

BALARABE MUSA KALLAH: A VACUUM THAT CAN'T BE FILLED



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"Every soul shall have taste of death; In the end to us shall ye be brought back" (29:57)

Do you have a day in your life that you would like to erase from your memory? I do - May 23rd was the day I long to forget. I lost my dearest Uncle that day, who was very special to me and all our family members. He was such a great human being - so strong, bold, jovial, a rare larger-than-life kind of character - a pillar who supported our whole family! Such a huge loss has definitely created a vacuum, one that suffocates me every time I think of him. We remember him daily and pray to Almighty Allah to have mercy on his soul and to reward him with the highest of Jannahs.

I received the phone call that I wished I never did, my cousin called to tell me that he had an accident on his way to Abuja and that people are saying that he has passed away. I didn't believe it at first, I thought it was just a bad dream that I will wake up from and all will be well. Life will go back to how it was, but that wasn't the case. I finally came to agree that he isn't coming back when I heard siren of the ambulance that brought his body to Kano a day after, that was when everything sunk deep, that was when I saw my dad crying for the first time. I saw people who aren't his family by blood crying because they have lost someone that's part of their family by love. They have lost a man who they can always count on for advice and guidance.

His real name is Auwalu Musa Kallah but he is known as Balarabe Musa Kallah. He was born on September 22, 1976 to Musa Kallah and Rahama. He attended Gandun Albasa Special Primary School from 1981 to 1987; from there he proceeded to Government Secondary School, Sharada from 1988 to 1993 where he did his secondary school. He obtained his Bachelors from Bayero University Kano in 2000 where he studied Geography. He has two masters' degrees both from Bayero University, one in Land Resource Development and the other in Business Administration.

He loves community work from a young age which is why he formed, headed and participated in a number of NGOs. He was the President of National Association of Geography Students Bayero University, Kano from 1999-2000, he was the Chairman and Founder of Kumbotso Local Government Students Association. He served as the Financial Secretary of National Youth Caucus Kano State Chapter from 2001-2006. He is a Co-Founder of National Association of Kano State Students (NAKSS National Body). He served as Acting Chairman of Northern Youth Congress from 2000 to 2001. He is a Member of Youth Consultative Forum Kano. He was the Acting Secretary General of Women Trafficking & Child Labor Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) Kano State Chapter from 2004 to 2006. He was also the Secretary General of Tudun Maliki Youth Advancement from 2006 until he passed away in 2011. He was a Member Youth Partnership for MDGs from 2004 till his death in 2011.

We as a family found out lots of good things he was doing when alive that we didn't know until he passed away. He goes and donates blood monthly at the hospital, he went to surrounding private school in his community to negotiate and plead with them on the need to help the community which the schools agree to give scholarship to two less privilege students each and he took the responsibility of paying for their books, uniforms and any other expense. He does that by sponsoring the students he can and getting people willing to sponsor some students to pay.

He was special to me as he was the third person I go to always for advice after my parents. The last time I saw him was when I was chosen to be part of our then Governor-elect's ICT transition committee. I went to show him

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May Allah in His infinite mercy grant him rest, may his grave be a part of Jannatul Firdaus and an abode of light. May Allah make him pass successfully in all the stages of the life after death. May Allah have mercy on the souls of innocent Nigerians we have lost over the past few years to terror attacks and May Allah return our Chibok sisters who were kidnapped over a month ago safe and sound. Amin.

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