Family of HRM Alhaji Dr. A.Y.E. DIRISU
Okuokpellagbe of Okpella Kingdom

Attention: Abdulmumuni Dirisu, Esq.

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE FROM AFENMAI WORLD CONGRESS

I write on behalf of the Executive Board, Leadership and members of the House of Delegates and member unions of the United States of America based Afenmai World Congress (AWC) to express our heartfelt condolences to your family, the people and friends of Okpella Kingdom, Edo State, Nigeria, and the entire Afemai community at home and in the Diaspora on the transition of our beloved His Royal Majesty (HRM) Alhaji Dr. Andrew Yesufu Eshioramhe Dirisu, JP, OON, the indefatigable Okuokpellagbe of Okpella Kingdom on the 19th day of February, 2019. AWC mourns his passing with you. We should all take heart because HRM lived a worthy life that impacted people all over the world.

HRM Alhaji Dr. Dirisu was a great patriot, elder statesman, devoted, peerless and distinguished royal father, a dynamic monarch, and lover of all Afemai people. AWC and Afemai land have lost a true icon, an exemplary, venerated, and indomitable traditional ruler. Most Afemai people may remember him as the real, trusted and impeccable “OkwaAfemaigbe of Afemai land.”

AWC will never forget the uncommon humility, integrity, generosity, ebullience, compassion, transparency, selflessness, and unique sense of purpose of the late HRM Alhaji Dirisu. We recall that at the formal inauguration of AWC in Los Angeles, California in 2008, HRM Dirisu flew all the way from Nigeria to witness and actively participate in the rigorous process of finalizing negotiations of the new constitution and the election of members of the first Executive Board of AWC. HRM Alhaji Dirisu continued to attend many of our subsequent conventions. During the challenging days of AWC, HRM Alhaji Dirisu was always present to motivate everyone with his usual encouraging words of fatherly wisdom - counseling Afemai people in the Diaspora to set aside any personal ill-feelings in the interest of and for the overall development of all parts of Afemai land. HRM Alhaji Dirisu was truly committed to the Afemai Cause - always insisting that Afemai people everywhere must unite to promote Afemai’s traditions and culture to advance the overall development of Afemai land. HRM Dirisu always advised all Afemai people in leadership positions, whether elected or appointed, to use their good offices to assist others and mentor younger generations of Afemai people in the interest of our people and fatherland.
HRM Alhaji Dirisu was a dogged fighter for the progress of Afemai - personal discomfort never prevented him from living by example whenever people were discussing unity and development of Afemai land. At our Boston Convention in 2012, even when he was obviously indisposed, HRM Alhaji Dirisu flew into Boston to admonish participants to unite and work for the survival of the Congress to turn it into a truly enviable global organization for Afemai people. The gentle and insightful words of exhortation of HRM Dirisu inspire and still ring in our ears.

Like all mortals, HRM Alhaji Dirisu completed his earthly mission and succumbed to the inevitable call of the creator of mankind, after over forty-eight year reign as the Okuokpellagbe of Okpella kingdom. AWC and all Afemai people will miss him. His countless outstanding contributions and accomplishments live after him. The sorrows and pains of his parting grieve the hearts of Afemai people as well as all those whose lives were greatly imparted by the genuine and humble life of HRM Dirisu. Of a truth, Afenmai World Congress and Afemai land are better because HRM Alhaji Dr. Dirisu came, lived and conquered.

Oki-akor (good night), your Royal Majesty. May God’s angels sing you to your eternal peaceful rest.

God bless AWC! Afemai land!! Afemai people!!! Edo State!!!!

**Dr. David Iyalomhe**

Dr. David Iyalomhe,
President, Afenmai World Congress
Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.