

Olusegun Obasanjo

Agbe L'oba House, Quarry Road, Ibara
P.O. Box 2286, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria

January 14, 2021

Mrs. Gladys Ndubuisi-Kanu,
Abia State.

Dear Mrs Kanu,

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to commiserate with you and other members of your family on the unfortunate passing of your beloved husband and patriarch, Rear Admiral Ndubuisi Godwin Kanu, rtd. No doubt, the ranks of the nation's leadership have been depleted by the loss of a dedicated and resourceful patriot who served the nation in various capacities as a Naval Officer, Community Leader and Military Governor of Imo State and Lagos State in 1975 and 1977 respectively.

Over the years, I had followed and watched, with keen interest, Admiral Kanu's inspiring career which traversed soldiering, public administration, pro-democracy activism and business.

It is noteworthy that in the course of his military service which straddled more than two decades, he acquitted himself as a dedicated officer, a gentleman and a real patriot. From the thick of the Nigerian Civil War where he commanded various regiments and corps, to the post-war re-organisation of the military, he distinguished himself as a seasoned military officer to which I could bear witness.

Admiral Kanu was acknowledged as a disciplined, detribalised, transparent and humane public officer with an enviable track record. He left behind an impeccable record of leadership, a legacy of forthrightness, thoroughness and unwavering commitment to public good. I recall that he was a pillar of trust and an iconic reference point when in 1975 the Murtala/Obasanjo's regime appointed him as Military Governor of Imo State and later also as Military Governor of Lagos State in 1977. He was, indeed, a great man who wrote for himself an enviable page in history with his service to the nation and humanity.

In retirement, he contributed to national development as a private businessman and a provider of employment for many of our people. He also deployed his good offices and goodwill to contribute to the attainment of relative peace and stability in the South-Eastern part of the country which can rightly be described as "home-grounds" for him.

Until his death, the nation savoured much of his wisdom, experience and resourcefulness through his direct involvement in the national socio-political scene, proffering solutions to various challenges confronting our dear country. Like many of our compatriots who could not cope with the fist rule of the time, particularly during the regime of General Sani Abacha, he was an active pro-democracy campaigner. As one of the respected leaders of the National Democratic Coalition, NADECO, he refused to be cowed and fought tooth and nail to ensure the enthronement of genuine democracy in Nigeria. I recall that even when some of us were incarcerated in 1995 till 1998, he remained focused, unbowed and committed to the people's right to choose their leaders as a fundamental right that must not be sacrificed. Indeed, people like him and some of his colleagues with professional background in the Armed Forces have demonstrated

that military experience can be positively deployed in the solidification of democratic rule. Built around him was a truly detribalized polity, where nobody would be undermined on account of being an aborigine or a settler, where religious preferences do not impact on our sense of objectivity and fairness. He brought his track record of purposefulness, honesty and integrity to bear in promoting the cause of national unity.

Admiral Kanu is, therefore, being mourned beyond his immediate family and community. I believe the entire nation shares your pain and grief for the irreparable loss of a distinguished son of Nigeria indeed. We, however, have cause to thank God that his life was a great success and many of his accomplishments will for long be remembered after him. By dint of hard work, he had immortalised his name long before he died.

On behalf of my family and on my own behalf, I convey our heartfelt sympathy to you at this difficult moment and pray that God in His infinite mercies will comfort you and other members of your family.

May his soul rest in peace.

Yours sorrowfully,

Obasanjo

OLUSEGUN OBASANJO