

New HORIZON APRIL 1985 Nicholas Ntiem Kungwai

TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN COMRADE

Revolutionaries from all parts of the country continue to pay glowing tributes to the late Nicholas Ntiem Kungwai, the 37 year old militant intellectual who died suddenly on the 18th October, 1984 in the prime of his contibution towards the progress of the working class struggle, and the revolutionary movement in Nigeria.

Graveside condolences and solidarity tributes came from many progressive organisations, namely, the trade unions, the NANS, the YUSSA, the staff and students of the Department of Sociology, Ahmadu Bello University, where he taught, Movement for a Progressive Nigeria, A.B.U. students Sociological Association, A.B.U. Students Union, Women In Nigeria (WIN) and this journal, the New Horizon.

The NANS graveside mourning message said "The death of Nicholas Ntiem Kungwai is not only a loss to his family and the Department of Sociology, ABU Zaria, but also a loss to Nigerian Students and the suffering, struggling and fighting people of not only Nigeria but the world over".

The YUSSA mourns: "The Youth see Kungwai better. To them he appears an admirable example of that complete commitment, that absolute dedication to the advancement of mankind which they instinctively feel represents the highest and noblest attainment an individual can achieve".

The Department of Sociology, ABU, Zaria, says of Ntiem in its tribute: "He was a man who had a deep sense of humility but at the same time, he had an iron will of determination and perseverance. The late Kungwai was an indefatigable worker who always finished his own quota of an assignment and voluntarily asked for more".

In its tribute, this journal, the New Horizon, quarrelled with everybody who contributed to the haste and hurry with which Ntiem's body was taken to his village and buried. It regretted that the journal heard of his death, on the day of his burial. Comrade Dapo Fatogun, (Chairman of the Editorial Board of the journal) who personally delivered the journal's tributes said: "But Ntiem to us all was much more than a teacher in ABU, and far more than a great son of his parents or a V.I.P. of his village. He was a marturing internationalist, a hardworking and loyal communist cadre who had all it takes to emerge as tomorrow's leader of a socialist Nigeria, a worthy comrade, a progressive intellectual who at 37 had endeared himself to the hearts of millions of the working people of this country".

Comrade Fatogun went on: "Though frail in stature, and taciturn in habit, Ntiem was a fast – growing giant of the Nigerian revolution – one that had attained, by dint of hard revolutionary work the eminence of leadership among comrades, youth and students".

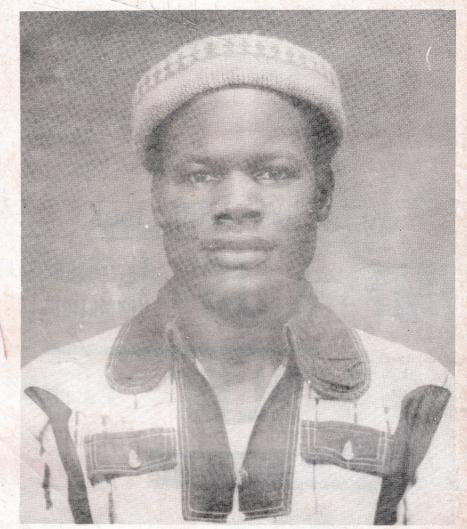
He said his first point of contact with the late Comrade Ntiem was the New Horizon in 1975 when Comrade Fatogun, then Editor-In-Chief, took the first edition to ABU where Ntiem was an undergraduate. Nicholas Ntiem KUNGWAI was born at Lalin, Shendam district in Plateau State of Nigeria on 20th January, 1948.

As far as the educational background of the late Ntiem was concerned he was a SELF-MADE MAN. He attended the Sacred Heart Primary School in Shendam from 1956 – 1962. Unlike most academic in Nigeria our departed colleague did not have the opportunity to attend a secondary school nor a teachers' college, nor a Higher School certificate course nor a School of Basic Studies.

Fired by an unquenchable thirst for knowledge by the dint of hardwork and through HOME STUDIES the deceased read for a General Certificate of Educa tion (G.C.E.), Ordinary Level in English Language which he passed in 1969.

The late KUNGWAI undertook the tuition for a Diploma in Journalism through home studies which he also

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a proud son of the working class

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