

A Tribute To A Quintessential

TEACHER AND SURGEON,

PROFESSOR USIFO OSIME

On behalf of the Academic Board of the College, Deans, Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff, I write to express our sincere condolences to Professor Osime's children and the entire members of the Osime family.

Prof. Osime was born 77years ago and was a prince of Esan Land. He went to Primary School in eastern Nigeria and the famous Edo College, Benin City, where he was a scholar. He did the Cambridge School Certificate in 1955 and passed in Grade I.

Great Prof. Osime did his undergraduate medical training in the Asias and his postgraduate training in the United Kingdom. After a stint at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, he joined the University of Benin and the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) as Lecturer I and Honorary Consultant respectively in 1972. He rose through the ranks to become Professor of Surgery in 1987. He was Head of Surgery for several years and was also Dean of Medicine from 1989 to 1993, when I walked closely with him as Assistant Dean.

He was President of the Nigerian Surgical Research Society and held the Fellowship of some of the most prestigious Colleges in the world, including the American College of Surgeons, Royal College of Surgeons and the West African College of Surgeons amongst others. He was editor to several Journals in the country and examiner for the MBBS and postgraduate colleges. Also, he was external assessor of candidates for the post of Associate Professor and Professor of Surgery in several Nigerian universities as well as the University of Ghana School of Medicine. He published widely in both local and international journals of Medicine and Surgery.

As an alumnus of this medical College, I would like to place on record that he was one of our best teachers. He was an excellent teacher and distinguished surgeon of the Thyroid, Gastrointestinal Tract and the Prostate.

A Tribute To A Quintessential Continues

Until his death, he was one of the few left of his generation of pioneer medical lecturers and hospital consultants in the old Bendel region. He was a professional role model to his students and junior colleagues, and was very meticulous and fastidious in the management of his patients. Impeccably dressed in suit and tie, but in the hospital environment, he was easily identified in his “white coat”.

Prof. Osime was at his best during his clinical duties; whether it was in the lecture room, ward round or operating theatre. When he asked his student or resident doctor a question and the student got it right, he would shout a loud and prolonged “yeesss...” and end with “that's correct!” Also, if you admitted a cold case into the ward on his bed without his consent, he would sharply rebuke you for “blocking” his bed. He was very lively, friendly and fatherly. Because of his fatherly disposition, he was fondly called “Pa Osime” by his students.

He was a lover of sports, most especially football, tennis and athletics. He would be sorely missed, but remembered for his honesty, integrity, dedication to work, punctuality, humility and simplicity. He was highly respected by his students and professional colleagues.

We will miss this quintessential teacher and excellent surgeon.
May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Prof. Vincent I. IYAWÉ
PROVOST
4th June, 2015