

## MR. M.S TAKUSI'S BIOGRAPHY



Papa Soh Michael Takusi, 78, went peacefully to be with the Lord early Sunday morning, July 26, 2015 at the Kumba General Hospital. Papa died in the loving company of his long-time wife, Mama Julie Takusi. Both devout Catholic Christians, they recently re-consecrated their marriage at the St. Thomas Catholic Church, Kumba, as the first step on the road back to a life devoted to God. He is also survived by his adoring children, four boys and 4 girls, 15 grand kids, several brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews. They will miss him dearly.

Born into the Royal Family of Bamendjou, West region, Cameroon, on Wednesday, 03/31/1937, the grandson of the prince, SOH-MAFOR by Nkamdoum Ndumnye Soh and Bernadette Makougne. He is the direct descendant of the King, TAKAMTE. Papa's hallmark was hard work, passion, and excellence in whatever he did. After elementary schooling in Buea and Tiko in 1953, he continued onto secondary education, training as an industrial and domestic electrician at the Ombe Technical College from 1954 to 1957. He taught briefly in Tiko then took off to Lagos in Nigeria. There, between 1957 and 1960, he was part of a very small pioneering group of Cameroonians pursuing advanced training in electrical engineering technology. The Electrical Corporation of Nigeria, (ECN), then hired and put him to work in Ibadan as an electricity distribution supervisor where he was in charge of electricity supply in the entire city of Ibadan, Nigeria between 1960 and 1962. To lure him away from ECN, orders came from the Cameroon government through POWERCAM, the then West Cameroon electricity corporation with an offer as senior electrical supervisor in 1962. Then in 1965, POWERCAM through USAID scholarship sent him to the University of Wisconsin's rural electrification program at Madison. He stayed on with POWERCAM after the training. Barely a year later, POWERCAM let him take off for Nottingham, England, where he obtained, three years later, in 1970, a degree in electrical engineering technology. Years later in 1989, he would represent Cameroon in a joint project on Hydroelectricity between Cameroon and Canada in Montreal.

Equipped with these topnotch academic and technical credentials from Nigeria, United States, England and Canada, he went on to blaze a very distinguished career trail. Starting off with POWERCAM as the senior electrical supervisor for transmission, he was responsible for the transmission line from Victoria to Yoke. During this project, he upgraded the lines from 23000 volts to 33000 volts (British System). His outstanding performance and achievements led SONEL to retain him as head of its operations in Bamenda, North West Province where he led the effort to provide electricity from Nkambe to Bansa, Njimafor, and Bafut. He led much of the SONEL effort to provide electricity to urban and remote areas in the South West, Adamawa, Littoral, and North Provinces. He retired in 1997 as the Provincial Delegate of SONEL for the Far North Province.

We measure the quality of a life not by its longevity, but by its eminence. By most measures, Papa lived a great life, though only for 78 years. He was blessed with many adorable grandchildren. He was blessed with a sterling and richly rewarding career. We have no doubts that God favored him in return for his gentle and generous spirit.

We thank God mightily for giving us a rock of a daddy. We thank God for bestowing Papa with the grace that, in his waning days, enabled him to atone for his imperfections as a human. We finally thank God for showing Papa mercy by letting him exit the noisy confusion of our world painlessly and in perfect peace. We will all miss him so dearly.