

Order of Service & Burial
Programme for the late

Mr. Kwabena
BEMPONG

Aged 91

On Wednesday, January 17, 2024
At Transitions Funeral Home
At 7:00am



ORDER OF SERVICE

Officiating Ministers

Rev Dr. Jonas Yao Tetteh
Rev. Richard Agyei
Ps. Mrs. Cecilia Afua Tetteh

Other Functionaries

Ps. Stev. Anartey

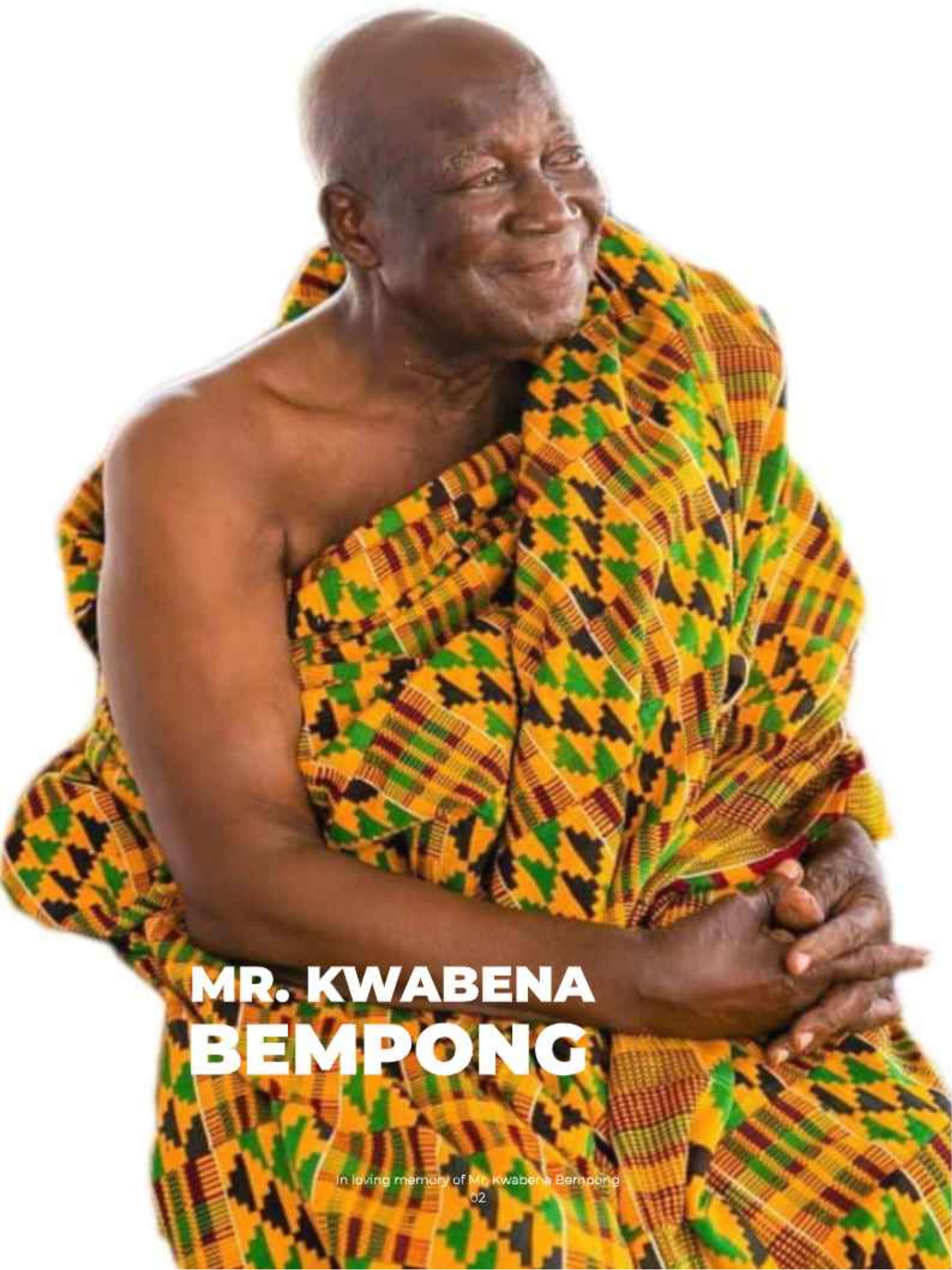
PART ONE – BURIAL SERVICE

File Past

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Opening Prayer: | Kwabena Barimah Addo |
| 2. Praise and Worship: | VPraise Choir |
| 3. Hymnal: | It Is Well With My Soul |
| 4. Bible Reading: | 1 Cor. 15:50-57 |
| 5. Biography/Tributes | |
| 6. Sermon | Rev. Dr Jonas Yao Tetteh. |
| 7. Hymnal: | We Will Understand It Better
By And By |

PART TWO - GRAVESIDE

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Hymnal: | Higher Ground |
| 2. Prayer: | Rev. Richard Agyei |
| 3. Committal: | Rev. Dr Jonas Yao Tetteh |
| 4. Laying of Wreaths | |
| 5. Vote of Thanks: | Family Member |
| 6. Prayer: | Richard Agyei |
| 7. Benediction: | Rev. Dr. Jonas Yao Tetteh |



**MR. KWABENA
BEMPONG**

In loving memory of Mr. Kwabena Bempong



BIOGRAPHY OF MR. KWABENA BEMPONG

"Lay your life down. Your heartbeats cannot be hoarded. Your reservoir of breaths is draining away. You have hands, blister them while you can. You have bones, make them strain-they can carry nothing in the grave. You have lungs, let them spill with laughter".

N. D. Wilson

Early Life

Mr. Kwabena Bempong, aka Kwabena Kuma was born on 20th September 1932 in Akim Ayirebi to the late Opanin Kwasi Gyimah and Obaapanin Hannah Yaa Obenewaa. He was the fifth born out of six siblings. His parents were farmers so as it was in the days, he followed them to the farm. He attended Methodist Local Authority School in Akim Ayirebi but dropped out and his father took him to Opanin Nyantakyi who was a carpenter in Akim Ayirebi to learn carpentry as an apprentice. After completing his training, he sojourned to Akim Oda to start his trade. While in Oda, young Kwabena Kuma started producing furniture for sale and was spotted by one Caucasian who was impressed with his skill and quality of his work. He therefore engaged him to work in his company. He worked for some time until his benefactor left Ghana back to his home country. He later relocated to Accra to look for greener pastures. He was employed by Ashanti Furniture Works where he endeared himself to his employer, hardwork, commitment and high sense of duty. After a while he left to start his own furniture business at

Adabraka, which he named K. Bempong Furniture Works. He produced and sold furniture to many individuals, government and non-governmental agencies until he went on retirement from active service in 2018.

Adult Life

Mr. Bempong settled, married and was blessed with fourteen children. He led a simple life devoid of extremities and noise. He believed his humble background required him to be humble, selfless, hardworking and to extend help to the needy. He followed this calling to the end and ensured that all who came to him were provided for. This extended to his adult children and their families, friends and strangers.

He was an astute and accomplished entrepreneur who could smell business opportunities from far. He engaged in many business ventures to ensure life in Accra was manageable. Some of his business adventures are highlighted hereafter.

In the 1960's, he had a stall where he sold beverages with bread and other accompaniments in the evenings to his clients as was the practice in those days.

Later on, he ventured into the purchase of cattle from the northern regions of Ghana and other Sahelian countries which he brought down to Accra and sold to butchers. During that period, he supplied meat to various governmental Institutions especially the military.

In the 70's he established a farm at Okumanin in the Eastern Region of Ghana where he planted food crops and worked for many years before establishing a piggery and other livestock farm at Mile 14 off the Accra-Kasoa Road. Mr. Bempong planted maize and other food crops to feed his livestock and took advantage of being close to the Weija dam to establish fishponds for the rearing of Tilapia.

In the early eighties when it became difficult to feed the pigs due to harsh economic conditions coupled with the difficulty in getting food for them, he discontinued the business. He used to supply pork to various meat stores such as Multi Stores, UTC and Pioneer Foods in Accra. Mr. Bempong with his love for farming then moved into poultry and operated for a long time. In 1994 he established the Kembs Hotels at Mataheko and Mamprobi where he provided a home-away-from home for his clients.

Papa attended the Methodist Church in his hometown for many years and was involved in many philanthropic activities. He built a large carpentry shop for the Methodist Middle School in Akim Ayirebi to help train young men interested in the trade. Furthermore, when the Ayirebi Secondary School was being established, he provided roofing sheets and other support to the new school. He had love for his people and thus provided solace for many persons who travelled to Accra. He trained many carpenters and allied craftsmen in his workshop. He also provided employment to many individuals. Papa supported many people during his life including taking care of their schooling, hospital bills, giving cars, lands and houses as gifts to his faithful workers.

Old Age

Papa continued to work late into his eighties and kept on driving until he started having challenges with walking. He epitomised hard work and dedication to a cause. He was very caring and was always ready to support even in his old age. As he aged, he started experiencing some health challenges, but he always pulled through. In his last days he had so much pain, however, he never complained. At a point he said he was tired of living and ready to be called to a better place. He was thus taken ill on December 27th, 2023, and after a few days in the hospital he felt he had nothing more to offer and bade farewell to this earth of pain and many troubles.

In February 2015, Papa sent individual letters to his children and external family members instructing them on what to do after his death including where to bury him, having already acquired a space long before his death. He gave express instructions that there should not be any funeral celebration after his burial as is common in Akan traditions. He requested that we thank his children, family and well-wishers for commiserating with the family and attending his burial service.

Opanin Bempong continues to speak and direct even in death. We cannot but celebrate you him for what he you stood for and the convictions he held even till your his last breath.

Papa, your immediate family, friends and well wishers say Fare thee well. You have played your part and run the race to the very end. You have earned a deserved rest.

Papa KB Da Yie.



TRIBUTE BY CHILDREN

Papa was a leader with a servant heart, he led out an ethos for others to follow. He was a man of integrity, firm in his convictions and very disciplined. He was a true leader in his industry and displayed his leadership skills without fear. He operated his business with a sense of urgency and discipline. You must be disciplined to enable you work with him. Papa Kuma was a man who clearly had a road map of what he wanted in life. He had an objective and was always smart in his decisions. Staff in his companies were treated equally without prejudice. As his children, we watched with pride as Papa pursued his passion for work. He spent countless hours poring over furniture design, prototypes and testing. We marvelled at his ingenuity, his dedication, and his unwavering commitment to excellence. Mr. Bempong was clearly a man of moral principles, a gentleman, a father, a brother, a teacher, a disciplinarian and a true friend. His unwavering support and encouragement helped us through some of the toughest moments in our lives and we are so grateful to have had him as a father.

Even though he did not receive formal education, we saw our father always studying whenever he had the opportunity. He therefore would not accept any laziness when it came to our studies. He had a passion for education

that knew no bounds. He ensured and followed with keen interest our educational exploits and was ready to support us in whatever we wanted to do in our quest for knowledge. He extended this to many other family and non-family members by putting many through school and skills training. Papa was also a very generous man ensuring that he gave buildings and lands to almost all his children to ensure they did not struggle with accommodation in Accra. Papa, we are grateful for this show of love. You exemplified the biblical saying in Proverbs 13:22 that "A good father leaves an inheritance (of moral stability and goodness) to his children...."

Growing up, we thought our father was too tough on us especially in the area of dignity and work. We worked as young men and women on the farm, in the house, hotels, and at the workshop. He did not give us the children working with him special treatment because he saw work as sacrosanct and, in his words, "Work knows neither son nor daughter" It is only when we started our own families and working lives that we came to understand his training and we thank him for his tough training and discipline. However, underneath this tough man was a loving father who would always check on you when he had not heard from any of us you in a while. His favourite response

when you asked him how he was doing was, "once you have heard from me, then that was it". He was always concerned about the welfare of others and was ready to give a piece of advice whether sought or not. He was always ready to share whatever he had and even when he had advanced in age, he was still supporting the young ones financially.

While growing up, Papa taught us to work with our hands, thus some of us worked as apprentices in carpentry, wood working machine operation and,

upholstery in his workshop during our vacations and today this training has become beneficial in our individual lives.

Papa your legacy lives in us and we will continue to emulate the many lessons we learnt from you.

Thank You Papa for the many years of fulfilled life you shared with us. Papa nante yie.

Papa God be with you till we meet again.



TRIBUTE BY MADAM ELIZABETH ANSAH (WIFE)

I met Mr. Kwabena Bempong nearly sixty years ago when I had come to Accra from my hometown to announce to my brothers the demise of our father. I visited my aunty whose husband was working with him in his furniture shop.

My aunty introduced me to him, and he immediately told my aunty he would like to marry me. I was naive so I told my aunt I was scared although he kept on asking about me from her.

After six months, he continued to convince me to be his wife to which he eventually succeeded. I look back at this encounter and I know it was truly God's divine orchestration.

If I could write a story, it would be the greatest ever told of a kind and loving husband who had a heart of gold. My husband was principled, hardworking, loving and very generous to all and sundry.

Dada, as I affectionately called him has been a firm foundation throughout the storms of life. A sturdy hand to hold on to in times of stress and strife.

A good friend I could turn to in times of good and bad.

A pillar of strength for me and all our children.

My husband wore many hats as a leader, a provider and a protector.

Prior to his demise, even while in the hospital, he cared about the people he catered for and kept asking about them.

No one will ever replace him, and I will forever value the memories we shared together. Dada, your death has brought me sleepless nights and although you may be gone, your legacy lives on through the many lives you have touched.

Dada da Yie. Damerefa due!



TRIBUTE TO PAPA K.B

BY ACP MRS. PRISCILLA EVA BEMPONG

(DAUGHTER IN LAW)

Today, I pay tribute to a gem of a man that I proudly called my father-in-law.

Papa, to say that I'm heartbroken, is an understatement. I have lost a true 'friend, boyfriend, and father.'

Papa, I know you did not want any pomp and pageantry at your funeral; no celebration of your life and not even tributes, but I beg to go contrary to your wishes. I know in my heart that you will take exception and forgive me. I just can't be silent and not pay tribute to you.

You were more of a father to me than an in-law, to the extent that some of my colleagues referred to you as my boyfriend. You loved and appreciated me as a person. You called to check up on me and the children (your grandchildren) regularly.

I remember when I first got married and Kwabena travelled to the Netherlands to pursue his Master's degree, you remitted money and other things to me monthly till he returned to Ghana. You said it was your responsibility to ensure I lacked nothing in his absence. Anytime I gave birth, you had a special parcel for me. Papa, the love you showed my family and I cannot be over emphasised. Even on your sick bed, you were still arranging for a

nurse to take care of my mother. I remember when I fractured my ankle and was operated on, you still struggled to climb the stairs on crutches up to the family area just to come and see my face.

My last meeting with you was on 31st December 2023 when I visited you at the Accra Medical Centre. You spoke to me as if all was well. Just as you always went to the hospital and came back, I was sure you were going to come back again, but how wrong I was! Your time on earth had come to an end, and your maker wanted you home.

Papa, I will forever remember you. May the Lord keep you safe in his bosom till we meet again. FARE THEE WELL!

Hymns



It Is Well with With My Soul

1. When peace like a river,
attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll –
Whatever my lot, thou Thou hast taught me
to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

*It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

2. Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

*It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious
thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o O my soul!
It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.

*It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

We'll Understand it It Better By and And By

1. We are tossed and driven
on the restless sea of time;
somber Somber skies and howling tempests
oft succeed a bright sunshine;
in In that land of perfect day,
when When the mists are rolled away,
we We will understand it better by and by.

Refrain:

*By and by, when the morning comes,
when When the saints of God are gathered
home,
we'll We will tell the story how we've
overcome,
for For we'll understand it better by and by.*

2. We are often destitute
of the things that life demands,
want Want of food and want of shelter,
thirsty hills and barren lands;
we We are trusting in the Lord,

and according to God's word,
we We will understand it better by and by.
(Refrain)

3. Trials dark on every hand,
and we cannot understand,
all All the ways of God would lead us
to that blessed promised land;
but But he guides us with his eye,
and we'll follow till we die,
for For we'll understand it better by and by.
(Refrain)

4. Temptations, hidden snares
often take us unawares,
and And our hearts are made to bleed
for a thoughtless word or deed;
and And we wonder why the test
when we try to do our best,
but But we'll understand it better by and by.
(Refrain)

Higher Ground

1. I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Refrain:

*Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's tableland,
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

2. My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where those
abound,
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.
(Refrain)

3. I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.
(Refrain)

4. I want to scale the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heaven I've found,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."
(Refrain)

APPRECIATION

The entire family of the late
Mr. Kwabena Bempong
Sincerely thank you for your
support and warm sympathy.
May God Almighty bless you
abundantly.

Amen!!

