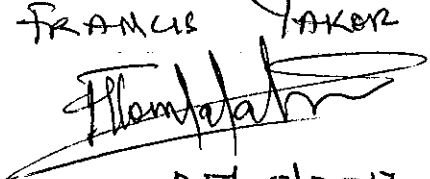


FRANCIS YAKOR

25/03/2017.

TRIBUTE TO MR BALDO BALDI – A Gifted Boss and a Gift of a Boss

“All the rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full. From where the rivers come, there they go again” Ecclesiastes 1:7; And so shall it be for all humankind, that all we will run into the earth and the earth will never be full!

I have known the late Mr. Baldo Baldi for close to 30 years and every day was a great learning experience under a really gifted gentleman. I worked so closely with him that at the peak of our relationship, my boss would call Yakor some 50 times in a day, if not more.

From the Consultancy and then to Alitalia GSA, my boss ran an open lateral administration. He was a fair judge, taking time to listen to both sides of each issue before taking decisions.

He was a hardworking, hands-on Managing Director, who had the gift of design. Every six months MD would redesign our entire office – from the counter to all the sitting arrangements. We would typically make the changes after Saturday work and the curious thing was we, all of us the employees in the office, carried tables and chairs ourselves with the MD himself participating. This was a hallmark of humility. He loved designing buildings with that special defining Italian finesse. He told me fondly about his days as a young man when he actually designed cars in Italy. He proudly framed one which is currently in a museum in TORINO; and this picture, he moved from office to office with great pride.

It is not difficult to explain the roots of Mr. Baldi's work ethic and discipline. Indeed, he told me that he served in the Italian Navy and that the military discipline had shaped his way of life considerably. As a Mechanical Engineer by training and Practice, we the young ones tapped into his vast knowledge about cars and the workings of general machinery.

Mr. Baldi was a kind man and helped staff in many ways that need not be listed here today. People even made a habit of passing by to greet him after closing

hours. He had a forgiving heart and sometimes staff who were penalized for some offence or another would be pardoned when they showed remorse and would be taken back to work.

This is not all. In 1991, when the under 17 Ghana Team won the world Cup in Italy (Italia 91), Mr. and Mrs. Baldi hit the headlines with their hospitality when they threw a befitting party for the Ghana Team. They made us all - the Ghanaian GSA staff, really proud of them. Mr. Baldi loved Ghana and enjoyed his stay here. He made good friends from Nzulezu, Sogakofe/Abor to as far out as Wa, Tumu and other towns he loved to visit. He did not scoff at local culture and language and instead fully engaged with the Ghanaian experience. He encouraged his daughters to speak Ghanaian languages and for sure anyone who listened to Micaela speaking 'Ga' on the AZ counter would agree with Professor Ataquay Okai when he once told me " Mr. Baldi's daughter speaks very deep Ga language"

Mr. Baldi was a devout Catholic and loved his God and fellow human beings. He was a pluralist and was just as excited to provide gifts of "Easter eggs" as he was to provide Sallah gifts to our Moslem colleagues. One memorable day in 2005, he personally sent me to the Hajj Board to arrange for him to sponsor our Chief Night Security Officer Seidu to go to Mecca to perform his Hajj. And he saw this through, - Mr. Seidu performed the hajj and is now Alhaji Seidu. He remains grateful to Mr Baldi to this day, and I, remain fascinated by his kindness.

Mr. Baldi was a good man and working with him was a great joy. But in the great natural order of things, rivers running into the sea, and humans running into the earth, when our earthly duties are at an end, our maker beckons and we, mere mortals, respond to our call to eternal rest. May the good Lord grant him a peaceful rest.

He de nyuie.

Damirifa due.

Yaawo jogbaaa

Riposa in Pace