

Dr Mark Abani

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Dr Mark Abani Street, Abuja and Afikpo

Dear Horii Agwo, Oke Nna

90 years, wow! You have always been a part of my life. From holding me down as a toddler in the late fifties to take 'Resochin' in Ogoja; through being a part of all my schooling from Primary school in the sixties to my undergraduate years in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in the seventies and my wedding to my Darling Nnenna in the eighties and so on.

You were there as a sounding board and close friend for our dad right to the end. You were there for our Mum through thick and thin. A calming voice and helpful hand. From explaining the Afikpo culture to a young English woman to helping her learn French which she used in her work, providing sage words in times of strife.

A big uncle turned father in our lives; from reassuring our Mum when she first came to Afikpo through coming to ensure that we trekked out of Afikpo just hours ahead of the Nigerian Army crossing via Ndibe beach to take Afikpo that fateful day in April 1968; to the advice you continue to give to the present day.

The present day, where you have become my mentor, my father, my sounding board (as you were to my father) and one of the enduring constants in my life.

All the Abani's wish you many more Happy, Healthy, and Impactful years. You have shown us with your strength, sagacity, humour, and leadership that 90 is the new 40! A target for all of us to achieve.

Happy Birthday Oke Nna, Live longer and Prosper, In Jesus Name, Amen.

Mark and Nnenna for the family.

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