SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO A PATRIARCH: MOLA NJOH LITUMBE

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On the afternoon May 26, one of the last of the Pre-World War II Veteran Statesmen of Southern Cameroon’s Quest for Statehood passed onto glory at the Muna’s Clinic in Douala. He was aged 94.

Mola Njoh Litumbe was born in 1926 in Buea, then part of the British administered Trust Territory of Southern Cameroons. He joins a coterie of Veterans like Muna, Endeley, Foncha, Jua and Fonlon of his generation. With the exception of Fon Gorji Dinka, he was perhaps the last of his generation. During his formative years, he witnessed how Britain and the United Nations duped leaders of the rich, semi-autonomous state of Southern Cameroons, denying her the right to complete independence on October 1st 1961; he witnessed how former President Ahmadou Ahidjo manipulated our elderly statesmen into a dubious reunification without a formal union treaty and subsequent Federation with La Republique du Cameroun on the 20th of May 1972; he witnessed how the rich Southern Cameroons political system of indirect rule was systematically stripped off and replaced with the brutal French Cameroun policy of centralized direct rule, eventual assimilation and loss of identity; he witnessed how the majority French Cameroun parliament dismissed protective provisions within the Federal constitution to wipe out the two and equal status Federal agreement; he witnessed how the long term strategy finally became law after a Presidential decree declared that the two symbolic stars on the Federal flag be fused into one star. Through these subterfuges, he witnessed how Southern Cameroons was finally absorbed by La Republique du Cameroun.

Having witnessed all these atrocities against his people, Mola Njoh Litumbe invested a greater part of his life as an engaged political activist together with the likes of J.N Foncha, S.T Muna, E.M.L Endeley and many others. His desire to eternalize and pass on these uncut gems of our political history to future generations whose educational curriculum was intentionally designed to unteach them about their true history was immortalized in his book entitled:
"Case of the Annexation of the UN British Administered Territory of the Southern Cameroons" where he describes the hard truths about the stolen independence of his beloved country. The pages of this book have continued to inform, empower, and rekindle our quest to pursue the restoration of our independence.

When lawyers and teachers initiated a peaceful protest in late 2016, and a broad spectrum of Southern Cameroonians from all walks of life joined them to demand the complete decolonization and restoration of the independence of the Southern Cameroons, Mola Njoh Litumbe could tell that his lifelong efforts to reawaken his people had not gone in vain. He lived long enough to witness the concretization of the revolutionary spirit he preached. Neither age nor other physical challenges that come with time could deter him from joining his voice and participating at rallies with the younger generations who respectfully looked up to him for inspiration and direction. His graceful and charismatic presence was always a reminder that despite our differences, in him we could find the unifying patriarchal figure who commanded respect - he was the undisputable walking library and human retrieval system for every reference, treaty and every political mishap and legal intrigues carried out within the United Nations Systems that contributed in keeping Southern Cameroons in bondage.

Like the historical Martin Luther King, you lived a full life; you saw our unrelenting passion as we stood up against powerful global lobbyists to deliver ourselves from six decades of bondage. You saw our restored nation. Confident that the foundation you laid was strong enough, you decided it was time to pass on the baton to our generation to concretize your dream of a restored, independent nation.

Papa, thank you for the symbolic message wrapped up in your final moments. You spent your early political life in the presence of Muna (the Senior) and equally spent your final moments in the premises of another Muna (the Junior). We welcome your symbolic message of passing the mantle from one generation to another.
Our deepest gratitude to your family for giving us a father, husband, uncle, and statesman whose vision shall continue to inspire our unborn generations. May your memory continue to guide, inspire, and remind us to conduct ourselves in ways that bring honour to your name and legacy.

Rest in Peace Mola Njoh