

Celebration Of Life



Late Hon.
**JUSTICE UMEGBOLU
EMMANUEL OKOYE
NRI-EZEDI**
(OGBUNECHENDO)
(1943-2025)





Biography

AN INSPIRED, DECENT AND FULFILLED LIFE OF OGBUNECHENDO
HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL OKOYE NRI-EZEDI, CHIEF JUDGE (EMERITUS)



• Late. Hon •

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Early Life And Family Background



Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi, fondly called "Daddy" by his children, was born on January 2, 1943, into a large polygamous family. His father, Late Chief Nwokoye Anene Nri-Ezedi (*Enyivuaku*), was a wealthy and influential man by every standard and a revered Ozo title holder from Uruoji Village in the ancient Nri Kingdom, Anambra State. His father "Enyivuaku" married three wives. Daddy was the first son of his father's second

wife, Late Mrs. Chinwe Nri-Ezedi (Nee Ubah), who hailed from Agbadani Village, Nri. Apparently, as the mother of a lawyer whose son, at that time in the 1960s, achieved a no mean feat of studying law overseas, she proudly wore the toga of "Nne Loya" and was widely known in Nri town with the sobriquet "Apili," which, I think, was a corrupt version of the word "Appeal."

Daddy had an elder sister and a younger brother who were his full siblings, and several half-brothers and half-sisters. Most of them are deceased. Notwithstanding the polygamous family background, Daddy and all his siblings were knitted together in love, which bond made the Nri-Ezedi family impregnable.



Early Education And The Hand Of Providence



From a young age, Daddy displayed exceptional brilliance and a natural thirst for learning. He carved a niche quite early in his childhood to have an outstanding and impactful life. Recognizing his potential, one of his relatives, who was then working at Aba enrolled him at Christ the King School, Aba, to commence his primary education. Unfortunately, that promising chapter was cut short when his guardian unexpectedly relocated out of Aba, prompting Daddy's return to the village.

Daddy was not at all deterred as he continued with his studies in the village. Although his father "Enyivuaku" had no formal education, Daddy's academic journey was far from over. Soon after his return from Aba, his uncle, Late Mr. Donald Igwebudu Nri-Ezedi, a well-educated and prosperous man working with the Nigerian Railway Corporation, became a pivotal figure in his life. During one of his visits to the village on vacation, Uncle Donald came across Daddy's schoolwork and was struck by his sharp mind and the precision of his handwriting. From his interactions with Daddy, who was then a little boy, he knew and was convinced that Daddy was a promising young lad.

From that moment on, Uncle Donald took Daddy under his wing, relocating him to Onitsha, and became his lifelong mentor and benefactor, investing wholeheartedly in Daddy's education and wellbeing both at home and abroad. It was a turning point that would open doors to a future marked by academic excellence and purposeful achievement.

Blossoming In Onitsha



Daddy's relocation to Onitsha marked the beginning of a transformative chapter in his life. Despite coming from a village, he was not daunted by the metropolitan lifestyle in Onitsha as he quickly adapted to the new realities. He was enrolled at St. Mary's Primary School, Onitsha where he continued his primary education and quickly distinguished himself. He made excellent grade in the Common Entrance Examination and obtained his First School Leaving Certificate in 1954.

The following year, in 1955, he gained admission into the prestigious Christ the King College (CKC), Onitsha, where his talents truly began to shine. At CKC, Daddy's brilliance was not confined to the classroom. He excelled both in academics and athletics emerging as a gifted quarter-miler and a remarkable sportsman. He proudly represented the school in numerous competitions, bringing home accolades that reflected his discipline, determination and competitive spirit. The pictures he took with his teammates and their Irish coach adorned his photo album as cherished memories.

Further Academic Pursuits: Fulfillment Of An Aspiration To Study Law

After Daddy graduated from CKC, he continued to burn the proverbial night candle in his earnest desire to gain admission to study law in the UK. A desire that was propelled and influenced by Daddy's fantasies to be like his relation Late Chief Philip Ezebuilo Umeadi, SAN, who was the first Nri man to study law overseas. Daddy pursued private studies in Economics and British Constitution. In 1961, he sat for the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Level examinations, which he passed with distinction, earning him admission to study Law at the University of London.

He graduated from the University of London with a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) with honours in 1964. In 1965, Daddy was called to the English Bar and admitted to the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. His name was accordingly entered on the Roll of Barristers of the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division in 1965.

As a lifelong learner, Daddy immediately enrolled in a postgraduate program and earned his Master of Laws (LL.M.) from the same University of London in 1966. On a lighter note, Daddy would often boast, humorously, to his family that he obtained his "*Li-Li-Mi*" from London.

Still filled with academic zeal, he enrolled in a PhD program just before the outbreak of the Nigerian Civil War. However, Late Chief Philip Ezebuilo Umeadi, SAN, felt that Daddy had already proved his mettle and talked Daddy into coming back to Nigeria to start a lucrative law practice. Prior to the outbreak of the Nigerian Civil War, and driven by the spirit of patriotism, Daddy abandoned his PhD program in London and returned home to support his family and relations. During the war, Daddy enrolled and obtained an award of diploma from the Republic of Biafra Council of Legal Education. He attended the Biafra Law School. When the war ended, Daddy still proceeded to the Nigerian Law School, Lagos, and upon a successful completion of the legal education, he was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1971.

Daddy's sojourn in Lagos while at the Law School was made much lighter by a bosom friend. Daddy remained ever grateful to Prince Ben Egwuatu Okolo, the patriarch of Eze Nri Ubalike family who gracefully accommodated him in Lagos. Prince Ben Egwuatu Okolo has clocked 100 years plus and is indeed more than a friend and a senior brother to Daddy. Daddy's death really broke his heart, and he openly lamented that Daddy who should bury him has exited the stage before him.

Daddy And His Heartthrob – Love That Stood The Test Of Time



Daddy met the love of his life, Constance Izualor Okafor, whom he fondly called *Connie*. Only Daddy reserved the right to use that pet name *Connie*. For us the children, we call her Mommy, with due respect. She is a core disciplinarian just like Daddy. Mommy is from the reputable family of Okafor Nwaononikpo of Umuochiogu kindred in Obeagu Village, Nri.

Daddy met and fell in love with Mommy quite early in life. As a young student in the college, Daddy would often pass by Mommy's family compound while visiting his childhood friend, Late Edmund Okoye, during vacation. Each time he spotted Mommy, who was then a little girl in elementary school, he'd jokingly tell his friend Edmund, "*One day, I will marry that little girl.*" What began as a playful remark would quietly take root. Though Daddy's academic journey took him away from the village, the seed of love had already been sown. By a twist of fate, they reconnected in Ibadan in 1960. At that time, Mommy had blossomed into a graceful and intelligent young lady and was training as a student midwife at Sacred Heart Hospital Abeokuta. Mommy came all the way from Abeokuta to Ibadan in August 1960 to attend a friend's wedding and met Daddy in Ibadan. That chance meeting rekindled their bond in the most beautiful way.

Daddy and Mommy began to spend time together, sharing stories, dreams, and their hopes for the future. It was during those moments that Daddy spoke tenderly of his desire to study Law in London, a dream that Mommy took to heart and guarded with quiet devotion.



Surprisingly, Mommy left for London before Daddy, following her own dreams of becoming a British-trained nurse. When Daddy eventually arrived in London, their love blossomed even more, deepened by shared purpose, distance, and the dreams they carried together. Mommy qualified as a registered nurse in the UK, while Daddy also qualified as a lawyer. But history would once again test their love. With the outbreak of the Nigerian Civil War, Daddy returned home while Mommy remained in Britain.

Communication became difficult. Still, the

bond endured. Eventually, Mommy arrived Nigeria on May 10, 1970 by sea. She was among the first set of Nigerians to come home after the Nigerian Civil War. She fell into the warm embrace of Daddy as they both missed each other.

They got married in 1971 at the Marriage Registry in Ikoyi, Lagos, and welcomed their first child, Chinwe, shortly after. Daddy established his legal career while Mommy worked with the Lagos State Hospital Management Board, later serving at the Railway Hospital in Ebute Meta. The family eventually settled in Onitsha, where Daddy and Mommy thrived in their respective professions and raised their children in a home filled with love, discipline, and purpose. Mommy, after a meritorious service to humanity retired as Deputy Director of Nursing Services at Iyi-Enu Mission Hospital, Ogidi.

In their later years, they moved to Enugu, where they enjoyed a peaceful retirement—surrounded by the legacy they had built together, and the warmth of memories forged over a lifetime of love, resilience, and companionship.

Their love, nurtured from childhood, had weathered time and distance. It became a love story admired by many—so much so that they were often referred to as *twins*, and Mommy was lovingly teased as *Daddy's handbag* because they were rarely seen apart.

A Distinguished Legal Career Both At The Bar And On The Bench



Upon his return to Onitsha in January 1972, Daddy joined his esteemed relation, Late Chief Phillip Ezebuilo Umeadi (SAN), in legal practice. He stayed briefly and ventured to open his own law firm "Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi Chambers". A sharp and principled legal mind, he built a solid reputation as a legal practitioner. He eschewed unethical practices and stood out as a conscientious advocate and solicitor. By dint of his unsullied reputation, he later formed a partnership, known as "Iguh, Nri-Ezedi Chambers".

In 1993, Daddy was appointed a High Court Judge in Anambra State, marking the beginning of a well-regarded and impactful judicial career. He made history as the first Nri man to be appointed a High Court Judge. He was a quintessential jurist, ready to accommodate young lawyers and new wigs but at the same time he had zero tolerance for nonsense. One of the most defining moments of his time on the bench came during the impeachment case of His Excellency, Mr. Peter Obi, as the then Governor of Anambra State.

The Impeachment Case

Daddy's tenacity and vow to do justice even though the heavens fall was put to test in the impeachment case involving His Excellency, Mr. Peter Obi. Despite intense pressure and serious threats, Daddy remained unwavering in his commitment to justice. Many attempts were also made to induce him to pervert justice but he stood his ground.

When the case file was unexpectedly withdrawn from his court, Daddy, in his characteristic humility and integrity, quietly stepped away from it—refusing to compromise his principles. However, the National Judicial Council (NJC) soon intervened and ordered that the case file be returned to his court. Daddy went on to deliver a landmark judgment that upheld the rule of law and saved Anambra State from what would have been a colossal injustice. Justice was enthroned and heavens did not fall. This moment reaffirmed Daddy's legacy as a fair, courageous and incorruptible judge.

In 2007, Daddy was appointed the Chief Judge of Anambra State, making another history as the first Nri man to hold this prestigious position. He served with distinction and righted many administrative wrongs in the judiciary. He retired honourably in January 2008.



Professional Affiliations And Community Involvement

In addition to his distinguished legal career, Daddy was actively engaged in professional circles that reflected his global perspective and commitment to justice. He was a member of the London Institute of International Affairs. He was also a member of the Nigerian Bar Association, Onitsha Branch.



Daddy's Iconic Achievement And Personality



In 2016, Daddy was honored for his outstanding public service in Anambra State, a recognition of his years of distinguished service and unwavering dedication. The acknowledgment brought him deep fulfilment, and he remained profoundly grateful to God.

Daddy's personality was an embodiment of wisdom, dignity, and quiet strength. To him, education was not merely a value—it was a sacred duty. He believed that knowledge was the great equalizer, the one true inheritance that could never be taken away. With this conviction, he was intentionally present in the lives of his six children, whom he guided with firm but affectionate hands. At home, excellence was not an expectation—it was a way of life.

His unwavering belief in hard work and discipline bore fruit, as each of his children excelled in their respective fields and being upright citizens. Even in his later years, he extended the same dedication to his grandchildren, determined that the values he instilled would echo across generations.

A man of discipline and unyielding commitment to excellence, Daddy had an incredible gift for seeing potential in others—often before they could see it in themselves. His methods, however, were strict and uncompromising. He had no tolerance for laziness or half measures. Many misunderstood him at first, unable to grasp the depth of his expectations. But in the end, when success was achieved, they saw the wisdom in his ways.

His motto was simple yet profound: "There is no failure in hard work." To Daddy, excuses were meaningless. What mattered was effort, resilience, and determination.

To be one of Daddy's children was to understand that striving for anything less than excellence was not an option. His discipline extended well beyond academics. Together with Mommy, he instilled in us the value of self-reliance. As a family while growing up, we worked the land, growing our own food and embracing the dignity of labour. While peers may have teased us about Daddy's strict methods, in the end, we reaped the fruits of his vision. His training, though firm, became a blueprint for success, even to the quiet admiration of those who once misunderstood him.

To be his friend was to be challenged to grow beyond limits you never imagined. And to be within his circle meant embracing one undeniable truth: you would succeed, because failure simply wasn't allowed. His teachings shaped not just his family, but an entire generation of people privileged to learn from him. He was firm.

Yet, beneath his firm exterior was a deeply compassionate soul. Though he carried himself with strength and unwavering resolve, his tenderness often revealed itself in the quietest moments especially within his family. Suffice it to say that, inwardly, Mommy is even a stronger person than Daddy. When two of his children fell gravely ill, the challenge was not only their recovery but how to break the news to Daddy. And when he finally learned of their condition, he did not disappoint. His uncontrollable tears bore witness to the depth of his heart. In this respect, he was, perhaps, the weakest in his family. That delicate balance of strength and softness was a hallmark of his character.

Beyond his relentless pursuit of excellence, Daddy was a man of profound humility. The Igbo proverb "Ezi afa ka ego" (*a good name is worth more than wealth*) was not just something he said, but something he lived. To him, wealth meant nothing if it compromised integrity. He believed that true fulfillment came not from possessions, but from a life built on honesty, diligence, and an untarnished reputation. He always cautioned us to keep our hands clean and reminded us that money can only offer comfort, but a good name brings peace, honor and true contentment.

Daddy was not just an accomplished man. He was a force of nature. A beacon of wisdom, discipline, and enduring principles. His presence commanded respect, not through loudness or authority, but through the quiet strength of his character. As a revered judge, his career was defined by integrity, fairness, and a relentless pursuit of justice.

A Quiet Philanthropist

Daddy touched countless lives. He did not forget the benevolence of his benefactors. He gave generously never for recognition, but out of a deep sense of purpose and responsibility. He sought opportunities to uplift others, often supporting people his own family only later came to know. He gave his family a charge to always do charity. According to Daddy, charity is a religion we all need to practice.



A Life Rooted In Family

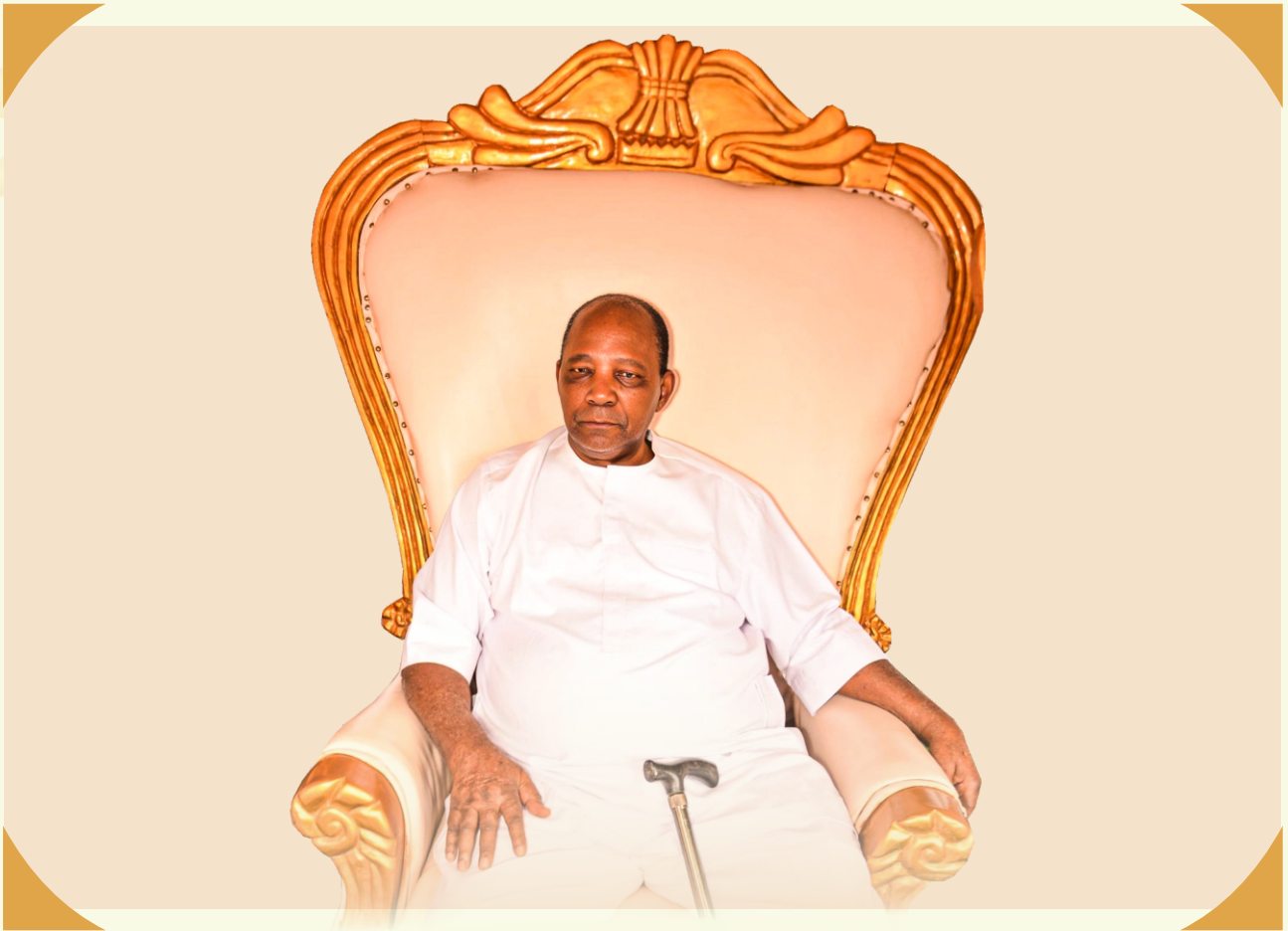
Daddy was not a man of many friends. He cherished a quiet and thoughtful life, and believed in meaningful, impactful friendships. One such bond that deeply enriched his life was with late Hon. Justice Eugene Chukwuemeka Ubaezonu, CON, JCA, whose friendship he held in the highest regard.

Daddy was a devoted husband to his beloved wife for over 54 years, and a father who raised his children with the same care, precision, and dedication that he brought to every aspect of his life. His world revolved around his family and his greatest joy was found in his family. In December 2019, at his request, all his children returned home with their spouses and grandchildren, filling the house with joy and shared memories. Again in December 2024, most of his children with their spouses and the grandchildren came home for another celebration, which culminated in what would become his final birthday celebration on January 2nd, 2025.

Surrounded by love, Daddy made a touching request that Mommy, his children and grandchildren join him for what would now be the last dance with Daddy on earth. That dance, unbeknownst to us, filled with grace and quiet farewell, has now and will forever be a sacred memory for the family.



Final Years And Enduring Legacy



For many years, Daddy cherished and answered with pride his father's Ozo title name, "Enyivuaku". But in 2022, he was formally initiated into the prestigious Ozo Society of the Ancient Nri Kingdom, where he received his own Ozo title name "Ogbunechendo" meaning *"an expansive tree that shelters many."* His Ozo title name aptly defined the life Daddy lived as a silent philanthropist.

He was a protector, a mentor, a man of deep principle, and a guiding light whose influence will continue to echo for generations. As his loved ones gather to honour his memory, they do so not only with sorrow, but with profound gratitude for the extraordinary legacy he left behind. His life was a masterclass in perseverance, and his teachings served as a roadmap to greatness.

Though his passing is painful, his family finds comfort in knowing that his legacy endures in the lives he shaped, the justice he upheld, and the boundless love he gave. His was not a life of unfulfilled dreams but a life poured out fully, faithfully, and with honour.

Perhaps Daddy's greatest lesson of all was the wisdom to know when a journey was complete. He embodied contentment, the rare grace of a man who knew he had lived well and fulfilled his purpose. He was never afraid of death. He met it with quiet readiness, knowing he had given his all to his family, to his profession, to his community, and to the values he held dear.

In his final days, when weakness became evident, Daddy gently declined hospital care, preferring the quiet dignity of home. It wasn't until the doctor insisted, that he agreed to go. That hospital visit, as it turned out, was the end as Daddy did not return home. But Daddy was ready to return to God Almighty, having lived a good, fulfilled and accomplished life.

As God would have it, Daddy transitioned peacefully on March 8, 2025 with his family gathered around him, both physically and virtually. A final gift of unity and grace.

Though his passing is deeply painful, his loved ones take solace in knowing that Daddy was prepared for this final journey. His life was not simply long, it was deeply purposeful. A life of service, love and unwavering conviction. A life that now inspires those he left behind to carry forward his legacy with courage, compassion, and faith.

Daddy, you lived with purpose, loved with depth, and led with quiet strength. Your legacy is engraved not just in the records of justice, fairness and equity, but in the hearts of all who knew you. We miss you dearly, but we carry your light forward with pride, with gratitude, and with love.

Rest well, Ogbunehendo.

Adieu our beloved Daddy.

Your work is done. May the angels welcome you with warm embrace.

Daddy's Surviving Relations

● WIFE:

Lady Constance Izualor Nri-Ezedi (Nne Udo)

● CHILDREN:

● SON

Hon. Justice Emeka Samuel Nri-Ezedi (Nigeria)

● DAUGHTERS

Dr. (Mrs.) Chinwe Ejikeme (USA)

His Worship Ndidi Onunkwo (Nigeria)

Mrs. Adaora Nri-Ezedi- Otti (UK)

Mrs. Uchenna Okhidemeh (Nigeria)

Dr. (Mrs.) Chinenye Nri-Ezedi-Anejionu (UK)

● SONS-IN-LAW:

Engr. Stanley Ejikeme (USA)

Hon. Justice Okechukwu Raphael Onunkwo (Nigeria)

Mr. Chukwuma Otti (UK)

Mr. Richard Okhidemeh (Nigeria)

Dr. Obinna Anejionu (UK)

● DAUGHTER-IN- LAW:

Dr. (Mrs.) Chisom Nri-Ezedi (Nigeria)

● GRANDCHILDREN:

Engr. Chukwudumebi Ejikeme (USA)

Chikosolu Ejikeme (USA)

Ifenlota Ejikeme (USA)

Dilichukwu Ejikeme (USA)

Kenechukwu Onunkwo (Nigeria)

Kosisochukwu Onunkwo (Nigeria)

Kasiemobi Onunkwo (Nigeria)

Kamdilichukwu Onunkwo (Nigeria)

Leslie Otti (UK)

Wesley Otti (UK)

Chiagoziem Nri-Ezedi (Nigeria)

Onochie Nri-Ezedi (Nigeria)

Ozioma Nri-Ezedi (Nigeria)

Ikenna Nri-Ezedi (Nigeria)

Ewela Oghena Okhidemeh (Nigeria)

Oshiozemeh Okhidemeh (Nigeria)

Oshiozemeh Okhidemeh (Nigeria)

Emoshoike Okhidemeh (Nigeria)

Icon Anejionu (UK)

Chizaram Anejionu (UK)

● HALF-SIBLINGS:

Chief Chukwuneke Nri-Ezedi (Ochudo)

Chief Chidube Nri-Ezedi (Ugonwanne)

Chief Ikwunne Nri-Ezedi (Isinawagu)

Mrs. Josephine Nwokoye

Mrs. Antonia Mmako

Mrs. Cordelia Ufom

Mrs. Nma Onuora

● SEVERAL COUSINS, NIECES AND NEPHEWS

Signed

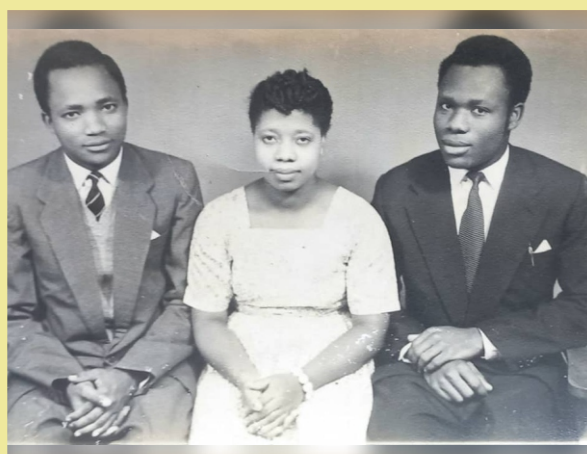
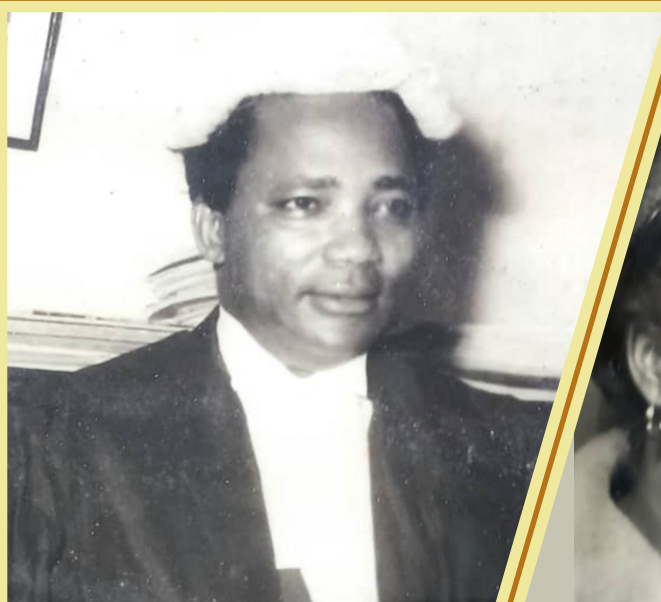
*Hon. Justice Emeka Samuel Nri-Ezedi
(For the family)*

PHOTO *Gallery*



Ogburnchendo











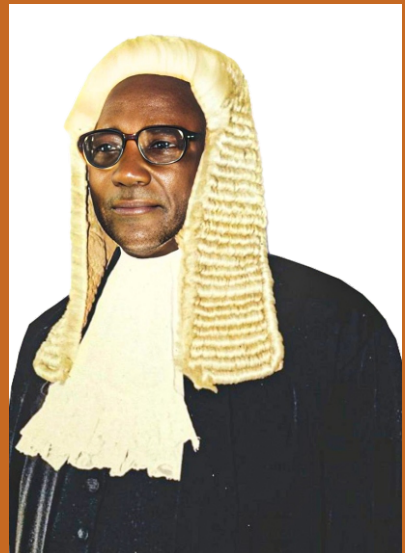


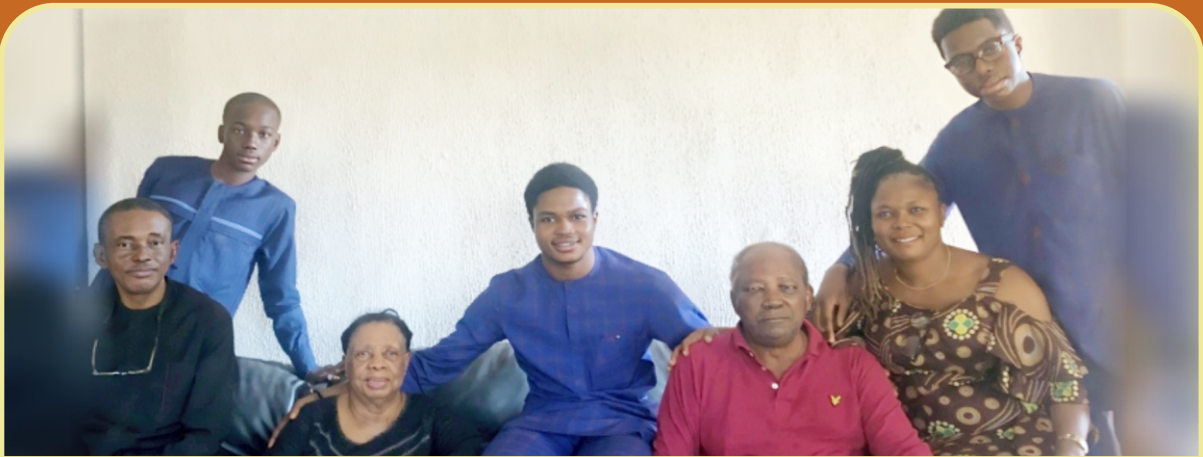
Daddy and His Surviving Brothers











Daddy With his Niece And her Family before She Relocated to UK in September 2022



Daddy And His Friend At The Piccadilly Circus In London



Dad, Mum And Late Hon. Justice Matthew Onyiuke At Judge's Conference In Abuja



Dad And Mum At The Vip Lounge Murtala Mohammed International Airport Lagos (2016) On Arrival From Uk.



Dad And Mum On Arrival At Heathrow Airport In London (2016)







*A Good Name Is Better
Than Riches*



OGBUNECHENDO

TRIBUTES



Tribute To My Beloved Husband

My love, my darling husband, my twin brother and my friend. So, it is time that I have to write a tribute about you in such an unexpected time. It is well. God knows why you should leave me now that we are very happy and enjoying life. You have always said that I should be strong and courageous and see myself as a man and not a woman. You believed in what I can do but it's not at all easy. Where is that sweet voice calling 'Connie you are the only thing I have in this life apart from the children'.

My darling I must thank you for the way we managed our troubles and hardship. We were able to carry our heads high as if there were no problems. We learnt to cut our coat according to our sizes. That helped a lot and continued our relationship for being contented with all we had. Thank you so much for telling me the truth always and hoping that things will get better. God opened the heavens and poured down blessings upon blessings upon us. We thanked Him for such encouragement. There are lots of blessings we received for bringing up the children together and helping the poorest of the poor to become somebody, you were a generous person. We thank God for granting us long life together after retirement. We did not only live happily together but also reaped the fruits of our lives. Thank you, Lord, for giving us such a happy united home.

My darling I can now see that you were really preparing for your journey back to your creator, hence you were always talking in parables, giving advice, singing and dancing, raising your hands to our father in heaven and thanking Him for what he has done for you. Darling, I miss you, I love you but God wants you back in heaven. Go well, continue resting in peace till we meet again. Adieu, Goodbye darling.

Your unforgettable Connie.

The Heart of My Foundation:

A Tribute to Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi (Rtd.)

How do you say goodbye to a man who was more than just a father, but the very foundation upon which your world was built?

Daddy, you were my first teacher, my guide, my protector, and my greatest example of strength, wisdom, and love. As your first child and daughter—Ada Umegbolu—I had the rare and sacred privilege of walking closest to your footsteps, seeing the world through your discerning eyes, and learning firsthand what it meant to live with purpose, dignity, and conviction.

Even when we were challenged, your deep sense of responsibility and the sacred obligation to provide for and protect your family never faltered. You were the steady force that anchored us, the quiet strength that gave us courage.

To the world, you were a towering figure, an accomplished jurist, a man of principle, a disciplinarian whose presence naturally commanded respect. But to me, you were simply Daddy, my unwavering pillar, the deep voice that reassured me, the wisdom that guided me, and the love that embraced me, often silently but always fully.

"Ezi afa ka ego" — "A good name is worth more than wealth."

You didn't just speak those words, you embodied them. You taught me and my siblings that true success is not measured by riches but by character, integrity, and service to others. You instilled in us the values of hard work, perseverance, and your unshakable belief that "there is no failure in hard work." Despite your many accomplishments, you lived simply, humbly, and with deep contentment. You didn't chase status or seek applause. Your joy was in your family, in the quiet companionship of Mummy, in the laughter of your children, in the lessons you imparted over dinner tables that became altars of wisdom. Those memories, those stories, are now part of the fabric we will wrap ourselves in for comfort and strength. Beyond being my father, you were my greatest role model. You showed me how to live with honor, to lead with quiet strength, to stand firm in my beliefs while remaining kind and compassionate. You taught me that ambition must never come at the expense of integrity.

Now, as I stand here grappling with the weight of your absence, I do not mourn without hope. The signs were there, but I did not see. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, my eyes were closed to the message in your words and actions.

Last December, God gave us a divine gift—time together as a family. You quietly began to tie up loose ends, ensuring unity and peace in both our nuclear and extended family. When you told me that only God would determine if we would meet again, I brushed it aside.

When you asked for a second hug, I smiled, unaware of the farewell tucked inside your gesture. How did I not see? It hurts beyond words to say goodbye. But I take comfort in knowing that you were ready—that you had lived fully, given selflessly, and left a legacy as expansive and sheltering as the Ogbunehendo tree whose name you so fittingly bore.

As Merle Haggard's words echo in my heart, I pray: "Lord, for my sake, teach me to take one day at a time." I still hear your voice gently calling me, "Ada Umegbolu," and I struggle with the ache of knowing I will not hear it again this side of heaven.

But today, I choose to celebrate you. I celebrate the life you lived, the truths you stood for, and the love you wrapped us in. You may be gone from our sight, but you remain deeply etched in our hearts. Your story doesn't end here—it continues through me,

through my siblings, your grandchildren, and every life you touched with your steady hand and generous spirit.

I promise you, Daddy, that my siblings and I will take care of Mummy. She will be fine—because that is all you would want.

Rest well, Daddy. You have run your race, and you have run it well. It is well.

I love you always.

Adieu, Umegbolu.

Jee ofuma, Ogbunehendo.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness...”

— 2 Timothy 4:7–8

With all my love,

Your Ada,

Ada Umegbolu.

A Tribute To My Daddy

This is my fifth attempt to chronicle this piece yet tears are still balling down my cheeks.

Let's dance in style, let's dance for a while

Heaven can wait, we are only watching the skies

Hoping for the best but expecting the worst

Are you gonna drop the bomb or not?

Let us die young or let us live forever

We don't have the power but we never say never

Sitting in a sandpit, life is a short trip ...

Daddy, for the soft spot you had for me that enabled me get away with a lot of things, even though I was playing with your emotions, knowing how soft you were within, I love you too daddy. Whenever I erred, I'll slip in an apology letter in your diary, knowing you must come out very early in the morning to read, I'll end each letter thus, "daddy remember I resemble your mother, forgive me." Boom, it worked the first time and kept on working. From my daddy, I learnt about climbing ladders, destiny, gratitude,

perseverance, and the benefits of hard work. I also learnt the benefits of humility, resilience, and fighting for what one thinks is right even at one's personal costs. Thank you for providing me with a never-ending sense of physical and emotional security whenever I am with you. Thank you for teaching me the importance of education and ensuring that my siblings and I got the best education. All the signs were there that you were about to transit to immortality. Firstly, in December 2024, you gave each of us further names. When it got to my turn, you said: Daddy: Ndidi, I'll call you Chief. I objected and told you to leave the "Chief" for the judiciary. You stuck to your guns.

Daddy: I also want you to be a Chief here. I then accepted. After all, you consistently asserted that I mistakenly came into the world as a female.

Secondly, when my elder sister was about to leave in January this year after the festivities of last Christmas, you requested her to hug you, and she did. You then made a similar demand of me. Thereupon, a voice within me silently said, "the last hug". I then declined and told you there was no need for the hug. After all, I am in Nigeria with you and we shall keep on seeing.

Finally, three days to your demise, I called you on the phone when my mummy complained you no longer sleep on your bed. The conversation went thus :

Ndidi : Daddy, what is the problem now? Just voice it out, and we'll provide a solution immediately.

The answer you gave was not cogent at all. I then remarked,

Ndidi: Daddy, I know you too well. You are tired of everything. But, please, start coming back, daddy. Ika ejero eje. Your father was over a hundred years before he died. You then responded,

Daddy: Eje go m. I am a fulfilled man.

On the 8th day of March 2025, when you were rushed to the hospital, even with the obvious signs we saw, we prayed for your survival. Unfortunately, it was time. My siblings and I watched you depart peacefully. According to the doctor, it was all over.

Daddy, my first love, my Odogwu, Enyivuaku, Ogbunechendo (I told you I'll never call you that name. I gave you my reason, which must remain our little secret), you left without saying goodbye.

It hurts deeply.

Adieu my hero, my diamond. Your death shall not be in vain. May your great soul rest in peace.

Your daughter, Du-du girl

A Tribute to My Beloved Dad,
Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi,
Chief Judge of Anambra State (Rtd.)

Finding the right words to express the depth of my sorrow, the weight of this loss, and the emptiness you have left in my life feels almost impossible. Since your departure, I have struggled to accept the bitter reality that you are gone—without waiting to see me as we had planned.

I still remember the joy in your voice when I told you I had bought my ticket to visit you and Mummy in May 2025. You were so excited as we talked about our morning walks in the compound, the time we would spend together. Little did I know that I would not meet you alive.

The evening you passed away is forever etched in my memory—a day of heartbreak and disbelief. I was on the phone with you throughout your short stay in the hospital, praying you would return home. But instead, you took your final breath, leaving us shattered.

My "Odogwu Nwoke," as I fondly called you, you have left a deep void in my heart by going at this time. I often look back to 2016 when I accompanied you for a medical check-up in the United Kingdom. Your fervent prayers and encouragement from that trip have remained a source of strength for me. I remember sitting beside you in the living room, making sure you were comfortable, and you would always say, "Ada m, go to the bedroom and rest." Those moments with you will always be cherished.

In 2020, when I had surgery, I remember how you cried uncontrollably. I avoided coming to your room so that you would stop, yet you kept checking on me, still in tears. When I finally recovered and got a job in the UK, I could still hear your joyful screams, with Mummy rejoicing. That joy will forever echo in my heart!

Daddy, you were a loving, caring, and kind-hearted father. You instilled a strong work ethic, a sense of responsibility, and values shaping every aspect of my life. You were disciplined yet soft-hearted, a man of unwavering principles and integrity beyond comparison.

Our relationship was one of deep affection and trust. You were not just my father but also my adviser, counselor, and closest confidant. I always looked forward to our Sunday calls, eager to hear your jokes and laughter.

I often marvel at how you effortlessly balanced your demanding career as a legal luminary with your responsibilities at home. Your role as a distinguished lawyer and a respected State High Court Judge never took away the warmth and love you showed to

your children, grandchildren, and extended family. Your remarkable career and outstanding performance in the judiciary speak volumes of your integrity and steadfastness. Your legacy in the legal world will never be forgotten.

Your passing was a great shock to all of us—Chukwuma, Leslie, and Wesley. We all feel the pain of your absence and believe it was too soon for you to leave us, but we take solace in God, knowing that your good works, values, and love for humanity will continue to speak for you even in your absence.

As the saying goes, "Uwa bu onye nocha ona." Life is but a fleeting journey. Daddy, you were prepared for this journey and lived a well-spent life—one of purpose, love, and wisdom.

You know I love you, and I always will.

Till we meet again in your true and eternal form.

Adieu, Daddy!

Adieu, Ogbunechendo!

Adieu, Odogwu Nwoke m!

Rest well, till we meet to part no more.

With love,

Your daughter,

Adaora NriEzedi-Otti.

A Tribute To My Role Model And Beloved Daddy

(Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Nri-Ezedi, Chief Judge Emeritus).

Daddy, I still cannot believe you are gone! I have tried to pen down this tribute several times but always gets overwhelmed with emotions and subsequent breakdown.

Your absence has left a big vacuum in me and unfortunately, this will last forever. You know I would have given anything to keep you alive, I tried all within my power to make you respond to the vigorous CPR we gave you that night, but you refused to respond.

Not even to my calls/screams for you to comeback.

My world literally stood still when the doctor confirmed to me and Emeka my brother that you have transited to the great beyond. It will take me a long time to come to terms with your demise. My consolation is the fact that you did not only pass on in my presence, but you passed on in my hands. This was your own way of saying "GOODBYE",

an act I will forever treasure and nurture because it reaffirmed the bond that we shared.

You were such an amazing man and a loving father. You were an embodiment of discipline. I mean who else can stick to a routine like you? You lived your life with so much precision. You had an unparalleled integrity, doing things right without fear or favour. You always stood on the path of Truth and Peace.

Ogbunechendo! As I fondly call you whenever I walk into your room of late; this tribute is not just me trying to make the world believe you were a nice man. You were indeed an extraordinary being, filled with wisdom and had a large heart that accommodated all. Your invaluable life lessons, mentorship and wisdom have made a profound impact in my life's model. You will forever remain my role model.

Your relocation to Enugu after your retirement afforded me a better opportunity of forging a greater and deeper bond with you and mum.

I still have the videos I made of you savouring the delicacy I prepared for you, smiling and dancing, and followed by your special way of always thanking me at the end. Little did I know that the last pounded yam and fresh fish Nsala I made the penultimate weekend before your demise was the last of my meals you will enjoy.

Oh! Death has taken away my friend and adviser. You remain an example of the man that God and Nature rewarded with great success for sowing truth, integrity, and peace in the sands of time.

Growing up I wondered why you always walked away from anything that will dent your image and integrity. The same things most people will go through any length to acquire.

To my Amazing confidant and Loving Dad, I want to say thank you for always being there for me and my siblings every step of the way, for your guidance, support, and unwavering love. It is impossible for me to pen down in words or vocalize through speech how much you meant to me, but I hope these words will come close to passing my message.

It is with deep emotions and an outpour of tears that I write you this tribute hoping that God Almighty delivers this message to you. I will forever Love you.

Adieu Daddy, my Dear Friend and Role Model, Ogbunechendo

You will forever live in my heart.

Tribute To A Pacesetter And My Polaris

Dearest Daddy, I am saddened by the sudden realisation that I will never see you again in this life. Daddy, your death has left a permanent mark in my heart. However, I know that we shall meet again in glory.

Daddy the life you lived has taught me a profound lesson, especially the importance of making an impact wherever I find myself, in my family, profession, and community, and to be charitable to others as much as I can. The attestation of many people received through various condolence messages, about your life and how you touched their lives heralds your journey to the Heavenly abode.

Daddy you were both a father and an exemplary figure in my life. The way you carried yourself with confidence, your gait, your stoic and calm features speak volumes. A very disciplined man you were. Your presence commanded good behaviour and respect. These unique traits of yours stood as sturdy pillars around me.

Permit me to use this opportunity to thank you for the unique name you gave me 'Chinenyendo' (God gives shelter), which I have not heard elsewhere. That name has enabled God's divine shelter and favour over me wherever I go.

Daddy, what I am today I owe to God and also to you for your guidance and advice. You are my pacesetter and Polaris. Your special attention and contributions to my education up to my PhD studies is well appreciated. For example, I remember how you particularly recalled and encouraged me to prepare for and attend Federal Government College even when I had resumed in another school. You also personally handed me over to a private teacher that successfully prepared me for my JAMB examination. In the same spirit I continued to forge ahead in my career in a way that turned out to be exactly what you yourself had dreamt of doing.

When I last met you in December 2024, you and mommy to my surprise gave me a new title 'Ada Oyibo International' and you jokingly told me that I am teaching the owners of book as I am a law lecturer in the UK. And on my day of departure during the holiday, you sat me down and started expressing a heartfelt appreciation of how I have continued on the path you were unfortunate to finish yourself. You told me and my husband some of my accomplishments that to my surprise, exactly aligned with what you had intended to accomplish in life. Apart from the fact, that we both attended and obtained our LLM from the same University of London.

You also told me that you took interest in the United Nation and International Law, which to my surprise is one of the subjects I now teach. I went ahead to do my law PhD which you wanted to do but unfortunately could not, as you had to leave the Britain to

Nigeria at the behest of you father. I am so elated that these surprising turn out of events in my career path which aligned with your life's dream brought so much joy to you. Now I know why you exclaimed in joy 'Chinenyendo, you have surprised me', the day I showed you my PhD certificate.

Your immense support during my wedding is also well appreciated. Even though I married from another state, I was honoured when you told me that you believe in my choice as you know that I am decisive in choosing things and told me to go well. Daddy words cannot express how I feel about you. My heart is filled with sadness as you have left us as well as joy derived from the knowledge that you died a happy man and in a good place. I take solace in the knowledge that one day we shall see again in the bosom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ecclesiastes 3:2 states that there is a time to be born and a time to die. Left to me, I would have wanted you to stay a bit longer, but I take it that it was the time that God has written for you to depart this earth. We cannot question God.

Farewell Daddy!

Dr Chinenyendo Nriezedi-Anejionu

Tribute From The Ejikeme Family

We are gathered here today to bid a heartfelt farewell to our beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Hon. Justice Emmanuel Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi, Chief Judge of Anambra State (Rtd.). His sudden passing has left a deep void in our hearts. My dear wife—his first daughter—is especially shattered by this loss, as we all are.

Although our time together was relatively short, we will forever cherish our shared memories. Hon. Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi's life was a testament to wisdom, integrity, and a profound clarity of purpose. We will never forget him for his strong will, sharp intellect, generous spirit, and relentless passion for learning.

As we join the chorus of jurists, the legal community, family, and well-wishers in mourning this remarkable man, we pause to reflect on the indelible mark he left—not only on the legal profession but also on the lives of everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

His illustrious career as a legal luminary and former Honorable Chief Judge of Anambra State is a powerful testament to his steadfast commitment to justice, equality, and the defense of human rights. His life's work inspires many, and we in the Ejikeme family are proud and honored to call him our father, an iconic jurist.

As we celebrate a life so beautifully lived, my family and his grandchildren remain

committed to upholding the values he holds dear. We will strive to emulate the excellence, wisdom, and integrity that defined his service to humanity. Even as we lay him to rest today, we affirm that his legacy—his pursuit of justice, mentorship, and unwavering dedication—will forever be our guiding light.

We find comfort in his enduring impact on this world and in knowing that his values will live on through us. We will continue to uphold the principles of kindness, empathy, and friendship he graciously embodied.

Rest in peace, my dear father-in-law. We pray that you are welcomed into eternal glory—to see the head once crowned with thorns and the hands once pierced for us all. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

May God grant the entire family the strength and grace to bear this significant loss.

Signed:

Engr. Stanley Uzodinma Ejikeme

Atlanta, Georgia, USA

A Life of Principle, A Legacy of love:
Honouring My Truly Remarkable Father-in-Law,
Hon. Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi, CJ, Rtd

Daddy, I have always expressed a personal wish that a day will not come when I will be constrained to pay tribute to the memory of any of my loved ones. Though nature has defied this wish a couple of times, exposing it as delusional, I still express it as an article of faith.

The 8th of March 2025 presented yet another occasion when nature rudely defied my wish. On that day, you departed from this world of matter and transited to higher glory. As a prelude, you made sure that all human contrivances that ought to be deployed to keep you in being were either delayed, not handy, or readily procurable. You utilized the intervening delay to seamlessly and quietly transit to eternity.

You led a good and fulfilled life all through your earthly existence. You were a loving and responsible son, a concerned and attentive brother and uncle, a doting and responsible husband and father, a charismatic and accommodating father-in-law, and a firm, principled, fair, just, incorruptible, but sympathetic and kind jurist. God blessed you roundabouts and prospered the works of your hands. You lived a remarkable life and died a happy death. You left indelible footprints on the sands of time.

We are now assembled to celebrate your life and legacy. You were a quintessential jurist,

embodying the highest ideals of justice and integrity. Your adroit handling of complex legal issues left an indelible mark on the judiciary, and your suave demeanour in the courtroom commanded respect from all. Your measured temperament, even in the most trying times, was a hallmark of your greatness. You navigated the turbulent waters of Anambra State's politics with courage and conviction, nullifying the illegal impeachment of Governor Peter Obi and upholding the rule of law. Your vivacious spirit and unwavering commitment to justice inspired countless individuals.

As a judicial officer, you were incorruptible, unshakeable in your dedication to the principles of justice and fairness. Your judgments were a testament to your intellectual rigor, gravitas, and experience. You were a shining example of excellence, finesse, and distinction.

Your academic achievements, including your Master of Laws degree, LL.M., from the University of London, situate you as an academic giant of profound intellectual sagacity. Your education at the prestigious Christ The King College, Onitsha (CKC), laid the foundation for your future success.

Today, we remember you not just as an outstanding jurist but as a pillar of integrity, a champion of justice, and a beacon of hope. Your legacy will endure and will continue to inspire generations to come.

May your memory be eternal, and may we draw strength from your example as we strive to uphold the values you held dear.

Daddy, requiescat in pace.

Your son-in-law

Okey

Tribute to a Hero and a Role Model of our Time

Daddy, your passing was a devastating shock—one I still struggle to accept. The void you left in my life is one that can never be filled. How do I come to terms with the fact that I will never again see your warm smile, hear your reassuring words, or feel the comfort of your presence?

You were more than a father-in-law to me—you were a father, a guide, a pillar of strength in my life. Your love and kindness knew no bounds. In the darkest moments, when the weight of life felt so unbearable, you were always there, standing by me and my family, lifting us up with your wisdom, your unwavering support, and your boundless generosity.

No problem was ever too big for you to face and no challenges too overwhelming for you. Daddy, you always had the right words to say, and the right advice to give in any circumstance. You carried our burdens as if they were yours, never once turning your back on us. Your presence brought light, peace, laughter and your words of encouragement brought hope to every one of us. My family will miss you so dearly!

It breaks my heart that you are gone because I never imagined that you would leave us so soon. I keep hoping to see your smile again, to hear your laughter fill the room, to feel that familiar warmth whenever I walked into your presence. But now, all I have are sweet memories of your last visit to my family in 2016—beautiful, precious memories of a man whose love was limitless, whose heart was pure, and whose life was a blessing to all who knew him.

I will not question God, for I know that you are resting in His bosom, free from pain and sorrow. The pain of losing you is still unbearable because the wish of every man is to have a father-in-law like you. I am blessed to have actually had one. You were a perfect gentleman, a man of honour and a rare gem.

Adieu, Daddy.

Adieu, Ezigbo Mmadu.

Adieu, Ogbu na eche ndo.

Till we meet again, never to part.

Mazi Chukwuma Tony Otti.

A Tribute To Daddy

Today, we gather our thoughts and hearts to honor the life of a truly special man, the patriarch of the Nri-Ezedi family. Daddy was a man of peace. His presence was calming, his words always gentle. His quiet wisdom and deep kindness spoke louder than any voice could. He carried himself with grace, never hurried, never harsh and wherever he was, there was a sense of calm and welcome.

He was the kind of man who made room for everyone, thoughtful, accommodating, and selfless. Daddy lived a life of quiet strength and unwavering dignity.

He loved his family in the most sincere and consistent ways. He gave of himself. Though he rarely sought the spotlight, his life was filled with deep devotion and lasting impact. His legacy is not written in grand speeches or dramatic gestures, but in the simple, everyday moments, the gentle smile, the patient nod, his quiet laughter, and the way he

always made others feel at ease. He taught us what it means to live with honor and to love with depth.

I will miss you more than words can say. Rest well, Daddy. Your journey was gentle, your heart was kind, and your memory will forever remain a blessing to all of us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Chisom Nri-Ezedi.

Tribute To A Superlative Father & Father-in-law
(Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel

Okoye Nri-ezedi, Chief Judge Emeritus).

Dear Ogbunechendo, It is impossible to describe the vastness of the personality that you represented. My epilogue of you can rightly be likened to the tale of the blind men being asked to give a description of the Elephant. I make bold to give a true and honest witness of the beauty you epitomized as a person, and it is with total disbelief I pen down this eulogy.

I never imagined that it would come this soon (certainly not this year). In my four plus decades on earth, I have been divinely gifted with two fathers (my biological dad M.A.B OKHIDEMEH & you HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL OKOYE NRI-EZEDI) laced with unmatched and exceptional humane traits, the type men will pray fervently for as if they are on their knees requesting to be blessed with a ball of diamond, yet the Almighty God was magnanimous to bequeath me with two.

Daddy! Something has happened to me! The thing is so great that I cannot weep but left confused. The news of your passing is like being led through the sharp thorns of the forest, where returning is impossible and going forward is a great difficulty.

Ooh! Death has waged war upon our house and Umegbolu the Iroko upon which we leaned has fallen. The patriarch of the Nri-Ezedi family has fallen into the deep sleep of eternity with all our entreaties to him unanswered, even the outburst of shouting in tears and vigorous shaking of your mortal body by my wife Uchenna could not lure you back to us.

Daddy, you know if there was any iota of possibility or the ability to circumvent death, we would have done it for you. The numerous lives you touched during your earthly sojourn would have spared nothing to make it happen.

In my sober state and reflection, I recall the soothing and the reassuring words you offered me during my father's demise in October 2018 and you kept to the role of being my father's you offered.

I never comprehended the subtle message you tried to pass to me on the 2nd of February 2025, when we discussed the success of mummy's December celebration and your dancing steps during the marking of your birthday, where I also informed you of my meeting Hon. Justice Patrick Amaizu of the Court of Appeal (RTD) who spoke so glowingly of you and your days in CKC Onitsha.

In your usual humble style, you brought up the issue of the gift I presented to you and mummy during the Christmas and thanked me again, calling me OKUNRIN META (Meaning Three Men in One) as you fondly wished to call me.

Mi Lord, using a popular Latin Maxim "Veni , Vidi Vici" (You came, you saw & you conquered). There is no doubt that you lived a fulfilled life; you made an indelible impact on the world and legal space, and you left your footprint in the sands of time.

You were a man robed in uncommon valor, a jurist per excellence, birthed with a unique and incorruptible mindset. A man of few words, but great and detailed in action and with an overflow of love, which has become a very scarce commodity in our today's world.

Though you may be gone, your memory, legacy of justice, wisdom and unwavering integrity will forever etch in our hearts. I'm grateful for the time we shared and the lessons I learnt from you. Your generosity, kindness, and compassion are inspiration to me to always be better in all I do. You can aptly be described as the "Man with the Beautiful Soul"

I am honored to have had the privilege to call you daddy.

Adieu Umegbolu.

Jee nke oma Ogbunehendo.

Your Son & In-law A.T. R Okhidemeh (OKUNRIN META)

Tribute to Hon. Justice E.U. Nri-Ezedi, Chief Judge (Emeritus):

A Remarkable Father-in-law

Dad the news of your death came as a shock to most of us, considering it was barely few months we were all together celebrating in thanksgiving to God for the gift of life. I can still feel the hot pang of tremor that seared through my heart as your daughter (my beloved wife) broke the news to me.

I vividly recall the brief conversation we had over the Christmas period, where you expressed your joy to be alive to see your children accomplish all your life dreams. The exhilaration beaming straight out of your face enveloped the entire room. During that

conversation I saw a very happy and fulfilled man, full of gratitude to God for His graciousness.

Despite reaching a ripe old age, the departure of a loved one always evokes profound emotions. As we mourn your departure to the realm beyond, we are consoled by the fact that you lived a good life and conquered the challenges the world threw at you to become who you were. Despite knowing you for a relatively short time, in you I gleaned the rare quality of greatness encapsulated in humility and simplicity. You left an indelible footprint in your professional career that changed the course of history. You lived a courageous, selfless and exemplary life, exhibited various virtues worth emulating, and touched the life of many who were lucky to cross paths with you.

You were a thoroughbred who exuded grandeur and confidence. Yet, despite your towering accomplishments, as a highly contented man, you chose to live a modest life.

You were generous with the gifts you received from God and never refrained from lending a helping hand to those in need.

We take solace in the knowledge that you died a happy and accomplished man.

Dad, your journey through the earth has been remarkable!

As you transition to the realms of glory, we pray that the Almighty God in His infinite mercy will grant you eternal rest.

We will forever miss you. May the angels of God guide you into God's paradise.

So long my beloved father-in-law!

Laa n'udo Ogbunechendo!!

Dr Obinna C.D. Anejionu

(Son-in-Law)

A Tribute to Grandpa

Though distance kept us apart for much of our lives, the impact of your life, Grandpa, has always reached us—across the miles, through stories, and in the quiet ways your legacy lives on.

For some of us, there was only one opportunity to meet you in person, yet even in that brief time, and through all that we've heard, we came to know the man you were: wise, kind, strong, and deeply devoted to his family.

Through the memories shared by our mom, we've come to understand your steady presence and enduring sense of right and wrong. We've heard of your integrity as a

judge, your deep love for Grandma, and the sacrifices you made to ensure your children—and by extension, we, your grandchildren—could live fuller, brighter lives.

We know that your life was built on hard work, self-respect, and a life shaped by meaning. The respect you earned was not demanded—it was given freely by all who saw how you lived, led, and loved.

Even though we didn't have many shared moments, your presence was always felt—in how lovingly our mom spoke of you, in the values she and our dad passed on, and in the way our family remains tightly bound together by love and respect.

Grandpa, we wish we had more time. But we are grateful for the stories, the memories, and that one precious visit. And most of all, we are grateful to be part of the legacy you left behind—a legacy that continues to inspire us to live with integrity, grace, and a deep love for family.

Thank you for the life you lived.

Thank you for the light you left in all of us.

We will carry your memory always, across the miles and in our hearts.

With love,

Your Grandchildren from Afar

Chukwudumebi, Chikosolu, Ifenlota, and Dilichukwu

A Poem For Our Grandfather

Don't think of him as gone away
his journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets
this earth is only one.
Just think of him as resting
from the sorrows and the tears
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.
Think how he must be wishing
that we could know today

how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.
And think of him as living
in the hearts of those he touched...
for nothing loved is ever lost
and he was loved so much.

Kc, Kosi, Kaka and Kamdi Onunkwo.

A Tribute To Our GrandDad

Grandpa, you were our greatest teacher, always present with words of wisdom and guidance for all your grandchildren, including my kid brother and me. You shaped us in ways we will never forget—not just through your advice, but through the way you lived your life.

You were a man of wisdom and kindness, leading with love and a quiet strength that made us feel safe. You taught us the value of hard work, the importance of standing by our word, and the power of a united family. Your laughter warmed our hearts, your advice gave us direction, and your presence filled us with confidence.

Mom always spoke of you with deep admiration. She told us stories of how you were both stern and loving, raising her with discipline yet always with a heart full of care. You commanded respect wherever you went—not just because of your authority, but because of the kindness and integrity you showed to everyone around you.

For me, one of the greatest gifts you gave was introducing me to *There Was a Country* by Chinua Achebe. That book opened my eyes to so much—history, identity, and the world in ways I had never seen before. It’s a lesson I will always carry with me, just like the many you passed down to both Wesley and me.

Wesley and I will always cherish the moments we shared with you—the stories, the lessons, and the profound imprint you left on our lives. Even though you lived a long and meaningful life, it still hurts to say goodbye. But as we mourn, we take comfort in knowing that you are watching over us from heaven.

Thank you, Grandpa, for everything. We miss you, we love you, and we will always carry you in our hearts.

— **Leslie & Wesley Otti**

Dear Granddad,

Are you really gone? It’s still hard to believe I won’t see you again. From the earliest days of our childhood, we spent so many holidays with you—moments filled with laughter, stories, and memories that I will hold in my heart forever.

You did so much, not just for us, but for everyone who had the privilege of knowing you. I will always remember what you told me with pride in your voice: “So, we have two doctors in the family. I’m so happy. Study fast and bring home our certificates.” I promise, Granddad—I’ll finish medical school and bring home that certificate, just like you wished.

I won't forget how excited you were when I became the best graduating student in SS3, or when I did well in my WAEC. Your joy lit up the moment. There's so much going through my mind now as I remember your love, your discipline, and your quiet kindness.

I'll never forget the laptops you got for me and Onochie to help with our learning, or how we all laughed when you playfully tapped Ikenna for making noise. And of course, the way you always welcomed us during the holidays—with open arms, warm smiles, and thoughtful gifts. Those moments will stay with me, always.

Grandma told us how, in your final days, you danced—saying you had finished all you were meant to do here on earth. Though my heart aches, I find peace knowing that you left fulfilled and joyful.

May your kind and gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Amen.

— With love, always.

Onochie says:

Though you may be gone, your memory will always live in my heart. I choose to celebrate your life—a life of quiet greatness, strength, and love. You were a pillar in our family, and your kindness brightened the lives of everyone around you. The moments we shared were priceless, and I will miss you deeply.

I won't question God, because I know you are in a better place. Death may have taken you from us, but your spirit lives on in all of us.

Rest in peace, Grandpa. Your memory will forever be a blessing. Adieu.

Ozioma says:

I find comfort in knowing that one of us is now watching over us from heaven. You had such a kind heart and always stood for truth and justice. As a judge and a father, you built the Nri-Ezedi family into what it is today. We promise to carry on your legacy with honor.

You reached great heights and fulfilled your purpose. I only wish I had the chance to say goodbye—to hear your voice just once more.

But I am forever grateful to have had you as my grandfather.

Rest well, Granddad.

Ikenna says:

Grandpa, I want to talk to you, but my daddy said you are in heaven. One day, I will see you again and we will talk just like before.

Rest well, Grandpa. I miss you.

Your Grandchildren

Chiagoziem, Onochie, Ozioma, and Ikenna Nri-Ezedi.

Tribute To Granddaddy,

Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi

Of all the people in the world, there is one who remains unforgettable—our Granddaddy.

Each day, we are reminded of the lasting impact you had on our lives. With a heart full of kindness and a gentle strength that inspired everyone around you, you left an imprint on our hearts that time can never erase. Your signature smile—always so warm—lingers in our memories, often paired with the rhythm of music playing from your beloved radio, your fingers tapping softly on your chair to the beat. It was in these simple moments that your joy radiated most.

We always looked forward to spending holidays at your home. It was never a place of loneliness, but one of laughter, love, and genuine happiness. With you and Grandmummy, our days were filled with light and a sense of belonging that we cherished deeply.

“A good name is better than riches”—these words capture the essence of who you were. Granddaddy, your name is truly a crown of honor. You were a man of great integrity, a trailblazer in the legal profession, and a guardian of justice.

Your career spanned decades, and yet your legacy goes far beyond your achievements. It is rooted in the lives you touched, including ours.

You taught us that integrity is not optional—it is essential. That education is not a scam, but a powerful ladder to a brighter future. Your passion for the law and the values it upholds were deeply contagious. You taught us to stand tall in the face of life’s trials and never let challenges define us.

Your sense of humor was unique, your counsel always wise, and your presence—simply reassuring. You were a ray of sunshine, and being with you was always intriguing and uplifting. We are grateful to God for the countless moments we shared with you—moments that are now precious memories.

As we reflect on your life and honor your legacy, we take comfort in knowing that your spirit continues to live in us. You were—and will always be—one of a kind.

Adieu, Granddaddy.

We love you dearly.

Rest in peace.

From Okhidemeh Ewele-Oghena, Oshiozemeh, Oshiozemeh and Emoshoike.

Tribute To Our Grandpa

Our maternal grandpa was a special man in our lives. When I first met him, he was cheerful and funny. He talked to us about many things. It was interesting and entertaining.

He was a chief judge in Anambra State and was famous around there. He won many awards about law. He inspired my mom to be a lawyer as well. Despite how he was well known in Anambra, he was always so humble about it when he talked to me and Zara about himself.

When we visited him again in 2025, he welcomed us happily and asked us how life was in the UK. It was a nice experience.

In conclusion, he was an excellent man and I will never forget him.

Icon & Zara Anejionu

Tribute To Our Dear Uncle

Late Hon. Justice Umuegbolu Nri-Ezedi (Ogbunechendo)

Death cannot be a person's end if he can live on in those who have been left behind, because our bodies are only wilted leaves on the tree of life. Rest in peace uncle.

They continue to influence our every day decisions and their love leaves an incredible ink in our memories.

It is an honour for our lives to be enriched by such souls. Losing someone you're close to is something that alters your life forever.

Adieu uncle.

Continue to rest in the bosom of God.

From Nzekwesili's children.

Funeral Tribute to My Dearest Uncle,
Lt. Justice Emmanuel Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi

(My Mum's Immediate Younger Brother, Mercy Nweke, Nee Nri-Ezedi)

Today, with a heart heavy as stone, I stand in this moment that I had prayed would never come so soon — to say goodbye to my darling uncle (my mum's immediate younger brother), Lt. Justice Emmanuel Nri-Ezedi. How does one begin to describe the loss of someone so deeply cherished? Someone whose life was a tapestry of generosity, strength, and unwavering love?

He was not just my uncle. He was a father-figure, a mentor, a constant presence — a mighty sheltering tree under whose shade so many of us found comfort and support.

He was the immediate younger brother to my late mother, Aunt Mercy, and their bond was something sacred.

When my mother got married, he didn't just cheer her on from a distance — he stepped in, supported her through life's battles, and extended that love to her children and even her grandchildren. He carried our burdens as if they were his own, and never once asked for anything in return. I still remember how he quietly paid the tuition fees of some of my cousins — my mother's grandchildren — without ever seeking recognition or praise. He even helped re-roof my mother's matrimonial home, ensuring it remained a place of dignity and shelter after my father passed.

Uncle was there for our family during our darkest hours — during my father's burial in 2002, and again, with unwavering strength and support, during my mother's funeral in 2016. He gave his time, his resources, and his heart. And he did it all with grace.

He was a true philanthropist, not just by title, but by the way he lived his life. He derived joy — true, pure joy — from giving. I often think of him as an udala tree in the midst of people. A tree that gave its fruits freely — sweet, abundant, and without reserve. People plucked and plucked, yet somehow, Uncle continued to flourish, to blossom, and to bear new fruits. He was a blessing that kept giving.

Even in his final years, his heart remained as open and giving as ever. My last encounter with him was in September 2022, just before I left Nigeria to begin a new chapter of my life in London. I took my husband and children to visit him in his beautiful home in Enugu. That day remains etched in my heart — not just for its joy, but for its quiet farewell that I didn't recognize at the time.

His home was a place of laughter that day, filled with his grandchildren and his son, Emeka. There was so much life in that house. He welcomed us with open arms, sat with

us, offered us drinks, and shared in our joy. He spoke blessings over me and my journey abroad, and those words — those sacred, heartfelt prayers — have followed me every day in the UK. I still have the pictures we took on my phone, and I often look at them now with tears in my eyes.

Little did I know that would be the last time I would see him. When I got the text about his passing, I was at work in London. The world around me seemed to freeze. I stepped away from my desk, sat down, and just... paused. Because in that moment, all the plans I had for him — to return with my children and laugh once more in his warm, embracing home — were shattered. I had looked forward to going back to Nigeria, taking my kids straight to his doorstep, and basking in his stories, his warmth, his laughter. But God had other plans.

Uncle, your absence is a gaping wound in our hearts. Yet, your legacy lives on. In the homes you helped restore, in the lives you educated, in the prayers you said over us, in the love you gave without limits.

You were a rare gem. A man of honour, generosity, and deep love. A tree whose roots dug deep into the earth, nourishing everyone who came near.

Sleep well, my darling uncle. You gave us so much — too much, maybe — and asked for so little. May heaven receive you with the same kindness you poured into this world.

I will forever cherish that last hug, that last smile, that last prayer. And I will carry your memory with me, always.

Rest in perfect peace, Umegbolu (as my mum, Mercy fondly called). You are irreplaceable.

Your niece,

Nkechi C. Onukwube

London, United Kingdom.

Tribute To My Elder Brother

Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Nriezedi Emeritus Anambra State)

It is with sadness and heavy heart that I received the news of your death. It has convinced me of the biblical saying that there is time for everything. Time to live and time to die. I miss your sublime dedication to duty, steadfastness and belief. You were there for me as a big brother. Your death has created a vacuum in my life which will be difficult to fill. I pray that God grants eternal repose to your soul and grant us the fortitude to bear your loss.

Adieu Chief Judge Emeritus

Adieu Ogbunaechendo

Adieu Ezigbo nwannem.

Chief Chukwuneke Clement Nriezedi (Ochudo).

Tribute to My Beloved Brother,

Hon. Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi (Chief Judge Emeritus)

The news of your passing came as a deep and painful shock. It felt as though an Iroko tree had fallen, strong, noble, and deeply rooted. A mirror that reflected truth, integrity, and honor has shattered. Though we may not understand, we do not question God, whose ways are beyond ours.

Ogbunaechendo, you lived a life marked by openness, discipline, and kindness. You were generous with your time, your resources, and your heart. A cheerful giver, a listening ear, a gentle guide, your life touched so many in quiet, meaningful ways. The Nri-Ezedi family, and indeed the entire Nri community, were blessed by your presence. To us, you were truly Godsent.

You were always my brother, not just by blood, but in spirit. No matter where life placed us, that bond remained strong. I remember clearly how our father, while sharing land among his sons, directed the two of us to go together to Odubulu for our portion. That gesture, simple as it seemed, spoke volumes of the unity between us.

You were never greedy or self-seeking. Your heart was content, your hands clean, and your life an example of humility and fulfillment.

Your humility was your strength, and your life a quiet example to all who knew you.

Ogbunaechendo, I miss you dearly. We all miss you. But even in this sorrow, I give thanks for the gift of having you as my brother. Your memory will always live on in my heart.

Until we meet again, rest peacefully in the Lord's embrace.

With love,

Chidube Nri-Ezedi

(Ugonwanne)

For Umu Uzoamaka

Tribute To a Great Icon

Your exit came to me as a deep shock because you were one of the strongest, bravest, and kindest of humans.

You were like my older brother since I was a child. You were a source of immense joy to my family, and I was always excited to spend time with you, particularly each time you visited us back in the 1960s when my family resided in Jebba, Niger state. Your presence always gave me a sense of relief, knowing that my father would not subject me to any type of discipline during the periods of your visits.

When I suffered from severe knee pain, which prompted me to undergo kneesurgery; you supported me financially, and that gave me a new lease of life.

You had always stood solidly behind my family and supported us through our travails in life, and I am most grateful for your generosity.

Having attained the peak of your illustrious career as a legal luminary, you brought honour and fame to the Nriezi family and the people of Nri.

Your dedication to the entire Nriezi family was unwavering, something I admire and cherish. And your absence has left a huge void that would be hard to fill.

As I take solace in the book of Psalm 34.18, which says, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

May you find eternal rest in the bosom of the Lord.

Farewell, my big brother!

Farewell, Ogbunehendo!!

Mrs. Edna Ndukuba

Tribute To a Patriarch

It is with a heavy heart and deep sense of loss that I write this tribute. I was shocked to the marrow on receiving a text message from my mother on your passing away because after my last conversation with you over the phone, I had no inkling that you would be leaving us soon.

You were a man of unparalleled integrity; unflinching in doing what was right, even when it was unpopular or difficult.

Your strong moral compass and honesty were evident in everything you did. It was those outstanding qualities that propelled you to the top of your distinguished career in the legal profession.

In 2017, you supported me financially in my pursuit of a full-time graduate degree program abroad. You also asked me to know how I was coping.

I cannot thank you enough for also being supportive of my mother and, particularly, her siblings through the years.

As I commiserate with the entire Nriezedi family on the passing away of their patriarch. I hope they also follow in your footsteps and the indelible legacies you left behind.

On behalf of the entire Ndukuba family and people of Abouhuana village, Ndiowu,

I say a big FAREWELL.

Chukwuemeka Ndukuba

Texas, USA

A Fond Farewell to a Cherished In-Law

The news of your passing caught us unawares. I had been reliably informed just a few weeks earlier that you were hale and hearty—so much so that you actively participated in the Auntie's recent inauguration as 'Nne Udo' at the CMS Church, followed by your birthday events, in which you looked every bit fit. Indeed, I have always seen you as a person of unflinching strength and resilience, rarely succumbing to illness. As we come to terms with your departure, we resign all matters to the Heavenly Father, whose wisdom surpasses all understanding and who alone knows what has transpired.

Though the years have rolled by, I first met you in late 1970, when you and Auntie returned from the United Kingdom, and made Onitsha a home. I recall that our subsequent encounters became less frequent which was not surprising given the considerable distance between us and the complexities of returning to life back home. However, this later changed, and our interactions became more frequent during your time as a Solicitor in Otuocha and my tenure at Umuleri General Hospital.

You were a great in-law and as you depart into the realm beyond, I salute you. With your passing, we are left to cherish the memories of our moments together. You had an incredible knack for crafting jokes, which, in my view, contributed to your warm relationships with people—especially your clients, at the time in Otuocha. That gift laid the foundation for your special bond with your great friend, Chief Okeke Erico - a respected community stalwart. Now you are cruelly out of reach, we take solace in the belief you are in a more restful place.

It was such a pleasure to have known you and to have had you as an in-law. I wish to

express how much I cherished that privilege. If there was one thing that stood out, it was your love for Auntie, which I witnessed firsthand during your visit to the UK. I found this especially remarkable because of the deep and unique bond you shared - it was truly astonishing. We are comforted by the meritorious and fulfilling life you lived, as well as the remarkable legacy you left behind - a legacy of raising well-educated children, including accomplished lawyers, making your home a family of legal minds. We honour this remarkable achievement, which reflects your deep understanding of the value of family education.

We know you are in a much better place. You have simply transcended to a higher plane of peace and calm, resting comfortably in the bosom of the Almighty.

Depart in peace, embraced in Heavenly love. We bid you farewell in sorrow, yet with faith that we will meet again in eternity. Rest in perfect peace among the Saints, embraced in divine presence in your newfound realm. Until we meet again, sleep peacefully.

Adieu!

Dr Leonard Okonkwo & Family,

To A Great Man
Late Hon Justice Umegbolu Nriezedi (Rtd)

On behalf of the family of Late Gabriel Okafor and the entire Members of Okafor Nwatuwi (Ononikpo) family of Umuochogu kindred, Nri, I write to commiserate with you on the passing of your beloved Patriarch Late Hon Justice Umegbolu Nriezedi (Rtd), who died peacefully on Saturday March 8th, 2025.

It was with heavy heart and deep sense of loss that we received the sad news of his demise.

However, it is the will of God Almighty, the maker of all things to call him home at this stage as a nanogenerarian.

As an accomplished Legal luminary, he has left behind a huge shoe you have to battle to fit but we have no doubt that you are all well prepared to keep the candlelight burning. It is our expectation that you will continue to look after your mother he left behind diligently and we pray that God in His infinite mercy will provide you all the fortitude to bear the great loss. May his soul rest in peace, Amen.

Sir Innocent Okafor

For Okafor Nwatuwi (Ononikpo) family.

Tribute To Ozo Ogbunehendo Of Nri

(Late Hon Justice Umegbolu NriEzedi, Anambra State Chief Judge Emeritus)

An Iroko has fallen! We are deeply saddened to learn about the sudden demise of Ozo Ogbunehendo of Nri - Hon Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi (Rtd) and former Chief Judge of Anambra State.

March 8, 2025, was indeed a sad day for our family as our beloved Aunt (Ezinne Lady Constance Nri-Ezedi) lost her best friend and husband of 54 years.

Ogbunehendo was a man of few words. However, behind that demeanour of near taciturn disposition and signature smiles lied a firm and resolute character who never compromised convictions, values and discipline. His "No" was "No"!

He was an accomplished legal giant on the bar and bench; an outstanding jurist who placed ethics, integrity and discipline over material gains.

May God comfort our auntie and cousins on the sudden passing of Ogbunehendo and grant eternal rest to the gentle soul of the departed.

Adieu Ogbunehendo.

Chudi Nwabueze on behalf of Charity's children

Tribute to Ógbúnehendo Nà Nri

May I, on behalf of the family of Late Reginald Okafor (Ónónikpo) of Úmúochiógú Obeagú NRI commiserate with the entire Nri-Ezedi family on the demise of our great in-law, Hon Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Nri-Ezedi (Chief Judge Emeritus, ÓGBÚNECHENDO NA NRI).

Hon Justice was a great man, an erudite Jurist whose legacies will remain undeleted in the memories of the great people of Anambra and the Country in general.

An outstanding case that attracted global recognition, for which he will forever be remembered was the judgement delivered by him that brought back to power, Mr. Peter Obi (Okwute Nigeria) as Anambra State Governor, after his illegal impeachment. Ógbúnchendo is well known for his straight forwardness and meticulous nature.

St Mary's Ang. Church Nri will not forget in a hurry the financial roles he and his family played towards the hosting of the Synod and the Women Ministry during the conferment of Nne Udo (Mother of Peace) on his dear wife and our Matriarch, Lady Constance Nri-Ezedi. It was just awesome and marvelous in our eyes.

What more can I say? I urge the entire family to take solace in the fact that

Ógbúnychendo nàlú àna considering the grace of longevity endowed on him by the Almighty God. Eccl 3: 1-2 say:

_To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. _

_A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted. _

We therefore surrender to the Majesty of the Most High God.

Adieu Daddy!

Adieu C.J.!!

Adieu Ógbúnychendo!!!

Gàà ije gí nke ma, may your gentle soul rest peacefully in the bosom of the Lord, Amen!!!!

Uchenna Okafor (Ónónikpo)

For the family.

Tribute to My Boss

It's still a great shock to me up till this moment that my Boss, a friend and a father whom I have worked with for 20 years now is said to have gone in the (great beyond). Throughout my service to him as a driver, he has never treated me like a hired servant rather he extended full hands of fatherhood and a son to me. Time may not permit me to enumerate how much he has impacted in my life and my family. My prayer is that the almighty God will reward him and grant his gentle soul to rest in the Bossom of the Lord Amen.

Rest on My Boss, Rest on my friend, Rest on Ogbunechendo na Nri.

From your driver

Simon Emeka Nkasiobi

A Heartfelt Tribute to My Guardian and Father

— Hon. Justice U. Nri-Ezedi

With deep appreciation and love, I write this tribute to a man who changed my life in the most beautiful way. Hon. Justice U. Nri-Ezedi — whom I lovingly call Daddy — was more than a guardian to me. He became my true father. With the support of his lovely wife, he welcomed me into his family with open arms and gave me the kind of care and support every child longs for. From my secondary school days through university, Daddy was there — providing, encouraging, and lifting me up. He didn't just raise me; he shaped me into who I am today.

He had a heart filled with compassion — pure and selfless. He touched lives far and wide, never limiting his love and kindness to just those related to him. He cared for people simply because it was in his nature to do good. That's what made him so special — an icon of humility and grace.

Everyone who met him admired him. His words brought comfort, his actions showed integrity, and his presence gave people strength. To me, he was a blessing sent from God — a true father figure, my mentor, and my biggest supporter.

Though it breaks my heart that he is no longer here, I am eternally thankful to have known and been loved by him. His legacy will live on in me — in my actions, my values, and the way I love others.

Daddy, I never knew that a day like this will come when you will no longer be here with us, people like you are not supposed to die but all the same, we can not question God.

Continue to rest in the bosom of your Creator till we meet again.

Thank you, Daddy, for everything.

With all my love,

Chekwube

Tribute to a Remarkable Man

I honor the memory of a man who was more than just an icon—he was like a father to me.

Growing up in your presence was a constant source of guidance, strength, and discipline. You weren't one to raise your voice, but your words carried weight. Soft spoken yet firm, the gentle authority shaped the way we behaved and, unknowingly at the time, the kind of person I would one day become.

I still remember how you would caution us kids to quiet down while you rest after a long day at work. Back then, it seemed strict. Now, as a father myself, I understand those moments deeply. Your patience, endurance, and dedication were lessons I didn't fully grasp until much later in life.

You taught us respect—not just through words, but through action. Through discipline, you showed us love. Through structure, you gave us freedom to grow and make mistakes. And through your quiet strength, you have left a legacy that continues to live on in each of us.

Though you're no longer with us, your values, character, and influence remain ever-present as I carry them with me every day.

Rest well, sir. Your legacy lives.

Akosa Machie

In Sweet Memory of a Father Whose Presence Commands Discipline

Daddy, From my earliest years in kindergarten till this moment, I have always called you Daddy. Yes, you were not only a father to your children, but you are also a father to me. A steady presence, a guiding hand, a gentle but firm voice of mentorship. That is how we grew and become adults that are not broken.

I cherish the time I spent with you and mummy during December last year. You were gallantly relaxed, cheerfully welcoming, and effortlessly warm to everyone who walked in, asking for their welfare and general well-being. Little did I know, in your quiet dignity and joyful spirit, you were celebrating your last days on earth just as a true hero would, full of grace, strength, and love.

The news of your passing hit me hard. I was not prepared. None of us were. You took Mummy unawares too, clutching onto the sweet memory of the dance video you both shared on your birthday. That moment was joyful, full of life and love. It now stands as a powerful symbol of your union, your happiness, and the beauty you brought into the lives of those you love.

You asked after Ada with so much anticipation. How I wish you had waited just a little longer. She was already preparing to visit you and Mummy. She was so looking forward to that reunion. The news of your passing has left her and everyone heartbroken.

Daddy, my heart is hurting. But even in this sorrow, we find solace in the beautiful memories you created. You lived a life that was rich with purpose and values, integrity, hard work, kindness, and service to others. Your legacy is not just in what you did, but in

how you made people feel: respected, loved, and uplifted. You were a quiet giant, a pillar of wisdom, principled and a unifier.

Thank you for the values you lived by and shared so freely. The legacy has been imprinted, it will transcend generations.

We are grateful to have you in this lifetime

Rest in eternal peace,

forever missed.

Tribute written by- Chibogu Ifeyinwa Oranachu(nee Ogbogu)

*Tribute to Late Hon. Justice
Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri- Ezedi*

The family of Late Rev. Canon A.C. Mbakwe extends our heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi. He was not only a distinguished figure in the legal community but also a cherished family friend whose warmth, wisdom, and kindness left a lasting impression on us all. His legacy of integrity and service will continue to inspire us. May his soul rest in perfect peace, and may his family find comfort in the beautiful memories you shared with him.

With deepest sympathy,

The Late Rev. Canon A.C. Mbakwe and Family.

Condolences

From Judges/SANs/Lawyers



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The Imo State Hon. Attorney General *Emeritus*

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A TRIBUTE TO HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL NRI-EZEDI

(Chief Judge Emeritus, Anambra State)

The passing of Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Nri-Ezedi is not just the loss of a distinguished jurist; it is the departure of a man whose life embodied the highest ideals of justice, courage, and integrity. Throughout his career, he upheld the law with unwavering dedication, believing, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. so aptly put it, that *"the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."*

Indeed, his life's work was a testament to this truth; he stood for what was right, even in the face of adversity, knowing that justice, though sometimes delayed, must always prevail.

Few judges have left a mark as profound as that of Hon. Justice Nri-Ezedi. His judgments were not dictated by fear or political convenience but by the immutable principles of fairness and constitutionalism.

At a time when Anambra State was thrown into political turmoil, he stood as a beacon of judicial independence. Against immense pressure, he nullified the illegal impeachment of Governor Peter Obi, restoring not just a man to office but reaffirming the very foundation of democratic governance. In that moment, he exemplified the words of Edmund Burke:

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Hon. Justice U.E Nri-Ezedi did not stand by; he acted, and in doing so, he safeguarded democracy.

"A judge should be as learned as the law, as fearless as truth, and as impartial as justice."

These words aptly describe his judicial philosophy. His tenure as Chief Judge of Anambra State may have been brief, but its impact was enduring. He believed that justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done.

Beyond the courtroom, he was a scholar of immense depth. His formative years at Christ the King College (CKC), Onitsha, instilled in him a passion for excellence. He later honed his legal mind at the University of London, where he obtained both his Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) and Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees. His intellectual brilliance shone in every argument he articulated, every verdict he delivered, and every principle he defended.

To his family, especially Hon. Justice E.S. Nri-Ezedi of the Anambra State High Court, I extend my deepest sympathies. The loss of a father is immeasurable, but as Marcus Aurelius wrote:

“What we do in life echoes in eternity.”

Hon. Justice U.E Nri-Ezedi’s legacy will endure, not just in legal records but in the hearts of those who uphold justice with the same courage and conviction he displayed.

His Lordship lived a life of service, duty, and honor. He fought the good fight, upheld the law with dignity, and left an indelible mark on the judiciary. As we remember his towering legacy, we take comfort in the words of Scripture:

“Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord.” (Matthew 25:21)

May his soul find eternal rest, and may his legacy continue to inspire generations to come.



Chukwuma-Machukwu Ume, SAN, FCI Arb.

The Imo State Attorney-General ***Emeritus***

&

The Diamond Son of Ûbàhà Akpulu Women Society,

Aba.





6th April, 2025

HON. JUSTICE E.S. NRI-EZEDI
Anambra State High Court
Nnewi Judicial Division
Anambra

My Lord,

A TRIBUTE TO A TITAN OF THE BENCH; LATE HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL
OKOYE NRI-EZEDI

The Partners, Associates and Staff of Obra Legal extends its heartfelt and most sincere condolences on the passing of your esteemed father, the late Chief Judge Emeritus of Anambra State, Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi.

His Lordship was not merely a judge; he was an institution, a beacon of justice, and a guiding light for generations of legal practitioners. His tenure as Chief Judge was marked by unwavering dedication to the rule of law, a commitment to fairness, and an unyielding pursuit of justice for all who sought it within the courts of Anambra state.

We at Obra Legal remember with profound respect his intellectual prowess, his insightful judgments, and his tireless efforts to strengthen the judiciary in Anambra State. He was a jurist of exceptional caliber, whose wisdom and integrity shaped the legal landscape of our time. His contributions extended beyond the courtroom, as he served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless lawyers and judges, instilling in them the values of diligence, ethics, and a deep reverence for the law.

The impact of his Lordship's service will continue to be felt for years to come. His legacy is etched in the annals of Anambra State's legal history, a testament to a life dedicated to upholding the principles of justice and equity.

My lord, we recognize that this is a time of immense grief. We want you to know that the legal community in Anambra State and beyond shares in your sorrow. We also acknowledge with respect your own dedication to the cause of justice, a path undoubtedly influenced by the exemplary career of your late father. Though his physical presence is no longer with us, the spirit of his judicial wisdom and his unwavering commitment to justice will forever remain an indelible part of Anambra State's legal heritage.

On behalf of Obra Legal and the entire legal community we serve, we offer our deepest sympathies to you, your family, and all those who mourn the loss of this remarkable legal luminary. May his gentle soul find eternal repose. Amen.

With deepest sympathy,


IYOM, A. J. OFFIAH, SAN, FCARB.
Principal/Founding Partner


IKECHUKWU ONUOMA, SAN
Managing Partner


NNEZI IVENSO, FCARB
Partner

A.J. OFFIAH & CO. (REBRANDED)

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11th April, 2025

A TITAN OF THE BENCH: A TRIBUTE TO HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL NRI-EZEDI, CHIEF JUDGE (RTD.), OGBUNECHENDO

It is with a profound sense of loss yet deep gratitude for a life so well lived that I, on behalf of my family and the A. N. Anyamene Chambers & Co., pay tribute to **Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Nri-Ezedi**, a towering figure of wisdom, integrity, and justice whose departure has left an indelible void in the legal profession and beyond.

Though my interactions with His Lordship were few, they were enough to reveal the depth of his intellect, the firmness of his convictions, and the kindness of his heart. He was not just a judge in title but in spirit—an arbiter of truth, a beacon of fairness, and a custodian of the sacred duty that the judiciary represents. In and out of the courtroom, he exemplified the highest ideals of our noble profession, wielding the gavel with wisdom and compassion, never losing sight of the human element in every case before him.

Beyond the law, he was a devoted family man, a mentor to many, and a pillar of his community. His impact will be felt not just in the judgments he delivered but in the countless lives he touched, the younger lawyers he inspired, and the values he instilled. The legal profession, the bench, and all who had the privilege of knowing him have lost a rare gem.

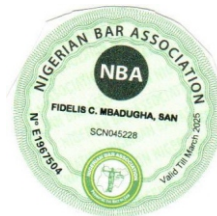
But as we mourn, we also celebrate. His was a life of service, lived with purpose and dignity. His legacy is not just in the volumes of law reports but in the hearts and minds of those who continue to walk the path he illuminated.

May his soul find eternal rest in the embrace of the Almighty. **Adieu, My Lord!**

With heartfelt sympathy,



FIDELIS MBADUGHA, SAN, FICMC.



Founder: A. N Anyamene SAN, F. C. Mbadugha SAN FICMC, C.J. Ogbobe, Esther Arum, Chioma Mgbemena, James C. Nwanyanwu, Iyobosa Izevbogie, Ngozi Nweze, Odinaka L. Asogwa, Kosiso P. Ezechi, Amuche Nwatu, Chidubem Akubue-Izundu, Chukwubuike Oyiga



FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA

• *Hon. Justice Obiora Atuegwu Egwuatu* •

Judge

April 14, 2025

Hon. Justice Emeka Nri-Ezedi
Anambra State High Court,
Awka,

Dear Hon. Justice Nri-Ezedi,

**CONDOLENCE ON THE DEATH OF YOUR FATHER, HON. JUSTICE
EMEBOLU EMMANUEL OKOYE NRI-EZEDI**

I received the news of the death of your father, Hon. Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi, with sadness. Though he died at an old age, his death, nonetheless, is a great loss to Anambra State and in deed the entire Judiciary. More so, when you as his son, needed his guidance at this time in your journey at the judicial firmament.

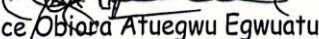
Nigeria has lost a great jurist who bestrode the judicial landscape in Anambra State with a blaze of judicial acumen. Testimonies abound that he was an erudite judge.

Having a son step into his shoes as a judge of the High Court is sure a fulfilment for him. He was a just man and I am sure a strong pillar of wisdom who demonstrated a high degree of integrity.

Though he passed at a ripe old age, his death nonetheless, is a heavy loss to the family and the entire judiciary.

My prayer is that our good God will console you, your siblings and the entire Nri-Ezedi Family. God will grant eternal rest to the soul of Hon. Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi.

Please accept my sincere condolences.


Hon. Justice Obiora Atuegwu Egwuatu

Judge



COURT OF APPEAL NIGERIA

HON. JUSTICE UWABUNKEONYE ONWOSI, JCA, Ph.D, CEHF

Our Ref: Your Ref: Date:

Hon. Justice Emeka Samuel Nri-Ezedi & Family.

My Lord,

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

May I for myself and on behalf of my family, commiserate with you and your entire family over the death of your beloved father, **Late Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi**, who transited to the eternal glory on 8th day of March, 2025.

As painful as his exit may seem, please be consoled that he lived a fulfilled life with worthy legacies and children like you and your siblings to celebrate his life and times.

Please, do accept my heartfelt condolences, as we wish your beloved father eternal repose in the bosom of the Lord, Amen.

**Hon. Justice Uwabunkeonye Onwosi,
Justice, Court of Appeal.**

PROF. ILOCHI .A. OKAFOR, SAN

PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT: IUC GLOBAL CHAMBERS

TELEPHONE: 08060147645

ENUGU: 1A OWERRE-ANI STREET,
BRICKS/REPUBLIC ESTATE,
INDEPENDENCE LAYOUT, ENUGU.

AWKA: 4 OFFODILE AVENUE, GRA,
AWKA, ANAMBRA STATE.

Hon Justice Emeka Nri-Ezedi,
Late Hon Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi Family,
Agukwu Nri, Anaocha Local Government Area,
Anambra State.

TRIBUTE IN HONOUR OF LATE JUSTICE UMEGBOLU NRI-EZEDI

“Moreover, thou shall provide out of all the people, able men such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness... and let them judge the people at all seasons.”

Exodus 18: 21-22.

Without any iota of doubt, late Hon Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi would have been amongst those chosen by Moses to judge the people at all seasons.

Hon Justice Nri-Ezedi was a quiet, unassuming, patient and tolerant gentleman. He shunned materialism and was temperate in and out of the court and his incorruptibility was very apparent. The administration of justice, nay the rule of law, has been greatly enriched by his sojourn in legal practice and on the bench, and his legacy continues in a son, a judge, as brilliant, hard-working and of abiding integrity, as his late father.

In celebration of the life and the works of the Hon Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi.

**Prof Ilochi A Okafor, SAN, FCI.Arb.
Emeritus Professor,
Faculty of Law,
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.**



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

ONITSHA BRANCH

Branch Headquarters: Sir Louis Mbanefo Bar Center, High Court Complex, Enugu Road, Onitsha, Anambra, NIGERIA.
www.nbaonitsha.org

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

25th April, 2025.

My Lord and the entire members of Nri Ezedi's Family,

NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, ONITSHA BRANCH CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

The Nigerian Bar Association, Onitsha Branch, is deeply saddened by the passing of Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi (Ogbunechendo), Chief Judge of Anambra State Emeritus, a revered jurist and pillar of integrity. His departure leaves a void in the legal community and beyond.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, particularly Lady Constance Izualor Nri-Ezedi, Hon. Justice Emeka Nri-Ezedi, His Worship, N. Onunkwo and his other children. We celebrate My Lord's remarkable life, distinguished career, and lasting impact on the legal profession. His commitment to justice, fairness, and the rule of law has been an inspiration to many.

We recall his landmark judgments, his courage in the face of adversity, and his dedication to upholding the principles of justice. His legacy will continue to guide and motivate us.

We pray that God grants the family strength, comfort, and peace during this difficult time. May the memories of My Lord, C.J. Emeritus' life, his wisdom, and his kindness bring solace to his loved ones.

May my Lord's soul rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen.

Afam Obi Esq.

(Chairman N.B.A. Onitsha Branch)

H.O.L. Nzute Esq.

(Secretary N.B.A. Onitsha Branch)

BRANCH OFFICERS: AFAM OBI, (Chairman)

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Ugochukwu Obidiegwu, (Financial Secretary) F.N. Ikenta, (Publicity Secretary) Ada Alozie, (Treasurer) Doris Nwokocha, (Welfare Secretary)
Chineze Abadom-Igwelike, (Social Secretary) Chike Chinedu Ifeagwu, (Provost)



Hon. Justice Onyekachi A. Otisi

Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal

Kaduna

.....Division

May 13, 2025

Date.....

Hon Justice Emeka S. Nri-Ezedi, FC Arb.,
Hon. Judge's Chambers,
High Court of Justice,
Nnewi Judicial Division,
Anambra State.

My Lord,

CONDOLENCES

I received the news of the demise of your beloved and most illustrious father, Honourable Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi, Chief Judge (Emeritus), with gratitude to God for the life of a most accomplished and respected jurist, who lived a very fulfilled life.

Justice Nri-Ezedi, Chief Judge (Emeritus), was most unassuming and readily accommodating. As a Judicial Officer, he took his oath of office seriously, and was extremely hardworking. He was a man of proven integrity, who had the fear of God.

His Lordship was a dedicated family man, who also played a fatherly role to so many non-biological children, and mentored as many as came across his path. He was a community leader, well-respected within the Nri Community, Anambra State, and beyond.

As we mourn his demise, we will not fail to thank God for his life and times. He has run his divinely assigned race, and has gone on to take his rest. His Lordship shall sorely be missed, not only by his beloved family, the Judiciary and his Community, but also by scores of persons whose lives he impacted. May God, in His mercy, comfort your dear mother, his beloved soulmate for more than 54 years, and the entire family.

Please accept my sincere condolences. May his gentle soul rest in peace, Amen.

Yours truly,

Hon. Justice Onyekachi A. Otisi, PJCA

FROM THE PERSONAL DESK OF:

NNAMDI IBEGBU, ESQ., S.A.N., F.C.L. Arb

Website: www.ibegbuandibegbu.com
E-MAIL: ibegbusan@yahoo.com
Legal-MAIL: ibegbuandibegbu@nigerianbar.ng
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(Former 10 Martin Street),
Off Benjamin Street
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Onitsha, Nigeria.

ABUJA OFFICE:
(CR-08) Castle Rock Apartment
Plot 239 P. O. Mafemi Street,
Behind Chida Hotel,
Utako District,
Abuja F.C.T.

Your Ref.

TRIBUTE IN HONOUR OF HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU NRI-EZEDI

It is sad that Hon. Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi The Retired Chief Judge of Anambra State passed on. I know that death awaits every person who is living, but humanity would have tapped more from His Lordship's wealth of knowledge, experience and humility.

I knew His Lordship from July 1980 when I started pupillage in the Chambers of Chief Chike Ofodile, S.A.N., O.F.R The Former Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice. At that time, our Chambers at Investment Building along New Market Road, Onitsha was a few houses away from His Lordship's Chambers. I had the privilege to come close to His Lordship. His Lordship exhibited every trait of a wellbred English gentry. He spoke so well in perfect English diction, and was always calm and calculated.

Hon. Justice Nri-Ezedi was a Legal gentry with an august personality. He was a quintessential and oracular jurist who bequeathed honesty and integrity, the precious, priceless and scarce hallmarks of a Judex, to the Nigerian Judiciary. His Lordship's Legacy is impervious to eclipse. His Lordship's fairness, care and integrity are next to nothing. All the outstanding qualities are rooted in his upright only son, Hon. Justice Emeka Nri-Ezedi, though young, but carries himself so well and tows the same footsteps of his distinguished and honourable father. The future is his to conquer.

With a career spanning many decades Hon. Justice Nri-Ezedi left an indelible mark on the legal landscape of our nation. His Lordship's unwavering dedication to upholding the principles of justice, unshakeable integrity, tireless work ethic, unrelenting passion for the law and dignified carriage has inspired many.

As I celebrate His Lordship, and honour His Lordship; I honour not only his achievement, but also his contribution in making many what they are today.

I am proud to call him a distinguished Judex and will continue to draw inspiration from His Lordship's remarkable legacy. His Lordship was a simple, humble, intelligent and industrious jurist. He made a lot of impact during his tenure as Chief Judge of Anambra State. As a pro-active personality, once he believes in something, he gets committed to achieving same. His Lordship was indeed a role model and great family man.

Despite his height and distinguished mien, His Lordship never lost sight of his roots. His Lordship believed in the native law and custom of his people. This is a trait I also have. Without being fetish, I believe in the native, law and custom of my people of Onitsha Kingdom.

The world has been blessed with his Lordship's incredible presence and became a better place the day His Lordship Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi was born. May the world reward him for greatness His Lordship has offered us. To members of his family and his distinguished son, I say take solace in the legacy left by this great man.

To his Son-In-Law, the English gentry, so knowledgeable in latin lingua, an upright and outstanding jurist, whose style of dressing is outstanding and distinct, Hon. Justice Okechukwu Onunkwo who has lost a dear Father-In-Law I say take heart and be consoled. Your distinguished Father-In-Law left indelible footprints in the sands of time, the same foot prints His Lordship Hon. Justice Okechukwu Onunkwo is establishing.

To the son of Hon. Justice U. Nri-Ezedi, I say that Your Lordship represents your great father so well. Almighty God will protect Your Lordship, prosper and elevate Your Lordship to the peak of your chosen career. Everything you will expend in the funeral of your great father will be replenished a million fold. Your father has already blessed Your Lordship, and the blessing will be permanent.

May the soul of Hon. Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi and the souls of all who faithfully departed rest in the bosom of the Lord.

KPAJIE UGONABO NNAMDI IBEGBU, S.A.N, F.C.I.Arb.



SAXUM LEGAL

Attorneys-at-law, Chartered Arbitrators & Notary Public

9th May, 2025.

Hon. Justice Emeka Nri-Ezedi

High Court,
Nnewi.

My Lord,

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

RE: TRANSITION OF YOUR BELOVED DAD, HIS LORDSHIP HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU NRI-EZEDI, CHIEF JUDGE OF ANAMBRA STATE, EMERITUS.

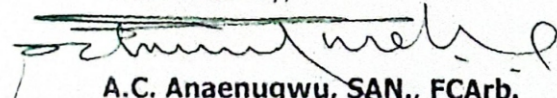
We received the news of the passing on of your father, **Hon. Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi** with sadness. His Lordship was well known to us over the years, as a Legal Practitioner, Judicial Officer of the High Court of Anambra State and the Chief Judge of Anambra State.

His Lordship was a quintessential gentleman and seasoned jurist whose notable contributions to the development of the law, both at the Bar as a Legal Practitioner and the Bench as a Judicial Officer remain outstanding. He left a legacy of hard work, integrity and erudition. He remained humble, easy going and welcoming even with his attained position in life. His demise is big blow to the Bar and the Bench in Anambra State.

We share in your sorrow and extend our deepest condolences to you and the entire Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi family over the painful loss. Be assured of our prayers for his peaceful repose.

Our heartfelt condolences.

Yours sincerely,



A.C. Anaenugwu, SAN., FCARB.
For: **SAXUM LEGAL**

HEAD OFFICE: 13 Ridge Road, Opp. Nigerian Stock Exchange G.R.A. Box 6194, Onitsha, Anambra State. Tel: 08033417390, 08033406382, 08033319821
E-mail: alanoblaw@yahoo.com

LAGOS OFFICE: 20 Enitan Street, Aguda Surulere, Lagos. Tel: 08033036517

IN CHAMBERS: A. C. ANAENUGWU, ESQ. SAN, FCARB., P.A. AFUBA ESQ., SAN, FCARB., C. R. OBI ESQ., FCARB., SAN
O. M. ONYIA, ESQ. ACARB., C.E.ODO. ESQ. ACARB., C. M. OLUIGBO ESQ., C.M. NYICWZ, ESQ., N. D. NWODOM, ESQ.
E.C. OKAFOR, ESQ., N. J. MMADUECHESI, ESQ., P.CAFUBA, ESQ., D. N. CHIGBO-OKIKE, ESQ., E.S. IGWE, ESQ., O.I. OKUMA, ESQ., P.R. BORGBARA, ESQ.



COURT OF APPEAL

Hon. Justice D. U. Okorowo (JCA)

Hon Justice Emeka Samuel Nri-Ezedi FC Arb

Hon Judge's Chamber

High Court of Justice, Anambra State

Nnewi Judicial Division.

My LORD,

MY CONDOLENCE

I write to condole Your Lordship on the demise of your father, late Hon Justice UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL OKOYE NRI-EZEDI, CHIEF JUDGE (EMERITUS), Anambra State, (OGBUNECHENDO).

The late Chief Judge Emeritus was an achiever and a great mind among his contemporaries in his days on the Bench. Those who went through His Lordship's Judgments can see the brevity of analysis and terse language employed giving reminiscences of the great WACA decisions which till today are revered precedents in our law reports recurring in our judgments regularly.

His Lordship, Chief Judge Emeritus, left a great legacy of hard work that saw him attain the height of Chief Judge of Anambra State and records of his performance are speaking for him till today. And these footprints you have copied and is following. Your father paid his dues and the next page in history is Your Lordship.

I know you are in grief for losing someone who shaped your life, but this is the way all mortals will go. Be consoled that he lived a good life and his contributions to society and humanity, very outstanding, will continue to speak for him. And this should be your consolation.

Please accept my deepest sympathy and sincere condolences. May the Lord grant you and the family the courage and fortitude to bear this irreparable loss. May his soul rest in peace.

From

D. U. Okorowo, JCA



ONYECHI ONONYE AND CO.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS, CORPORATE CONSULTANTS, ARBITRATORS & NOTARY PUBLIC

IN CHAMBERS:

STEVEN ONYECHE ONONYE, SAN. MC Arb
OLIVER I. UGWU, ESQ. AC Arb
F.N. UGWU, ESQ. AC Arb
JOHN S. EDE, ESQ.
A.J. CHIADIKOBI, ESQ.
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Onitsha, Nigeria.

E-mail: onyechiononyechambers@gmail.com, stevoesq@yahoo.com

website: www.onyechiononyeandcompany.com

Phone: 08033427947, 09060123316.

21ST MAY, 2025

**THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE EMEKA NRI-EZEDI,
NNEWI JUDICIAL DIVISION
ANAMBRA STATE.**

Dear Sir,

**TRIBUTE TO LATE HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL NRI-
EZEDI (Chief Judge Emeritus)**

Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Nri-Ezedi was a paragon of integrity, wisdom and dedication in the Anambra State Judiciary. Throughout his tenure, Hon. Justice Nri-Ezedi was known for his unwavering adherence to the rule of law.

Beyond his legal acumen, Hon. Justice Nri-Ezedi was a man of deep moral conviction, always striving to ensure that justice was not only done but seen to be done. His legacy is one of service to the law, to the people of Anambra State and to the ideals of fairness and equity.

On behalf of Onyechi Ononye & Co., I extend my deepest condolences to the family of late Honourable Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Nri-Ezedi especially Hon. Justice Emeka Nri-Ezedi and Hon. Justice R.O. Onunkwo.

May his soul rest in peace and may his contributions continue to inspire all who serve in the judiciary.

**For and on behalf of:
ONYECHI ONONYE & CO.**

STEVEN ONYECHE ONONYE, ESQ., SAN, MC Arb

GOVERNMENT OF ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA THE JUDICIARY

Telephone: _____

Your Ref: _____

Our Ref: _____



HON. JUDGES CHAMBERS
HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
AGUATA JUDICIAL DIVISION
AGUATA (EKWULOBIA)

20th May. 2025

Date: _____

His Lordship,
Hon, Justice E.S. Nri-Ezedi,
High Court of Justice,
Nnewi,
Anambra State,
Nigeria.

WEEP NOT MY LORD

It is with profound sympathy that I write to commiserate with you on the demise of your beloved father and the former Chief Judge of Anambra State, His Lordship, Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi.

His Lordship was a fearless and courageous jurist who brought to bare his exceptional brilliance, Spartan discipline and athletic strength in the dispensation of justice. He delivered landmark judgments that not only upheld the rule of law but also stabilized the polity in Anambra State in particular and Nigeria in general. His fifteen years stint in the High Court bench epitomize his outstanding and impactful life in which the exceptional brilliance and self discipline he displayed early in his childhood manifested fully in his primary and post primary school days particularly at the prestigious Christ the King College, Onitsha where he excelled in both academics and athletics. This culminated in his passing the General Certificate in Education (G.C.E.) Advanced Level with distinction and winning laurels for his school as an athlete and a gifted quarter miler in numerous sporting competitions.

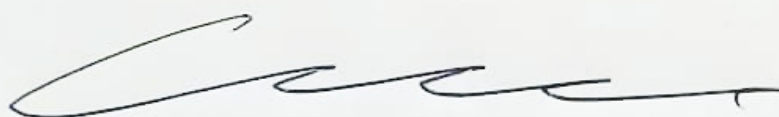
His Lordship's self-discipline and academic prowess earned him admission into the prestigious University of London where he

studied law and bagged his Bachelor of Laws [LLB (Hons)] and Master of Laws (LLM). He was called to the English Bar in 1971 and also called to the Nigerian Bar in 1972. Between 1972 and 1993, His Lordship was in active legal practice and he built a reputation as a legal practitioner with zero tolerance for unethical practice. His hardwork paved way for his appointment in 1993 as a Judge of the Anambra State Judiciary where he made his mark. He was a philanthropist and an embodiment of wisdom and dignity. This explains why he was initiated into the prestigious Ozo Society of the Ancient Nri Kingdom with the title of "Ogbunehendo" signifying an expansive tree that shelters many.

In the light of the foregoing, your father indeed left an enviable and enduring legacy for which I respectfully urge you to weep not on his demise. As the great sage, Quintus Ennius said:

"Let no one weep for me or celebrate my funeral with mourning; for I still live, as I pass to and fro through the mouths of men."

And so, weep not my Lord for your father still lives by the legacies he bequeathed to you as well as by his outstanding and impactful life which produced worthy successors in you as a High Court Judge and His Worship Ndidi Onunkwo as Chief Magistrate Grade I. It is my fervent prayer that our Almighty God will grant you, your siblings, your in-laws particularly His Lordship, Hon. Justice R.O. Onunkwo and the entire Nri-Ezedi family the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss. May the soul of His Lordship, Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi rest in the bosom of the Lord. Amen.



HON. JUSTICE OKWUDILI ALOYSIUS EZEKE
(Administrative Judge, Aguata Judicial Division)


HON. JUSTICE M. UMUKORO
LIFE BENCHER
OSERI STREET, EKIUGBO, UGHELLI,
UGHELLI NORTH L.G.A., DELTA STATE.
marshalumukoro@ymail.com

18TH MAY, 2025

Hon. Justice E. S. Nri-Ezedi,
High Court of Justice,
Nnewi,
Anambra State.

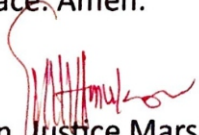
My Lord,

A LETTER OF COMMISERATION

It was with rude shock to learn of the demise of Ogbunechendo Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi, Chief Judge Emeritus, your illustrious father and mentor.

For me, though his passing on was painful, I hold the view that his life and times call for celebration and emulation. He was a focused, generous, hardworking, committed, warm, supportive and dedicated family man, lawyer, judge and judicial administrator. The high point of his career was his elevation as the Chief Judge of Anambra State; a position he held with utmost dignity and comportment until he retired in 2008.

My Lord, take solace that your father lived a fulfilled life and left a great legacy for his children and grandchildren. May his gentle soul rest in peace. Amen.


Hon. Justice Marshal Umukoro
Chief Judge (Rtd) & Life Bencher



COURT OF APPEAL NIGERIA

Hon. Justice Victoria Toochukwu Nwoye, JCA

24th May 2025.

Hon. Justice Emeka Samuel Nri-Ezedi,
Anambra State Judiciary,
Anambra State.

My Lord,

**RE: DEATH OF YOUR FATHER, HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL
OKOYE NRI-EDEZI, CHIEF JUDGE (EMERITUS) ANAMBRA STATE
(OGBUNECHENDO)**

I received the news of the demise of your father, Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Edezi, Chief Judge (Emeritus), with shock but gratitude to God for a life well spent.

His Lordship's legacy as a distinguished jurist and a beacon of integrity in the legal profession will continue to inspire generations. His wisdom, fairness, and unwavering commitment to justice left an indelible mark on those who knew him.

During this difficult time, my family and I stand in solidarity with you and the rest of your family, offering our prayers and support.

May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may you and all he left behind find strength in the cherished memories he left behind.

With sincere sympathy,

Hon. Justice Victoria T. Nwoye, JCA



ANAMBRA STATE JUDICIARY
HON. JUSTICE JUDE OBIORA, M.DRI. FCArb

Hon. Judge's Chambers
High Court of Justice,
Orumba South Division

24th May, 2025

Hon. Justice Emeka Nri-Ezedi,
High Court of Justice,
Nnewi.

My Lord,

**RE: THE TRANSITION OF AN INCORRUPTIBLE AND UPRIGHT JURIST,
OGBUNECHENDO HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL OKOYE
NRI-EZEDI, CHIEF JUDGE (EMERITUS), ANAMBRA STATE**

I join all men of goodwill in celebrating the life and times of an outstanding, fearless, incorruptible and eminent jurist, Ogbunechendo Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi, Chief Judge (Emeritus) of Anambra State. Ogbunechendo was a man of many revered parts.

On the Bench, Ogbunechendo exhibited unwavering commitment to upholding the rule of law and detested lawlessness in all its ramifications, as evidenced in the numerous decisions he delivered in the dispensation of justice. He was an upright and fearless arbiter who exuded impeccable finesse, calm, and decorum in the course of his judicial responsibilities.

A judicial administrator per excellence, he contributed immensely to the growth of the judiciary in Anambra State and the nation at large. He restored public confidence in the judiciary during moments of uncertainty through landmark judgments that rekindled hope and banished lawlessness in the political landscape of Anambra State. Ogbunechendo also cherished his pedigree and cultural values. He had absolute faith in God.

My Lord, Ogbunechendo was a consummate family man and a great disciplinarian who, despite his busy schedule, made time to care for his beloved wife, children and extended family. He bequeathed invaluable gifts to the judiciary, including our own brilliant

jurist—Your Lordship, Hon. Justice Emeka Nri-Ezedi of the High Court of Justice, Anambra State and the magisterial gem of the State, His Worship Nndi Onunkwo, Esq., who is married to our scholarly and cultured jurist, Hon. Justice Okey Onunkwo of the High Court of Justice, Anambra State. The other children of Ogbunechendo have equally distinguished themselves in their various fields of endeavour.

As Ogbunechendo (an expansive tree that shelters many), I was privileged and blessed to be among those who found shelter under the canopy of this judicial colossus.

Please be consoled by the fact that he lived a fulfilled life—a life of purpose and service to humanity. As we commit his mortal remains to the bosom of the earth, be assured that his enduring legacies will live on. I pray that God consoles you and the entire family. May his noble soul gain immortality in paradise. Amen.

Sincerely,



Hon. Mr. Justice Jude Obiora, Ph.D, FC Arb
Hon. Administrative Judge
Orumba South Judicial Division



ALEX EJESIEME (SAN) & CO (MADIBA CHAMBERS)

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS, ARBITRATORS & NOTARY PUBLIC

3rd June 2025

Hon. Justice Emeka S. Nri-Ezedi

Honourable Judge's Chambers
High Court of Justice
Nnewi Judicial Division
Anambra State

Your Lordship

CONDOLENCE ON THE DEMISE OF YOUR BELOVED FATHER

My deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved father, Hon. Justice U.E.O. Nri-Ezedi, Ogbunehendo. His life was a masterclass in integrity, courage, and quiet strength, core values you embody as you follow in his judicial footsteps.

We, whom he has left behind on this side of creation, remember him not only as the judge who defied pressure to uphold justice in Anambra State's darkest hour but as "Daddy": the unwavering patriarch who believed excellence was a sacred duty. His motto, "There is no failure in hard work," shaped your family's legacy.

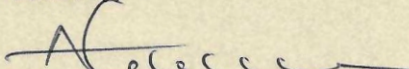
In his final days, surrounded by love, he gifted you all a sacred memory - one last dance, a testament to the tenderness beneath his principled exterior. Though our hearts ache, we find solace knowing he lived fully, fought justly, and departed with grace, his purpose complete.

May you find strength in his enduring wisdom. As Ogbunehendo, "the tree that shelters many", his roots live on in you, the judiciary, and generations he nurtured.

Requiescat in pace, Daddy. Your work is done.

Adieu, Ogbunehendo.

Sincerely,



Chief Alex Ejeseime, SAN

Head Office: Madiba House, Onyiah Crescent, Behind CBN Okpuno, Awka, Anambra State

Branch Office: No 14 FEZ Street, off Kumasi Street, Wuse 2, Abuja

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ANAMBRA STATE JUDICIARY

Chambers

☎: 056290295

Hon. Chief Judge's Chambers
Judiciary Headquarters
High Court of Justice
P. M. B. 6006, Awka
Anambra State, Nigeria
3rd June. 2025

Hon. Justice E. S. Nri-Ezedi
High Court of Justice,
Nnewi Judicial Division,
Anambra State

His Lordship,

RE: DEMISE OF HON. JUSTICE UMEOGBOLU EMMANUEL OKOYE NRI-EZEDI, CHIEF JUDGE EMERITUS (OGBUNECHENDO)

IN RE: CONDOLENCE LETTER

I write to extend my deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved father and esteemed jurist, Hon. Justice Umeogbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi (RTD), the revered Chief Judge Emeritus of Anambra State (19th Jan. 2007 to 2nd Jan, 2008). The news of his death was both unexpected and profoundly saddening.

I had the privilege of knowing and interacting with His Lordship. He was a lively, knowledgeable, gentle, and jovial person. His impressive profile and outstanding achievements never altered his humility. He was an embodiment of a true leader, a man of integrity, and a beacon of inspiration. To the glory of God, he lived a fulfilled life. He exemplified dedication, wisdom, and great leadership throughout his tenure as a former Chief Judge of Anambra State. He was indeed a visionary reformer who contributed immensely to the progress of the judiciary. His legacy will remain etched in the annals of history.

His Lordship's commitment to judicial duties was marked by excellence and a deep sense of purpose. His outstanding decisions and pronouncements, characterized by profound insight and unwavering principles, will continue to inspire future generations of legal practitioners and scholars.

His passing is an irreplaceable loss that will be felt not only by his family but also by the entire legal profession and the broader community. We pray that God grants you comfort and strength during this time. May the knowledge that he lived a life of purpose, generosity, and sacrifice console you and all who mourn the great soul.

May God grant his soul eternal rest. Rest in peace CJ, Emeritus, Ogbunechendo.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Justice O. M. Anyachebelu FCARB, FICMC
Chief Judge, Anambra State



Senator Dr. A. Ubanesse Igbeke
Dnc, Amb-E/P, NISD

TRIBUTE

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF OGBUNECHENDO, HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL OKOYE NRI-EZEDI.

Today we gather to celebrate the life and legacy of the late Ogbunechendo, Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi, Chief Judges Emeritus, the former Chief Judge of Anambra State. A pillar of the judiciary, Ogbunechendo, left an indelible mark on the state's legal landscape. His commitment to justice, fairness and integrity inspired countless individuals, including his family, colleagues and friends. I am honored to count myself.

Over the years, I have come to revel in the privilege of not just enjoying the acquaintance of Ogbunechendo and his amiable wife, the matriarch of his homestead, Lady Constance Izualor Nri-Ezedi as family but as inestimable sources of inspiration and encouragement.

As we gather today to sing eulogies to an outstanding legacy of dynamism and professional fecundity, I am proud to affirm without equivocation, that Ogbunechendo was known for his wisdom, compassion and unwavering dedication to upholding the law. His legacy extends beyond the courtroom and chambers of justices, touching lives of those he mentored, guided and supported.

To our dear Matriarch, Lady Constance Izualor Nri-Ezedi, your dear husband was a distinguished jurist, whose footprints on the judicial sand

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UK OFFICE: 10B BEDFORD ROAD, LONDON W13 0SP,
UNITED KINGDOM.



Senator Dr. A. Ubanesse Igbeke

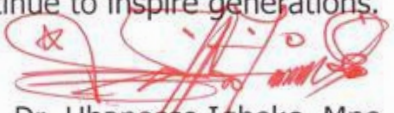
of time would forever be golden. I urge you to be strong and bask in the glory of Ogbunehendo's catalogue of uncompromising legacy.

To His worship, Mrs., Ndidi Onunkwo, you are a sister I hold very dear. The apple doesn't fall far from its tree; therefore, I am confident that the legacy of Ogbunehendo is in safe hands. I stand with you my dear sister as you navigate the milestones ahead.

And to my dear friends and brother, Hon. Justice Emeka Emmanuel Nri-Ezedi, you are a pick of the pack, a chip of the old block. You have become custodian of a great legacy and I do not equivocate for a moment on your readiness to continue the race, with admiration and fulfilment. I stand with you in the celebration of an iconic career predicated on the highest norms of professionalism and integrity.

Ogbunehendo's legacy is a testament to his character and values. May his memory continue to inspire and guide you in your journey as a judge.

My family and I offer our heartfelt condolences to all member of the Nri-Ezedi family. May Ogbunehendo rest in peace and may his legacy continue to inspire generations.


Sen. Dr. Ubanesse Igbeke, Mnc, Misd
Ambassador E/P.


10/25



ANAMBRA STATE JUDICIARY

Hon. Justice M.N.O. Okonkwo

Hon. Judge's Chambers
High Court of Justice
Anambra State, Nigeria.

Date:.....

TRIBUTE IN HONOUR OF HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL OKOYE NRI-EZEDI, HON. CHIEF JUDGE EMERITUS, OGBUNECHENDO

I was the Chief Registrar of Anambra State Judiciary, High Court, at the time of the appointment and resumption of duty of Hon. Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi as the Chief Judge of Anambra State in 2007. The Judiciary of Anambra State was in a form of crisis or turmoil at the point of his ascension to the office of Chief Judge of Anambra State considering the circumstances his predecessor exited the office. Notwithstanding the intrigues and uncertainties prevalent in the Judicial affairs at that time, His Lordship displayed a rare act of maturity and commitment to justice and fair play. He kept his cool and did not witch hunt any staff for the role he/her played in the previous administration. He did not intimidate or harass any staff. He did not embark on punitive transfer of officers considered very loyal to the previous administration including my humble self. He treated all of us equally and extended the olive branch to both junior and senior members of staff irrespective of whatever the person was alleged to have done to stop him from becoming the Chief Judge. This indeed was a rare display of understanding of the Judiciary system of

E-mail: mikeokonkwo167@gmail.com

- administration and willingness to forgive and forget. These attributes were lacking in some of the Hon. Chief Judges after his tenure in 2008 when he retired meritoriously from judicial service as the Hon. Chief Judge of Anambra State.

Before His Lordship became the Chief Judge of Anambra State and came to the Judiciary Headquarters, we used to see him as a hard Judge that would be very hard to please. This is so because, we hardly see smiles on his face and hardly did we see him laughing on the few occasions we came in contact with him. We felt he must be a “mean” person in the local parlance. However, when he assumed duties, we found him to be very lovable, humane, caring and ever ready to be of assistance even in personal issues of the staff. He had listening ears to all staff and accommodated all opinions. His humility humbled many of us. He was unassuming and ready to hear any staff out on any issue. He was a father to all of us and shared family intimacy with some of us that related with him on daily basis.

The Hon. Justice Nri-Ezedi was an administrator per excellence. He led by example. He was a team player. He was punctual and very diligent to duty. He was not arrogant but painstakingly listens to complaints and problems of members of staff and proffered solutions to them. He never approved any proposal without being convinced of the need and importance of the proposal. Whenever in doubt, he would call the officer concerned for a thorough briefing on such issue. But once he is convinced and made up his mind, no amount of gossip would make him to change his mind on the matter. He allowed every staff to carry out his duty under his effective supervision and encouragement. He hardly or rarely lost his temper while discussing with any staff or in any management

- meeting. His disposition to all encouraged all staff to put in their best. He had the welfare of staff at heart and did his best to improve same.

He was a stickler for time. He used to be one of the first Judges to attend the Hon. Judges Conference or any other official function of the Judiciary before his assumption of office as the Chief Judge. He seldomly spoke in such meetings. When he became the Hon. Chief Judge, he maintained his punctuality to meetings and appointments. He was prompt on time to any meeting or conference of Hon. Judges and was not waiting for quorum to be formed before he would join the meeting. He conducted such meetings with speed that it usually ended in less than one hour as he was averse to discussing issues that were not very relevant to the affairs of the Hon. Judges and the staff.

The Hon Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi was a highly contented man. He was upright, honest and altruistic in his dealing with staff. He insisted on getting only his entitlement from the office and that the right procedures must be followed at all times. He was vehemently opposed to bending the rules in matters concerning him. To demonstrate his commitment to due process, he came to the office at 10 am on the day he retired from the judicial service but refused to enter his chambers. He sent for me and I met him at the car park. He came down from his car, prayed for me and advised me in a most loving and fatherly way and bid me fare well. To my greatest surprise, he handed over to me the keys to his official residence at Onitsha and that of the cars he was not entitled to which had been already driven to the judicial Headquarters that morning. I was greatly touched by this rare display of probity, integrity and transparency. I can say categorically that none of his successors –in- office has so far followed this commendable steps.

An Administrator per excellence. An erudite jurist. An epitome of justice and fairness. A humble, selfless and caring judge. His death is a personal loss to me and many staff of the state judiciary many of whom have retired. He lived a decent and fulfilled life that inspired all that related with him while he was alive. We will all miss him.

Adieu my Lord, Ogbunehendo.

Adieu my Lord, Hon. Chief Judge (Emeritus).

May the Almighty God grant your Lordship eternal repose in his bosom ---
Amen.



HON. MR. JUSTICE M. N.O. OKONKWO, JP KSJI FClarb.

UNIVERSITY ON THE NIGER TEACHING HOSPITAL IYIENU

(Formerly known as Iyi-Enu Mission Hospital)



Tel. 08068516722 Email: iyienuhospital@yahoo.com. Website: iyienumissionhospital.org
P. O. Box 67 Onitsha. P. M. B. 4 Ogidi Anambra State Nigeria

A Tribute to Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi

We, the management and staff of **University on the Niger Teaching Hospital**, formally Known as **Iyi-Enu Mission Hospital**, join the many voices of gratitude and remembrance as we pay tribute to a distinguished son of the soil, an icon of integrity, and a man whose life embodied service, justice, and dignity — **Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi**.

Justice Nri-Ezedi was more than a legal luminary; he was a pillar of wisdom, humility, and unwavering commitment to truth. His dedication to upholding justice, both on the bench and in the community, stands as a legacy that will echo through generations.

As we celebrate his life, we also recall with deep appreciation the devoted service of his beloved wife, **Mrs. Nri-Ezedi**, who served faithfully at **University On the Niger Teaching Hospital**, formally Known as **Iyi-Enu Mission Hospital**, for **35 remarkable years (January 1972 – March 2008)**. Rising through the ranks with grace, diligence, and compassion, she retired as **Deputy Director of Nursing Services**, leaving behind a legacy of excellence, mentorship, and selfless care. Her years of service reflect the same values of integrity and commitment that defined her husband's distinguished career.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the entire Okoye family. May God comfort and strengthen you during this time of loss. May the noble soul of Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi rest in perfect peace, and may his memory continue to inspire justice, service, and faith.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." – Psalm 116:15

Prof. Uche Onwudiegwu
Chief Medical Director

Telephone: _____

Your Ref: _____

Our Ref: _____



HON. JUDGES CHAMBERS
HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ONITSHA JUDICIAL DIVISION
ONITSHA

10th June, 2025.

Date: _____

Hon. Justice Emeka Samuel Nri-Ezedi,
Honourable Judges Chambers,
High Court of Justice,
Nnewi.

Your Lordship,

RE: DEMISE OF THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL OKOYE NRI-EZEDI, OGBUNECHENDO, CHIEF JUDGE (EMERITUS).

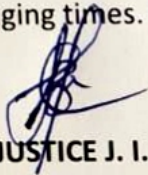
When I learnt of the demise of His Lordship, I could not help reminiscing on his impact in my life. In 2005, there was this incident at the Onitsha High Court. Thinking about it in retrospect, I believe that he was invited to step on banana peels. I saw in him, on that day, a highly disciplined man, the embodiment of wisdom and a study in humility. He gently and pleasantly dealt with the situation. We were newly appointed as Honourable Judges of Anambra State that year. He was second only to the Honourable the Chief Judge of Anambra State at the time. I learnt a life lesson from him on that day. He was a man I liked, respected and admired, from that day in 2005, till his demise.

His Lordship, Ogbunechendo, was a man greatly blessed by the Lord. How else can you describe a man whose children became mighty in his life time? (Psalm 112:2) A man whose wife is a fruitful vine? (Psalm 128:3) Who brought in food in his old age? (Psalm 92:14) Who fulfilled the number of his days? (Numbers 23:26) And who saw his children's children? (Psalm 128: 6) He was indeed, a man blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. A man who, by the grace of God, overcame what appeared to be insurmountable challenges, to achieve greatness. You could not have wished for a better father. Your mum could not have wished for a better husband. He was a great source of inspiration for me and many others. His life was worthy of emulation. Hebrews 6 : 12 admonishes:

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

As we mourn his demise, we should remind ourselves of one thing he greatly desired. He prayed that his children shall surpass his achievements. I have no doubt that God gave all of you the potentials to turn that desire into reality. He only wants you to trust and acknowledge Him and He will grant you your heart's desires. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

We give thanks to the almighty God for His peace and comfort in these challenging times. May His name be exalted forever.



HON. JUSTICE J. I. NWEZE.

EKWEREKWU, EKWEREKWU & CO
LIGHT OF GOD CHAMBERS
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

ADDRESS:

No.93 Upper New Market Road
Onitsha
08037954553

Email-lightofgodchambers1@gmail.com

Our Ref. _____ your Ref. _____ Date 01/07/2025

**HIS LORDSHIP,
HON. JUSTICE E.S NRI-EZEDI,
ANAMBRA STATE JUDICIARY.**

My Lord,

**RE: CONDOLENCE MESSAGE ON THE PASSING OF HIS LORDSHIP,
HON JUSTICE UMEGBOLU E. O. NRI-EZEDI (OGBUNECHENDO)**

I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of your father, Hon. Justice Umegbolu E. O Nri-Ezedi, (Ogbunechendo) on the same day as my mother-in-law.

In times like these, we can only find solace in the fact that death is a universal fate – a time to be born and a time to die.

Though death is inevitable, I pray that your heart finds comfort knowing that your late father finished his race well. It's heart-warming that he lived to see you excel on the bench, and I'm confident that you'll surpass the remarkable legacy he has left behind.

Please accept my heartfelt condolences, and extend same to the entire Nri-Ezedi family.

Yours faithfully,



BARR. IKENNA O.J. EKWEREKWU, KSM, OFS.

TRIBUTE TO A MAN OF BOUNDARIES

HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL OKOYE NRI-EZEDI

In the early part of the 1980s, there was a theatre which entertained the practice of law in the Onitsha Judicial Division and its environs.

The tempo in that arena was often turbulent and volatile. During that phase, being loud, theatrical and frequently vitriolic was in vogue. It appeared to have been demanded by the cheering crowd of litigants, and generously obliged by the advocates who fed on the frenzied audience, unleashing scathing and caustic remarks against one another. In that arena, I found a player who at first glance may be labelled an enigma, but in the circumstance, may best be described as an aberration. My inquiry revealed a man who was impeccably dressed, hardly wasted words, and reserved all his comments for respectful addresses to the Judges and when he had to respond to the personal comments from an opposing counsel, not only sought the permission of the judex, but directed all such responses through the Bench.

I discovered, upon inquiry, that his name was Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi Esq. (as he then was). I called him a man of boundaries and decorum and I observed and admired him immensely. I unsuccessfully attempted to emulate him, as I did others, like Chief Chike Ofodile SAN, the great Amanke Okafor and of course, my principal and mentor, S. I. Oputa Esq.

I had the privilege of doing some cases as Counsel, with him on the opposite side, the last being a land matter that had the trappings of hostility, but which was eventually conducted in the most decorous manner.

It was a delight to me when he was elevated to the High Court bench of Anambra State. At the Bench, he brought to bear extensive knowledge of the law, practice and procedure, which made appearances in the Court where he presided, very seamless. He was equally consistently detached from the arena of conflict and displayed maximum circumspection, integrity and compassion. He certainly took his penchant for maintaining boundaries to the Bench.

I also had the privilege to have appeared before his lordship as a Judge on highly sensitive cases, one of which was the imbroglio over the Autonomous Communities created by a State administration, but so soon thereafter, revoked and abolished by the next administration, after the Communities had set up the requisite structures for the envisaged Communities. The other was the suit initiated on behalf of Mr. Peter Obi over his impeachment. The case saw numerous interventions, including from the Executive at the highest pedestal of the nation, as well as maneuvering at the judicial realm within the State. His lordship was highly circumspect and endured in integrity and independence, until the National Judicial Council shed all entanglements which allowed his lordship the latitude to invalidate the vindictive and baseless impeachment. The decision which turned on a serene application of Section 188 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) was eventually affirmed by the appellate Court. His Lordship thereafter became the Chief Judge of Anambra State.

William Shakespeare in that great play, “As you like” in Act 2, Scene 7 stated thus:

‘All the world is a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts.’

His lordship played a meek part on the stage that was the practice in Onitsha, and when the stage got larger, played very bold and astute parts in the judicial pronouncements that assisted in shaping the destiny of this State and by extension, the Nation.

May our society never lack such men of value, candor and integrity, and may he find eternal rest.

Adieu, my noble Lord.

Dr. Onyechi Ikpeazu, OON, SAN, FC Arb, JP



MAMA ANAMBRA

DAME VIRGY ETIABA FOUNDATION

Proverb 19:17 - He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord, and that which he hath given will He pay him again.

7/7/2025

Hon. Justice Emeka Nri-Ezedi, FCARB

Honourable Judge's Chambers

High Court of Justice

Nnewi Judicial Division.

My lord,

Re: Special Invitation To The Burial Ceremony Of Late Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi (Ogbunechendo)

I just heard the news of the demise of your late father, Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi (Ogbunechendo), a gentleman and an accomplished jurist.

Your father was one of the lawyers that practised in Nnewi in the eighties and had his Chambers a few houses away from my late husband's Chambers at No. 5 Hundred Foot Road, Nnewi. They were not only colleagues but good friends.

Ogbunechendo's humility and calm disposition made him a good candidate for the bench and did join the bench and got to reach the zenith of his career as the Chief Judge of Anambra State. (An office he brought respect and dignity to and eventually left the same better than he met it).

My path and his crossed later in life when as governor of Anambra State, I swore him in as the Acting Chief Judge of the State. It was a humbling experience for me and I must say that I enjoyed working with him.

To the family he left behind, I pray that the Almighty God will comfort and keep together.

Please accept the assurances of my good wishes.

High Regard.

Virgy Etiaba

Her Excellency, Dame Virgy Etiaba CON.

Former Governor, Anambra State.

TRUSTEES: Dame Virgy Etiaba (President), H.E. Beatrice Kolade, Dr. Onyechi Ikpeazu SAN OON, Hajia Nana Dahiru, Prof. (Mrs.) Mercy Anagbogu, Dr. (Mrs.) Enyi Etiaba (CEO), Mr. Emeka Ndu, Dame Unoaku Ekwegbalu, Barr. Echezona Etiaba, Dr. (Mrs.) Chinyelu Ojukwu.

DVEE RESOURCE CENTRE:
No. 148, Nnewi-Ozubulu Road,
Umuadin, Nnewi,
Anambra State.

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Independence Layout,
Enugu,
Enugu State.

PORT HARCOURT:
No. 65 Evo Road,
GRA Phase II,
Port Harcourt,
Rivers State.

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enyietiaba@yahoo.co.uk;
damevirgyetiabafoundation@yahoo.com;
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LAGOS OFFICE:
No. 5 C&I Leasing Drive,
Lekki Phase 1,
Lagos,
Lagos State.

ABUJA OFFICE:
No. 13 Sheda Close,
Off Minna Street,
Area 8, Garki,
Abuja.

LONDON OFFICE:
No. 127 Jamaica Road,
Tower Bridge,
London SE16 4SH.



COURT OF APPEAL

Hon. Justice Peter Chudi Obiorah (JCA)
30th June, 2025

Hon. Justice Emeka Samuel Nri-Ezedi,
High Court of Justice,
Anambra State.

My Noble Lord,

CONDOLENCE LETTER

Your beloved father, **Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi** (*Ogbunechendo*), has answered the invitation to return home to eternal rest, after 82 years of earthly pilgrimage, by the Almighty God.

At a time like this, words of consolation fail. I know you did everything necessary with your siblings to ensure that the great *Ogbunechendo* enjoyed his last years on earth and would have wished that he lived longer, but alas we are not God who destines the earthly duration of us all. The only thing I can tell you is to take heart and bear the obvious pain and irreplaceable vacuum created by the exit of your father with total faith and trust in God.

I pay tribute to the spirit of the inspired, decent and fulfilled life of the great *Ogbunechendo*, an example of enduring legacy of hardwork, perseverance and resilience, which virtues saw him to the height of his career on the bench from where he retired honourably as the Chief Judge of Anambra State without blemish. In this great legacy, may you and your siblings find consolation.

May the Almighty God uphold you and grant you the fortitude to bear the loss.

Hon. Justice Peter C. Obiorah, JCA

GOVERNMENT OF ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA THE JUDICIARY

Telephone: _____

Your Ref: _____

Our Ref: _____



HON. JUDGES CHAMBERS
HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
AWKA JUDICIAL DIVISION
AWKA

Date: 4th July, 2025.

Hon. Justice Emeka Nri-Ezedi,
High Court of Anambra State,
Idemili Judicial Division.

My Lord,

MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES AND TRIBUTE

Death no doubt is inevitable for every living mortal and will come at God's own appointed time, depicted in the Igbo name CHIDERA. What is important and most crucial is what one will be remembered for when that appointed time comes, captured beautifully in an Anglican Church Hymn thus:-

*Fading away like the stars of the morning
Losing their light in the glorious sun
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling
Only remembered by what we have done.*

There is no doubt that your daddy, our father in the Judiciary, Hon. Chief Judge, Emeritus, **HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU NRI-EZEDI** was one of the luckiest human beings that lived, because our awesome God gave him the grace and opportunity to make a mark and leave a good legacy in this life and he whole heartedly made very good use of that opportunity and left very remarkable, impressive and indelible foot prints on the sands of time hence he cannot be easily forgotten by humanity including his loved ones, immediate and extended family, in laws (including my humble self) and those whose lives he touched positively in various and special ways at one point or the other.

As we bid him final farewell, may we all strive to leave good legacies behind also. Please accept my very sincere condolences, on behalf of your entire family.

May his kind, gentle, noble and erudite soul rest in perfect peace in the bosom of God ... Amen!!!

Hon Justice Peace N.T. Otti



Hon. Justice Obande Festus Ogbuinya, JSC, CON

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS
SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA
P.M.B. 308, ABUJA, NIGERIA

10th July, 2025

Hon. Justice Emeka Samuel Nri-Ezedi,
High Court of Justice,
Anambra State Judiciary.

My Lord,

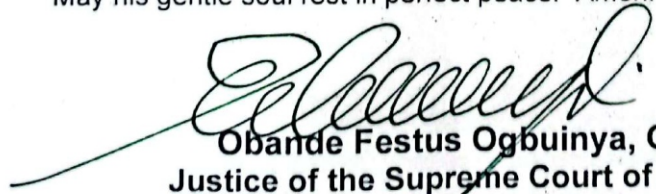
LETTER OF CONDOLENCE

We learnt about the sudden demise of your dear father, **Late Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi**, with rude shock and heavy heart. His Lordship's death, the inevitable way of all mortals, has inflicted immeasurable pains, agony, anguish and sense of loss on members of Your Lordship's family and beyond.

During His Lordships' brief pilgrimage in this transitory and sinful world, based on his historical antecedents, your deceased father paid his dues to humanity. His Lordship was a courageous, humble and transparent jurist. He was a pious Christian who shared cordial relationship with all and sundry. Alas, all those sterling qualities, possessed by him, will be lost to the ungrateful bowel of the mother earth since the goodness and virtues of men are interred with their bones. What a tremendous loss!

Our fervent prayer is that God will grant Your Lordship's family the fortitude to bear the irreversible loss and the wisdom to keep aglow his sea of unparalleled achievements during his sojourn on this passing earth. It is, also, our earnest prayer that his good deeds will constitute a passport that will fetch him the coveted and priceless bosom of the Lord. Kindly, accept our heartfelt condolences.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Amen!


Obande Festus Ogbuinya, CON,
Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.



Senator (Dr) David A B Mark GCON ^{fnim}

Hon. Justice R.O. Onunkwo & His Worship, Nndi A. Onunkwo, Esq. (Nee Nri-Ezedi).

**TRIBUTE TO A QUINTESSENTIAL JURIST; HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU
EMMANUEL OKOYE NRI-EZEDI, CHIEF JUDGE (RTD) OGBUNECHENDO**

Today, we gather with heavy hearts to pay our last respect to an extraordinary individual, a beacon of justice, wisdom and integrity; the late Hon. Chief Judge Umegbolu Emmanuel Nri-Ezedi (Rtd) Ogbunechendo.

Justice Nri-Ezedi, former Chief Judge of Anambra State was more than a jurist; he was a guardian of the law and a steadfast voice for fairness and truth.

With an unwavering commitment to fairness and a deep understanding of the legal system, he presided over the judiciary with dignity, compassion and profound wisdom.

Throughout his distinguished career, Chief Judge Nri-Ezedi rendered decisions that not only shaped jurisprudence but also touched lives. He brought humanity to the bench, treating every individual with respect and impartiality, regardless of status.

To his colleagues, he was a mentor and a pillar of strength; to the young lawyers, a source of inspiration, and to the community, a symbol of fairness and hope.

He championed the values that form the cornerstone of a just society; accountability, transparency, and the rule of law. Under his watch, the judiciary flourished seamlessly, embracing reforms, upholding constitutional values and ensuring that justice remain accessible to all.

Though his earthly journey has come to an end, the legacies of Justice Nri-Ezedi lives on.

As we mourn the loss of a true legal titan, we also celebrate a life of remarkable service and honour. His legacy is eternal, and his voice will echo in the halls of justice for generations to come.

Adieu, Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi.

**Senator (Dr) David A. B. Mark GCON, *FNIM, FNIPR*,
President of the 6th & 7th Senate, Federal Republic of Nigeria.**

National Assembly Complex,
PMB 141, Three Arms Zone, Abuja.

NRI LAWYERS FORUM

**C/o KELVIN C. AKUNNE, ESQ.
HOUSE 35, FLAT 1 ROAD 14 UDOKA
HOUSING ESTATE PHASE 2 AWKA
ANAMBRA STATE
KELVIN C. AKUNNE & CO.
IMPERIAL DYNASTY CHAMBERS**

30TH JUNE, 2025

**Hon. Justice EMEKA NRI- EZEDI
His worship, Hon. NDIDI ONUNKWO
(NEE NRI-EZEDI)**

My Lord, & His worship,

**TRIBUTE TO A GREAT JURIST: HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL
OKOYE NRI-EZEDI, CHIEF JUDGE (RTD) OGBUNECHENDO**

On behalf of the **NRI LAWYERS FORUM**, I write to extend our deepest condolences to you and your family on the passing of your beloved father, **HON. JUSTICE UMEGBOLU EMMANUEL OKOYE NRI-EZEDI, CHIEF JUDGE (RTD) OGBUNECHENDO**, the revered former Chief Judge of Anambra State.

His Lordship, **HON. JUSTICE EMMANUEL NRI-EZEDI**, throughout his distinguished career rendered decisions that not only shaped jurisprudence but also touched lives in Nigeria. He brought humanity to the bench, and treated every individual with respect and impartiality, irrespective of status. Indeed, he lived up to his oath of office as a judicial officer.

We join you in mourning the loss of an Eminent Jurist, a man of profound wisdom, integrity, and service, whose legacy in the Judiciary will remain a guiding light for the legal profession in Nigeria. His contributions to the development of Law and Justice in Anambra and beyond are immeasurable and will forever be honoured and cherished.

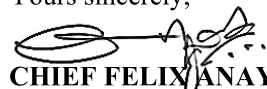
His lordship was a source of inspiration to us and to all lovers of the rule of law.

At this time of grief, we pray that the Almighty God grant you and your entire family the strength and fortitude to bear this painful loss.

May the soul of our departed father find eternal rest and may his memory continue to be a blessing.

Please accept the assurance of our highest regards and our continued prayers.

Yours sincerely,



**CHIEF FELIX ANAYO ONUZULIKE, SAN
For: NRI LAWYERS FORUM**



Appreciation

We, the family of Late Hon. Justice Umegbolu Emmanuel Okoye Nri-Ezedi, are deeply grateful for your presence and for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support we have received since the sudden passing of our beloved father.

Though his loss has been profoundly painful, we are comforted and strengthened by the overwhelming kindness and fellowship shown to us during this time. To those we may not have been able to thank personally, please know that your thoughtfulness has not gone unnoticed.

May Almighty God bless you richly for your compassion and generosity.

Signed:

Hon. Justice Emeka Samuel Nri-Ezedi

For the Family

Obsequies

→ VISIT WEBSITE: <https://www.umegbolumemorial.com/>

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