

*Celebrating the Life of*  
**Honorable**  
**SONA ELONGE**



**25 OCTOBER 1940 – 6 JANUARY 2016**

*Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me:  
Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on, 'Yes' says the spirit  
"that they may rest from their labours, for their works accompany them.  
Rev 14:13*





# *Funeral Programme for* **HON. SONA ELONGE**



## **Friday 4th of March**

**7:30 pm** Virgil Mass, without corpse at the deceased residence, Kumba town

## **Saturday 5th March**

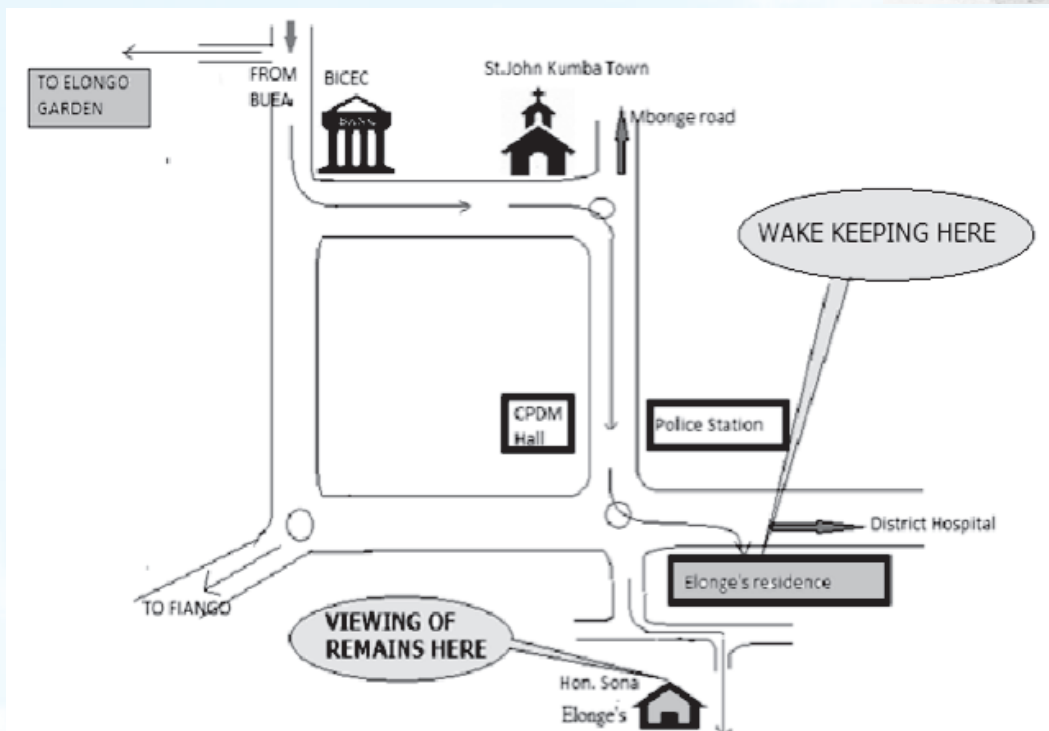
**7:30am** Removal of mortal remains from the Hope Clinic Mortuary Fiango.

**8:00am** Laying in state and viewing at the deceased residence, Kumba town.

**11:00am** Funeral mass at St. John the Evangelist church Kumba town.

\*burial (in strict family intimacy)

**From 3:00pm** Reception at Elongo Garden at Alaska street- Kumba and end of program



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# Funeral Mass For HON. SONA ELONGE

## I. ENTRANCE

**Lead, Kindly Light** (CH 316)

1. Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom,  
lead thou me on.  
The night is dark, and I am far from home;  
lead thou me on.  
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see  
the distant scene, one step enough for me.
2. I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou  
shouldst lead me on.  
I loved to choose and see my path, but now  
lead thou me on.  
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,  
pride ruled my will: remember not past years.
3. So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still  
will lead me on,  
o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent,  
till the night is gone;  
and with the morn those angel faces smile,  
which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

## PROCESSION

### I. Introit: Requiem

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,  
et lux perpetua luceat eis.  
Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion,  
et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.  
Exaudi orationem meam,  
ad te omnis care veniet.  
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,  
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

### II. Kyrie

Kyrie, eleison.  
Christe, eleison.  
Kyrie, eleison.

### 3. Graduale: Requiem aeternam

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine:  
et lux perpetua luceat eis.  
In memoria aeterna erit iustus,  
ab auditione mala non timebit.

### 4. Tractus: Absolve, Domine

Absolve, Domine,  
animas omnium fidelium defunctorum  
ab omni vinculo delictorum  
et gratia tua illis succurrente  
mereantur evadere iudicium ultionis,  
et lucis aeternae beatitudine perfrui.

## FIRST READING:

A Reading from the Book of wisdom 3:1-6. 9

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them. In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die, their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us, like annihilation; but they are in peace. If they experienced punishment as men see it, their hope was rich with immortality; slight was their affliction, great will their blessing be. God has put them to the test and proved them worthy to be with him; he has tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them like a holocaust. They who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love; for grace and mercy awaits those he has chosen.  
The Word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:** O Christe Domine Jesus, O Chiste Domine Jesus

1. The Lord is my shepherd,  
There is nothing I shall want  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
Where he gives me repose  
Near restful waters He leads me  
To revive my drooping spirit

*Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me: Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on, "Yes" says the spirit "that they may rest from their labours, for their works accompany them": Rev 14:13*

*Funeral Mass For*  
**HON. SONA ELONGE**



2. He guides me along the right path  
He is true to his name  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
No evil would I fear  
You are there with your crook and your staff  
With these you give me comfort
3. You have prepare a banquet for me  
In the sight of my foes  
My head you have anointed with oil  
My cup is overflowing
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
All the days of my life  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
Forever and ever

## **SECOND READING:**

A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 14:7-12

The life and death of each of us have an influence on others; if we live we live for the Lord, and if we die we die for the Lord. So that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgment seat of God; as scripture says: By my life it is the Lord who speaks every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God therefore that each of us must give an account of himself.

The Word of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

### **God I Take Refuge in You**

Refrain: God I take refuge in you

1. Lord it is you who are my portion and cup  
It is you yourself who are my pride

I keep the Lord ever in my side  
God I take Refuge in you

2. You will show me the path of life  
The fullness of joy in your presence  
At your right hand happiness for ever  
God I take refuge in you

## **GOSPEL:**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples:  
Do not let your hearts be troubled trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my fathers' house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone to prepare you a place I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said; "Lord we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the father except through me.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

## **HOMILY**

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

### **CELEBRANT:**

We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so it will be for those who died believing in him. God will bring them into company with him. With confidence then, we offer our prayers.

**Response:** Lord in your Mercy hear our prayers.

**Reader:** That the Leaders of the Church may never relent to preach the gospel of the resurrection of the dead in spite of the difficulties they may encounter in remaining faithful to this Gospel. We pray in faith...

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*Funeral Mass For*  
**HON. SONA ELONGE**

**Reader:** That as our father Sona crosses the threshold of death to begin everlasting life, Jesus may be his guide and companion. We pray in faith...

**Reader:** That his wife, Patricia his children, and grand children may be consoled by the messages of the risen Christ who promise eternal life to those who believe in him. We pray in faith...

**Reader:** That the Lord, who knows everything, may in his mercy forgive our father from his weaknesses, so that he may enjoy the eternal life he promises those who believe in him. We pray in faith....

**Reader:** That the transition of our father, may heal broken wounds in the family left behind, if any, and be a source of reconciliation and peace among family members. We pray in faith...

**Reader:** That those who mourn the dead may know the consolation of the love of God who promises to make our burden light. We pray in faith... That God may grant traveling mercies to all who have come from far and near to attend the funeral rite of our father. We pray in faith....

**Reader:** Let us pray for a while in silence for our individual intentions (pause) we pray in faith...

**Reader:** May the blessed Virgin Mary Mother of Mercy, intercede for us and our father as we pray. Hail.....

**CELEBRANT:**

Lord God of all consolation you have sent light into darkness in the presence and power of your son. His death and resurrection have given us the victory over death itself. We beseech you hear the prayers we offer for our brother Sona and grant him a place in your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

## II. OFFERTORY HYMNS

### Father Almighty (CH 53)

Refrain:

Strengthen us Lord, with the burning love of Christ

Send us the spirit of your Son

1. Father Almighty, we give you our thanks,  
Thanks for the gift of your Son  
Thanks for the friendship you've called us to share,  
Gathered together in one,  
Keep us together, all true to your name  
Striving till we've overcome

2. Father we thank you for giving us life,  
Life to be lived all for you  
Giving a share in your Godhead divine,  
A share in love through and through  
Help us bear witness to your holy name  
In all that we say think or do

3. Father, please help us to spread the goodnews,  
Brought by your son to mankind  
News of your love and concern for all men  
The poor and the lame and the blind  
Help us to live all the time, all our lives  
The teachings that Christ left behind

4. Help us to fire all the world with your love,  
We who are one in your son  
Help us transform all the world into Christ  
Till all men and races are one  
Give us your peace Lord, your peace and your love  
Father may your will be done.

### Nearer my God to thee

1. Nearer my God to thee,  
Nearer to thee  
E'en though it be a cross



Funeral Mass For  
HON. SONA ELONGE



That raised me  
Still all my song would be  
Nearer my God to thee  
Nearer to thee

2. Though like the wanderer,  
The sun gone down  
Darkness be over me  
My rest a stone  
Yet in my dreams I'd be  
Nearer my God to thee  
Nearer to thee
3. There let the way appear  
Steps unto heaven  
All that thou send'st to me  
In mercy given  
Angels to beckon me  
Nearer my God to thee  
Nearer to thee

## CHORUSES

### III. COMMUNION

#### If My Gladness Should End (CH 314)

1. If my gladness should end Jesus is mine  
My friends are far away Jesus is mine  
There is no sweet stay here, this world is but  
forest  
For he is my Saviour Jesus is mine
2. In this world you have what Jesus is mine  
It is so much empty Jesus is mine  
This world will pass away, so with all its beauty  
I'll be quiet with my heart, Jesus is mine
3. All my dreams to speak well, Jesus is mine  
Open eyes for prayer, Jesus is mine  
What I had interest on, I've to refuse it now  
For the sake of my Lord Jesus is mine

THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME I'M  
JUST A PASSING THROUGH

## REMEMBER CALVARY

1. Where he may lead me, I will go  
For I have learnt to trust him so  
And I remember twas for me  
That he was slain on calvary

**Refrain:** Jesus shall lead me night and day  
Jesus shall lead all the way  
He is the truest friend to me  
For I remember Calvary

2. O i delight in his command  
Love to be led by his dear hand  
His divine will is sweet to me  
Hallowed by blood stained Calvary
3. I was once lost all in sin  
But Jesus took me in his hands  
And just a little light from heaven  
Came down with force and filled my soul
4. Onward I go no doubt nor fear  
Happy with Christ my Saviour near  
Trusting some day that I will be  
Jesus my friend on Calvary
5. And by faith by and by we shall  
Meet on that bright beautiful gate  
Where the Lord waits us with all joy  
To prepare us a dwelling place

- Se bwamye no
- A john a john kwana njeh di ma ndangwa je-  
rusalem
- Njambi oh, njambi oh jnjo'oh epepe ewuli eh  
njambi
- Bum bu kundi kindim ngege pangili
- Kambo jay ray

## EXIT

*Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me: Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on, "Yes" says the spirit "that they may rest from their labours, for their works accompany them": Rev 14:13*



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## *Biography of* HON. SONA ELONGE

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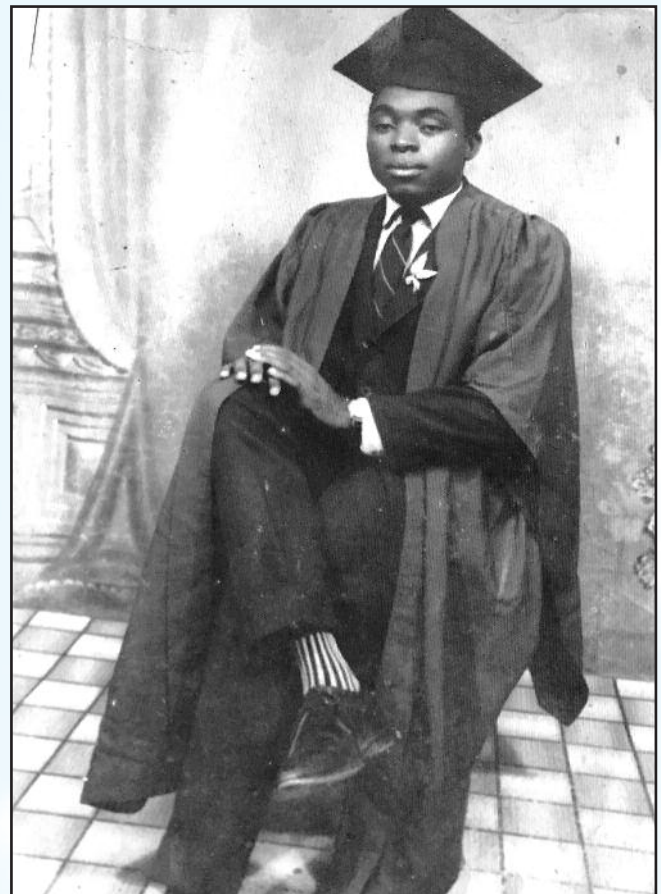
### **A Man for all Seasons and People**

My dad was born on 25 October 1940. He was the eldest Son of eight siblings and so from a very early age, he was instructed to be responsible for his younger siblings and to lead by example.

Dad attended primary schools in Kumba Government School and Native Administration School Tali, (where his father was Head Master at different times). In standard 5, he sat the Government entrance exam to the single Government College in Eastern Nigeria at the time, Government College Umuahia, Eastern Region of Nigeria and he passed this exam. At the tender age of 16, Dad travelled to Nigeria where he spent 7 years in Umuahia, terminating with his O'levels, and A'levels in 1962. Next, he said he found Ghana exciting so he went to University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, where he finished in 1966 with a B.A. Hons. in Geography.

Meanwhile in 1963, the first ever Bilingual Secondary Grammar School in Cameroon was opened in Man O'War Bay, Victoria/Limbe and one of its pioneer teachers was a certain Miss Patricia Blair, a foreign lady from the Caribbean, who was representing the French Government.

In 1966, my father returned as a vibrant graduate from Legon and went to teach Geography and History in the newly opened secondary school. Here, he met my mother, fell madly in love, and they were married two years later in 1968.



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*Biography of*  
**HON. SONA ELONGE**



In 1969, the Grammar School in Man O'War Bay was relocated to Molyko Buea. During this year, my Mum and Dad travelled to Sheffield, in the UK to study for their postgraduate. They both returned in 1970 whereby my Dad was made Senior Warden (Surveillant General) of Bilingual Grammar School (Lycee Bilingue Buea). He was very dynamic in this role, and also the highest ranking Cameroonian in the school and so when the late President Amadou Ahidjo came to formally open the school in 1970, my Dad was awarded the medal Knight of the Cameroon Order of Merit. He was the youngest ever medalist in Cameroon. In 1972, my Dad was promoted to the First Principal of CCAS Kumba. From 1975 to 1979, he was Delegate of National Education North West Province, 1979-85; he was promoted to Deputy Director of Exam in Yaounde. From 1985-88, he was Delegate of National Education South West Province, and from 1988-92, he found himself back to his humble beginnings, in CCAS Kumba, but this time as a classroom teacher. During this relatively quiet spell, he turned his energy to politics and in 1992; he became a Member of Parliament for the next 6 years. My Dad retired from public office in 1997. Beyond this point until his death, my Dad was as active as ever. He was on the Board of Directors of several associations, he had business ventures some which took him to India in 2007. He was very influential in the local community whereby he was awarded the Bafaw Traditional title of "Kwoh".

My Dad was a man of the world. He travelled all over the globe, attending conferences at UNESCO, Ethiopia, he visited Kenya Benin, Togo, Ivory Cost, Senegal, Zaire, Italy, France, Britain, Switzerland, USA, Barbados, Antigua, and Guyana in South America (my mother's home nation)

My dad was full of life. There was never a boring moment around him. He loved fishing, and growing up, we would go out to sea in Limbe,

having such fun fishing, and then being caught out by the returning tide. My dad loved football and when PWD Kumba came to Yaounde for the inter-pool tournament, being a prominent Kumba son of the soil, he became the Coordinator of PWD FC supporters, Yaounde. Unfortunately, PWD received such a thrashing that those of us who had majestically entered the stadium with PWD proudly and boldly printed on our T-shirts, we had to sheepishly exit the stadium, egos bruised and battered from mockery and abuse by cheering opposing fans.



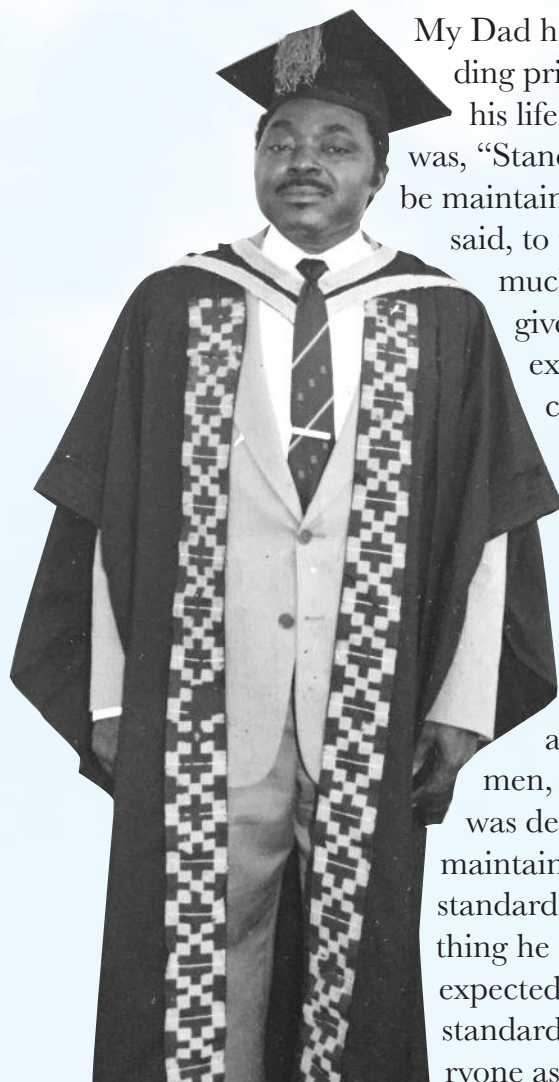
Entertaining, chairing occasions, and just being a born leader was second nature to my Dad. He would go visiting to America or UK and find himself being requested to be Chairman. The strangest bit was when my Dad found himself on a distressed flight to Togo and fellow passengers who were complete strangers, somehow decided to start handing their passports to my dad, so they can be identified if and when the plane crashed. Obviously, they must have known that being a Kumba man, Hon Sona Elonge could not die in a plane crash.

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*Biography of*  
**HON. SONA ELONGE**

Growing up, our home was like a hostel, an open-door policy in action. So many friends, my brothers and sisters have called me saying “our Daddy” is gone. I have brothers and sisters from as far south as Australia, and as far North as America, who at one point or another, lived with us. Everyone was welcome to our house, you will be fed, and you will be sheltered, for as long as it was required. As an adult with three young children, I marvel at how my Mum and Dad managed such a feat, but now, I reap the rewards as I have loved ones all over this world.



My Dad had two guiding principles in his life. The first was, “Standards must be maintained”! He said, to those to whom much has been given, much is expected. He considered himself very lucky to have been born in a lineage of educationalists and ambitious men, and so he was determined to maintain very high standards in everything he did and he expected very high standards from everyone associated

with him.

His second principle was the Latin phrase “Age Quod Agis” which means, “Whatever your hand findeth, do it with all your might.” This principle

saw him through primary school all the way to university, through his career in education from a classroom teacher to Director of Exams in Cameroon and different positions as Delegate of National Education, and finally back to a classroom teacher in CCAS Kumba. My Dad said, he who is at the bottom fears no fall, and so he turned his hand to politics. This saw him rise to a Member of Parliament for 6 years.

He was an avid reader up to the time he fell ill. He was always plain spoken, just and did whatever he could to help others. He was not a saint or an angel, but he was a man of peace and unity and was always ready to serve at home, in church, in his social groups, wherever he found himself. He never considered himself too “big” to learn, nor to apologise for his mistakes.

I have learned so much from my Dad. My life, especially as an adult, is heavily influenced by my Dad, and Mum. Laughter, fun, happiness, love, humility, kindness, family, loyalty, marriage, commitment, determination, ambition, peace, friendship, tradition, etc, are but a few qualities from my Dad that I strive to emulate. While celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary, I asked my dad, “How do you guys manage this, because I’ve been married but a few years and I don’t know whether I’ll be able to last another month let alone a week!” My Dad laughed heartily and said, never think of a week, or a month or a year. Just focus on one day at a time”. My Dad lived a full life. He enjoyed a very happy marriage with my mum, spent precious moments with his children and grandchildren. Like his father before him, he was referred to as Pa Elonge or Daddy. He was the Head of the Elonge Family, the pillar, the councillor, the provider, and most importantly, the peacemaker. As a family, we celebrate your life and we miss you.

May the Lord in whom he trusted grant him eternal rest and peace.

Your son, Patrice Okonor Sona Elonge.

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*Christian Life*  
HON. SONA ELONGE



*Traditional Life*  
HON. SONA ELONGE



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## *Family Life* HON. SONA ELONGE



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# Traditional Life HON. SONA ELONGE



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# Public Life of HON. SONA ELONGE



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## Tributes to HON. SONA ELONGE

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My Dear Sona, 47 years ago, just before we got married, you called me ‘captainness courageous’. Little did I expect that I’d be called upon to justify that title. I always ‘knew’ that you would bury me. According to me, that was just natural.

In a similar way I had decided that I would spend only 4 to 5 years teaching in Africa before returning to settle down and continue teaching in my native Guyana, in South Africa. I considered myself a career woman, and marriage etc was definitely not in my plan. What an idiot I was in 1963! and what a loving God I had and still have. He probably just smiled at all that daughter’s plans and decisions and just took me by the hand saying to himself; ‘I will lead you to a land, you do not know and I will guide your steps, your thoughts, your will. Just trust and obey.’ And so on concluding my studies in Paris, instead of going to Sekou Toure’s Guinea to do my 5 year stint, I came to Cameroon. Three years after my arrival, a young teacher fresh from studies in Legon, Ghana was also taken by the hand and sent to that remote

but beautiful spot—Man o’ War Bay to teach Geography. No need to go into details, but two years after his arrival we were standing at the altar of St. John the Evangelist church exchanging vows of love and fidelity, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health till death do us part. Today, as I say goodbye to you, and as I trust I carried out my vows faithfully, I thank the Almighty Father for his love, guidance and protection. I also thank you Sona who as a human being neither angel nor saint, opened yourself to God’s Grace and voice continuously speaking to you. Thank you for your genuine love and frank admittal of mistakes. You used your spirit, your talents, and your devotion to help and promote so many persons—family, friends, and acquaintances of every walk of life. God rewarded you and will surely grant you eternal rest and peace in his kingdom.  
Etua-ekhe Njum-mieh.

**Pat**

Daddy,

I am probably the only one who is still in denial that you are gone. From the swimming lessons when I was a toddler, the fishing tricks in my preteens, the invaluable guidance through my teenage years, including that famous outing to a night club, (when I was still in High school), you taught me everything and shaped me to who I am today. Your wise words when I was leaving Cameroon many moons ago, your advice before I got married, indeed our chat a few days before you left to be with the Lord, all these still resonate in my head like it was just yesterday. You have shaped many a young man and woman, not just as an educationist, but more important, as a parent. You and mummy instilled in us

the values of right and wrong, the mantra of human values. As parents, you embraced everyone from all over. As a result, today, we have brothers who come from South Africa, Ghana, the United States and many provinces from Cameroon. You were truly the greatest in my eyes.

You lived your life. You accomplished your goals on earth. As you rest in heaven, people here on earth will take heart that you are with the Lord, smiling down on us. For me however, I am probably still in denial that you are really gone.  
Rest in peace

**Leyland Etah.**

Pa Elonge, Buzzard!

I wish to use this opportunity to thank you – my family friend, my teacher and my boss. Together with my late husband, Peter Asafor Atashili who was my mentor, you both made me to be what I am today. During the story of our family relationship covers a period of 49 years. During this period, both families learnt to live together and share their joys and sorrows. Pa, once a teacher, always a teacher. You taught physical geography, Map Reading and Interpretation so well in Saker Baptist College, Victoria (Limbe), that as a student, it caused me to develop a special interest in the subject and the use of pencil and eraser. In my marriage with Peter Asafor Atashili, you acted more like a father to my husband than a friend when he needed it the most. Through your intervention, we were able to have housing when it was a night mare in Yaounde. In my husband’s absence, you stood in the gaps, some of which

our daughter Laura Atashili now Mrs Enow, your God-daughter was born into the family while my husband was out of station supervising end of course examinations in Garoua. You were there during his funeral making sure he was laid to rest peacefully.

Buzzard, you brought back music to my soul last year when together with your wife Ma Patricia Elonge, yourself, myself and your driver travelled to Douala to follow up on your treatment. You took us to some of those spots where we used to spend our recreational hours as couples. Pa, your ever constant presence gave me courage and strength to go through those lonesome moments in life. As soon as you get over there, tell Peter that “It is well with our souls- the children and myself”. Safe journey daddy, the Lord be with you till we meet again.

**Evelyn Atashili**

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Tributes to

# HON. SONA ELONGE

Oh Daddy, how I wish I could write or tell the stories of you and I, so I could show the world the golden heart of a unique father. To some a father might just be a caretaker, a financial aid or an adviser. To me, you were and still are my strength, defender, role model, counselor, love and life. I don't think I will

miss you because I still see and feel you with me. I love you and I don't think I will ever see or meet anyone in this world like you. I don't think I will ever meet such knowledgeable and wise person. May the good Lord grant you rest. I love you father. )

**Akwo Elame Elonge (son)**

Daddy, just as the flowers lend their sweetness to us each day, so too you touched the lives of those you met in a kind and gentle way. To call you a superman would be an understatement because your heart of gold can be compared to none. My dearest father, earnestly do I thank God, for giving us the opportunity, despite our disparity to make amends. The inevitability of death, is a curse I cannot bear. O death, where is thy sting? My father, my father I will carve the memories we had, to the walls of my heart. My

grief knows no bounds, but I pray the joy you expressed in life, may you find solace and comfort in the abode of the Lord. Weeping itself, is not a weakness, but a room to my soul. I wish we could turn back the hands of time, I would cherish every moment, hour and opportunity to feel the fatherly love I so much crave. I loved you earnestly but God loves you more. I wish you a safe trip to the world beyond. Sleep on my hero, my icon, my father.

**Carine (Daughter)**

Brother Sona, at last, you are gone! I lack words to express my feelings as regards what happened to you and finally resulted in death. Those who grew up with you will know you better than those you met and started your family. It is true that we all loved

ourselves and if death had to separate us; then that's the will of God. 'We shall all pass through this world but once, and if there's any good, or kindness to be done let's do it NOW.' The Lord bless you.

**Uncle Mboh and family (brother)**

Dear Bra,  
Thank you for keeping the family intact after papa's death. It is now that we shall realize your worth. You stood by us in good and bad times. God, calling you home to rest was just timely. He saw how much you have suffered physically, morally, and even spiritually. He also saw how the family was suffering financially and dying slowly as we all shared in your pains. Our

pillar is gone to return no more. We shall meet you one by one. You can't come back to us. Farewell brother, my mentor, teacher, adviser, and above all role model. Greet our parents and relatives who have gone before. Rest in perfect peace brother, till we meet to part no more.

**Sister Hannah N. Elonge (Sister)**

Dear Daddy,  
You have always let your work speak for you, let your honesty answer all criticism. We know you are leaving a proud man. The hardest thing is to say goodbye because we won't have a friend, a father and a

grandfather but at least it has some good attached to it that promises a better tomorrow.

**Enanga, Kong and Sona V. Elonge (nieces and nephew)**

Dear Daddy,  
Your sudden departure has left us devastated. To me you had become a father, husband and child. You were present by my side whenever I needed help and comfort. You always called me mother, every 14th of February because of your namesake Valentine Sona

Kane. You took a particular interest in the progress of your mbombo at school and always encouraged him to study harder. Well Daddy, we know that God has a better plan for you. May your soul rest in perfect peace till we meet to part no more.

**Your mother, Martha**

Dear Daddy Sona, all this while that you were with us, I couldn't envisage your importance to me. But in losing you, I felt like a large vacuum has formed inside of me. You were the kindest, most loving and sociable person I have ever met and I am proud to day

that you are an icon to many. I wish you the best where you are and you will forever remain in our hearts as the 'man who conquered all.' May your soul rest in perfect peace.

**Ngoh (Nephew)**

*Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me: Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on, "Yes" says the spirit "that they may rest from their labours, for their works accompany them": Rev 14:13*



Tributes to  
**HON. SONA ELONGE**



Daddy, I had promised I will not cry over your passing but I haven't been able to keep that promise and I surely will never. As your son, I never could possess you to myself. It was always so frustrating to imagine that the world could hardly make that distinction between me and others and even at death, the lines are still frighteningly blur. Everyone is telling everyone 'accept my condolence for your loss.' No one can own the pain of losing you. Especially not me! And I suddenly realize that you were not just my dad, you were a 'boma tree', holding a world of branches, a world of children; each wanting to stick stronger to your trunk, to gain nourishment and insight; to be loved and understand love; to taste the

true meaning of kindness and a good heart. Now the tree has fallen and the branches are in disarray. I see the hopelessness in my younger brothers' eyes as he starts feeling the full weight of your loss—as he begins coming to terms with the other side of humanity where forgiveness, love and tolerance and sympathy are a far cry. I see the struggle on my younger sisters' gaze as she imagines a world in which your granddaughter will not taste your wisdom and love; and for me, I say a little prayer that hopefully we who are left behind will not let the lessons of your love fade away. Adieu my darling honourable!

**Kwoh Elonge (Son)**

Daddy, it hurts when I think of the fact that you are gone. Though I am thankful you are free from the rough time you were going through, I am deeply touched by your absence. You were a great man and even death can't deny that. You were a positive male role model to many and to me especially. Words can't

explain what you meant and still mean to me. Though you are gone, you still live through the hearts of your loved ones. May your soul RIP. I will forever miss and love you daddy.

**Nsima Elonge (Son)**

Daddy,  
It is with a broken heart and tears in my eyes that I am writing this wonderful memories of you. Having the notion that you are gone and I will never see you again makes me very sad. Just yesterday when I was a little girl growing by your side and seeing all the love and care you showed me makes me terribly mad with

'Death', and how it comes uninvited and takes only those closest to my heart. Daddy, I miss you very very much and will always continue to miss you till we meet again. Witnessing all the pain you went through, I pray to the Lord Almighty to grant you everlasting rest by his side in heaven.

**Patricia Ndoh Elonge 'Lollipop' (Niece)**

I lack words but I must say you were a wonderful person not just to me but to the entire family. First it was Aunt Helen who treated me like her own son and now it's you. When I came back to Kumba, I didn't only meet a loving uncle but also met someone who took me as his own son. I still remember the day you asked me to stop calling you uncle, asking why I couldn't call u Daddy like the others. You have been at the top yet you are the most simple person I ever met. I remember when you clocked 70, you told me you were now living a plus. So am sure you died a happy man. When Mbamba died I saw how disorga-

nized the family was and only then did I realize how much we would all miss you. I pray the family could produce someone half the person you were as it's not easy being you. The last few years haven't been easy for all of us but still life they say no matter how hard and bad, is better than death no matter how good. I don't believe in the death walking and watching over the living but if it's true then am consoled knowing you are always around us. We love you but God loves you more. Fare thee well Daddy.

**Gilbert Elonge**

I still refuse to believe this. All I hold are beautiful memories of you. From the first day I walked into your home, I have been Adele, or Shushu to you. Never a dull moment with you Daddy. Knowing you, living with you, hanging out with you, talk less of our conversation which could be on everything and anything, will be treasured for always. You were never a

father-in-law to me. You were 'Honorable', my main man, my pillar for as long as I have known you. Even when I flared up sometimes, it was "Adele, calm down, nothing is ever that serious....if you can't talk to me, then go talk to Mummy". But usually, we will go into your office or drive out and before I know it, we are on some other topic or arranging our usual

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Tributes to

## HON. SONA ELONGE

evening goat meat pepper soup. Our conversations in your last days are my life lessons. Though you kept thanking me for reasons best know to you, I thank you Daddy, from the bottom of my heart, for accepting and loving me unconditionally. I wish God gave

Our beloved Daddy as you were fondly called by the family, you were indeed a good father to us. If I could turn back the hands of time then I will beg God to give me a lifetime to spend by you. You inspired everyone around you with basic rules in life like tolerance, patience, peace, and most especially love. You had the spirit of humility and you knew how to comfort people with your warm smiles. Even when the going was tough with you, you still let the tough get going. You were such a crusader of peace. It is

Father of everlasting goodness, it has pleased you to call to yourself our dearly beloved Kwor Sona Elonge. Grant him a share in your eternal happiness. We would have loved to have him longer with us but our ways are not your ways. Where he has gone, we too will follow when it pleases you. To you life is as endless as the skies and death is only a horizon. Lift us higher, Lord, that we may see, that beyond the

Dear Uncle Sona

In you we have lost yet another great pillar of the family. You were always like a father to me and Ben, especially all those years ago when our dad was still in the US and we were in dire need of a father figure. As kids, we couldn't wait for the holidays because we knew where we were going; to our beloved uncle Sona and aunty Pat be it in Kumba, Yaounde or Buea. Always soft spoken and full of advice. I can-

Daddy it was astonishing when I saw you dying in front of me. I am speechless without you and I find myself longing for someone who will call me 'ashi'. I love you very much but I know losing you is by His grace. I did not expect our Lord to take you so soon.

Dear Daddy, we have been together for a short time but yet I feel like I have known you all my life. I can't find the exact words to express my feelings but I will try my best. I came into this family with nothing but Daddy gave me something to believe and fight for

Dear Daddy, I have lived and worked with you for more than fifteen years. During that period you were more than an employer, you were a father and a

me the opportunity of knowing you much longer. But His ways are not our ways, nor His thoughts, our thoughts. Continue to rest in Peace 'Honorable, may main man!'

**From Adeline Etah Elonge, Daughter-in-law .**

said that only when someone important is taken from you then will you know his worth. I miss you so much already. I pray that God almighty forgives your shortcomings and grant you rest in his bosom where pains, worries and sorrow will be no more. You will find comfort and peace with all the angels and saint for eternity.

Adieu Daddy

**Elonge Hannah Egbe**

gloomy darkness of death lies the glorious dawn of immortality that awaits those who put their trust in you. For ourselves we ask for grace to keep our death ever in mind and live as befits those destined for eternal glory. We give this our farewell through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Kwor Ndutu Epongo James**

not recall the last time I heard you raise your voice or smack any of us even though we were quite a handful (especially Etah and myself).

You have left a great void in the family which can never be filled. We loved you but the LORD Almighty in His infinite wisdom knows better. Adieu Uncle.

**Esambi Sona**

Who will continue telling me some of the history of Kumba? I am speechless but I know where you are. May your lovely and caring soul rest in peace my lovely dad.

**Tiku Divine (Nurse)**

and till this day I am proud to say I am a changed being. You gave me fatherly love,; gave me all of life's' accessories and for that I am grateful. I wish you farewell and I pray for your soul.

**Francisca**

guide. I will always cherish your memory. May you find rest at the bosom of the Lord.

**Auntie Patience**

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Tributes to  
**HON. SONA ELONGE**



I have lost everything significant; it's so painful that the simple act of breathing hurts. Bye by Daddy.

**Ma Mbone**

A good Father and great Bafaw son is gone. A fine Human being. The man who ordered the Principal of Lycee Molyko to admit me. Son a struggling

Kumba Town palm wine seller. A good man...

**Lenny B Behyia**

Dear Ma Patricia Sona Elonge. Accept our condolence for the departure from this phase of life. We share your sentiments for a personality we have known since meeting you both at Man O War Bay when as technical students we were engaged in building GBGS Victoria. We have since mixed with you as collaborators in education and families in Church and society.

Your life with him now suffer physical separation. But the God who put you together oversees your covenant, is God of both the living and the living-dead. May Hon. Sona Elonge, educator and evocator, by the mercies of God, rest in eternal peace.

**Joe Set Aji-Mvo**

Rest in Peace daddy. Permit call you daddy as you journey to eternal glory. Please daddy, extend my love and that of my girls to my hubby and daddy (ka-

lieu Leussa Robert). Eternal rest grant unto you both, and let perpetual light shine upon you, amen. R. I. P

**Mirabel Ayuk Tabi Egbe**

The educationist, my education delegate who was more than a minister in the 70s when I was a young Boban. I remember when he had to visit CPC it was a very special occasion. Then our own "Sam", Mr Samuel Nfonyam was principal and also a friend of the delegate. The last time I met you was at the fune-

ral of your friend, "Sam". You looked even stronger than your son, my former student. Glad God gave you some more time to see him obtain an MSc. We will miss you. RIP

**Muluh Henry**

"Pa'a Elonge" as we fondly called you. Rest in Peace together with the one who at adulthood made us know you were a bosom friend and someone we his family could always rely on -Pa'a Atashili Peter. You

both will remain forever in our hearts, true friends you were indeed.

**Nguenue Atashili Nfortayong**

Auntie Pat, Nene, Etah, Patrice and the entire family, Words alone are insufficient to describe your loss and the irreplaceable vacuum with the slipping into eternity of your beloved husband and father. As you mourn the patriarch, our country weeps for a patriot! Hon. Sona Elonge epitomized exceptional loyalty and trustworthiness to his friends and constituents. As an elected official in an age of high political wheeling and dealing, Hon. Sona Elonge was unscathed because he put country first before self by turning down offers of ministerial or other lucrative parastatal appointments! As a legislator, Hon. Elonge studiously read through and between the lines of draft legislation to the extent that his proposed amendments were given serious consideration from both sides of the aisle. To this effect, Hon. Elonge deserves significant posthumous credit for amendments in the 1994 Forestry bill that banned the export of whole timber logs in favor of processing by local mills. As an advocate of accountability and transparency in government, Hon. Elonge was a key member in the Parliamentary Commission of in-

quiry into the spoilation and the disguised sale of the Cameroon Paper and Pulp Company (CELLUCAM) to Gudam Gharam, a Malaysian shell company! As an educator, Hon. Elonge was an always ready repository for policy ranging from infrastructure investment for schools, better pay for teachers, better regulation of lay private educational institutions, awards of scholarships and grants to meritorious students etc. In his unique polished, unrattling but effective way, Hon. Elonge asserted his Anglo-Saxon education and culture on Parliamentary record for full and complete administrative and financial autonomy of the English speaking provinces of Cameroon. It was a privilege to have hosted Hon. Elonge several on both radio and television, and witness his brilliance, scintillating wit and persuasive arguments in swaying his audience. Hon. Sona Elonge was a lesson in humility and generosity, exemplary scars of our existence worth emulation from future generations!

**Villian Tambe**

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Tributes to

## HON. SONA ELONGE

Hon 'Kwor' Sona Elonge . I had the personal privilege work along side you (meme adviser SWELA Cameroon) while I was national chairman for health SWELA Cameroon . I met you often on the field and on the national grand stand during public events in Kumba as a regional political party leader (meme kumba) You were chair of meme divisional red cross board and I worked with you as the secretary general . I thank you for those memos you sent me often , and the advice you gave me , when you felt I needed some . I always watched you close by your wife in public events , how you carried your self in dignity and

Great South West Leader in Academics, Great Kumba Boy an accomplished senior brother; your time on planet earth was meaningful to us and we will continue to miss you albeit seeing your great

Daddy, the gap your absence will create can never be overemphasized. Nobody will understand me when i say I will miss the song you sang for me, from my baby days, through to my present age. Tell Laura I love her, tell Laura i need her, tell Laura not to cry, my love for her, will never die.. Its an extra pain that i won't see you lowered into the grave, but i guess its because God in His infinite wisdom knows that after

You may have left when we least expected. There is only one Statement... I wish to Make, "there is no better Daddy in the World than you were". You will forever remain in our hearts.

Uncle Pat (as my siblings and I fondly called you), Jay, Catherine, Henry and I were blessed to see you days before you left us to go hang out with other family members long gone. Thank you for being an integral part of our lives. Your pain is gone. You will be missed until we all meet again.

What a man: humorous but firm. Ask him to come for an appointment at 10 am and he Surprises you at 9:55 am. Give him a standing Ovation and he tells you not to bother. He served as Chairman of School Management Board (SM B) of CCAS Kumba until his death. Offer him your sit and he tells you Sona Elonge is Still young and can remain Standing. Visit him and he runs around to offer you seats himself, even proposes that with nobody home you go across his residence together for a drink. And will offer you a Series of Newspapers to perus .Very flexible. Age to him was no barrier. So versed with the History and Cultures of different areas. Tell him you are from Manyu Division and he starts briefing you on the "Ekpe Society" and you are em-

honored her so often . You have left a solid foot print in the sand of Bafaw and I have no doubt that you must be curated for the Bafaw museum . Socrates believed that the sages never died and a true sage of NFAW you were as testified by the traditional title of adviser to the paramount king of Nfaw "Kwor" . Kwor Governor Ntuba and the others of your type will be waiting fro you. I commend your soul and spirit to our God.

**DR REV Akwo Thompson Ntuba,  
President SWELA USA**

children accomplishing your will. May your soul rest in peace and we all joint to pray for those you have left with us.

**Henry Walla**

witnessing my dad's burial, i really need to hold on to the image of a smiling and happy you, not a stiff and lifeless face, ooo no! Death, ooo Death where lies your strength?! I may never have sung back to you, but daddy,daddy I love you  
May you find sweet and eternal peace in Jesus Christ.

**Mrs Enow Laura Atashili, God daughter**

**Fadimatou Nsume Atze**

**Susannah Nfonoyim née Mondo**

barrassed because you don't know 25% of what he knows about what concerns you. What a Man! What Shocked us as young students was that we saw him come back to our College (CCAS K') to teach History a few months after he came to that same institution to install the One who later became his boss, in a school where he had Served as Pioneer Principal years before .What a lesson on Humility. Sona Elonge, the name myself and those of my Generation will always say something about. I described him once as "Ever young" and asked his secret."Peace of mind and Less Alcohol "he whispered to me. Adieu Papa!

**Achire**

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Tributes to  
**HON. SONA ELONGE**



**A EULOGY STATEMENT ADDRESSES BY THE JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION  
OF ST. JOHN'S PARISH, KUMBA TOWN TO THE ELONGE'S FAMILY**

On that fateful day when we heard of the passing of Kwor Sona Elonge, we were gripped with shock and consternation for having lost a charismatic, eloquent, dynamic, enchanting, enthusiastic, enduring, punctual, proactive and worthy member of the group, an unpretentious pillar from whom the group tapped multidimensional versatile experiences to resolve certain prominent issues and to enrich its delivery in settling disputes among Christians. Good things do not last in a world conflictual in nature, ambivalent and ambiguous. The almighty God knows why He called him to His glory this early, probably to join Heavenly judges to assist in judging mankind on the last day.

Kwor Sona Elonge, we regret your passing on. You manifested your exceptional brilliance in the group, though your active engagement was short-lived. We implore, God Almighty with His great great grace and mercy to speedily remedy your loss by blessing the group with a new member who shares your merits and devotedness.

To the bereaved family, while wishing you our sympathies for the great loss, know that we accompany you with our prayers and share in your grief, while imploring our ever-loving Father to bestow on you His grace of fortitude, endurance, consolation and

the ability to manage sympathizers in a decent manner during these trying moments of grief and depression. Be comforted by His word in Ps 34:18 which states that the Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. May God in His infinite mercy multiply the success of your efforts.

Kwor Sona Elonge, the dignity which your presence offered the Justice and Peace Commission of St. John's Parish of Kumba Town was thwarted by your unpremeditated and unprejudiced departure from the group due to your ill health which has culminate in your death. Your efforts of meditation with the group have been prematurely lost. We miss you and your lofty and logical contributions but we are confident that He who has called you now has an assignment for you in the the world beyond and by His Grace shall prepare a deserving mansion for you to spend eternity. Adieu Kwor Sona Elonge, the Boabab tree of the Justice and Peace Commission of the St. John the evangelist Parish, Kumba Town.

**Dr Kwo Makolo William Akwo**  
**President, Justice and Peace Commission,**  
**St. John's Parish, Kumba town.**

**Tribute to My Honourable Brother**

All the jokes about who of us will go first came to an abrupt end when I saw you lying stiff on your bed covered with a white bed sheet on that fateful January 6/2016 afternoon. Your beloved wife, Pat, had insisted that you would not be taken to the mortuary until I was present. As soon as I arrived, we went first to the Kumba District Hospital where we were informed that there was no room for you. Oh, how cruel!. Then we went to Hope Clinic mortuary Kosala where there was room. As we went back home without you, the truth finally dawned on me that you were no more.

For two years since we returned from Yaounde in December 2013 to conclude talks for marriage between our cousin Babiene Mandi who is in Belgium and Irene, Dr. Nkelle's niece working in Buea, you were not in good health.

Doctors in Kumba, Limbe and Douala could not stop Almighty God's intervention for you to come home to Him in spite of all their diligent efforts.

Now that you are gone all that I am left with is fond memories of you. My first intimate encounter with you was when we had to go to Umuahia Government College, a prestigious Secondary School in Nigeria where admission was limited. Only the best from all over Cameroon and Nigeria were allowed there. Your mother, Ma Ndoh who



departed this earth before you, was afraid for the safety of your life in Ibo country where it was alleged that during the yam harvest, humans were used as meat. I calmed Mama's fears when I convinced her that if indeed human meat was part of the harvest meal, I myself who had been in Ibo land for four years would not be alive today. I had been in the same Umuahia Government College for four years before you. Mama's fears were legitimate for you were still a small boy. So small you were, that, on difficult spots on the road when all passengers were ordered to "come down" I had to carry you on my shoulders. You

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Tributes to

## HON. SONA ELONGE

were in fact little. By the time I left Umuahia for the United States of America you were already capable to taking care of yourself.

At Umuahia you performed well in class. Your good preparation there was responsible for your excellent performances later in university studies, civil service, and politics.

Do you remember when you met this charming lady from British Guyana at Molyko Bilingual Grammar School and you came to me panting and saying you would like to marry her and I encouraged you to go ahead? Marrying Patricia Ella was the best thing that ever happened to your life.

You were the dearest brother I ever had. In all matters af-

Most families have at least one. I'm referring to Daddy Sona. The person who ensured that everyone stayed linked to one another in various ways. Uncle I remember you telling me that we should live together as one family. You gave our family it's strength, respect, pride and hard work. You knew how to encourage and guide us in achieving our goals. That was what gave you that unique personality. Daddy loved dancing, reading, sharing, watching TV with us and also forced us to watch his favourite channels EWTN, CRTC or CNN. I remember his rule: No watching of TV during weekdays except on weekends. You were a disciplined person and would not

Daddy, though I am saddened by your departure, I am consoled you are in a better place with the Lord Almighty. Words can never explain what you mean to me. A positive role model to many and me. The times we spent together are always going to be price-

Dear Uncle Sona,  
I write to you knowing that though you are gone you still dwell with us on a higher level.  
You remain a special Uncle and a father to me.  
You used to call me 'the youth' from the age of 7 and you always listened attentively and treated me like a grown up.  
That was a spécial talent you had. Now as an adult i wonder how you managed to do that.

Dear Auntie Patty,  
We are sad at the loss of Uncle Sona. Our sincere condolences to you and all of the family. I'm sorry that we are not with you to take part in his farewell. Uncle Sona is sourly missed but he has left a legacy that lives beyond his passing. His love of traditional culture, history and warmth, and his love of sharing his intellectual knowledge with us all was always appreciated. His patience and ability to resolve issues

fecting me, you were supportive as you stood firm by me when Mbaï Thomas Sona used my cousins, grand children of my late aunt, Mama Babiene to fight against me because she made me heir of her estate. You were there to do die with me if necessary,. Also you never let any oportubity pass to raise me up in the eyes of other people. In our JOPASIT class for instance, you let everyone know that I was Mandela of the Elonge family. Never mind your absence, your good wife Pat will take care of the family you have left behind as she now also occupies the position of the mother of the entire Elonge Family. So long brother. Rest in peace till we meet again in heaven.

**Emmanuel Elong Sona.**

hesitate to discipline those around. I also remember you putting locks on my door when I went out late, little did I know that all of that was to make me a better person. You use to tell my younger sister and I that you were waiting for the pig 'a very big pig! Daddy, now that you are gone who is going to receive the pig when the time comes. There are many more memories of you that will always be in my heart. Your last days were not the best, but I know you are resting peacefully in the blossom of God. Adieu uncle.

**Your niece, Hannah Elonge**

less. I wish I could turn back the hands of time. I would focus on the memories we shared till the next time we meet again. May your soul rest in peace.

**Your son Nsima**

The last time i visited you on your sick bed you still managed to talk with me for over an hour. And you were smiling!!  
I am most grateful for everything Uncle.  
Though you are gone i know for sure that you are looking down on all of us now smiling.  
Missing you dearly,

**Ben**

was well known and many came to him for advice. The children flocked around him to hear stories or to sing songs. Above all, there was his love for his wife and family. So, thank you Uncle Sona for always making us feel welcome and treating us as special. We will miss your wit and humour. Kumba will never be the same but your kindness and memory will live on....may your soul rest in eternal peace.

**Waveney and Robert Harris.**

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## *Last Days of* Hon. Sona Elonge



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## *Appreciation*

*The entire Sona Elonge Family wishes to thank you all for your words of encouragement , outpouring show of love, support and generosity during this period.*

*May God bless you all.*