



Anyim Pius Anyim LLB, LLM

**FAREWELL TO A BEACON OF LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION
TRIBUTE TO DR. OGBONNAYA ONU (CON)**

I celebrate the life and legacy of a true statesman, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, a man whose dedication to the service of our nation will be remembered for generations to come. Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu was a beacon of hope, a source of inspiration, and a guiding light for many, including myself.

Dr. Onu was more than just a political leader; he was a man who saw our shared homeland, as an extension of his family. Even though we belonged to different political parties and were not contemporaries in many respects, our relationship remained one of deep mutual respect and cordiality. To us all, he was affectionately known and called "Uncle," a testament to the warmth and guidance he offered to the younger generation of politicians.

Dr. Onu's contributions to our nation are vast and varied. As the first elected civilian governor of Abia State, Dr. Onu laid a strong foundation for its growth and development. His visionary leadership extended nationally as he became the first chairman of the Conference of Nigeria Elected Governors forum, a body formed to champion democracy and good governance.

In 2010, Dr. Onu became National Chairman of the All-Nigerian People's Party (ANPP) and, in 2013, led a historic merger that formed the All-Progressives Congress (APC), reshaping Nigeria's political landscape and setting the stage for significant change.



His work as Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation highlighted his commitment to advancing Nigeria's technological capabilities. He championed policies that aimed to position Nigeria at the forefront of global scientific and technological progress.

But beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Onu was a man of integrity, humility, and compassion. His legacy is not just in the positions he held or the policies he implemented, but in the lives he touched, the paths he illuminated, and the example he set for all of us.

As we say goodbye to this great leader, let us remember him not just for his titles and accomplishments, but for the man he was a leader, a mentor, a father figure, and a shining light. His memory will continue to inspire us, and his legacy will live in the hearts and minds of those he touched.

Rest in peace, Uncle. You will be greatly missed, but your light will never be extinguished.



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