

## **Enahoro: A quintessential nationalist - Mimiko**

The Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko has described the death yesterday of Pa Anthony Enahoro, as the death of the last of the Titans; the demise of an exemplar of all that is good and commendable of the golden era of the country nation.

In a statement yesterday, Governor Mimiko said the death of Enahoro at this critical point in the history of Nigeria is a huge loss; not only in terms of the loss of a great life but the loss of a moderating factor, a stabilising quantity and a unifying personae.

“Pa Enahoro, in all his dealings and utterances was focused on evolving values that will make the Nigerian federation a unit where all components will feel wanted and loved. Faced with destabilising realities, he recommended the need for a national dialogue to redefine the relationship between the numerous interests so as to avoid debilitating acrimony and unending discord.

“Involved from the onset in the Nigerian enterprise, he remained all his life committed to the goal of its development, growth and renewal. He was unsparing in his criticism of those he considered opposed to the evolution of a truly great nation, those he categorised as the enemies of the people,” Governor Mimiko said.

In reminiscence of the role Enahoro and his likes played in the pre-independence era, Mimiko said: “Enahoro and his compatriots were so eager to push this country to its manifest destiny that they exhibited open and remarkable opposition to the deliberately slow de-colonisation process of the British. He not only moved the motion for the independence of the country, he was dogged in his commitment to the quick take-off of national government and did not shy away from making remarkable contributions even as a federal Commissioner (Minister).”

“We celebrate this man who became an editor at the tender age of 21; this man who became a scourge of military despots; this man who was harangued into exile on several occasions, jailed unjustly and made to suffer untold hardship for his beliefs. We celebrate a quintessential nationalist, a patriot of no mean order and a statesman of remarkable records and achievements.”

Mimiko asked Nigerians to see his death as another time to take an introspective look at the country and for Nigerians to believe like him that “we must not fear radicalism or radical ideas,” as we strive to midwife another transition, adding that the country needs now, more than ever, men like Enahoro and all that he stood for.

His insightful contribution to national debate will be sorely missed, Mimiko said.

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