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OF THE MONTH
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AGUDA

TIMOTHY AKINOLA

(1923 - 5 September 2001)

written and edited by **NANA-OGBUTA MIRACLE**



LAW UNIT



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NANA-OGBUTA MIRACLE

Miracle Nana-Ogbuta also known as MNO, is a final year student at the Faculty of Law, Delta State University, Oleh Campus. She is an indigene of Delta State. She had her primary school education at Stafford High International School (then known as Central Summit School) and Seat of Wisdom Model School(SOWMS), Ekpan. Her Secondary school education was at SOWMS and Edulyn College, Ekpan. She gained admission into the Law degree program in 2015.



Not being one who has interest in politics, she was appointed the Chairman of LAWSAN Moot and Mock Committee in 2019.

She started writing for LSWK in 2018 as a Contributing Editor of its monthly article called Hero of the Month. An article which she feels every law student and lawyer should read as it portrays the lives of those in the legal profession who have stood for and are still standing for what is right, who have upheld the tenets of the legal profession and have dedicated their lives to the service of humanity. According to her, she enjoys writing for LSWK as it has tremendously helped her improve on her writing skills. She is someone who feels she does not live for herself alone but also for others as such, whenever she writes for LSWK, the stories inspires her to be responsible for her actions as others will be affected by it. She is also inspired not to give up whenever she stands for something that she knows is right. No matter the obstacles, just like the heros she writes about, justice will surely prevail.

Her role models are women who, despite all odds, are at the top of their game. She has great respect for Christiane Amanpour, a British-Iranian journalist and television host.

Her goal in life is to inspire others and enjoy the simple things of life while doing so. ■

JUSTICE TIMOTHY AKINOLA **AGUDA**



Late Justice Timothy Akinola

Aguda, Justice Timothy Akinola Aguda was a lawyer, an High Court Judge and the first African Chief Justice of Botswana . He was born in Akure, Nigeria. His parents, Elijah Aguda and Deborah Fasu were a prominent Anglican Couple in Akure. He attend St. David's Primary School, Akure, for his primary education then Government College Ibadan for his secondary school education. Growing up, he wanted to become a medical doctor or an engineer but the intricacies of the subject Chemistry made him leave medical school after the first year and ventured into teaching. However, on the advice of Obafemi Awolowo, he changed his mind and enrolled in a law school. He studied law at the University of London and was called to the bar in 1952.

His legal career started at the chambers of Ayo Rosiji. Subsequently, he transferred to the legal department of the Western Region of Nigeria, and became the Pupil Crown Counsel.

Thereafter in 1955, he was made the Crown Counsel, while he became the acting solicitor general of the Western Region in 1968. On February 3rd 1972, he became the first indigenous African to head the position of Chief Justice in Botswana. Concurrently, he was also a judge of the Court of Appeal of Swaziland, Botswana and Lesotho. When he left the Supreme Court in 1975, he returned to Nigeria and continued his judicial career as Chief Judge of Ondo State. In 1976, he was a leading member of the committee that recommended Abuja as the capital of Nigeria.

Prominent among his works as a judge was the defence of the right to suspects. (A crucial issue in Nigeria till date. In 2020, the abuse of power by the police force brought about the EndSars Movement.) When the case of Agbaje v. The Western Government of Nigeria was being tried in 1968, he held the view that:





JUSTICE TIMOTHY AKINOLA **AGUDA**



"In a democracy like ours, even in spite of the national emergency in which we have been for the past three years, I hold the view that it is, to say the least, high-handed for the police to hold a citizen of this country in custody in various places for over ten days without showing him the authority under which he is being held or at least informing him verbally of such authority."

This statement is still relevant in today's Nigerian Judicial System. He also sought for the removal of economic barriers in the criminal justice system, concurrently with a speedy trial and to put omnipotent rulers under the law not above it.

Throughout his legal career, he was known as a cerebral jurist and lawyer who embraced radicalism. It is believed this may have resulted in his exclusion as a member of the supreme court of Nigeria.

In 1978 after he retired from civil service, he became the director of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the University of Lagos. As the director, he criticized governance and corruption in Nigeria and the rest of Africa. He also spoke against the abuse of vital human rights by the government.

For someone who stumbled into the legal profession, Akinola Aguda definitely made sure that his voice was

not only heard but also impactful. He even left blueprints of the law in his books which have been and are still being accessed by students from the time they were first published up to this present day. Some of his books include; *The Law of Evidence in Nigeria*, *A new perspective in Law and Justice in Nigeria* (1985), etc. Undeniably, integrity and legal brilliance benefitted the legal profession immensely, which must be acknowledged.



