

BIOGRAGRAPHY OF HENRY BUTAME JULIUS AKALE

Henry Butame Julius Akale, the bright little boy from the central Balong village of Mukonje turned out to be a trail blazer in his professional field of accountancy. He was born on November 16th, 1952, the second of eight children to Mama Susan Yoke Ndongo and Late Pa Eyambe Samuel Akale.

Young Henry grew up in many places as he and his family accompanied his father who was a trained teacher / head master to stations like Ngusi in Tombel and Bamusso in Ndian. After primary school, Henry gained admission into the prestigious St. Joseph's College Sasse as a member of the special 1965 Batch. He became one of the first Balong boys to be admitted into Sasse, following the trails of his tribe's brothers in the persons of Dr. Eben, Professor Ebanja and Dr. Balemba. Henry lost his beloved father during his first term of Form Two in Sasse. This made him the "man" of the family at the early age of 14 years, a responsibility he took very seriously and executed very well throughout his life. Henry's uncle late Chief Oscar Ebanja played a major role in his development after the death of his father.

With GCE "O" levels from Sasse, Henry Akale proceeded to CCAST Bambili and obtained his GCE "A" Levels before heading over to read law at the University of Yaounde, where he earned a law degree with honors in 1978.

Henry was someone who never liked to be defined or rest on his laurels. He was always motivated on how to make himself better and challenged himself accordingly. A law degree was not enough for him, he wanted more. With this mindset, Henry embarked on a path that led him to chartered accountancy. He got admitted into the prestigious Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria. There, he combined intelligence, patience, resilience and scaled through various stages and earned the qualification of Certified Accountant. In the process, he out-classed many other aspirants during the 11th examination in 1984 when he won a 2nd prize in order of merit.

In 1988 Mr. Akale was admitted into membership of the universally recognized and acclaimed Chartered Accountancy, given the practicing license with all rights and privileges akin to Accountants with the esteemed legendary Akintola Williams Chartered Accountants group.

Mr. Akale's professional life that began earlier on in 1978 opened up opportunities for him to gain experience in various institutions and establishments at home and abroad. In practice, he worked as a graduate trainee accountant with Akintola Williams & Co Chattered Accountants, Douala. While working with a senior consultant from Nigeria, he undertook a complete review of stock handling procedures from 1978 to 1979 at CDC's Tiko Central Store earning great reviews.

A five-week study tour in the United States as a participant in the USAID entrepreneurs international program, also opened doors for him as the young chartered accountant allowing him to crisscross the world, creating partnerships in nations like India, the UK, South Africa etc.

The vision, drive and perseverance to create and provide job opportunities for others led Mr. Akale to set up structures that enjoyed his savoir-faire. His pioneering of Texaco Cameroon when the company planted itself to provide rare services in the country can hardly be forgotten by both customers and

partners. In another pioneering endeavor, Mr. Akale and his schoolmate and friend William Tiga Tita (PhD) opened IOCS, an American computer service provider in Cameroon. This venture earned him credits over the years, as computer science as a viable profession was more of a thought in the country during this time. Mr. Akale was until his death, Principal, Akale & Co Chartered Accountants since 1988; Principal Consultant, Akale Associates since 1988; Managing Director, Capital Development Ventures LTD among other establishments. He personified the definition of an entrepreneur and refused to be pigeonholed into any particular category. He never felt sorry for himself and saw failures only as opportunities to try harder or delve into another ventures. This allowed him to do businesses as a lawyer, an all-around-chartered accountant, endeavors in fertilizers and timber with a number of companies in Douala and Yaounde as well as government institutions and international bodies.

In the social milieu, HBJ Akale as he was fondly called by his peers was a mover, shaker and doer. He was universally regarded as being extremely reliable, trustworthy, a straight shooter with a very kind and soft heart for all. Nonetheless, he was stern and authoritative (in a good way) if he had to be. With HBJ, you knew where you stood and where he stood, there was no ambiguity!! His leadership qualities and sense of fraternity showed throughout his life as he operated in various capacities and served in many organizations. He served as the financial secretary for his St. Joseph Parish Catholic Church Bonaberi, Douala; as a board member of the Cameroon/South African Friendship Society and the American Chamber of Commerce.

He was also known for his ability to organize and mobilize people and his nag for details. "Things ought to be done properly", he would often say. HBJ in his practice of self-sacrifice would engage his time, energy and patience to ensure the meticulous accomplishment of a task. This was shown one last time when on Monday, New Year's Eve 2018, he played host to his SOBAN family members at his Douala residence a few days to his demise. During the soiree, besides being a fantastic host, HBJ took the time to emphasize the need for SOBANs to be their brother's keeper. Then, our beloved Henry answered the call to meet his maker at 1:00 am on Thursday January 3, 2019. His exit continues to be most unexpected, most shocking and most unbelievable to his family, friends and colleagues.

Mr. Akale leaves behind his wife Mrs. Eleanor Efosi Akale nee Kange. She was the one who saw him through every rise and fall and kept him going on from one broken branch to the next tree trunk. Henry's five children Henrietta (Fase), Bertha (Coco), Prisca (Namondo), Henry Jr. and Maggie (Efosi) are yet to come to terms with the sudden outage of a vital light in their lives. Along with his sweet heart and dear children, Henry leaves behind three grandchildren, his mother Mama Susan, a brother, six sisters, a son-in-law, his in-laws the Kanges, and a host of family members who are in deep sorrow and mourning. He also leaves behind a sea of friends, SOBAN brothers, TEC brothers, clients and accountants in and out of the country who will miss him dearly. Mr. Akale is mourned by the people of Mukonje, the Balong community and his partners in Cameroon, Nigeria, USA, India etc. His departure is indeed an irreplaceable loss.

The Akale family would like to express their immense gratitude and acknowledgements to all of their supporters and sympathizers for the out pour of love, payers, gifts, visits and words of encouragement shown to them at this time of great loss and deep sorrow.

We know he looks upon you and us today and counts his blessings that we were all a part of God's will in his life.

Adieu HBJ Akale