from studies in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He had just relocated from Columbus, Ohio with his wife and baby boy, Teslim, and was temporarily staying with his nephew (Muhammed Lecky).

Far back as 38 years ago, he had an amiable personality that was usually magical and magnetic. This why! In 2019, he had a few parties in my house, and on each occasion, Ishmael sat quietly in a corner chair, oftentimes with wife and close friends, in the living room away from the crowded family room and adjoining ante room. On one occasion, a few Caucasian friends asked who was the gentleman in the mist. I said a longtime friend, the next comment was "he seems distinguished, is he an important personality". My natural reaction was "everybody says that" and quite frankly he's a birth prince of a modern day kingdom circa 1906.

The plain truth is that very few people carried themselves in the dignified manner that Ismaila Ikhara did. He was in "facts & effects" truly dignified. Through it all, I as a friend felt greatly enriched and enabled.

Ismaila and wife lived a very simple life. A man of immense business ideas, struck it big very early and bought a fancy home in the 1980s when just a handful of immigrants owned homes, added a new Mercedes Benz sedan, the model was tagged "V booth" by immigrants of the era, to his prized possessions - all proceeds from an innovative business idea that was new and cutting edge even by 1980s California Standards. Himself and business partner, were first to issue the now ubiquitous "Pre-Paid Credit Cards" in the 1980s. The business went south because of disagreements between partners. The processor for their visa cards remained in business, his organization morphed into the then MBNA Bank, later acquired by BofA, became a billionaire and purchased the Cleveland Browns revived football franchise for \$765 million, a payment that was made on a credit card.

Moral of the story - had Ismaila and partner remained in business they would have been worth multiple million dollars.

Ismaila in life, both in his native Nigeria and the Bay Area, found ways to remain helpful to his friends and community, through it all, me and indeed the nation of People were greatly enriched & enabled.

Today we talk of Diaspora Remittances to Nigeria. Ismaila alone in life and death will remain instrumental to what may amount to 1/10th of 1 percentage of such remittances from the Bay Area. This is why! Through the 1980s and early 1990s he facilitated visas for immigrants of all shades and color, particularly Nigerians. Through it all, Nigerians at home and the diaspora were greatly enriched & enabled.

A popular word: "de-tribalized" is in common usage now particularly to describe folks like my beloved Ismaila. This word has surfaced in tributes to Ismaila.

His connections, friendship and companionship weaves through the various ethnicities of Nigeria. He travelled the backroads of Eastern Nigeria, a region unfamiliar to non-natives, oftentimes visiting friends, acquaintances and business associates. He made friends outside convenient ethnic confines, seeking friendship and disbursing goodwill along the way. I once visited his home during yelutide 20 years ago. I saw stacks of beer and liquor in his living room. While sitted, a group of young men came by to deliver more gifts. I asked what the connection was, and why so many gifts. Well, he said he had offered paid help to these folks, and years later they still came to express gratitude with these gifts. Then he concluded with wise talk: "with some ethnic groups, you help them for a day, they remember and thank you for life; while others thank you for a day, ask for a new favor on day #2, insult on day #3, then try to orchestrate your downfall in the days & years ahead".

He took pride in his association with different ethnic groups, particularly the Ibo, Igbo properly so-called. He felt they were the true Edo in the diaspora in Nigeria. A nation builder, truly cosmopolitan - Ismaila Ikhara, that is. Through it all, nations, our nation and its peoples were greatly enriched & enabled.

Ismaila final triumph was in building a truly princely mansion, a retirement home that we his close friends and family have longed for, and if not for the global pandemic would have opened in 2020 to some fanfare, the type made for princes & princesses. The edifice remains a point of reference, particularly now as his final resting place, and through it and with it, we all are greatly enriched & enabled.

Finally, I am glad that in the final years of his life, we became extremely close, when state sides, he attended at least half dozen of my parties, and he introduced me to a few red wine labels.

So, on New Year's Eve, my wife, mother-in-law and I, had a toast to Ismaila with one of his favorite California Cabernet Sauvignon - with refreshing tarts & smoothness that even the departed would have cherished even on a cold murky day.

So long mate, I will keep the wine glass wet hoping that you might fly by one evening to take a few sips and the typical exclamation that follows after each sip: "my distinguished" - words that make a friend feel loved! With the expected sip, Mate, I will again feel greatly enriched, enabled, and finally enchanted.

May your final journey to the gates of heaven be smooth, what a ride, enjoy it.

Expect an email soon from me, it will be properly addressed to: Ismaila_Ikhara@heavensgate.allah.

Osafran Okundaye
Oakland, California



CHRISTOPHER CHIME OGBODO & ASSOCIATES
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

TRIBUTE TO MY BROTHER FROM ANOTHER MOTHER AND A MAN
OF PEACE
PRINCE ISMAILA BRAIMAH IKHARO THE SERIKI SAMALI OF
AUCHI KINGDOM

I can't believe you are gone. The most detribalized Nigerian I have ever met. It was a severe shock to me given that we spoke on a Wednesday and by Friday Almighty God decided he needed you closer to him.

He was a great pleasure to be with and I had deep respect for him as a man who made great impact in the lives of many. Our brotherhood ignited the day we met and became close family friends over the years. I enjoyed his company each time we were together both here in the United States and in Nigeria. He was a special person who always gave so much to those he knew - loving, caring, thoughtful and always willing to lend an ear.

He will be sorely missed but, remember, great human beings do not die, but live forever through the lives they have touched, and the good principles they laid down along the line.

Your light will continue to shine in those you left behind. Take care and look after every one till we meet again

With all our love,

Christopher Chime Ogbodo

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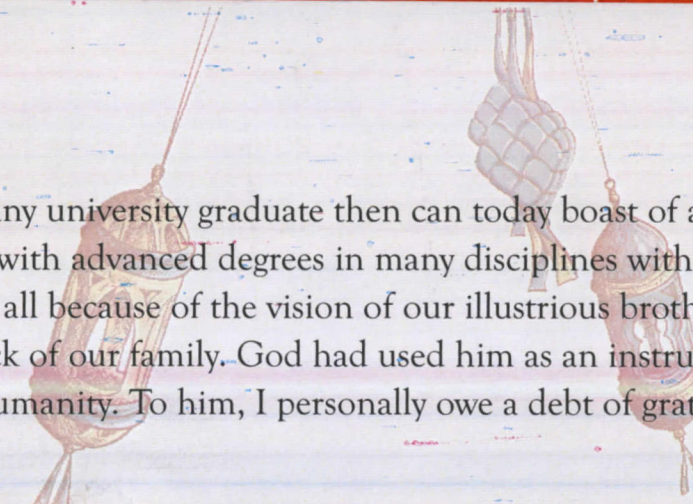


AN EXIT OF AN ENIGMA

O Allah, surely Ismaila is under Your protection, and in the rope of Your security, so save him from the trial of the grave and from the punishment of the Fire. You fulfil promises and grant rights, so forgive him and have mercy on him. Surely You are Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.

My heart is broken and no words can express the love I feel or how broken I am. It is with the deepest regret I write this tribute to my beloved brother Prince Ismaila (Ishmael) Brimah Ikharo (a.k.a. Delta). He was a man full of energy, mystic, positive spirit and most importantly a very goal orientated person that sees good in everyone. He was totally an embodiment of a family person. He was also a truly quintessential representative of what Royalty is all about as a true blue-blooded Royal Prince on both of his parents' side of the isles with extra ordinary qualities. He had many options in life and he drew up his as a family focused based plan and followed it religiously throughout the days of his sojourn on this earth. He had no equals amongst his peers and totally a distinct Prince who was always willing to give a helping hand to others at the expense of his own needs. My early memory of this an enigma of a brother was dated back to 1965 when he will occasionally come around and play with me when I was in solitude and when no one else in the family would even acknowledge my existence. He was the first and only person to ever pass hands down to me in 1966 and I treasured that white shirt that goes down to my knees. He will go on to build on this act of caring for me until his passing.

He was a visionary man before his time and a true trend setter which made him a true patriarch of the Ikharo family by default. He was the first Ikharo to earn both a bachelors and master's degrees. It is worth noting that Ikharo Family had no university graduate prior to him, but he changed all of that. His act of benevolence and magnanimity transcended the Ikharo Royal family and beyond when in the 1980s he embarked on mobilizing Ikharios youth and some of his personal friends from Auchi to the United States of America to peruse the golden fleece to which I am one of the beneficiaries. His act of kindness greatly impacted my life in a very profound way more than I can admit. This singular act of kindness and his personal sacrifice is unparalleled in the history of Auchi and this make us the envy of others. With his investment in human capacity development, the Ikharo Royal

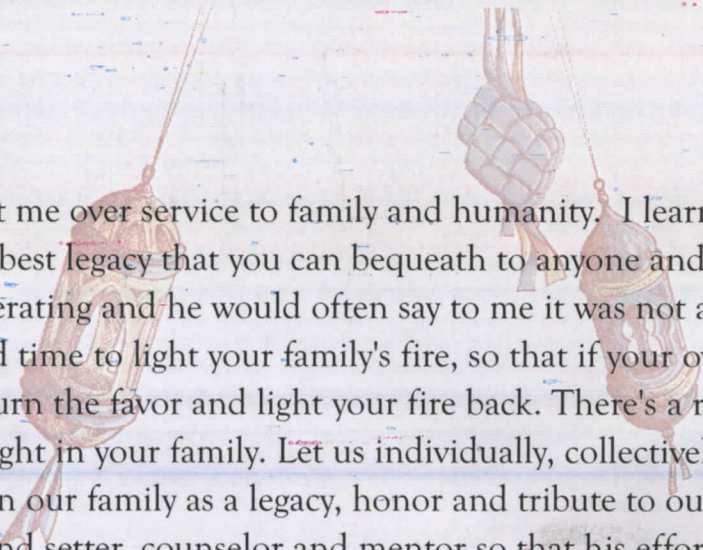


family without any university graduate then can today boast of a multitude of sons and daughters with advanced degrees in many disciplines within Nigeria and across the globe all because of the vision of our illustrious brother, father, uncle and above all the rock of our family. God had used him as an instrument of change and a blessing to all humanity. To him, I personally owe a debt of gratitude for ever and ever.

He led by personal example. I had countless conversations with him over the years and he remained very modest about his accomplishments. He was always lamenting on the rate of progress in the family and consequently, he was constantly looking for other projects to embark on for the family. I always reminded him to retire from his act of benevolence and to count on many blessings that God had used him to bring to the family. I had told him time and time again to look at where the family was in the 1970s as compared to where we are in 2020s in which the difference is like night and day. Again, I said that we are in a marathon relay race where one has to run his portion perfectly well and pass the baton at some point and let other members of the relay team carry on the race. I explicitly told him to start to direct us to take up family projects, as field-general rather than he personally taking them on and he will often smile and reply that I was doing well and to keep it up. It was only this past July that he passed one of such request from a youngster in the family requesting for university sponsorship and I gladly accepted this assignment with grace and thanks.

As testament to his uniqueness, he sent me a selfie from his hospital bed with a message of someone requesting for assistance from him. What caught my attention was his selfie and I immediately called to check on him. He put forth a bold face and asked me not to worry about him but to address the request of a financial assistance from the youngster which I obliged. His last text to me on Dec. 5, 2020 was "Thank you my dear. I am home now. Thank God." Which seems as good bye and thereafter his health took U-turn after this message. I was not able to talk to him directly but to his amiable wife Madam Eve who stood by his side like the Rock of Gibraltar until his demise.

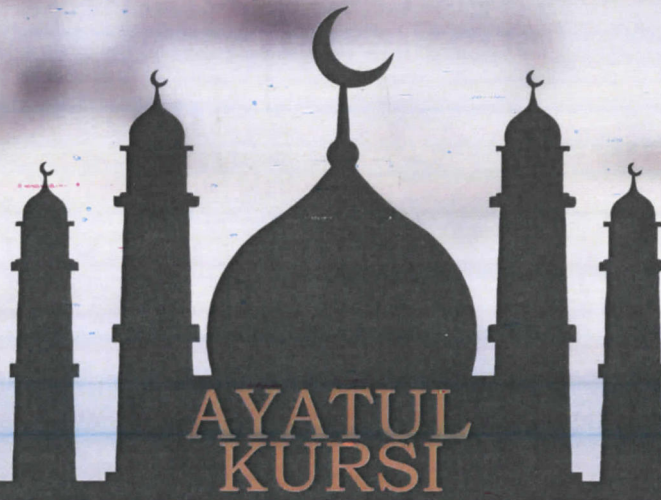
Over the years, I have grown to appreciate him making personal sacrifice to make people around him better and great. He did not live for himself rather he lived for the upliftment of the Ikharo Royal Family and anyone else who was fortunate to come across to him as needy. I cannot stop reflecting on the many moral and civic



lessons he taught me over service to family and humanity. I learned from him that education is the best legacy that you can bequeath to anyone and it is very empowering, liberating and he would often say to me it was not about him. When you succeed, find time to light your family's fire, so that if your own fire goes out, they can also return the favor and light your fire back. There's a risk of darkness if you're the only light in your family. Let us individually, collectively find a way to light more fires in our family as a legacy, honor and tribute to our amiable brother, father, uncle, trend setter, counselor and mentor so that his effort would not be in vain. He was a true champion and Allah needed His Champion in Heavens hence he transitioned to Heaven.

I will be remiss, if I did not honor his dutiful lovely wife Hauwa Eve Ahmed Ikharo (a.k.a. Madam). I have never seen or had a sister-in-law that shows unwavering love and support to her husband and his family unconditionally. She welcomed all of us and other individuals who were not family related into her home and graciously took care of them without ever complaining and to her, I say thank you and God Bless. To the children left behind: Princes Teslim, Tariq, Taulib and Princesses Tahirah and Tareah who thought your father was yours - Surely, Allah takes what is His, and what He gives is His, and to all things He has appointed a time...so have patience and be rewarded.

Prince Momoh-Jimoh M. Ikharo.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي
السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ
مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ
وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ

Transliteration

Allahu laaa ilaaha illaa huwal haiyul qai-yoom; laa taakhuzuhoo sinatunw wa laa nawm; lahoo maa fissamaawaati wa maa fil ard; man zallazee yashfa'u indahooo illaa be iznih; ya'lamu maa baina aideehim wa maa khalfahum; wa laa yuheetoona beshai 'immin 'ilmihee illa be maa shaaaa; wasi'a kursiyyuhus samaa waati wal arda wa la ya'ooduho hifzuhumaa; wa huwal aliyyul 'azeem

Translation

Allah! There is no god but He - the Living, the Self-subsisting, Eternal. No slumber can seize Him nor Sleep. His are all things in the heavens and on earth. Who is there can intercede in His presence except as he permitteth? He knoweth what (appeareth to His creatures As) Before or After or Behind them. Nor shall they compass aught of His knowledge except as He willeth. His throne doth extend over the heavens and on earth, and He feeleth no fatigue in guarding and preserving them, For He is the Most High, the Supreme (in glory).

Acknowledgement

Our father, husband, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and dear friend Chief Ismaila Ibrahim Ikharo' s untimely passing is felt deeply by us all.

The family of Ismaila Ikharo spans from Edo State, Auchi to Oakland, California, and all of us would like to express our deepest appreciation for everyone's prayers to Almighty Allah.

We would especially like to thank the Otaru of Auchi Kingdom and its constituents for their blessings in returning his body to his native land of Auchi. For those who have made this homegoing possible with their generosity and support, the memories you have shared, phone calls you've made, gifts you've sent, and words of condolences mean a great deal to us as we make our way through this trying time.

Allah has promised us all that "verily to Him do we return", and while we are experiencing a profound sadness at this loss of life, our faith and conviction allows us to seek solace, knowing that he has returned to his creator and Insha-Allah we will all one day be reunited in Jannah.

It is with the genuine compassion, sincere sympathy and infinite kindness that our family and friends have extended to us, that we are able to cope through this immeasurable loss, and our gratitude for that is endless.

Thank you

بِالْغَيْبِ قَبِيرَةٌ مَغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ كَرِيمٌ ۝ إِنَّا نَحْنُ نُحْيِي الْمَوْتَىٰ وَنَكْتُبُ مَا قَدَّمُوا وَآثَارَهُمْ ۚ وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ أَحْصَيْنَاهُ فِي إِمَامٍ مُّبِينٍ ۝ وَاصْرَبْ لَهُمْ مَثَلًا أَخَصَبَ الْقَرْيَةِ إِذْ جَاءَهَا الْمُرْسَلُونَ ۝ إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْهِمُ اثْنَيْنِ فَكَذَّبُوهُمَا فَعَزَّزْنَا بِثَالِثٍ فَقَالُوا إِنَّا إِلَهُكُمُ الْمُرْسَلُونَ ۝ قَالُوا مَا أَنْتُمْ إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِثْلُنَا ۚ وَمَا أَنْزَلَ الرَّخْمَ مِنْ سَمَاءٍ ۗ إِنْ أَنْتُمْ إِلَّا تَكْذِبُونَ ۝ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا يَعْلَمُ إِنَّا إِلَهُكُمُ الْمُرْسَلُونَ ۝ وَمَا عَلَيْنَا إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ ۝ قَالُوا إِنَّا نَطِيرُنَا مِنْكُمْ ۚ لَيْنَ لَمْ تَنْتَهُوا لَنَرْجُمَنَّكُمْ وَلَيْ مَسْئَلُكُمْ مِنَّا عَذَابٌ إِلِيمٌ ۝ قَالُوا طَائِفُكُمْ مَعَكُمْ ۚ إِنْ دُكِرْتُمْ بِلِ أُنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ مُّسْرِفُونَ ۝ وَجَاءَ مِنْ أَقْصَا الْمَدِينَةِ رَجُلٌ يَسْعَىٰ قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اتَّبِعُوا الْمُرْسَلِينَ ۝ اتَّبِعُوا مَنْ لَا يَسْأَلُكُمْ أَجْرًا وَهُمْ مُّهْتَدُونَ ۝

بِالْغَيْبِ قَبِيرَةٌ

اللَّهُ النَّاسُ بِمَا كَسَبُوا مَا تَرَكَ عَلَىٰ ظَهْرِهَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ وَلَكِنْ يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ۚ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجَلُهُمْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِعِبَادِهِ بَصِيرًا ۝

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ۝

يَس ۝ وَالْقُرْآنِ الْحَكِيمِ ۝ إِنَّكَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ۝ عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ ۝ تَنْزِيلِ الْعَزِيزِ الرَّحِيمِ ۝ لِتُنذِرَ قَوْمًا مَّا أُنذِرَ آبَاؤُهُمْ فَهُمْ غَافِلُونَ ۝ لَقَدْ حَقَّ الْقَوْلُ عَلَىٰ أَكْثَرِهِمْ فَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ۝ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا فِي آعْنَاقِهِمْ أَغْلَالًا ۚ فَهِيَ إِلَى الْأَذْقَانِ فَهُمْ مُّقْمَحُونَ ۝ وَجَعَلْنَا مِنْ بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ سَدًّا ۚ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ سَدًّا فَأَعْشَيْنَهُمُ أَعْيُنَهُمْ فَهُمْ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ ۝ وَسَوَاءٌ عَلَيْهِمْ ءَأَنْذَرْتَهُمْ أَمْ لَمْ تُنذِرْهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ۝ إِنَّمَا تُنذِرُ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ الذِّكْرَ وَخَشِيَ الرَّحْمَنَ

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ۝

(٣١) سُوْرَةُ الْيَسِ ۝ (٢١) نُوْحًا ۝ (٥٤٥)

يَس ۝ وَالْقُرْآنِ الْحَكِيمِ ۝ إِنَّكَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ۝ عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ ۝ تَنْزِيلِ الْعَزِيزِ الرَّحِيمِ ۝ لِتُنذِرَ قَوْمًا مَّا أُنذِرَ آبَاؤُهُمْ فَهُمْ غَافِلُونَ ۝ لَقَدْ حَقَّ الْقَوْلُ عَلَىٰ أَكْثَرِهِمْ فَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ۝ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا فِي آعْنَاقِهِمْ أَغْلَالًا ۚ فَهِيَ إِلَى الْأَذْقَانِ فَهُمْ مُّقْمَحُونَ ۝ وَجَعَلْنَا مِنْ بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ سَدًّا ۚ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ سَدًّا فَأَعْشَيْنَهُمُ أَعْيُنَهُمْ فَهُمْ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ ۝ وَسَوَاءٌ عَلَيْهِمْ ءَأَنْذَرْتَهُمْ أَمْ لَمْ تُنذِرْهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ۝ إِنَّمَا تُنذِرُ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ الذِّكْرَ وَخَشِيَ الرَّحْمَنَ

يَاكُلُونَ ۝ وَجَعَلْنَا فِيهَا جَنَّتٍ مِّنْ نَّخِيلٍ وَأَعْنَابٍ ۚ وَفَجَّرْنَا فِيهَا مِنَ الْعُيُونِ ۚ لِيَأْكُلُوا مِنْ ثَمَرِهِ ۚ وَمَا عَمِلَتْهُ أَيْدِيهِمْ ۚ أَفَلَا يَشْكُرُونَ ۝ سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا مِمَّا تُثْمِتُ الْأَرْضُ وَمَنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ ۚ وَمِمَّا لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ۝ وَإِيَّاهُ تُرْجَىٰ السَّاعَةُ ۚ إِنَّهُ نَسْفَعُ مِنَ النَّهَارِ ۚ فَإِذَا هُمْ مُظْلِمُونَ ۝ وَالشَّمْسُ تَجْرِي لِمُسْتَقَرٍّ لَّهَا ۚ ذَلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ ۝ وَالْقَمَرَ قَدْرَهُ مَنَازِلَ حَتَّىٰ عَادَ كَالْعُرْجُونِ الْقَدِيمِ ۝ لَا الشَّمْسُ يَنْبَغِي لَهَا أَنْ تُدْرِكَ الْقَمَرَ وَلَا اللَّيْلُ سَابِقُ النَّهَارِ ۚ وَكُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ ۝ وَإِيَّاهُ لَهْمُ أَنَا حَمَلْنَا ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ فِي الْفُلْكِ الْمَشْحُونِ ۝ وَخَلَقْنَا لَهُمْ مِنْ مِثْلِهِ مَا يَرْكَبُونَ ۝ وَإِنْ نَشَأْ نُغْرِقْهُمْ فَلَا صَرِيحَ لَهُمْ وَلَا هُمْ يُنقذُونَ ۝ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً مِنَّا وَمَتَاعًا إِلَىٰ حِينٍ ۝

بِالْغَيْبِ قَبِيرَةٌ

وَمَا لِيَ صَلِّ مُبِينٍ ۝ إِنِّي آمَنْتُ بِرَبِّكُمْ فَاسْمِعُونِ ۝ قِيلَ ادْخُلِ الْجَنَّةَ ۚ قَالَ لِيَلِّتَ قَوْمِي يَعْلَمُونَ ۝ بِمَا غَفَرْتُ لِي رَبِّي وَجَعَلَنِي مِنَ الْبَكْرِينَ ۝ وَمَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ مِنْ جُنْدٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ ۚ وَمَا كُنَّا مُنْزِلِينَ ۝ إِنْ كَانَتْ إِلَّا صَيْحَةً وَاحِدَةً فَإِذَا هُمْ خَامِدُونَ ۝ يَحْسُرُوا عَلَى الْعِبَادَةِ مَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِّن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ ۝ أَلَمْ يَرَوْا كَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا قَبْلَهُمْ مِّنَ الْقُرُونِ أَنَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِمْ لَا يَرْجِعُونَ ۝ وَإِنْ كُلُّ لُتَّا جَمِيعٌ لَدَيْنَا مُحْضَرُونَ ۝ وَإِيَّاهُ لَهْمُ الْأَرْضِ الْمَيْتَةِ ۚ أَحْيَيْنَاهَا وَأَخْرَجْنَا مِنْهَا حَبًّا فَبِتُّهُ

بِالْغَيْبِ قَبِيرَةٌ

٥٤٥



NOTES FROM PRINCE ISMAILA'S CHILDREN

Chief,

Thank you for inspiring me to be and do better. I never really thought much of you calling me “Doctor” at an early age but at my law school graduation, I realized that this simple act was both motivation and coronation: you knew that I was capable and you believed in me. A conversation with you was sure to unlock new ideas about myself and the broader world around me – for that I am sincerely grateful. I promise to build upon the high bar you set and to forge a life of great meaning and deep purpose. Thank you for everything my dear Chief.

Teslim

My dear Daddy,

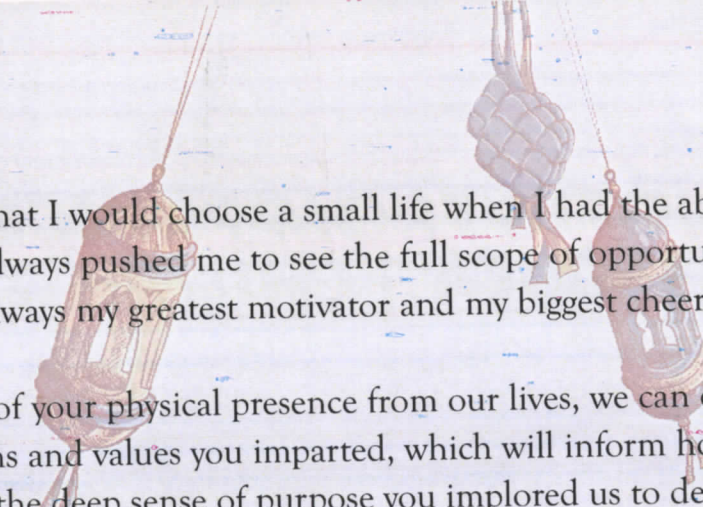
You tried oh! You injected confidence and a realm of endless possibility into my meager understanding of life. You shared stories of this world that to most would assume are fairy tales. Never a goal too big nor a challenge that was insurmountable. You gave me solutions! You weren't my friend, you were my father and as they put you down, I will continue to look up to you for your strength and belief in the unknown. I love you. It is apparent that the world was indebted to you for your service and I just want you to know that I will honor your legacy forever. Until I see you again Chief, “as we come so shall we return”

Taulib (Boy)

Daddy:

You left us far too soon and the sense of loss is immeasurable. I wish we had more time. You were a beloved man of the people, a prince and a chief, but to me you were just Daddy.

I've never communicated to you how deeply I valued you as a father, but even more as a trusted support. You nurtured my shyness and my voracious love of books from a young age, encouraging me to cultivate my interest into a skillset. I remember you

A decorative illustration of two hanging lanterns with intricate patterns and tassels, positioned at the top of the page.

being worried that I would choose a small life when I had the ability to do great things, so you always pushed me to see the full scope of opportunities available to me. You were always my greatest motivator and my biggest cheerleader.

In the absence of your physical presence from our lives, we can only be grateful for the many lessons and values you imparted, which will inform how we live our lives going forward; the deep sense of purpose you implored us to develop in our own lives; and the many memories of laughs, jokes and other moments we shared, which will keep your spirit alive in our hearts. We stand on the shoulders of your legacy and only hope to make you proud.

Love you forever and will miss you, teddy bear.

Your Distinguished, Tareah

My father, my hero, my main man, why must you go so soon? My heart is broken, my security blanket is gone, but please guide me spiritually and secure my safety as I proceed forward in life by Allah's grace. The lessons you taught me will never be forgotten - after all, he who laughs last laughs best.

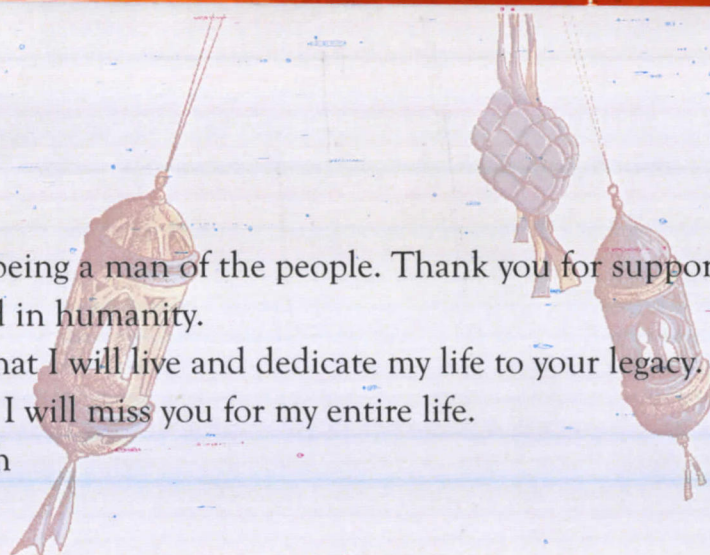
Choo Boy - (Tariq)

Samali,

You have been there for me through it all - year in and out. You were my hero without contention or competition, it was nothing less than confirmed! Being your daughter has been both fun and eye opening. You've taught me how to be a woman and how to achieve results through patience and obedience. I have always had the peace of living full of joy that you, Prince Ismaila Ibrahim 'Delta' Ikharo was my father and would protect me.

Now that I am alone, what will I do? I don't have the answers to where I will find myself but I trust that Almighty Allah is in control. So today, I mourn the loss of not only a father but a friend and a confidant.

May Almighty Allah continue to protect you and guide you as you rest amongst the most distinguished of beings. Wow Daddy, the honour you brought to the Ikharo family is simply unmatched. You are a legend and your legacy will be carried forward with the hopes of helping more people solve their needs.

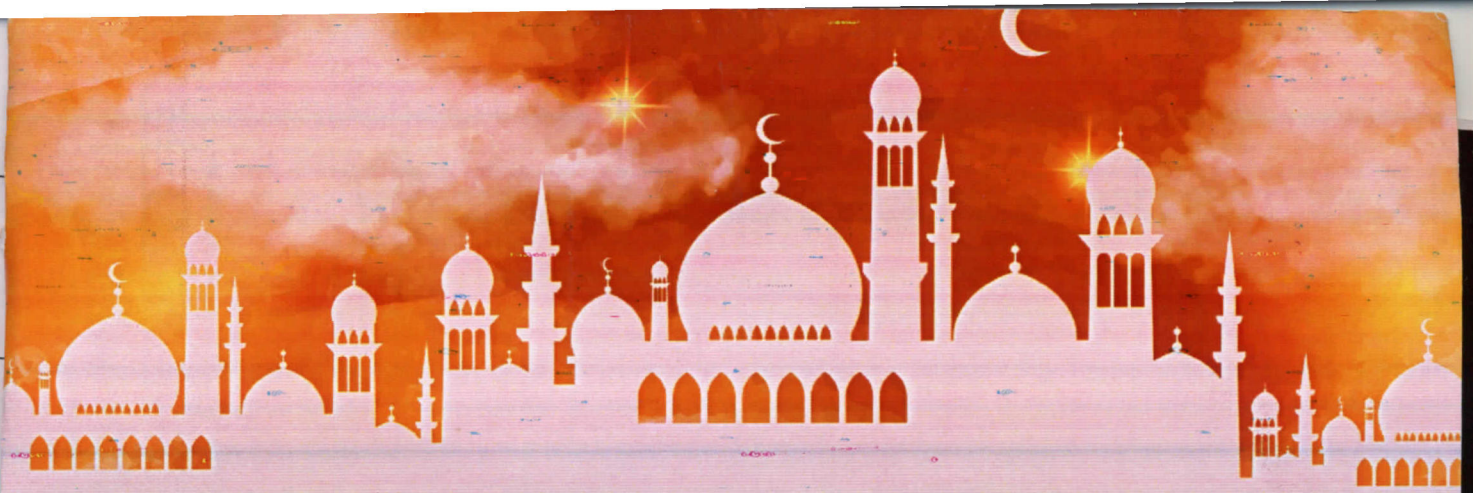


Thank you for being a man of the people. Thank you for supporting me and making me see the good in humanity.

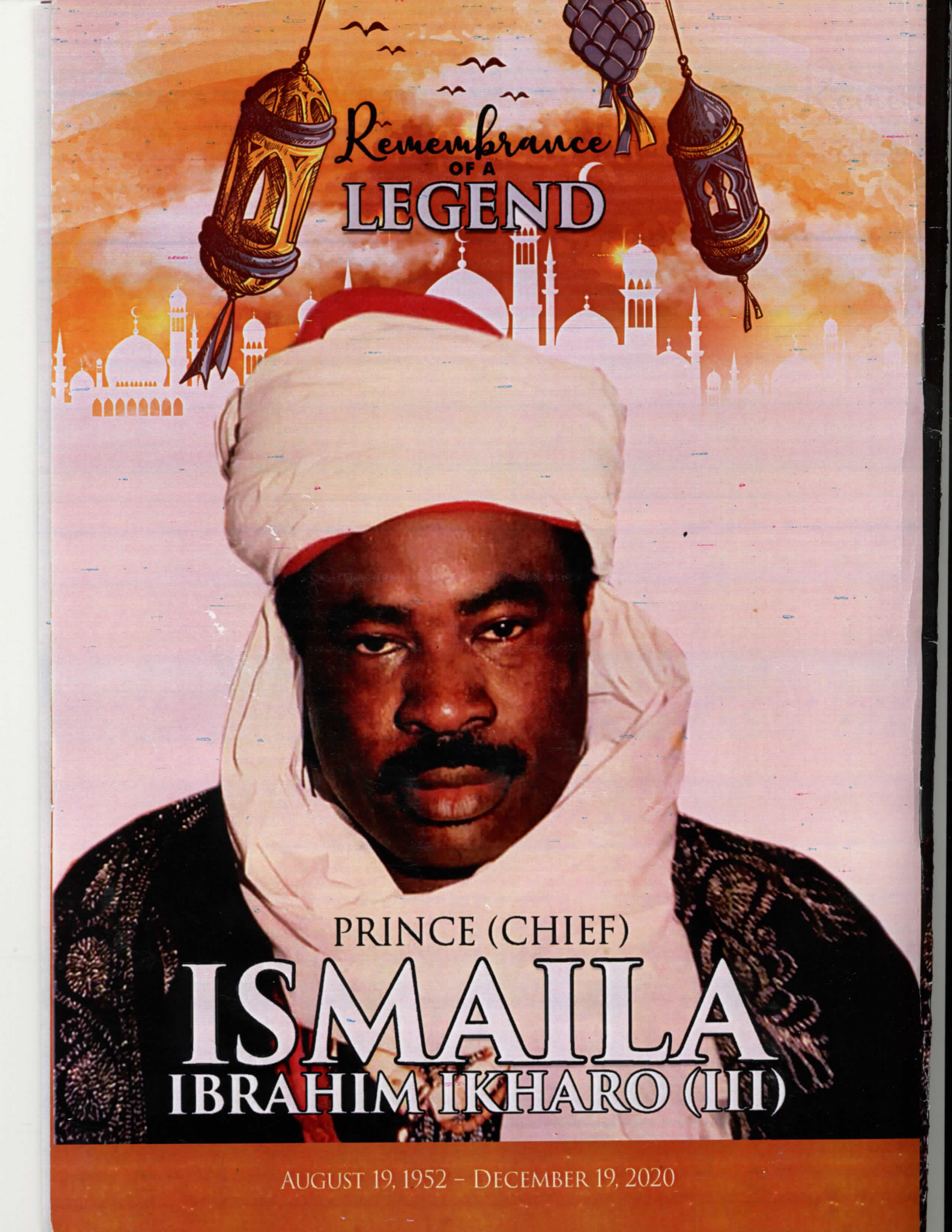
I promise you that I will live and dedicate my life to your legacy.

Adieu mi Papa. I will miss you for my entire life.

Princess Tahirah



Thank You



Remembrance
OF A
LEGEND

PRINCE (CHIEF)

ISMAILA
IBRAHIM IKHARO (III)

AUGUST 19, 1952 – DECEMBER 19, 2020