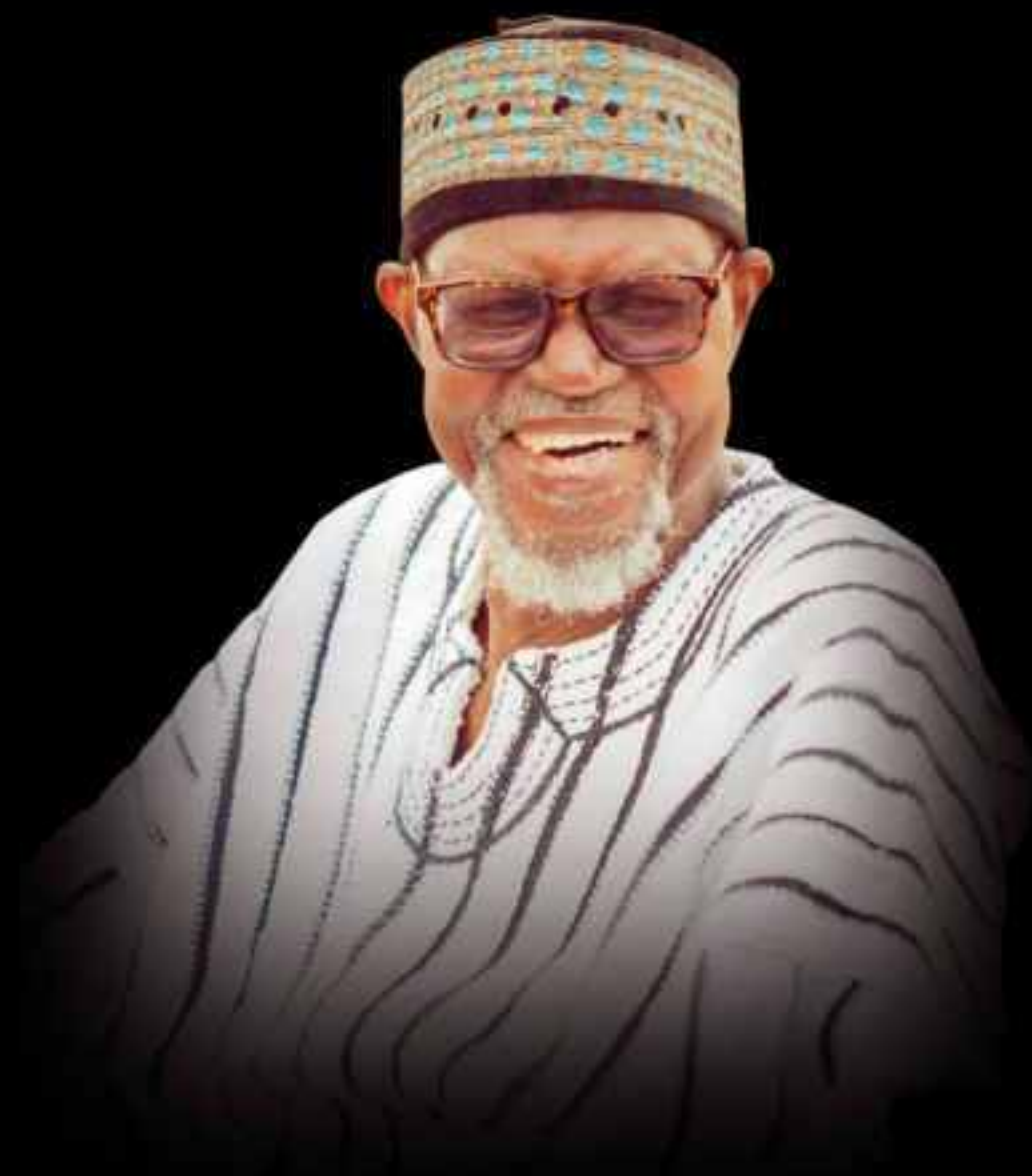


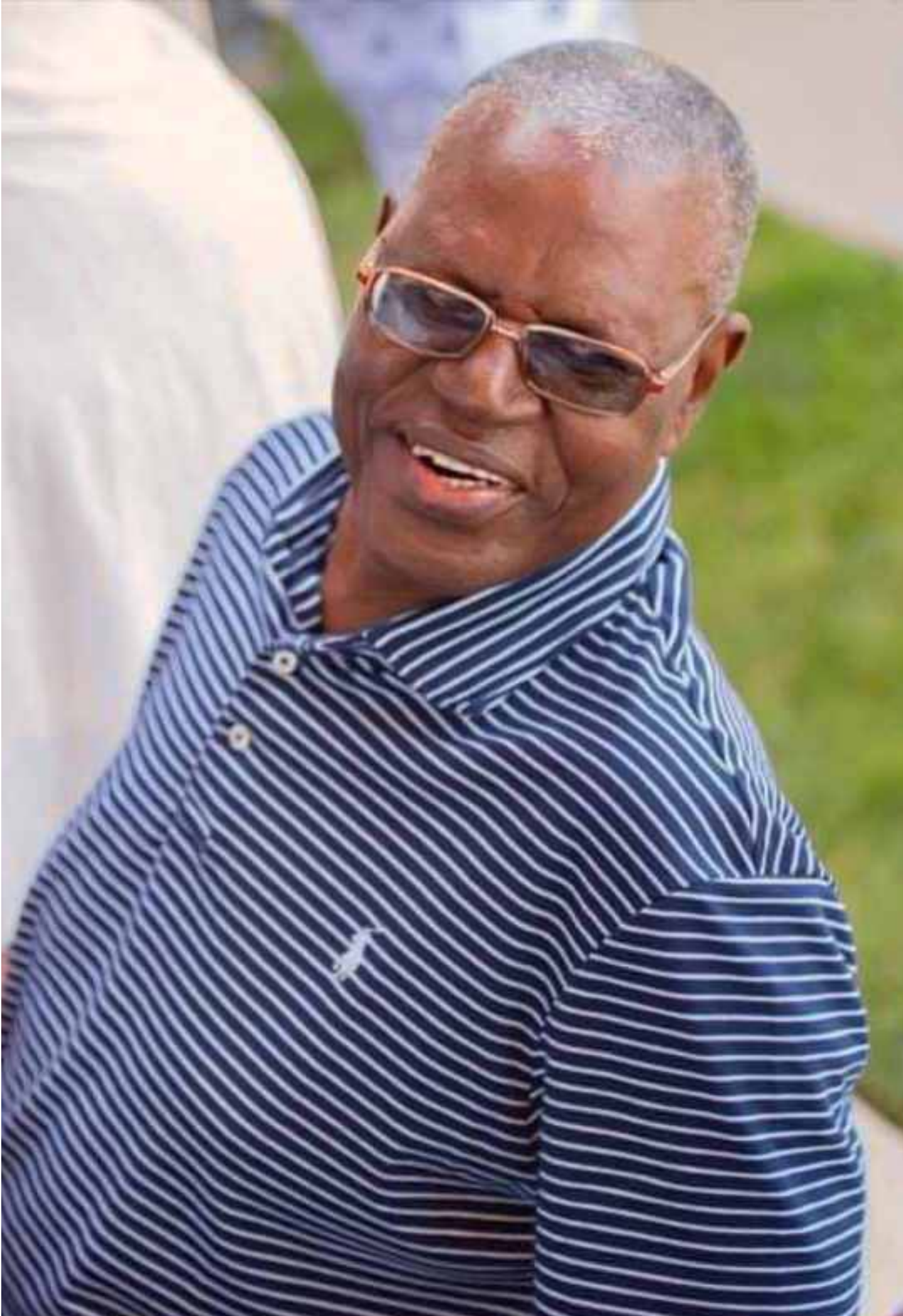
A LIFE WELL LIVED



HON. JOHN A.  
NDEBUGRE, ESQ.

1950 - 2022





 BURIAL SERVICE OF 

Hon. John Akparibo  
NDEBUGRE, ESQ.

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022 AT THE FORECOURT OF  
THE STATE HOUSE, ACCRA. 8 AM.



# PROGRAMME FOR THE BURIAL SERVICE OF HON. JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE, ESQ. IN ACCRA AND TIMONDE

## A. PRE-BURIAL LITURGY OF THE WORD (SERVICE)

**Date:** Thursday, July 14, 2022

**Venue:** Forecourt of the State House, Accra.

**Time:** 8 am.

### OFFICIATING CLERGY

- Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Ebenezer Akesseh-Christ the King, Cantonments.
- Rev. Fr. Donatus Pallu- Christ the King, Cantonments.

### REV. MINISTERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Prophet Alexander Owusu
- Lady Rev. Regina Owusu (Mrs)
- Rev. Ralph Osei Boafoe
- Rev. Francis Akpa
- Rev. Richard Kwame Kwayisi
- Rev. Prince Owusu

### PRE-BURIAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE HON. JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE, ESQ.

#### PART I: PRE-BURIAL SERVICE (8:00 AM)

- The arrival of the body
- Tributes and filing past
- Closing of casket

#### PART II: BURIAL SERVICE (9 AM)

- Entrance Hymn-Through all the changing scenes of life (CH 374)
- Introductory Rites
- Kyrie
- Opening Prayer
- 1st Reading- 2nd Corinthians 5:1, 6-10
- Responsorial Psalm-My soul is longing for your peace (CH 34)
- Gospel acclamation-Alleluia
- Gospel- Matthew 25:1-13
- Sermon
- Intercessory prayers: Hear our prayers O Lord For the peaceful repose of the soul of John Akparibo Ndebugre
- For the family
- For the Nation
- The Lord's Prayer
- Collection/Offertory-Medley of songs
- Announcements
- Reading of Biography

- Song-when peace like a river
- Final Commendation
- Benediction
- Recessional Hymn-Hark Hark my soul (CH 305)

## B. BURIAL MASS: SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2022 AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARK, TIMONDE

**TIME:** 10 AM

- Main celebrant: Rev. Father David Ayariga, Parish Priest of St. Charles Lwanga Catholic Church.

### I. INTRODUCTORY RITES

1. Greetings
2. Sprinkling of Holy Water or brief address
3. Placing of the Pall
4. ENTRANCE Procession
5. Placing of Christian Symbols
6. Opening Prayer

### II. LITURGY OF THE WORD

1. Readings
2. Homily
3. General Intercessions

### III. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### IV. FINAL COMMENDATION

1. Invitation to Prayer
2. Silence
3. Signs of farewell
4. Prayer of commendation

### V. PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

### VI. AT THE GRAVESIDE

1. Opening Prayer
2. Hymn
3. Burial Rites
4. Laying of wreaths
5. Closing Prayer







Celebration of Life  
HON. JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE, ESQ.

# BIOGRAPHY OF THE LATE HON. JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE, ESQ.

March 12, 1950, saw the birth of a child to poor peasant farmers, Ndebugre Azagisi and Atompako Akuribilla of Timonde and Bugore, respectively located today in the Bawku West District of the Upper East Region. He was named Akparibo Ndebugre, and later, John, as a christened catholic.

For his primary education, John Akparibo Ndebugre (JAN) attended Tanga Primary School from January 1959 to July 1964. He then continued to Zebilla Middle Boarding School from 1964 to 1965. Such was his intelligence that he took the common entrance examination in year one instead of the final middle school year in year four.

Not surprisingly, Nde excelled exceptionally and was admitted to Navrongo Secondary, Ghana Secondary School (Tamale), and Notre Dame Minor Seminary. Nde chose Navrongo Secondary School for his secondary education. He was very enthusiastic in the sciences and majored in physics, chemistry, and mathematics. His secondary education was from 1965 to 1970. He took the Ordinary Level certificate examination and passed with great distinction, setting a record in Navrongo Secondary School as the first student to secure a distinction with five "A"s.

In 1969, while on vacation at Zebilla, Ndebugre was present at the annual students' get-together. Here, he met for the first time, a young lady, Sophia, whom he will eventually court to become his wife and mother of all four of his Children. For his sixth form Advanced Level education, Nde returned to Navrongo Secondary School in October 1970. Unfortunately, in March 1971, Ndebugre was dismissed for leading a student protest to confront maladministration by the school's authorities. Together with 6 other compatriots, they were dismissed and had their names published in the Daily Graphic newspaper, ostensibly to prevent them from gaining admission into other schools.

Notwithstanding the dismissal, his thirst for scholarship was not to be quenched. Ndebugre went to the then University College of Cape Coast to pursue a course in preliminary science, an equivalent of the Advanced level Certificate ('A' Level). While pursuing this course, he studied privately and registered to write the 'A' level as a private student. He, once again, excelled exceptionally and was admitted into the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and technology (KNUST) where he pursued a program in chemical engineering from 1973 to 1977. While there, he was elected unopposed as the National Secretary of the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) and acted in that capacity from 1975 to 1976. Nde graduated with a BSc. (Hons) in Chemical Engineering from KNUST.

After his university education from KNUST, Nde, eager to give back to society the knowledge he acquired in his academic pursuit, took up a volunteer-Teaching job opportunity at Bawku Secondary School from September 1977 until November 1977. Sometime in November 1977, he was posted on National Service to the paint division of Ghana Industrial Holding Corporation (GIHOC) until August 1978.

Soon after, he was recruited as a research assistant by the Council for Scientific and Industrial research Institute (CSIR) from September 1978 until October 1978. Ndebugre sought to challenge himself in the world of science. He was offered a position as a Chemical Engineer at the GIHOC Glass Manufacturing Company at Aboso in the Western Region. He maintained this position from October 1978 until April 1981. While at Aboso, Ndebugre's love to impart his knowledge and experience was ever present. He took up a part-time role as a sixth form teacher of mathematics and physics at Asankragua Secondary School from January 1979 until April 1981.

In May 1981, Ndebugre was recruited as a contract Mathematics teacher by the Government of the Cross River State of

the Federal Republic of Nigeria and was posted to Goretta Girls Secondary School, Ekoti Ekpene, where he taught mathematics until February 1982.

After the Coup d'état of 1981 which overthrew the 3rd Republican Government of Dr. Hilla Liman, Ndebugre was invited by leaders of the new regime to come back home to Ghana to assist in rebuilding our country and restoring probity, justice, and accountability and ensuring proper nation building. Ndebugre accepted the invitation, and was immediately appointed by Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, as the PNDC Secretary for the Northern Region in February 1982. Ndebugre remained there until July 1982, when he was reassigned and appointed as Secretary to the then Upper Region.

Through his efforts and coordination, Upper West Region was carved out of the Upper Region in May 1983 to create the Upper East and Upper West Regions we respectively have today. Nde remained PNDC Secretary for Upper East Region until February 1984 when he was again reassigned to Accra as PNDC Secretary for Agriculture. Later in that same year in November, he was reassigned as the PNDC Secretary in charge of the Cocoa Sector from November 1984 to October 1985 when he resigned his position. Having parted ways with the PNDC on several irreconcilable differences, particularly on the creeping departure from the revolutionary ideology, Nde returned to life as an ordinary civilian. He quickly applied to the Law Faculty and wrote the entrance examination. Nde was first among the 8 chosen applicants out of several others. His humility was unmatched – while studying law at the law faculty, Nde converted his only vehicle, a Peugeot 504 caravan, to a commercial vehicle plying the Accra-Aflao route. He balanced his newly accepted private citizen role as a commercial cab driver, law student, husband, and father to three children at the time. So popular was the Secretary/Minister now turned driver that, many market women would wait until his car was available before they embarked on their journey to Aflao.

He demonstrated exceptional intelligence as a law student. He won the admiration of all his professors, classmates, and seniors alike. Nde was blessed with the gift of analytical thinking, which eventually made him a colossus in his own right in legal practice in Ghana.

Within a year (1985 -1986), Nde graduated from the law Faculty and was admitted to the Ghana School of Law, Makola, in 1986. While at the law school, together with other patriots of Ghana who shared a common vision of restoring constitutional order, Nde became a member of a group called Kwame Nkrumah Revolutionary Guard (KNRG). His organizational skills were soon to earn him the role of National Organizer of the KNRG. Soon, many of these splinter prodemocratic groups, merged to form a unified block for the sole purpose of mounting pressure on the Rawlings-led PNDC to restore Ghana to constitutional democratic governance. The Movement for Freedom and Justice (MFJ) was to be born in 1990. Ndebugre was a founding member and one of the leaders. With great defiance to the authoritarian regime at the time, he, together with a few bold others, pushed the Rawlings-led regime by courting support from Majority of Ghanaians to return Ghana to constitutional democracy.

Like the life of any great politician, he, with the likes of Kwesi Pratt Jnr, Prof. Kwame Karikari, Prof. Adu-Boahene of blessed memory, Akoto Ampaw, and few others, suffered and paid the price for their unrelenting non-subservience to an authoritarian regime. Nde was arrested and detained without charge in July 1987. His arrest derailed his pursuit to graduate and become a lawyer with the graduating class of 1988. In March 1988, the PNDC government yielded to local and international pressure by releasing him from detention. He continued in his political push to restore democratic governance while studying to complete law school. Ndebugre, finally graduated and was called to the Bar in October 1989. By 1992, multi-party democracy was restored in Ghana following the Referendum earlier that year. Ndebugre again became a founding member of the Limann led People's National Convention and later became its First National Vice Chairman.

In 2004, he won the parliamentary seat and became the elected representative for the

people of Zebilla on the ticket of the People's National Convention (PNC). Albeit for four years, Nde's contribution as a legislator in those four years was palpably visible for all to appreciate. While in Parliament, he was a Member of Parliament's Judiciary Committee, later became its Vice-Chairman and ultimately, its Chairman. He was also a Member of Parliament's Select Committee on constitutional, legal and parliamentary affairs as well as member of the select committee on lands and forestry. During his tenure as MP, Hon. John Akparibo Ndebugre was also appointed as a member of the Board of Directors of Ghana Post Company.

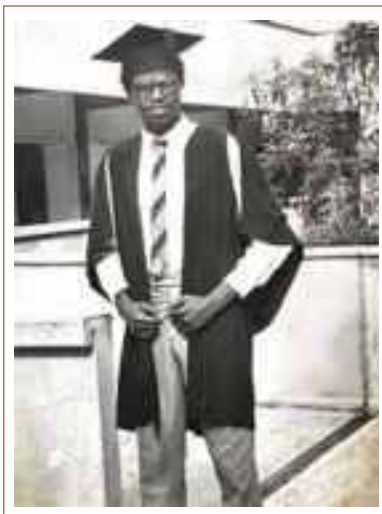
Ndebugre continued to practice law and played an active role in National politics every step of the way. Often mischaracterized as a pariah in his involvement in any political group, Nde was too feared, too principled, too uncompromising, too unpredictable, too independent in his thoughts to be influenced by party or majority view for the convenience of a few. These attributes, often stoked doubts in the minds of many of his compatriots and political leaders from both sides of the political divide to engage and tap into his knowledge whenever they wielded power. Nde was acutely aware of this misperception but was naturally unperturbed; he would not spend a second to change his true nature and character. He was too honest to a fault, too simple and modest to be greedy and corrupt, too notorious for his intransigence on where his conviction directed him, too fearless to succumb to threats of possible retribution. Nde did what Nde wanted to do at all times.

As he got older, Nde gradually relocated to set up the base of his legal practice in the Upper East Region. He loved Family, kinship, and preferred to spend his older years closer to home and his people. Like old wine, he got better with age. He became less boisterous and confrontational, but remained resolute in his unrepenting penchant for honesty, justice and putting country first. As was always his wish, he wanted to exit the stage of this world without pain or causing stress to others. He often said, "You people will wake up one day and I will be no more". Your maker heard you loudly and clearly and granted your wish on that fateful day. You will be truly missed, but never forgotten. If man is truly remembered for his deeds while on earth, we cannot look past you! Your deeds will forever remain and guide us!

Paam Suum! Winam na mal Teng ka fugban!

Rest well, Akparibo!









## TRIBUTE BY MRS SOPHIA NDEBUGRE (THE WIDOW)

*"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes", says the Spirit "that they may rest from their labours, and their works follow them"  
Revelations 14:13.*

I met "John" as I affectionately called him in the year 1969 through my brother, Professor George Akeya Agbango at the Bawku West Students get-together. We exchanged pleasantries that night. The following day, John followed up to my house and expressed his likeness for me. I was a bit skeptical about his attraction toward me since we were worlds apart. John at that time was in the sixth form, and I, a young girl not in school. The thought of his affection for me seemed unreal and farfetched.

Despite my doubts and fears, he was persistent. Before long, I was married to John in the year 1971. John getting my father's consent to marry me was even more difficult than his persuasion to have me agree to marry him. My late father had his preference for a local man who was seemingly established as a merchant and well-to-do by local standards. Against all persuasions, I defied my family and stayed with John. Often, my father would chase me out of the house amid threats of disowning me. I loved John for who he was. At that early age of 19, I was quick to realize how different he was, never doubting that my poor village boyfriend had a very bright future ahead of him. I didn't need much to be convinced that greatness was upon him.

My journey with him was not rosy at the beginning. To make ends meet, John, a dependent student on his mother, a farmer cum dawadawa seller, as well as his older brother who was also a farmer, barely had much to take care of himself. Realizing our situation, as an apprentice seamstress, I quickly learned the vocation and soon graduated ahead of time to own my own shop. I worked tirelessly to support myself and John while he was in school. I continued to do this throughout his latter years in sixth form and through his university days at KNUST. John never stopped assuring me "Sophia I promise to take good care of you when I complete school". True to his word, when his feet were planted after graduating from school, he never reneged on those promises; he took exceptional care of the children and I throughout his life after school.

John's love for me was so strong that, no third person could come between us. Five years after marriage with no child, John brushed aside relentless family pressure to seek another woman for children. We eventually had our first daughter in March 1976. For me, my marriage to John will always be my greatest accomplishment in life. He taught me a whole lot – how to carry myself in public as a lady, eat at the table, speak English and much more.

He performed his fatherly role very well. He was so much dedicated to me and the children. He loved his children so much that he would not trade their education for anything else. At their younger ages, he never missed their birthdays. Always spoiling them with gifts and throwing birthday parties however small.

He was such a straightforward man. He never minced his words; he stood for truth and would always say things as they were.

We had our own challenges along the line but through it all, the love we had for each other pulled us through.



John, in your last days, you were over caring and protective of me; your love for me was so strong. You pampered me like a baby; little did I know that it was your way of saying goodbye to me. You have left me alone in this lonely world.

May 4th 2022, was the last day of being with you. You came out of the room to say goodbye to me when Patience was taking me to Accra for a medical check-up. We spoke the next day, Thursday, you did not complain of any headache or pains in any part of your body. The morning of the day you finally left us, we spoke again. You were rather worried about my health and told me to quickly return after consulting with my doctors. You sounded very well! A few hours later, my heart was broken when the news of your sudden demise started trickling in. I never had the chance to say goodbye, to share our stories for the last 51 years we've been together, to hold and kiss you, assuring you that, I would follow you wherever you were. You are a giant in the eyes of men, a true human to have been blessed upon us.

I am drowned in tears! I am lost in my thoughts!!

The star of kusaug has fallen!

The great warrior of kusaug has fallen!!

My dependable partner, my brother, my friend and my father has left me feeling lonely and filled with grief.

Till we meet again, the love of my life, rest well.

Paam sum.





Celebration of Life  
HON. JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE, ESQ.

# TRIBUTE FROM CHILDREN (PATIENCE, VLADIMIR, THOMAS AND NELSON)

For us, May 6th, 2022, occasioned the darkest day in each of our lives. As fate would have it, we woke up to a bright, sunny beautiful day. Mom spoke to you early that morning, assuring you of her immediate return to Zebilla if she got clearance from her doctors whom she was scheduled to consult later that same day in Accra.

You sounded very upbeat and instructed her to tell us *“bring my wife back in one piece”*. Little did she know that, after fifty-one odd years of knowing and subsequently getting married to you, that brief conversation was the very last she would have with you. While at the hospital with mom, our respective phones kept buzzing unusually from family members back home. The news of your sudden ailment was frantically shared with us. The doctors were immediately called home to attend to you. Unfortunately, the collective industry of the health experts yielded to the desire of your maker to have you seated with him at this time.

We, collectively, hoped for a better outcome. Sadly, our hopes soon turned into anguish, grief, despondency, and dejection as your doctor wailed uncontrollably in an undiscernible audible phone call to us that *“I am sorry, we lost him”*. Our lives were immediately shattered! We wept and wailed in our futile attempts to, in the words of Shakespeare *“make less the depth of grief”*. Together with many other citizens of our country, who realized the vacuum, your death has left us with, our hearts are broken, our lights have dimmed, and our pain is piercing, but we are encouraged by the spirit and fortitude of optimism in the face of despair as you were known for.

You were a great father without a doubt! For the rest of the country, you were Nde, the no-nonsense, brave politician and astute lawyer. Even though we certainly admired those attributes, to us, you were just Daddy. At an early age, you made us realize that as children from a poverty-ridden background, the greatest equalizer enabling us to compete effectively and equally was none other than education. You challenged each of us not to underestimate our capabilities in whatever environment we found ourselves in. In several separate discussions, as a collective unit or individually with you, you stated ad-nauseum, *“take pride in your heritage – be the head and not the tail, resist any attempts at suppression with all you have, I have nothing to leave for you besides making sure you get the best education you possibly can”*. We are eternally grateful for your love, care, attention, and detailed involvement in putting together the seams of a beautiful mosaic of what each of us has become today. So passionate was your love for education that, at an early age, you made sure we all had a copy of the book *“First aid in English”*. You would come from work and ask that we go through synonyms, antonyms, similes, past and present tenses of verbs, superlatives, and so on.

You were an avid reader, voraciously reading anything you chanced upon to expand your knowledge in all disciplines. You encouraged us to develop a love for reading. You always told us that failure to read and broaden our knowledge was the surest way to be the tail and not the head. In math, as a scientist, you took exceptional interest in encouraging us to develop an equal interest in that discipline. Unfortunately, besides your only daughter, Patience, the rest of us had little interest in math or science. Nonetheless, today, excellence in our respective disciplines is a direct derivative of all the years of hard work you put into building a strong and solid foundation for us to confront the unforgiving challenges characterized in today's global marketplace.

Even though death seems to have created a gulf between us, borrowing the words of Gandhi and Hellen Keller respectively, *“there are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in our hearts”*. *“For what we once enjoyed and deeply loved, we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes part of us”*. All you truly wanted was to build and raise a



family capable of independently living outside your shadows. Daddy, you have truly excelled in your quest to create an Ndebugre quartet steeped in like ideology independent of the nucleus. All four of us, Pat, Vlad, Tom, and Nelson, will not relent in our efforts to project the principles you so dearly held to your human existence. Those giant footprints will definitely be difficult to fill, but our collective will to surmount all the challenges will see us through. Like you, we will also follow in like manner to bring up your grandchildren in much the same way you raised us.

Although eternally bonded in spirit, we will truly miss those physical encounters on discussions of family matters, local politics, national politics, and legal issues as it related to Vlad. You were always open to counter opinions and suggestions without necessarily diminishing the weight of the counter-proposition. We would have tense arguments and discussions on the need to straddle the lane in your public commentaries on topical national issues. Times without number, you would always say *"This is why we sacrificed for a free democratic state, if anyone has a counter-opinion, it is their choice to freely express it"*. You embodied the truest spirit of nationalism as aptly captured in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. *"May I stress the need for courageous, intelligent, and dedicated leadership... Leaders of sound integrity. Leaders who are not in love with publicity, but in love with justice. Leaders who are not in love with money, but in love with humanity. Leaders who can subject their particular egos to the greatness of the cause"*. You were unimpressed and consistently unswayed by materialism, undismayed by adversity whenever you had a deep conviction in what was fair and just to you. You never failed to remind us that *"there's a lot more to life than brick, mortar, and cars"*. You preferred to live in relative poverty with unimpeachable dignity and good conscience.

Daddy, you encouraged us to remain modest in our lifestyles, while putting our dignity and human conscience at the pinnacle of our aspirations. As your lifeless body lies before us at the forecourt of the State House today, these principles and ideologies for which you stood, have become manifestly appreciated and recognized since your demise. Without a doubt, we are emotionally debilitated by grief; however, our spirits are lifted by the overwhelming outpouring of love, admiration, and recognition for what you contributed to making Ghana a better place as envisioned by her founders. You were so incorruptible, so uncompromising with what you believed was the truth, so unapologetically obdurate to many issues on social justice and reform, and jealously steadfast in your conviction to what you believed was right. Daddy never surrendered his conviction for political expediency or favor. At no stage in your life were you ever timorous; you openly and freely expressed your views, damning the consequences if you believed you were right. On countless occasions, you spoke truth to power, believing it was your constitutional right and civic duty to be the voice of the silent majority.

In death, you will never be remembered as a wealthy man who once lived. What we know for sure is that you will forever be remembered as a true Statesman who mirrored the image of honor, dignity, love for country, and an unrepentant crusader for justice for all.

In politics, you distinguished yourself by consistently seeking to make better, the interest of the masses with no regard for personal gain. You built your political life on the foundations of socialism; seeking the utilitarian good above individual benefit or personal interest. You embodied the words of Dr. King when he said *"...we are tied in the single garment of destiny...we are caught up in an inescapable network of mutuality, whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.."*. Realizing our perfectly imperfect attempts to attain the greater benefit to society, you often, went against the grain of mainstream politics, usually isolated and having little reservoir of support amongst your colleagues. You persevered in whatever cause you thought was just. You succeeded in many of those pursuits as you equally lost as many. In the end, for you, each of those "battles" was a victory in your eyes – the true failure being a failure to act on what you thought was right.

You despised greed, corruption, and any form of self-serving disposition to our body politics. At our much younger ages as your children, we often, ignorantly, questioned your disinterest in creating a more comfortable living environment for the family when you evidently had the capacity to do so. With age, we have grown wiser and have come to understand that the beauty of politics and the life of a politician, is not that which he creates for himself – rather,



the pursuit of hope for the majority triumphed against cynicism is what truly matters in a real man's life.

You walked your talk, boldly and uprightly, challenging authorities throughout all facets of your life because you knew no one had anything on you. Your demise today, truly marks the passing away of one of the finest and very few egalitarians this country will ever know. We are truly proud to have called you, our father. You were a blessing to us, to Kusaug, to Northern Ghana, and Ghana at large. While we celebrate you today in an era of democratic constitutional governance, we are reminded of the valiant sacrifices you, together with other gallant fallen souls of your generation, and a few others still alive, have contributed to the constitutional dispensation we enjoy today.

For us as your children, each day the frontiers of our democracy are pushed further by the recognition of the fundamental tenets of justice, free speech, and all other indicia of the rule of law, we will proudly look up to the heavens and say with great pride that "*John Ndebugre, our father, Daddy, was one of the architects of Ghana in the fourth republic*". As we welcome and embrace several politicians who are present here today to pay their last respects, we are hopeful that, their collective appreciation of you and other progenitors of the longest surviving democratic reign in Ghana, would inspire a new sense of political culture to become the politician of Yesteryear like you. A few more men of your ilk in our country will certainly see the Ghana we so much hope to become.

In legal practice, you were, by far, one of the smartest legal brains the country has known. Your fidelity to your legal oath was unwavering. After 33 years of legal practice and a huge reputation as an acclaimed lawyer, you never saw yourself too big to take up the smallest of legal disputes. For the most part, you were first driven by the consideration for justice over any pecuniary gain. Your practice was driven by your conscience to serve, defend and prosecute without fear or favor. You won the admiration of your colleagues at the Bar and members on the bench when on your feet in court. You were, indeed, a true sage of the legal fraternity. The skill and dexterity with which you carried and conducted your work were exemplary. You enjoyed being a lawyer, and, boy, a good one at that. You courted the adulation of your peers and non-lawyers alike. You were well ahead of your time; your understanding of contemporary vexed issues in law and social matters was simply admirable. Daddy, your commitment to a good cause projected a whole ethnic group to the world. Like the bastion and last vanguard at the gate, the entire Kusaug community could sleep soundly at night knowing that one of their own, was more than a multitude of armies of men in defense of their liberties and Kingdom whenever needed.

We have wailed and continue to feel immeasurable dejection and sorrow with your passing away. We are somewhat consoled by the words of George Patton "*It is foolish to mourn great men who died... Rather we should thank God that such men lived*". You were indeed a great man by the truest definition of that Statement.

That commanding presence of your 6 feet 4inch frame will be missed; that exceptional intelligence and charisma will never be replaced. That honesty, courage, and bravery to stand by your principles will never be forgotten. That rare sense of modesty and respect for human life, dignity, and justice for all will forever remain a part of your legacy.

Generations yet unborn will read and hear about what you stood for with so much hope that a few more people like you will certainly make the world a better place. You have been a true warrior for what is always right. Like Dr. Nkrumah, such men never die, you have only been extinguished in flesh, but your legacy will forever inspire us, your children, grandchildren, and generations of Ndebugres to come. We will weep less and celebrate your astounding accomplishments in your 72 years of life gifted to us by your maker.

We will always love you, Daddy! Rest well, smile down on us from the heavens, knowing that you raised exceptionally responsible children to take over from where you left off. Your race is run. It is time to rest.

Paam Sum Mba, Kusaug teng pusifu,





Celebration of Life  
HON. JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE, ESQ.



# TRIBUTE FROM GRAND CHILDREN (BY NAA AYELE ARYEE)

*"For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep"  
(1 Thessalonians 4:14-17)*

I am Stephanie Naa Ayeley Aryee and the first grandchild of Hon. John Akparibo Ndebugre. I am honoured to stand in the presence of this great multitude to read a tribute to our grandpa on behalf of Amaali, Akumbo, Mmalebna and Ndemah who are still toddlers and have not gotten the chance to know much about him. Our grandfather lived a life full of ups and downs, joy and happiness. I remember how humorous, witty and clever grandpa was. There was no time that I visited grandpa that he wouldn't make me laugh my head off.

I remember the last time we spoke on phone, on the 1st of May, 2022, we really had a good conversation. We spoke at length and had a lot of laughs too. Along the line in our conversation Grandpa told me he was going to die soon but, I did not take him seriously. I jokingly told him to wait and see my children before he died. He laughed at my response and said, "you better give birth quickly then because I don't have much time" and he laughed again. So I was shocked and at the same time confused when my mum called me on the 6th of May and told me that grandpa had died. I have never in my life heard someone announcing his death and die without falling sick besides Christ Jesus. I am still in shock and hoping to go to Zebilla and see grandpa come out of his room with his arms opened and saying to me, welcome, my wife.

I am grateful I met you grandpa and got to know you. Unfortunately, your other grandchildren couldn't grow to get to know you but I promise to tell them stories about you when they grow.

Who are we to question the creator? He gives and he takes and we can only accept it as it is. In the end, *"it is not the years in your life that counts but the life in your years"*. A quote by Abraham Lincoln.

Grandpa, you lived a life worthy of emulation and for that we say Tumaa tumaa. You were not a perfect person to everyone but to us you were our world.

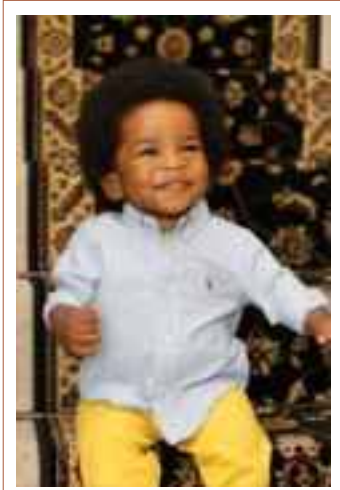
Oh grandpa, who will send me momo when I am going to school or when it is my birthday? I really miss you and I have cried an ocean of tears but I know you are in a better place watching us with a smile on your face admiring the beautiful and special family you have left behind.

I feel lucky and privileged to have known you to this day. You have certainly played a special role in my life. I will treasure and keep the memories I had with you close to my heart. I will forever be proud to tell the world that Honorable John Akparibo Ndebugre was my grandfather.

If I knew that was really the last time I was going to speak with you, I would have made the most out of it.

Rest well grandpa! Till we meet again. We love you, Paam Sum!





## TRIBUTE TO JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE (ESQ) (BY THE ZUG-RAAN BAWKU NABA, ASIGIR ABUGRAGO AZOKA II)

The passing away of another giant of a son in Kusaug, in the person Mr. John Akparibo Ndebugre, at such an odd time, is most unfortunate, not only to me but to the entire Kusaug. The big tree which provided shade for most of us has fallen.

What do we do?

The popular 'NDE' is a household word, known by both the young and the old members of our communities in Kusaug. This is largely because of his role as a gallant fighter in the Kusasi liberation effort.

Nde exhibited his commitment to our liberation struggle right from his youthful days while still in school at Navasco (Navrongo Senior High School) and beyond. He was very vociferous and fearless. And he had the oratory to articulate his points to the admiration of all.

My personal trust and confidence in him led me to appoint him as chairman of the Kusaug Advisory Council in the year 2000 to help me deal with the turbulence in Bawku during that period. This council helped me a lot to weather the storms of the time.

It was during Nde's time as the then PNDC Regional Secretary in the Upper Region that my late father, Naba Abugrago Azoka was restored to his rightful position as Bawku Naba after having been wrongfully deposed in 1966 through NLCD 112. It would be recalled that my father had gone through all due processes to win his position as the rightful Bawku Naba. After the Opoku Afari's Committee of Enquiry into his claims and the Governor-General's (Lord Listowell) endorsement of same came the then Appeal Court's ruling on same, yet the NLC had him deposed. It had to take Nde and his fellow freedom fighters to convince the powers of the time (PNDC) to right the wrong in 1983.

The news of the sudden demise of Nde therefore came to me as a massive shock. Indeed it is an unbearable blow! He has departed at a time when Bawku and the entire Kusaug community again needed his helpful hand the most as Bawku again is in crisis of communal violence concerning the Bawku chieftaincy issue, which Ghana is aware was long settled by the Supreme Court in 2003.

However, we must all take consolation from the fact that he has not left us like orphans. By his activities and mentoring he has inspired many others to be able to stand up and take the mantle. We shall continue to weather the storms as Nde did.

My plea would be for all of us in Bawku, Kusaug Traditional Area, and surrounding communities, to pay tribute to John Akparibo Ndebugre by embracing peace, unity and a limitless respect for the rule of law. May the Good Lord receive and bless his spirit and also bless his widow and the children he has left behind.

*Paam Sunga! Win na maa teng ka fu digin!*



Celebration of Life  
HON. JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE, ESQ.



# A TRIBUTE TO LAWYER JOHN A. NDEBUGRE (BY PROF. GEORGE AGBANGO)

Lawyer John Ndebugre, a great son of Kusaug (Kusasiland) is gone. It is easier for me to write a book on him titled "Lawyer John Ndebugre as I Knew Him" than to write his eulogy in a few paragraphs. There is so much to say about Lawyer Ndebugre and yet not enough space in this booklet to do him justice. There is a saying that *"some people are born great; some have greatness bestowed upon them; and others achieve greatness."* Lawyer Ndebugre was not born great, nor did he have greatness bestowed on him. He became larger than life in Ghana because of his persistence to hard work at school, in politics, and in his legal profession. He achieved greatness due to his unique traits in honesty, reliability, and dependability. Ndebugre spoke truth to power without any reservations, fear or favor. For these qualities, people who knew him and worked with him loved him and appreciated his good contribution to societal development and human progress.

Lawyer Ndebugre lived a good life. Looking back to our university days, "Nde" (as we often called him) was the General Secretary of the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) while an engineering student at KNUST. I was then SRC President at the Advanced Teacher Training College, Winneba and National Vice President of NUGS. He was the driving force in NUGS progressive agenda at the time. Our generation of student leaders later became formidable political leaders in Ghana. Some of us, by corrupt practices, are millionaires in Ghana today. I can say with certainty that Nde refused to join the club of corrupt political leaders/looters in Ghana. He lived a modest life and raised his fine children (my niece Patience and my nephews Vladimir, Sankara, and Nelson) of whom I am very proud to be their uncle.

At the local level (Kusaug or Kusasiland), Nde almost single-handedly continued with the struggle for Kusasi emancipation which was began by the late Hon. Asumda Ayebo and men and women of his generation in 1950s. We also continued with Asumda's efforts while we were in Parliament during the President Limann administration. Following the fall of the Third Republic, Ndebugre became a top-ranking member of the Rawling administration. He continued with the Kusasi struggle which yielded positive results. So, while we celebrate your life, we must also thank God Almighty for using you as an instrument of change and prosperity in Kusasiland and Ghana.

Lawyer Ndebugre did not surprise me when he resigned from the Rawlings administration as a minister of state with an outstanding record. He could not betray the people of Ghana by continuing to serve in an administration that had lost its bearings. Hence, on my return to Ghana in 1989 after some eight years sojourn in the United States, I introduced Nde to former President Hilla Limann. That began the strong bond and great relations between these two distinguished Ghanaian personalities. Nde was to become a founding member of The Peoples National Convention and eventually the MP for Zebilla under the Party's ticket in 2004.

My journey with this distinguished gentleman began sometime around 1970. We became good friends and he spent good times with me in my family home in Zebilla. My late mother liked him a lot. That was how he met my sister Sophia who was to become his wife, chief counsel and mother of his four wonderful children. The rest is history.

I can only be proud of Lawyer Ndebugre's great contributions to human development as a lawyer, politician, husband, father and a community leader. In a country where there is the temptation to be corrupt and steal from the state coffers to enrich oneself, Lawyer Ndebugre did not yield to that pressure when he had the opportunities to do so. He also refused to lick the boots of those with political power for his personal gain or aggrandizement. He was frank



and honest to a fault.

He found it difficult to compromise his principles for political expediency. Perhaps that was why he rubbed some people the 'wrong' way. But that too earned him enormous respect and honor among Ghanaians.

In all his life, Nde spoke truth to power with great conviction and rendered good services to his fellow Ghanaians with great humility. These unique traits have earned him an indelible place in the history of Ghana. His sudden death took Ghana by surprise. Consequently, the winds will blow great songs about Lawyer Ndebugre all over the valleys and hills of Ghana. We can only thank God Almighty for your good life. Nde, you will always be missed. Safe journey and may you rest in perfect peace in the bosom of the Lord. Adieu my friend and brother-in-law.

George A. Agbango, Ph.D.  
Professor of Politics and Public Administration  
Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania  
(Bloomsburg Campus), USA







# TRIBUTE TO JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE (BY H.E. JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA)

*“Any man’s death diminishes me because  
I am a part of mankind,”*  
- John Donne, famous English priest & poet.

With the sad passing of our brother, father, friend and mentor, we – his family, friends, and loved ones – are left diminished, having lost a part of ourselves. We are also devastated.

A man of many parts – lawyer, engineer, former Member of Parliament for Zebilla – John Akparibo Ndebugre was one of the most unique politicians I have ever known.

Versatile, passionate, and accomplished, he was a man who refused to be defined in his public dealings, by the usual binary strictures of being either automatically for or against any person or association or issue.

Nde was simply on the side that his conscience convinced him was right and he lived by this code. It is therefore not surprising that at different periods in his political journey, he worked and held leadership roles in the PNDC, NPP and PNC respectively.

To say that he wielded a firm axe that cut both ways would be an understatement: his axe cut in all directions without fear or favour. I admired him greatly for this independence of thought and action. Integrity meant everything to this legal luminary.

Personally, Nde was not just an elder brother. He was a mentor and a comrade. His words of advice and good counsel have served me well in my political career. It is one of the reasons why his sudden departure came to me as a huge shock.

My senior brother was a fierce defender of our constitution. Notably, his public engagements, advocacy and commentaries on socio-political issues contributed enormously to shaping public discourse on all issues of national importance, with the goal of ensuring social order and cohesion.

Lawyer Ndebugre’s life was an open book: he was forthright and a man of unquestionable integrity and common sense. He was a patriot par excellence. Our country would be in a much better stead if we were to emulate the qualities he embodied.

John Ndebugre was a man who didn’t just belong to our generation; his words, values and deeds resoundingly prove that.

May his soul rest in perfect peace.



## TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF THE LATE HONOURABLE JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE BY THE PARLIAMENT OF GHANA

*“Now praise we great and famous men,  
The fathers named in story;  
And praise the Lord who now as then  
Reveals in man His glory.  
Praise we the wise and brave and strong,  
Who graced their generation;  
Who helped the right, and fought the wrong,  
And made our folk a nation.”  
Amen.*

The Parliament of Ghana is deeply saddened by news of the shocking transition of the late Hon John Akparibo Ndebugre, one of the most influential, vociferous, robust, and dynamic political figures of the Upper East Region, an erudite scholar and a powerhouse of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic of Ghana.

Indeed, no sun sets without its histories. The passing of the late Hon Ndebugre awakens memories of past Members of Parliament such as the late Awani Akuguri, the late Ayamba Tia, Hon Agbango G. Akeya, and many others who were instrumental figures from the Upper East Region engaged in national politics. In honour of these forebears, our highest tribute to them is not grief, but gratitude, for their unparalleled devotion and immense contribution to deepening parliamentary democracy in Ghana.

By dint of persistence and firmness of purpose, the late Hon Ndebugre, in spite of the many obstacles on his path while growing up, not only pursued his ambition, but also surpassed it with diligence and honour. He always reckoned that a tree cannot stand without its roots, thus, in his relishing desires to pursue national politics, he capitalised on the golden opportunity to represent his people in Parliament.

The late Hon Member's association with Parliament dates back to 7th January, 2005 when he was elected as the representative of the Zebilla constituency of the Upper East Region of Ghana on the ticket of the People's National Convention (PNC). His constituency was a part of the three parliamentary seats out of 13 seats won by the PNC in that General Election for the Upper East Region.

For what it is worth, the late Ndebugre was elected over Appiah Moses of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Cletus Apul Avoka of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), and Sulley Aneda Apam of the Convention People's Party (CPP). This monumental victory placed a huge task on Hon Ndebugre, and to be fair and exact, he discharged his duties excellently.

While in Parliament, the late Member's positive influence was felt both at plenary and in committee. From 2005 to 2008, he served on the following Committees: Lands and Forestry, Judiciary, Business, and Constitutional, Legal & Parliamentary Affairs, where he exhibited remarkable intelligence, diligence, and resourcefulness. One could simply not miss noticing him in a committee meeting or on the Floor, not only because of the elegance he displayed in his signature traditional smock, but also his incisive vocalizations and the distillery of wisdom he exuded in every debate. His fountain of wisdom affirmed the adage that knowledge is a process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification. The late Member was simple in words but sophisticated in thoughts, and kind in actions but resolute in defence.

The late Ndebugre was a towering figure in the committee that worked out the modalities for the implementation of the Representation of the People's (Amendment) Law (ROPAL). He devoted so



much time and resources, considering the exhaustive stakeholder consultations that had to be done, both in Ghana and abroad. His continuous and active involvement in this endeavour was characterised by rise and falls, sacrifices and constraints, but because one whose seeds have not sprouted does not give up planting, he was always motivated by the rewards for the country in the future.

Deeply etched in the fibre of his debates were the desire to ensure transparency and accountability in the disbursement of public funds. He always put the nation first above partisan politics and the negative polarisation that he thought had bedeviled the country. Still, in his contribution to the President's Address, he said: We are sitting on gold but we are still complaining that we are poor. And when somebody comes to try and lift us up—We do too much politics with our lives in Africa...It does not matter whether Hon Ndebugre is President or Nana Akufo-Addo is President; the most important thing is for Ghana to move forward, and we must produce the basic necessities of life for ourselves and not go about doing politics with everything.

His colleagues attested to the fact that he was compassionate but at the same time strong-willed, unbending but considerate, accommodating but unyielding, especially if his actions were in conformity with his highly-held moral principles. He was always of the view that we must each lead a way of life with self-awareness and compassion, to do as much as we can. Then, whatever happens, we will have no regrets. He was not the type of politician engaged, for political expediency, in blind following of crowd opinion. It did not matter to him to stand alone against the rest over a cause he had a contrary view. He believed that it is the chameleon that changes colour to match the earth, but the earth does not change colour to match the chameleon. He was always glad to be the earth that was unchangeable in ideals to the fleeting changes of negative political ideologies and activities, and this principle endeared him to many. The late Hon Ndebugre was unrelenting in his efforts to pursue excellence and higher learning, corroborating in one of his beliefs that no matter how full the river, it still wants to grow. As a product of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, he proceeded to acquire his Bachelor of Law degree at the Ghana School of Law, where he would eventually become one of the legal luminaries in the country. His determination, toughness, devotion to duty and the strength of his convictions set him apart, and it is why we are proud today to share memories of a life well-lived.

The fundamental thrust of his debates were education-centred, always reiterating the importance of capital investment by the government into education, especially in deprived communities. As a lawyer and someone with Science background, he advocated the importance of legal education and science and technology. On 26th January, 2006, he debated spiritedly that:

Mr Speaker, as the Hon Colleague who has just spoken has said, technology is practicalisation of science. Therefore, for us to benefit from science or to benefit from technology, there must be a solid link between science and technology.

Still on education, he was one of the firm advocates for Distance Education in Ghana, especially for people in rural areas to access adequate educational opportunities. In his contribution to the Government's Financial Policy, 2006, on 16th November, 2005, he said:

I think that we need to improve upon the Distance Education system still, because the more we encourage some of these traditionally-trained teachers to go into the tertiary levels and improve upon their knowledge and their skills, the better they would perform in the field.

The late Ndebugre was a legislator who had mastery of the rules, procedures, and workings of Parliament. As a selfless patriot, he was always generous with all the knowledge he had accumulated and contributed so much to the literature of Parliament. He was a mentor to many young and old lawyers and politicians who have emerged on the political scene in Ghana. For the

loss of such a devout public servant, Parliament and the nation Ghana are the poorer.

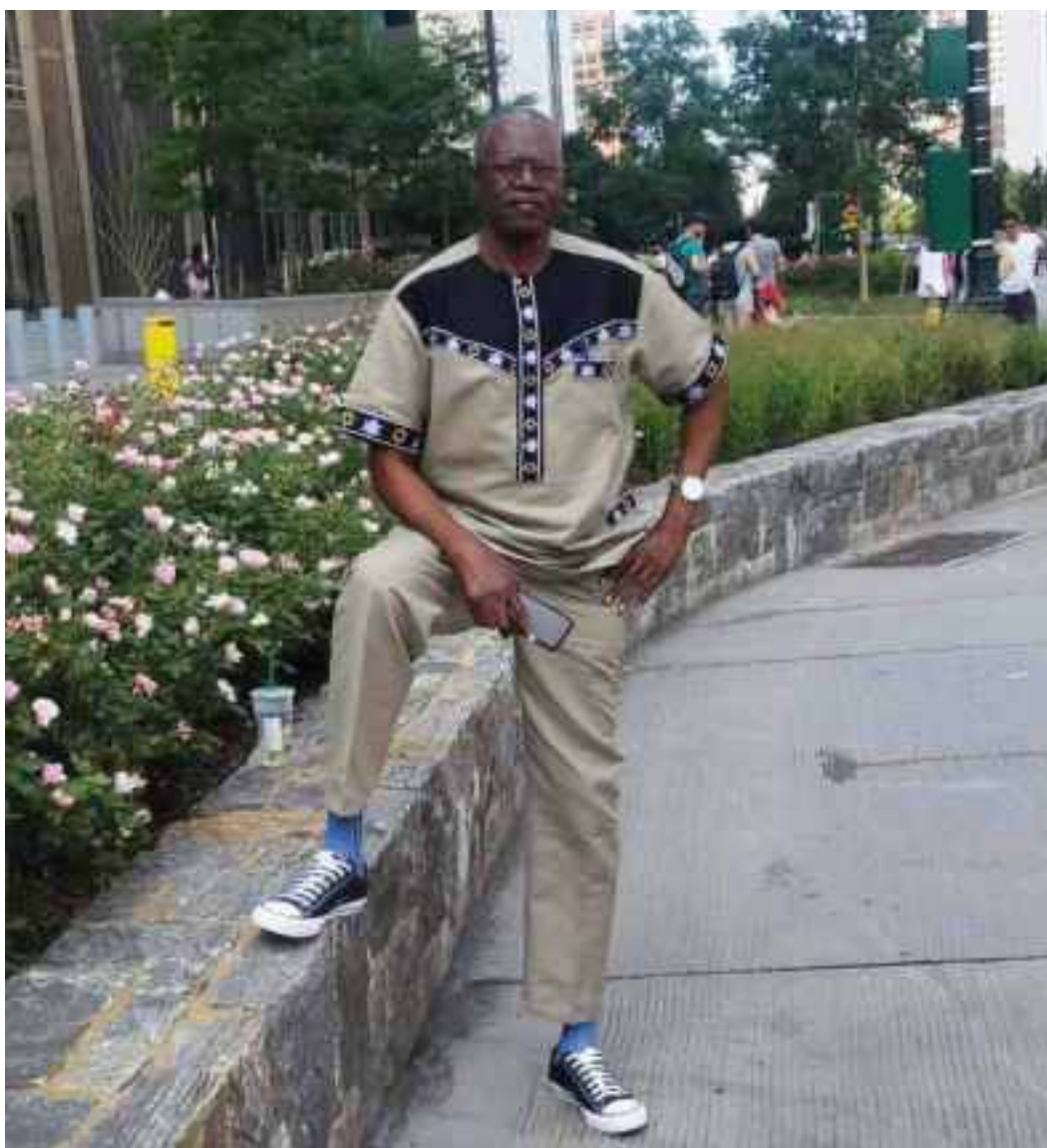
While words can never fully express how much we feel about his passing, we are grateful to the Good Lord that he has contributed his quota to the dutiful task of nation-building, and we know that God will reward him for his meritorious service unto humanity. For families, friends, and loved ones whom he has left behind, his death is a reminder to all of us that our lives are finite—a reminder to live fully today, because everybody will undergo the sentence of the grave.

The Hon Ndebugre has played his part admirably, and it behoves us to also play our part with perseverance and hard work.

The late Hon John Akparibo Ndebugre, may your peace-loving soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory on the resurrection day.

Rest in Peace, Honourable Gentleman!

Journey Well, Son of Zebilla!



# MY EULOGY FOR THE BEST FATHER-IN-LAW IN THE WORLD (BY MRS. NANA AKUA ASANTEWA NDEBUGRE)

*"Grief is so human, and it hits everyone at one point or another, at least, in their lives. If you love, you will grieve, and that's just given."*

**- Kay Redfield Jamison**

*"Grief is not a disorder, a disease, or a sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical, and spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love. The only cure for grief is to grieve."* - **Earl Grollman**

*"Grieving doesn't make you imperfect. It makes you human".* - **Sarah Dessen**

*"While grief is fresh, every attempt to divert only irritates. You must wait till it be digested, and then amusement will dissipate the remains of it."*

**- Samuel Johnson**

*"Tears are the silent language of grief."* - Voltaire  
*"Grief is just love with no place to go."* - **Jamie Anderson**

*"Tears shed for another person are not a sign of weakness. They are a sign of a pure heart."* - **José N. Harris**

*"The reality is that you will grieve forever. You will not 'get over' the loss of a loved one; you will learn to live with it. You will heal and you will rebuild yourself around the loss you have suffered. You will be whole again but you will never be the same. Nor should you be the same nor would you want to".* - **Elisabeth Kübler-Ross.**

These quotes about grief sum up exactly how I'm sure all of us are feeling right now.

To have known a man like my father-in-law, was, and is always a privilege I do not take for granted. He was an institution. He was a beacon, often imitated but never duplicated. We can all only learn from his exemplary life.

My father-in-law was a colossus in all spheres of life. You just needed a few seconds with him to appreciate his depth of knowledge and experience. I remember the first time I met him. My husband, then boyfriend, had taken me to Zebilla to meet his family. Needless to say I was scared and panicking, and I fretted that they were not going to like me. I was a nervous and shy wreck. I had become aware of the political royalty I was dealing with. I had no idea what to expect. When I finally met them, I was mesmerized by the warm welcome they all showed me, most of all, father-in-law.

He was warm, kind, and accommodating, the very epitome of being a gentleman. He put me completely at ease with both family and friends. He went out of his way to make sure people treated me well and not as a stranger. The meeting was nothing like I expected. That whole trip was a joy for me, and I left with so much. I never had a conversation with him without leaving with new wisdom - on that trip, during a discussion on random issues, he said "life is about conviction and not about convenience". Let that sink in.

Losing someone who had such an impact on your life, however short-lived is always painful. The suddenness of your departure has left me reeling and breathless. It left me in shock. You





were so strong and so full of life. My father-in-law was one of a kind, so different even from his sons. I often asked my husband, as we say in Ghanaian parlance, “where did you and your brothers pass?” To the world, he was a no-nonsense crusader for democracy, principles, and law. To me, he was a gentle second father and a grandfather who spoiled his grandkids. He allowed my son to roam freely and unfettered, saying “that’s how he would learn”. He called my son James Brown because he has so much hair. When he visited us in the States, every time we went out together, he would open doors for me. He always insisted that the rest of the family switched to speaking English when I was around because I didn’t speak or understand Kusal. That always made me smile. He showed that he cared.

I truly admired him for his strength of character, his love for family and country, and his love for the law. I cannot count the number of times he saw me in court. As always, he was courteous and gentlemanly. He would allow me to take notes for him, while on his feet. He would call my cases for me even amid other senior lawyers and teach me. He complimented me on my writing. He was the consummate advocate - decorous and learned.

When we had conversations, they were always rich. He would quiz me on legal procedures and precedents most of the time. He taught me to be patient and lenient in practice, and never to reply to any correspondence in anger. That is a life lesson never to be forgotten.

He was funny and witty. I am reminded of the time I passed my law school exams and my mother-in-law brought me a whole live sheep from the north to congratulate me! My father-in-law said, “Sophia, now I know you can do anything, including turning a man into a woman”. I laughed so hard that day. I recall an occasion when I encouraged him to sip his whiskey with two slim straws. After a slight hesitation, he tried it and with raised eyebrows, he said smiling, “hmm... it goes”.

When I was pregnant with my daughter, I got covid. He was completely caring and concerned.

The memories overwhelm me. The memories are unforgettable. The one thing that threads through is what a kind and wonderful person he was. I will miss you, Dad, for everything that you were and stood for. I will never forget you. I will make sure that your grandchildren grow up knowing who and what they spring from - a great man!

Forever in our hearts, daily missed, and always loved. As President Joe Biden said, “there will come a day, ... when the thought of you, ...brings a smile to our lips before it brings a tear to our eyes. It will happen. The prayer for all of us is that day will come sooner than later”.

Dad, rest in perfect peace.







Celebration of Life  
HON. JOHN AKPARBO NDEBUORE ESQ.  
— — — — —

## TRIBUTE BY BENEDICT ARYEE (SON-IN-LAW)

My first encounter with “daddy”, as I affectionately called him, was on the 3rd of March, 2001, when my wife Pat, then my Fiancée and I went to pay her parents a visit in Zebilla. Though, that was his first time seeing me, he gave me a very warm welcome and liked me the very moment he saw me.

On the day Pat and I were returning to Accra, my father in-law called me and had a chat with me. I was very surprised about how frank he was to me about his daughter. As a father, he wanted me to know about her temper and advised me to go back and study her well and if I was comfortable with her, I could then come back and perform her marital rites.

From my observations, Daddy knew his daughter well. However, I rather hastened to perform the marriage rites. I have never regretted marrying her.

In search of greener pastures, I left Pat and went to the United States of America. Life became tough and that kept me away from her for so many years but, my father in-law was such an understanding man. He put himself in my shoes and empathized with me. I remember in the year 2017 when he came to the States with his wife to visit his children; I took the opportunity and paid them a visit. It was a visit that turned things around for me in America. I found peace in my heart after that visit and I will never forget it. Thank you for accepting me into the family.

You made sure you attended the funerals of both my father and mother. You presented gifts to the family both in cash and in kind. You brought great honour to my father when you drove all the way from Zebilla to Takoradi to mourn with the family. You came along with traditional dancers to portray the rich culture of the North. People kept asking, “who are these people? And the answer was, “One of Aya’s children is married to a Northerner”.

Daddy was always content with the little that I gave him and showed much appreciation. I can’t forget the 3rd of May, 2022 when you called me. I missed your call and you sent a message that I should call you back. I did, and we had a long chat. We spoke about so many things; from your granddaughter Naa to Trump, Joe Biden, Obama, the Ukraine and Russia war and many more. Little did I know that, that was your way of saying goodbye.

Thank you for my wife. She is such a good woman, very intelligent and caring.

Fare thee well daddy! Rest in the bosom of the Lord!!

# TRIBUTE TO LAWYER JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE (BY COUSINS)

Akparibo, Akpariboo, fuuo, Ndebugutparib yooi, yirii.

Your cousins are calling; the Aloambugut biis have called yet no response, then Atiibiis have called yet no response, the Ayibigi-Ayakolog biis have also called and yet, no response. The entire Aleka Clan is calling. Still, no response.

Why have you become speechless?

Now, we are convinced you have gone to the land of our ancestors. Truly, Duniya Ani Meligim, the life of man is like a morning dew fall. God gives life and God takes it away.

Nde was the second male born of our aunty Mrs Atompako Ndebugre of blessed memory. Atompako was born at Bugore by Akurubil and Asekulug (all of blessed memory) of the Aloambugut family of the Aleka Clan.

Nde, though we were cousins, we were together as brothers and sisters. You were our hero and mentor. Your demise has really shattered us completely. Nde, who is going to be our family lawyer? Nde we remember in your student days, you portrayed to us that you were born a freedom fighter for the oppressed. You did not understand why the minority settlers from somewhere came to rule and oppress the indigenous owners of Kusaug. That is where you started the struggle with other comrades.

Nde, we recall during the PNDC revolutionary days. You said that if you were able to liberate Kusaug and even lose your position in government you would not care, and truly, it came to pass. What a patriot? Tuuma..Tuuma..

Nde we also remember the days you were appointed as Regional Secretary (Minister) to the northern region, during the PNDC era. You worked hard without fear, were very truthful, honest and you said it as it was and was nicknamed 'Ndebugre' by the Dagombas.

Nde, we remember the period when you resigned from the PNDC government with no pesewa. What an incorruptible personality! For you to get money to take care of your family, you quickly registered your Peugeot caravan car to operate as a commercial vehicle on the Accra-Aflao route. You started driving seven days a week and people didn't understand why a former Secretary of State would turn into a commercial driver. People who did not like you thought you were cursed but you knew what you were about. If you are born great no man can stop you.

Nde, we still remember that while you were driving as a commercial driver, you were in law school. As the adage goes, God helps those who help themselves. You came out as an astute lawyer...Tuuma...Tuuma.

Nde we also remember your efforts with your other colleagues who worked to bring Thomas Sankara to power in Burkina Faso when you were the Regional Secretary (Minister). You even went ahead to name one of your sons, Thomas Sankara Ndebugre. What a revolutionary!

Nde, we still recall the days you used to move your wife and children to visit us more especially when it was Christmas and Easter festivities. We also thank you very much for teaching us to be honest and truthful; which has gone far in helping us in our lives. Nde you have gone home; send our greetings to our Aunty Atompako, our fathers, Akerim, Abariga, Akubilla and Akugri.

May the Almighty God find you a perpetual and peaceful resting place. Till we meet again....  
Nde! Paam sum, paam sum, paam sum. Bura bi







# TRIBUTE TO JOHN NDEBUGRE (BY HARRIET LAMPTEY)

*Ecclesiastes 7:1-2*

*“A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one’s birth – It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart”.*

John and I met somewhere in 1983 while on my National Service duties at the Irrigation Development Authority (IDA). John was then the Secretary for Agriculture. We worked together on some agricultural projects, and through these work-related projects, we formed a close relationship.

Although John was moved from the Ministry of Agriculture, we stayed connected for almost 13 years until I was posted to Cape Coast. We lost touch with each other from then till we met again in 1996 when John attended the annual general meeting of the Ghana Bar Association at Cape Coast. We rekindled our friendship from then on. Although I was in Cape Coast, and he in Upper East, we continued our friendship. In 2006, I finally moved to Accra, while John was also living in Accra.

John was a man of all. He made everyone who met us feel at home. Through my illnesses and setbacks, John was by my side. John has been so good to me. He was a reliable friend with a charming sense of humor. Although he was a busy man, he always made time for people who called on him. He was my strength when I was ill. John was a provider for me, my family and many other people who were connected to him. He was also our legal adviser, a father, and a brother we did not have. John has really been good to me and my family.

The entire Lamptey family will surely miss you.

May your Soul Rest in peace.

Rest in Peace in the Bosom of the Lord.

# TRIBUTE TO HON JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE ALIAS 'BROTHER'/ALIAS 'NDE' (BY HON. CLETUS APUL AVOKA, MP ZEBILLA.)

*Brother! When shall we two "meet again,  
In thunder, lightning or in rain?  
When the hurly-burly is done,  
When the battle is lost and won  
That will be ere the set of sun ..."*

The above quote from Macbeth which connotes confusion and bewilderment is an apt description of the untimely and sudden death of Hon. John Akparibo Ndebugre (Nde).

Nde met his untimely death on Friday 6th May 2022 at Zebilla in his house.

Nde was a pacesetter, record setter and an achiever. Nde was intelligent, forthright, honest, charismatic, and affable. Nde was combative, proactive, and resilient. He was a peacemaker and a nationalist who fought against indiscipline, corruption, cheating and all forms of abuses, sometimes to a fault. He was very bold and courageous and no doubt while some 1000 people may hate him 10,000 people would love him. In effect, he was born a natural leader.

## **PaceSetter and Record Breaker**

Nde joined me at Zebilla Middle Boarding School in 1964. I was then in form two and he was in form one.

The school policy was against form one (1) pupils taking part in the Common Entrance Exam because of their immaturity and inadequate knowledge. But due to Nde's intelligence and brilliance, the policy was waived, and he wrote and passed the Common Entrance Exams, one touch. He had set a record and opened the space for form ones to write the common entrance.

I became very close to Nde when we both passed the Common Entrance Exams and were admitted to Navrongo Secondary School (NAVASCO) in September 1965. We did almost everything in common.

NAVASCO used to record marginal results at the GCE 'O'levels until 1970 when Nde set another record by registering five ones in the exams. That was a very brilliant performance and Nde made NAVASCO popular, attractive and everybody associated with the school proud.

Nde, a science student, had a strong command of the English Language and consequently, he was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the School Magazine called Searchlight. I was a sub-editor.

While in lower six, Nde was highly tipped to become the Senior Prefect of NAVASCO but as fate would have it, this eluded him due to a strike action in the school in 1971 where he was wrongly accused of being the ringleader.

To instil discipline, Nde was dismissed from the school but because of his excellent performance at the GCE 'O' Levels, he quickly enrolled at the University of Cape Coast (UCC) to do the Prelims Course to prepare him for the University in one year. Whilst in UCC, Nde wrote the 'A' Level privately, passed, and was admitted to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) to read Chemical Technology, now called Chemical

Engineering. During his days at KNUST, Nde distinguished himself as an orator, a patriot and unsurprisingly, he was elected National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) General Secretary in 1975/76.

### **After His Graduation And National Service**

Nde, like many young Ghanaian graduates at the time, sojourned to Nigeria in the early 80's for greener pastures. However, following the establishment of the PNDC on 31st December 1981, Nde was identified by Rawlings through Chris Atim and brought back to Ghana to join the revolutionary government and process. He was first posted to the Northern Region (Tamale) as PNDC Regional Secretary in 1982. In Tamale, because of his revolutionary zeal and escapades he earned the nick name 'Nde-Bugum' meaning Nde the firebrand in Dagbani. His exploits impressed Chairman Rawlings who appreciated his efforts and liked him and took him into confidence.

In 1983, Nde was reposted to the then Upper Region as PNDC Secretary in Bolgatanga. On arrival in Bolgatanga, Nde prevailed upon me to accept to become the Tribunal Chairman for the three (3) Northern Regions as no Lawyer was prepared to assist the PNDC. This was a feather in the cap of Nde and the PNDC.

Ndebugre also contributed to the passage of PNDC Law 75 which restored the Kusasi chiefs to their status as chiefs of Bawku in line with the Court of Appeal decision in 1958.

In July 1984, when the Bawku conflict between the Kusasis and the Mamprusis degenerated into an open clash, Nde demonstrated his courage and bravery by pursuing the combatants to their hideouts in the bush to appeal to them to lay down their arms for peace. This was Nde as a peace maker. But unfortunately, Nde was shot at, the bullet missed him narrowly and rather pierced the ear of his bodyguard, Corporal Abu.

Nde worked so hard for the PNDC but for his fallout with then Chairman Rawlings, he could have been the beneficiary of the "Swedru Declaration" that subsequently led to the election of late Professor John Evans Atta Mills as J. J Rawlings' successor.

Following the lifting of the ban on political activities in 1992, Nde joined the late President Dr. Hilla Liman to form the People's National Convention (PNC) in 1992. He rose to become the 1st National Vice Chairman of the party. Later in 2004, Nde won the Zebilla Parliamentary seat on the ticket of the PNC and sat in parliament from January 2005 to January 2009.

It will however be hypocritical on my part to extol the virtues of my brother Nde, without mentioning the challenges between us that were mainly political. In 1992, we parted ways, as I opted to join the NDC and contested against Ndebugre in many of the elections held under the 4th Republic.

The long bosom friendship and brotherhood between Nde and I suffered some challenges due to our different political party affiliations (NDC vs PNC). Despite these challenges, Nde and I resolved later that there was more to achieve when we were united than when divided. So, we came together again in 2012. We visited each other often, discussed development issues both locally and at the national level together. We bonded!

Not surprisingly Nde's last public appearance, before he met his untimely death on 6th May 2022 was at my function in Zebilla on Monday, 2nd May 2022. I invited Nde to a public meeting to assist me address the menace of persistent armed robbery in the Bawku West District. He attended and addressed the gathering with his usual humour and characteristic insightfulness. At the said meeting, he publicly talked about his death, laughed, and warned everybody to be

his neighbours' keeper. Nde was a Kusasi hero, a legal luminary, a political pragmatist, statesman and a national asset. He was frank, bold, honest, courageous, and passionate in his views. No wonder, whilst one thousand people may hate Nde, ten thousand people would love him at the same time. In this world it is not how one's life began that matters but how one's life ends. Nde's legacy lives on.

I convey my sincerest condolences especially to his wife Madam Sophia who took care of us when we were students and dependent. In the same vein I convey my condolences to the children and the family and the entire Kusaug, Upper East Region and Mother Ghana.

In honour of Nde, kindly permit me to quote and recite the eulogy Macbeth made for his wife when she died, "Tomorrow & Tomorrow & Tomorrow....."

Nde, Paam Sum!

Nde. Fare thee well, until we meet again!





## TRIBUTE TO MY DEAR BROTHER HON. JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE ESQ.

*"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:  
A time to be born and a time to die ..."* Eccl. 3:1-2

Akparibo (affectionately called Nde) answered my usual brotherly call on Wednesday (4/5/22), said he was somewhere and will call back. Little did I know that was to be the last time I would hear my dear brother's voice. A tribute is usually a very solemn and important undertaking to espouse our feelings about the dearly departed, but for someone, as special as Nde was, it is especially daunting. Those who know me, know that my desire for brevity and clarity are watch words, however I find myself lost and unable to live by that simple tenet in this situation. I therefore crave your indulgence.

As my junior brother, we grew up at a point next door to each other in Zebilla. We shared common aspirations and hopes for the future of Kusaug as youth leaders. Nde's personality and character were formed early in life. His honesty, straight talk for truth and ability to disagree without being disagreeable were outstanding trademarks. However, he did not suffer fools lightly.

Events of the early 80s were major tests of Nde's life and total commitment. Thrust into the turbulent days of a revolution, he exhibited sterling qualities of leadership as a statesman. His rare quality to listen, analyze, make decisions and act with dispatch earned him the respect and glowing admiration of his peers.

We had several occasions to share special family and professional moments even under fire. I remember the memorable moment of my interview of then Secretary for Agriculture on the Agrimag Program on national TV. Having reviewed the topics prior to going on air, the discussion was flowing smoothly and he was feeling good. However, as the discussion progressed, I asked him an unexpected follow up question. Nde turned to me in kusaal and asked, and I quote "Atanga boo la yahsa? (Atanga where from that?)". I had to quickly tell my audience that the Secretary was emphasizing a PNDC policy position. Subsequently, John would scare his senior staff that he would send them to face the rigor of my programme.

Nde lived a meteoric and exemplary life and I pray that the good Lord would receive him graciously till we meet and continue where we left off as family.

Akparibo paam sum!!

Professor Amadu Ayebo

## TRIBUTE BY SULLEY AGHOLISI

John Akparibo Ndebugri's last words to me before his passing were, "Ok Sulley, that will be later," ..... The later that never was.

It was on Monday, 2nd May 2022 when both of us met at the Zebilla Police Station for a short function. I joined him and two or three other persons in the commander's office. He told me after we had exchanged greetings, "Sulley, mamkum paa me." (Sulley, it is time for me to die). I cut in to remind him, (as I had done on similar occasions) that God the giver of life would take it when the time was due. He laughed and said "as for you and God, well".

Nde appeared to have seen his death way ahead of time. He did tell me on some occasions that life had become boring, and he preferred joining his ancestors. He felt his sacrifices and contributions were not recognized and appreciated.

I always assured him that he was an icon. I told him that my information from the grounds and interactions with a cross-section of Kusaug indicated that he was appreciated and well recognized by the salient majority. In fact, many revered him. It came to pass when a strong delegation made of the Kusasi Youth Movement visited and interacted with him. It lifted his spirit and did him and all of us a lot of good.

"But who was John Akparibo Ndebugre?" One may ask. He was a man of many parts, crafted with different talents and attributes for the various assigned purposes during his sojourn on earth. I hope I will not be faulted by referring to him as a phenomenal person. Here lies Nde, the engineer, the lawyer, the politician, a revolutionary, social annalist and a freedom fighter. He was intelligent, courageous, bold, daring and sociable. Ndebugre was prepared to die for his convictions.

In that regard, I would not pretend to know him more than I knew him.

Lawyer Ndebugre and I attended Tanga Primary School in the Bawku West District as direct classmates from 1959 – 1964. We continued to Zebilla Middle School. At the middle school, Ndebugre and some of us in form one were selected (that was unusual) to take part in the common entrance examination for entry into secondary schools. He was the only pupil who passed from form one and went to Navrongo Secondary School. While in the primary school we fellowshiped with the catholic faith. In the 1962 or there about, we were both selected and sent to Bawku to undergo a course for baptism. I became very sick and could not write the exam for the baptism. As a result, I was not baptized. During my sickness, Ndebugre cared for me at the same time attending his classes. He passed the exam and was baptized as John. He was confirmed under the name Blaize. Nde was John Blaize Ndebugre. He did not understand why I, who was sick and was a living corpse, was not baptized even though I stayed throughout the duration of the course. He thought I needed the baptism more than those of them who were healthy and strong.

That was how we related during our early years. What brought us closer later in life were his leftist political leanings then, and our common abhorrence of oppression, suppression, exploitation and injustice. The socialist teachings were appealing to me, and Ndebugre who was more exposed, became a mentor. One other factor that pulled us together was and still is the "domestic" imperialism in Kusaug. What the kusaas and other tribes went through in the hands of the settler Mamprusis was worse than apartheid. Both Ndeugre and I have tasted some of the atrocities, physically and otherwise. On two separate occasions, I was with Nde when he escaped attempts on his life by some elements of settler Mamprusis in Bawku. We bonded well and shared some good ideas. I was a bit naïve in many respects. He often advised and admonished me against some infantile actions which greatly

helped me in life. At times, we shared ideas about our personal lives. I remember one day, he visited me at night in Bolga. During that visit, he asked me whether he should further his studies in the field of science or study law. We discussed the merits of each and I favored him going to study law. Of course, the choice remained his. Ndebugre's position on the Bawku conflict, shared by some of us is to help remove the veil of deception termed tribal/chieftaincy conflict, which has obscured the truth.

Under the prevailing situation, the ordinary Kusaug and Mamprusi settlers are victims of a colonial relic. This relic is being exploited under the cover of chieftaincy or tribal conflict to keep the people divided in order to sustain their exploitation. Ndebugre's long term objective was to expose these deceptions and let the exploited see themselves as one class of people irrespective of ethnicity or religious affiliation. From this viewpoint, one can conclude that, Ndebugre was not a tribalist nor was he anti-Mamprusi.

He stood and fought against injustice, exploitation and oppression.

John Akparibo Ndebugre matured with time and died a real hero. Oh John, you left us when your maturity was most needed. Well, it is said that Great achievers do not die and as a great achiever yourself, I would say you have not died.

'FU TUMIYA! FU MOYA!! TUMA TUMA!!.







# TRIBUTE TO JOHN NDEBUGRE (BY KWESI PRATT JNR.)

The life of Comrade John Ndebugre was not normal because he always defied what was considered the norms of his time and did what was in his view right.

Who could believe that a minister would on leaving office, register his private car as a commercial vehicle and ply the Accra-Aflao route with it as a commercial driver?

John Ndebugre did this and more.

After leaving office as the PNDC Secretary for Agriculture, John joined the Kwame Nkrumah Revolutionary Guards (KNRG) and became its National Organizer and a key part of the struggle to restore the multi-party democratic order. This journey took us through the building of an alliance of the KNRG, the New Democratic Movement (NDM) and the African Youth Command (AYC) and eventually to the founding of the Movement for Freedom and Justice (MFJ).

Nde as he was affectionately called was appointed to join a four-man team which was charged with the responsibility to persuade the two Ghanaian political traditions to join the struggle for multi-party democracy. The team was made up of comrades Kwame Wiafe, Lt A.Owusu Gyimah (rtd.), Nde and I.

It was this team which on the advice of Mr. Victor Owusu, apparent leader of the Danquah-Busia tradition at the time, persuaded Professor Albert Adu Boahen to accept the offer to become National chairman of the movement.

Nde had tremendous energy. He drove the leadership of the MFJ in his car to many parts of the country to engage with activists and to spread the message of freedom.

His courage was infectious. At one stage, leaders of the movement were threatened that if they ventured into Kumasi for a demonstration, their bodies would be brought back to Accra in coffins. Nde ignored this threat and dared the authorities to kill us. He drove Lt. Owusu-Gyimah (rtd.), Akoto Ampaw and I into Kumasi and we came back to Accra not just alive but without a scratch on our bodies.

For his heroic role in the bold confrontation with the Rawlings regime, Nde suffered dismissal, torture and detention without charge or trial.

Nde and his sweet-heart Sophia were also most compassionate and all of us who were close to them were beneficiaries of their kindness. We ate their food, drank their drinks, wore clothes that they offered us and enjoyed the warmth of their home.

My twin sons, Payin and Kakra were born when I was in detention at the Navrongo prisons. It was Nde who joined hands with other comrades including Yaw Opoku, Kabral Blay-Amihere and Effah Dartey to look after my house and even organized the naming ceremony of my sons.

That today we enjoy some basic constitutional freedoms and are free from the stranglehold of military dictatorship is partly the result of the fortitude displayed by Nde and many others in the rank and file of the pro-democracy movement. Nde, you will always be remembered as a courageous fighter for freedom. May your deeds continue to inspire us all to build a better Ghana.

May his soul rest in Peace



## A TRIBUTE TO COMRADE NDEBUGRE

It's tough, unbelievable; it's surreal that I should be writing a tribute to my great friend and comrade, John Akparibo Ndebugre. But such is life. Everything has a beginning and necessarily an end. Birth and life must ultimately give way to the passing away. The cry of the new born and the joy and blessings they bring in the long round ends in our passage to the other side. Such is the cycle of life that all mortals must come to terms with. So it is that John Akparibo Ndebugre, student leader, Regional Secretary of State, Member of Parliament, chemical engineer, lawyer and political activist, like all humans, must also tread this inevitable path and journey of life. A strong and courageous voice and comrade has left us, leaving us all the poorer.

I met John Akparibo Ndebugre ('Nde' as he was known to friends) for the first time somewhere in 1974/75 when General Kutu Acheampong's National Liberation Council (NLC) wielded the powers of government. That is some forty-seven years (almost half a century) ago. We have remained friends and comrades through the changing times. Nde was then the National Secretary of the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS). I mean a NUGS that, at the time, was driven by patriotic interests, and not today's NUGS that has been rendered largely ineffective in taking a principled stand on national affairs because it has allowed itself to be riddled and divided by party politics, especially by the NPP and NDC that have made the student movement their recruitment ground.

Then, the student movement, after a short honeymoon with the NLC, changed its stance to one of opposition and restoration of multi-party democratic rule. The position of NUGS became very radical and uncompromising when the NLC metamorphosed into the Supreme Military Council (SMC). Under increasing pressure from demands for a return to democratic constitutional rule, the SMC came up with the notion of 'Union Government' (UNIGOV) as a means of perpetuating itself. The mass movement inspired by the student movement and, subsequently, led by the People's Movement for Freedom and Justice (PMFJ) eventually defeated the UNIGOV ploy of the SMC and Ghana was returned to democratic constitutional rule in 1979; of course not without the short inter-regnum of Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) regime.

From the mid-seventies till his passing, Nde and I remained close friends and comrades, even where we disagreed on an issue. Our political paths again closely merged in the mid to late 80s. That was the era of a 'culture of silence' under the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC), a time when the regime, by ruthless repression, had stamped out virtually all dissenting voices and opinions.

Nde, though once an appointee under the PNDC, had long broken away and had become part of the leadership of the Kwame Nkrumah Revolutionary Guards, (KNRG) led by the late Sonny Provencal of CPP fame, and others such as Kwesi Pratt Jr., Ofa Kwame Wiafe and the late Augustus Owusu Gyimah of blessed memory. Those were dangerous days in Ghana. The KNRG and the New Democratic Movement (NDM) formed a coalition to fight for our freedoms and a return to democratic constitutional rule. Among the leaders of the NDM were Prof. Kwame Karikari, Dr. Yao Graham, Fui Tsikata and I.

Uneasy about the activities of this emerging coalition, the PNDC struck twice; the first time in 1985, and the second in 1987, arresting and detaining the leaders of the two organisations for months and, on one occasion, for years, without any charge or trial. In those days, arbitrary arrest and detention was the order of the day, with the Nsawam prison and other prisons across the country populated by political detainees. Comrade Ndebugre was one of those detained leaders. The harsh experience and deprivations of prison, however, did not deter Nde and the other comrades of KNRG and the NDM. Not long after the last of them was released from detention in 1989, they initiated the formation of a national movement, to be known as Movement for Freedom and Justice (MFJ) with the aim of fighting and mobilizing for a restoration democratic constitutional rule. Nde was among those who convinced Professor Adu Boahen to accept to chair the



MFJ at a time most people were simply too frightened to contemplate the thought. Under pressure from developments worldwide in favour of multi-party democratic rule, such as the collapse of the Soviet Union and the eastern socialist states and the specific mobilization of Ghanaians by the MFJ, PNDC was forced to abandon its Blue Book project and return Ghana to a democratic constitutional republic under the 1992 Constitution. Comrade Ndebugre played a key and fearless role in these moments of Ghana's history.

Nde remained till his last days tall, lanky and tough looking. Fearless, and committed to the cause of Ghana, he spoke his mind on any national issue, without apologies. Where he disagreed with even his colleagues and comrades, he freely spoke his mind. With Nde what you saw was what you got.

So today, we say our last goodbye to a valiant, tough and fearless patriot and democrat; personally a family friend. A man that fought to the end to see a Ghana that is democratic, accountable and inclusive; a Ghana in which there is no room for corruption, ethnocentrism, abuse of power or political patronage, and where the interests of the people are paramount.

Fare thee well valiant comrade and patriot.

May mother earth gently receive and lie over you.

AKOTO AMPAW



## TRIBUTE BY PIUS AWELINGA

A massive earth tremor has shaken Kusaug. A cataclysmic damage has struck Kusaug. A colossus has retreated to the High Heavens, our Hercules has said an untimely “goodbye”.

Alas, it is extremely difficult to come to terms with the fact that our time-tested hero, John Akparibo Ndebugre (Esq), is gone to eternity. Painfully, the reality has dawned on us that the Scriptures are right in stating that there is a time for everything; a time to be born, and a time to die. We love you so much but it is clear that the Almighty, your Creator loves you more.

We are gathered here today to bid farewell to our primus inter pares and doyen of knowledge and wisdom; an individual whom the whole of the Kusaug Traditional Area proudly had as one of their own. Nde, as he was popularly called, was a genius in almost all fields of endeavor; name them—politics, science, law, tradition, culture, and what have you? In politics, he was a towering figure of great repute; in science, he was a brilliant engineer of chemistry; in law, he was a legal luminary with incredible acumen and awesome dexterity; in social life, he was a loving, lovable and lovely family man, a guardian and counsellor; and in our culture and tradition, he was an emancipator and freedom fighter whose name stands tall in the history of the Kusasi struggle. Although he did not immortalize himself by way of leaving behind his ideas in writing, he is remembered by history and by the sands of time as a fighter for social justice and for the underprivileged, for which reason I have no doubt in my mind that history will absolve him.

Nde will be remembered for the fact that he was forthright to a fault and spoke his mind regardless of whose toes he was stepping on. Nde mentored my humble self and so many other younger brothers and sisters (some of whom are here with us in his solemn gathering). As his protégés we are mourning him, with a clear resolve to ensure that his painstaking investment in our human potential, bear fruit and thereby make him proud. Comrade Nde, we will continue your good works for Mother Ghana, for our respective communities and for our personal empowerment to face the challenges of our time. Generations yet unborn will imbibe your wisdom, your forthrightness and your outspoken stance on matters of principle.

For me, I was always reluctant to call Nde my elder brother, preferring to refer to him as my father due to his immeasurable contribution to my upbringing. I am proud to say without any equivocation that whatever this Kusasi icon set out to do in life for himself, his family and for society, he more than achieved same, before saying his untimely goodbye. Nde’s departure to eternity deprives us, not only of his great importance to us as a people, but as a man of incredible humour, which largely formed his lighter side. His sense of humour was so great that anywhere he went he created a hilarious and uproarious laughter which lightened hearts and even calmed tempers in matters which otherwise could evoke passions and raise tempers. This clearly belies the general perception that Nde was too uncompromising or fiery. Suffice it to also note that in the latter part of his life he was uncharacteristically more accommodating and more friendly, a development which readily attracted so many skeptics to himself.

Love him or loathe him, the man Nde has made history for himself and for his country, Ghana. My heartfelt condolences go to Mama Sophia, Rev. Patience, Vladimir, Thomas, Nelson and to the entire family. Suffice it to say that today’s massive gathering has demonstrated that you are never alone and you are thus consoled by the fact that the whole of Kusaug, and indeed, millions of Ghanaians are with you in this difficult time.

As the saying goes, heroes never die as their legacies live forever. Dada Nde, “you came, you saw, you conquered”. May your soul find favour with your Maker until we meet again.



## PARTING WAYS WITH AN ICON TRIBUTE BY ACP JAMES A. ABASS (Rtd.)

*"When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world. I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation. When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family. Now, as an old man, I realize the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realize that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world."*

— *The Internet, circa mid*

The above quote was a piece I often discussed with the legend of Kusaug, the late Akparibo Ndebugre we are here to immortalize. He discovered me and Ideem that a great honour in the 70s when he was in his twenties, and I, a teenager.

He was in courtship with my distant cousin, the unacknowledged beauty Queen of Kusaug, his lifetime partner, Madam Sophia Ndebugre. We had nothing in common or so it seemed; he was popular, sometimes not for good reasons, he was a scholar, a leader, and a patriot. I didn't know what I was, apart from being one of his numerous admirers but too timid to express it. So, I kept my distance.

Our next close encounter was the most difficult and heart breaking. In 1988 or there about I was a young police officer at Cantonment Police Station and detailed to guard a suspect held for his forthrightness at the Police Hospital.

That suspect turned out to be my hero, my liberation fighter and cousin-in-law, the father of the children of my cousin. At first sight, I presumed he was dead and wondered why a dead man was still shackled. I was wrong, he may have been physically weak, but his indomitable spirit remained buoyed by his resolve not to be defeated.

I performed the duty of guarding my brother and hero for a week, imbibing wisdom from long lectures based on his vast knowledge of both local and national history. His aversion to corruption and his uncompromising attitude against the abuse of power were recurring themes that helped me shape my own philosophy.

Nde's journey to the mountain top was full of speed bumps, dangerously yawning potholes, or complete roadblocks. From a chemical engineer, a teacher, a revolutionary, our version of Ché. Guevera, a PNDC Secretary to become commercial driver before settling as a lawyer of high repute and a Member of Parliament. In whatever position he found himself, he settled in without any complaint or fret. He could never be broken; he had a heart of steel.

In the twilight of his journey, he re-enacted the revolutionary dance he choreographed in his youth. We would spend long hours on phone when he will dissect the Kusaug struggle for our identity, our land and our heritage with scientific precision and outline the solutions in a way nobody else did. In a final phone call on Monday before his passing on the 6th of May 2022, he reminded me of the enormous work he was bequeathing the youth of Kusaug. I considered his coded message as one of the usual jokes, but it was not to be. If I knew they were his final words, I would have paid more attention. I often encouraged him to convert his thought-provoking theories on social contract into writing by way of his autobiography (I am sure many of you did

too). I do not know how serious he considered that idea and how far he had gone with it. I humbly want to appeal to his family, Zugraan and all of us here to appoint a literary executrix who will gather all materials he left in his diaries, journals, letters, and interviews and write them as part of his long-lasting legacy for our generation and those yet unborn.

May you come back a visionary, a revolutionary, a prophet or if coming back is not in your plans, please give us one, cast in your very mould. Legends never die. They mutate to become invisible to the physical while assuming lofty heights.

Nkrumah never dies. Mandela Ché Guevera and your friend, Thomas Sankara neither. .Akparibo will never die.

“Akparibo, gurim ka m be sore tin na. Mam kpelim wum fu kukot ne daad woo, ka la pa'al ye ti bu zaa ne taaba” (Translation: Wait for me. I can still hear your clarion call daily which indicates you are not far from us).

ACP James Azumah Abass Abaah (Rtd)





## TRIBUTE BY UPPER EAST REGIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

*For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labour; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Amen.  
Philippians 1:21-23*

Ghana, in general, and the legal world in particular, became poorer with the passing of John Akparibo Ndebugre, fondly referred to by junior lawyers as "Senior Nde".

John Ndebugre pursued a preliminary qualifying law course equivalent to the LLB course between October 1985 and June 1986. From 1986 to 1989, he was a student of the Ghana School of Law (Makola Campus) where he obtained a Qualifying Law Certificate. He was eventually called to the Bar on the 4th of October, 1989. He began private legal practice in October, 1989. In 2004, he suspended his practice when he won the Zebilla parliamentary seat. In 2008, he resumed legal practice when he lost the Zebilla seat. He has practiced law since then till his unfortunate and sad demise.

He was known at the Bar for his frankness and candour. He spoke the unadulterated truth without reservation or favour. Till he died, he shared his unbridled views on matters affecting the Bar. With his refined advocacy, strong sense of ethics and dedication, the court respected each word that he uttered. Such was his stature. Often times, when contentious applications were being argued in court, the court would invite him, as a friend of court, to chime in if he was present in court that day.

For all of us lawyers who have been involved in civil litigation, Ndebugre has been a beacon. He has left an indelible mark on our generation and his contribution towards the evolution of legal jurisprudence will continue to inspire the generations to come. Ever since he commenced legal practice, he has been a household name.

Ndebugre was an exceptional lawyer – charismatic, bold and erudite. There was nothing ordinary or run of the mill about his life. He had a genius for epigram. Intelligent, witty and skilled, he knew how to carry the court along with him. He was extraordinarily brilliant, very well prepared in law and facts, extremely polite to the bench and to his opponents.

Yet, with his fair presentation in a very soothing voice, he could win over both the bench and the bar. His presentation of cases in the court room was flawless. He never shied away from expressing his feelings on any platform whether legal, social or political. He had the courage to represent anyone who required his services, irrespective of the nature and magnitude of the charges alleged against them.

Possessed of noble virtues, highly-educated, extremely well read and well-informed, Ndebugre was an intellectual of a very high order. Great speaker, patient listener, an extremely enjoyable conversationalist, full of wit and humour. Time spent with him will be treasured for a lifetime.

With Ndebugre's demise, we, the Upper East Bar Association, have lost an eminent jurist, a great intellectual, a fearless human being and one of the most respected members of the Bar. May his soul rest in eternal peace in the heavenly abode.

*"For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord." Amen  
1 Thessalonians 4:14-17*

The Upper East Bar will never forget you. Rest well John Ndebugre

# TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HONOURABLE JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE BY THE OLD STUDENTS' UNION OF NAVRONGO SECONDARY SCHOOL (NABIA)

NABIA received the tragic news of the passing of our colleague, brother, friend and fellow NABIA, Honourable John Akparibo Ndebugre with utter shock and disbelief. It was sudden. NABIA did not know that he was unwell so we could pay him a visit. After a couple of hours of cross-checking, the sad news began to sink in – Senior Nde, the pace setter, the no nonsense man, a fighter against any type of injustice and for probity and accountability was indeed no more.

Senior Nde entered Navrongo Secondary School, NAVASCO, in September 1965 with Folio Number 559: that is to say, he was the 559<sup>th</sup> student to be admitted into the school. He was initially assigned to Republic House and subsequently to Volta House when it was created.

Senior Nde was a vibrant member of NABIA, the Old Student's Association. A few years ago, he chaired a three-member committee to review the constitution of our Old Students Union. He also attended most of our reunions, socialising and taking pictures with NABIA old and young and offering useful advice.

Nde, you made it a habit to look for your classmates anytime you were on the move from Zebilla, crisscrossing the country down south. Exactly a year ago, you particularly looked for your classmate and study partner, Sibdow Malik Mumuni (folio 525), whom you had not seen for over 50 years, since 1970.

Long before technical and vocational courses were introduced across schools in Ghana, his year group, the 1965 intake, was the pioneer used to introduce the modern school curricula into Navasco. They were the first to undertake accounting, commercial, vocational and technical drawing courses in Navasco and thus broke the monotony of straightjacket Arts & Science subjects in Ghanaian secondary schools. Navasco was one of four select schools to introduce modern mathematics in the Joint Schools Project (JSP), and to move away from what was called Additional General Science to pure science subjects of Physics, Chemistry and Biology in the Ghanaian school curriculum. In all these academic trials with new curricula, senior Ndebugre performed excellently.

Senior Nde is credited as the one who blazed the trail in good academic performance in the history of Navasco. This performance was rare in the country at the time and it sent a signal to other secondary schools in Ghana that there was a center of academic excellence up there in Navrongo. Southern Ghanaian students and parents took notice and began to apply for their wards to attend Navasco, including for sixth-form courses.

This is how our former Headmaster, Colin Macdonald, recalled his academic performance:

“Up till 1970, our best aggregate at the West Africa Exams Council results had normally been between 10 and 20, until the 1970 results arrived – and there was John Ndebugre with an aggregate of 5 staring at me. We continued to get aggregates of 5 for 1971, 1972 and 1973. Finally, in 1974, Kofi Morna also got an aggregate of 5, but it was made up of 9 Grade 1s and a As 10 was the maximum number of subjects a student was allowed to offer, this result was almost the best one theoretically possible.”

Headmaster Macdonald was so excited by the school's performance pioneered by Nde that he did not stop there. He went to the West African Exams Council (WAEC) office in

Accra and asked if he could look through their archives to find out if any previous result as good as this had ever been issued. He was given a set of huge ledgers, one for each year going back to the foundation of the Exams Council in 1962. He looked through them but could not find any comparable result.

The former Headmaster, a Scot, said that: "... reading out Kofi Morna's results to the school assembly in 1974 is the highlight of my entire teaching career. Navasco can be proud that one of its alumni has not only the best West African School Certificate (WASC) result ever issued by the WAEC, but that no result like it will ever be issued again." John Akparibo Ndebugre was the trailblazer for high academic standards in Navasco.

No one could fail to take notice of Nde, not because of his towering figure but because of his intelligence and out-spoken nature. Nde always spoke his mind no matter who it would hurt. To him, wrong was wrong and needed to be pointed out.

No wonder that John Nde, a student leader in UST, Kumasi, was at the very frontline, during Ghanaian student protests against the military government in 1977-78.

In 1982, in the historical early days of the Provisional National Defence Council, (PNDC) your NABIA colleagues, aware of your dynamism and the contribution you could make, decided to invite you from Nigeria to help in the revolution. There was not less than ten NABIA among the "revolutionaries" in high decision-making positions in the early days of the PNDC rule. You contributed to the PNDC first as Regional Secretary for Northern Region and later as Upper Regional Secretary and subsequently Upper East Regional Secretary when the region was divided into Upper East and Upper West in 1983. You were appointed Secretary for Agriculture before being moved into the seat of government, Castle Osu, to oversee a number of key departments.

When the old system bounced back to take control of JJ Rawlings, your comrades who engineered your coming into the PNDC Government were dislodged into exile: you were left alone; yet stood your principles and could not be corrupted or compromised. You eventually resigned from the Government but you continued with progressive politics.

Senior Nde the UST, Kumasi-trained chemical engineer also later trained and practiced as a lawyer after leaving the PNDC regime. This marks him out as versatile brilliant intellectual capable of undertaking studies in any field. He also became the Member of Parliament for the Zebilla Constituency on the ticket of the People's National Convention in the Fourth Parliament of the Republic of Ghana.

In the words of one of your close NABIA comrades, you were "a larger-than-life character, strong willed and never shy to be controversial if (you) considered it necessary in pursuit of a goal. There are times when words fail us when we want to express our feelings adequately about some event or news and this is definitely one such ..."

Some say that "most of the 'hard boys' [in Ghanaian politics] were nurtured by Navasco". You were one of those enigmatic cases of Navasco's products ..."NABIA will miss you and your wise counsel to the service of our Alma Mater, NAVASCO.

REST IN PERFECT PEACE NABIA NDE





# TRIBUTE BY THE REVOLUTIONARY CADRES: NDE IS AROUND IN DEEDS

Today lies before us an iconic, ideologically-defined cadre of essence and character hinged on revolutionary values and attributes such as loyalty, discipline, dedication, devotion and determination.

"Death isn't true, when you have fulfilled uprightly - the works of humanity "-(Said by your good friend, Fidel Castro Ruz, whom you met at the 7th Non- Aligned Summit in India, Chaired by Indira Gandhi); Your mortal remains lie here as a beacon of hope for thousands upon thousands of people - who live under oppressive regimes of poverty, hunger, diseases - searching for a better life.

Today, as we pay revolutionary homage to the unwavering true cadre-ship status of NDE, we say he was versed with a revolutionary theory, politically far-sighted before his peers, competent in work, full of the spirit of self- sacrifice and steadfast in difficult times.

Nde is the flavoured/valiant baobab of the rich Savanna who the cells of the BNI couldn't hold captive.

Nde, who sat in the same political classroom with Vladimir Putin in the then Soviet Union, before the expedition of Bolshevik-Perestroika of Mikhail Gorbachev, fitted well and worked with good faith for the PNDC at the peril of his life.

Nde wasn't controversial; he was one who believed in and practised "setting things right", because according to classical Confucianism, Politics is all about "setting things right".

Nde jumped off the boat of PNDC, when the Revolutionary ship began to change direction.

Joining the PNC, a traditional off-shoot of CPP, was for a reason; hoping to help capture political power to continue with the 7-year development plan of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's administration.

In the absence of PNC capturing political power, after a while, he entered the hut of the NPP, and quickly got out due to an opposing Ideological heat.

Nde, aware of his days on earth and with a strong burning zeal to offer something right for Ghana, tried NDC, perhaps to assist in changing it into a full-fledged Nkrumaist political party, "NKRUMAH DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS", nonetheless, and until his physical departure, remained a Revolutionary Statesman of pedigree.

Nde lived a modest life, unlike many of his colleagues who used the Revolutionary space to enrich themselves, without concentrating on nation building to achieve the "Ghana that we want"

Nde is from the stalk of International Proletarianism and Solidarity. And the greatest Revolutionary in the Provisional National Defence Council; A tested ideologue of Nkrumaism, who used his ideological influence to help launch one of the finest revolutions on the African Continent - led by the Chè Guevara of Africa, Captain Thomas Sankara in the 80s. The Burkinabe Revolution in the Sahel, till date, has left a huge environmental/agricultural discipline and rich legacies. A Nation, where livestock production is its 3rd GDP; A Nation, where if you invest 2 CFA in livestock, you earn 100 CFA;

A Nation, where they don't import chicken but rely on locally-produced poultry. Captain Thomas Sankara, the main progenitor/architect of the Burkinabe revolution, was a very close pal of Nde. Today, the Burkinabe revolution irrespective of whatever happened, continues to sprout in the hearts and minds of its people.

Nde, contributed largely in sending students to Cuba to study in a living revolution, not an experimental one. Fortunately, two years after the establishment of the Ghanaian school (Kwame Nkrumah Memorial School), Burkina had theirs. A rare opportunity, where African youngsters fraternize with each other, be they from Namibia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Guinea- Bissau/Cape Verde, Saharawi Arab Republic, Angola and other States.

An interaction with Nde would recall the deep evil deeds of apartheid and the need to always applaud valiant African leaders.

Nde's brains were excellently sharp when you engaged him on Marxist-Leninist philosophy of dialectics/materialism and though a hero has departed, we can't allow ourselves, in a painful mood to be embroiled in tears/sadness, but in soberness to reflect on his great deeds.

We have to encourage ourselves that Nde came and identified his mission, like Franz Fanon puts it, "each generation has a mission, either to fulfil it or betray it". Indeed, Nde didn't betray his mission, nor did he appear on earth to eat, drink, sleep and depart, but added valor to humanity.

NDE IS THE GREATEST REVOLUTIONARY FROM THE SAVANNA/GHANA and one of the ENVIABLE REVOLUTIONARIES of West Africa and Africa per DEEDS/Excellence, not the rhetorical type.

Looking for a man with rectitude of "setting things right", hinged on a purposeful sense of focus/direction based on TRUTH and sincerity, the man to quickly turn and watch is NDE - THE GREATEST CADRE and ASTUTE REVOLUTIONARY SOUL OF WEST AFRICA, in the numbers of Thomas Sankara, Samora Machel, Chè Guevara, Juan Almeida Bosque, Chris Hani, Steve Biko - along the equivalence of our HEROES AND SHEROES OF AFRICA.

Nde - the Astute Revolutionary Cadre

Nde - the Fearless Democrat

Nde - the Positive-minded Statesman

HEROIC JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE - REST IN POWER.

HEROIC JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE - YOU HAVE INDEED WORKED.

HEROIC JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUGRE - PUSIM, Baba Nkrumah, Baba Asumda, Baba Ayarna, Baba Rawlings, Baba Sankara, Mama Winnie Mandela, Baba Malcolm X, Baba Muhammed Ali, Baba Steve Biko, Baba Martin Luther King, Mama Harriet Tubman, and many more.

HASTA LA VICTORIA SIEMPRE

MORIR POR LA PATRIA ES VIVIR

MATRIA Ò MUERTE VENCEREMOS!!!



## TRIBUTE BY STAFF OF NDEZEB CONSULT (ATULPORKA CHAMBERS)

We had the privilege of working with someone we called our Daddy. Working with Lawyer Ndebugre was most rewarding and lovely especially if you won his trust. As a father, he would not spare you if you went wrong but would also praise you when you were right. He knew where every item was placed in his office and could associate every particular act or deed with each one of us.

He was full of humor and good in storytelling. He always shared a joke or told a life story to encourage us to reach our full potential. For him, no one should look down on anyone no matter their status, for it took the efforts of the cleaner to make the Manager sit in a comfortable office, the despair of a litigant to make a good lawyer the poor to make one rich. He always used to remind us that one could never be first without anyone being last. He was a walking oracle when it came to giving advice on any matter.

Boss, Daddy, you are an irreplaceable loss and you will forever remain in our hearts.

Safe journey home



# TRIBUTE BY REV. KATHY



KIMOYO

*Empowering Women Today  
Changing Communities Forever*

June 14, 2022

To the family of John Akparibo Ndebugre

Kimoyo Ltd. would like to extend our heartfelt love to the Ndebugre family. John has been an integral part of Zebilla and the surrounding community. He was a lawyer by trade but a natural historian of Ghana. He loved to tell you the history of Ghana, facts about the leaders of the nation, both current and past, as well as the problems that needed to be addressed. He was very passionate about Ghana and proud of the growth it had experienced. He wanted to help any way he could to see his country continue to progress and take its place in the global economy. He served as a member of Parliament and represented his area diligently.

John was very helpful to Kimoyo Ltd. when we first established our projects in Zebilla in the early 2000s. He was born into the Kusasi tribe and knew the heartbeat of the local community and therefore was able to provide very wise counsel when situations arose. He was very insightful, understood the needs of his community and enjoyed gathering to talk about what was going on.

As difficult as it is to let go of this servant of God, he has ascended to the fullness of his creator. Even in the midst of our own feelings, we cannot help but rejoice that his life is now being shared with that great cloud of witnesses who eternally rejoice in the presence of the living God and encourage us every day to run with patience and diligence the race before us.

Paraphrasing Paul: “John fought a good fight, he finished his course, he kept the faith. And there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, has given him: and not to him only, but also unto all of us who love His appearing.” - 2 Timothy 4:6-8

We salute a life that never ends; it only changes. For there is no death in God, only transformation and transition into the next dimension of God’s presence.

May God’s abundant love and mercy comfort you this day and may the light of his life inspire you to be all you can be in God.

Kimoyo LTD.

Rev. Kathy O’Keeffe  
Kimoyo Ltd., Board of Directors

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## TRIBUTE FROM THE ASUMDA FAMILY

It was with shock and great sadness that we learnt of the passing of our brother, John Akparibo Ndebugre, affectionately called Nde. The shock was made greater by the fact that we had spoken earlier about the demise of our senior brother, Edward Asumda who died in London on the 19th of April, 2022. Nde asked if the body would be brought home for burial and I told him that would be decided by his family in London and as soon as I got the funeral arrangements I would inform him.

So, as soon as I got the funeral arrangements, I called to inform him on Wednesday, May 4th, but he did not pick my call. So I called his wife (Sophia) and she said Nde was asleep but she was preparing to come to Accra with her daughter Pat for medical check-up. Sophia called me on Friday, May 6th, and with joy I picked her call only to hear her screaming and wailing that my brother Nde was gone. We cried over the phone and I realized, I had to stay strong for her.

John was fearless with a fiery temper but had a heart of gold. He cared very little for the acquisition of properties. All that mattered to him was to be of help to our northern brothers, sisters or anybody who needed his assistance, advice and counseling was something Nde cherished.

Anytime Nde was leaving the house, he would jokingly remind the old man (late Asumda) that he was going to follow his footsteps by marrying many wives and they both would laugh it off.

We the Asumda family will miss you dearly. Rest well! Rest in peace!! Paam Sum!!!



Celebration of Life  
HON. JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUCRE, ESQ.

## TRIBUTE FROM MRS. SUSANA MAHAMAH

The great warrior is not in town; yes, indeed he is out of this world. The Hero is gone forever. Nde, Ndebugre, John Akparibo Ndebugre;

What a manner of man was he? The name Nde was a household name in Kusasi Kingdom, if not in Ghana as a whole.

Was he a Chief, a Soldier, a Politician, a Lawyer, a Statesman, a Father, or a Husband? If I were to ask John these questions, he would simply tell me "I am none of these", yet John was all of these descriptions. He was all in all; a man of many colors as well as humorous and likeable.

One day I was in my office when I saw a girl following a man passing through the street towards the Accra Sports Stadium–Ministries Street towards Osu. The girl was carrying a load on the head, a baby at the back and another child holding her hands while the man was only carrying one baby on his shoulders and over hearing the woman with babies I asked myself why. So I walked out of my office to see whether they were strangers who needed help.

As a social worker, my concern was to help people who needed help and to help them find solutions to their problems; hence I was curious to know where the strangers were going to. To my surprise, I saw John and Sophia, I offered them a car to take them to where they were going but John told me that they were almost at the entrance of their gate, so I left them and went back to my office still pondering on what I could have done. These were the early days of Nde's return from Nigeria. That time he was very slim, lanky, tall, very cool, quiet and intelligent-looking as if he was an innocent lad.

As for his Educational background, I leave that to his school mates who can tell us more about him. Nde was the kind of person who would not tolerate the undermining of people nor discrimination among his peers or group who would like to exhibit power, money, riches or position.

He used to declare himself as a village boy and was proud of himself of what he is. He was a very hardworking man who never knew how to say "I am tired". He was a workaholic.

John gave back to his village as a son, the love they gave him; to his District, the trust and the respect they gave him; to his Region, the Political protection that they deserved; to his country, the kind of leadership as a legal man, being a lawyer of high standing; to his family, as a good father and an excellent husband; and to his friends and colleagues, as a good brother with knowledge and love for all and sundry to share.

Nde went through thick and thin in his life. Pain and sorrow were part of his daily breakfast, lunch and supper which he took as a tablet in silence without complains. I saw Nde as a brave, hardworking, non-commissioned soldier in the Kusasi kingdom. What an irreplaceable Hero we have lost as a tribe.

Anytime I visited home, John and I would have series of discussions on all aspects of subjects or topics and end up with an argument in politics which I would always try to use my little political science knowledge to defend myself. Then John would say "sister, I now see that Sophia has taken after you. She does not give up when she is convinced that she is right!"

With whom will I get this kind of companionship again when I go to Zebilla? Nde, I never knew that the last time I came home in January this year and was going back that you saw me off in a grand style, which was to say goodbye until we meet again. Nde you have left me lonely, sorrowful and in despair in an island where there is no boat for me to cross.

Why? Why? John Why?

May Angels Receive Your Soul. Fare Thee Well.

Sleep In Peace, My Brother.





Celebration of Life  
HON. JOHN AKPANIBO NDEBUGRE, ESQ.

# TRIBUTE TO LAWYER JOHN NDEBUGRE AKARIBO BY THE NA-PARIYOUNG OF NABDAM, NANGOND-NAAB, KOSOM ASAGA YELZOYA II

Lawyer John Akparibo Ndebugre will be remembered in diverse perspectives by different people but for me it is all summed up in one word; great.

He was a great man.

He was a great friend.

He was a great icon

I called him "Lawyer Nde" He called me "Na-Pariyoung". Whenever we met, I bowed ( in my heart) in honour of his accomplishments and his purity. He always reciprocated with a squat of greetings in reverence of my skin.

Lawyer Nde was an embodiment of almost all the virtues of life but what thrilled me most about him was his love and sacrifice for his tribe.

He meant so much to so many that if even he lived a thousand years, his departure would still be as painful as it is now. Indeed a mighty irreplaceable oak has fallen. To this mighty oak, which I was privileged to have related with, John Akparibo Ndebugre Esq., I say fare thee well. And to the family I say, take heart.

# GALLERY



Celebration of Life  
HON. JOHN AKPARIBO NDEBUCRE, ESQ.































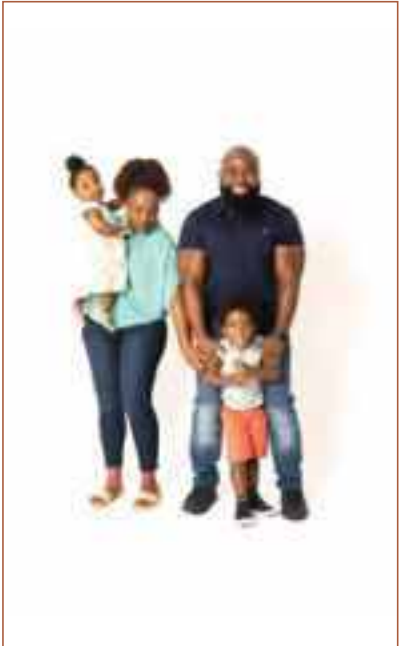




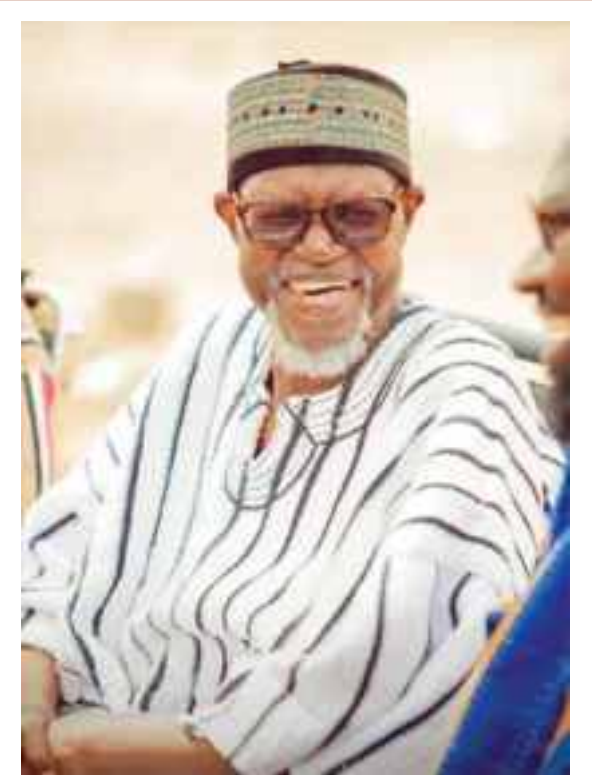


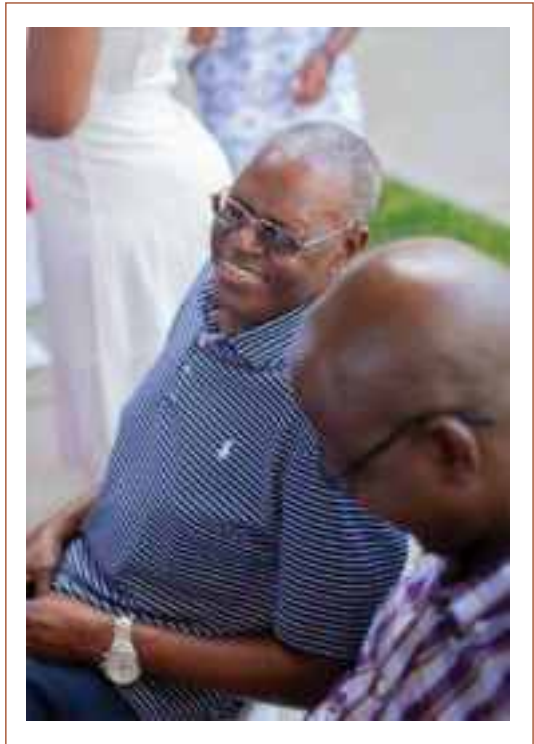










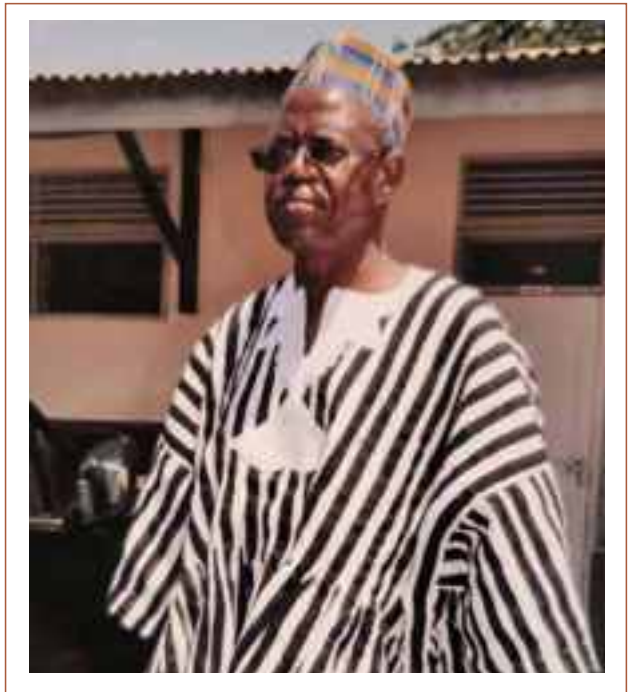










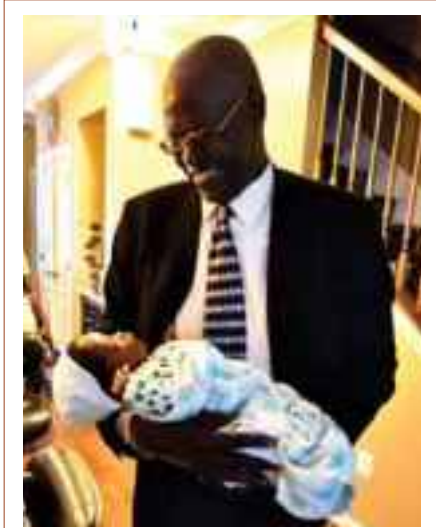














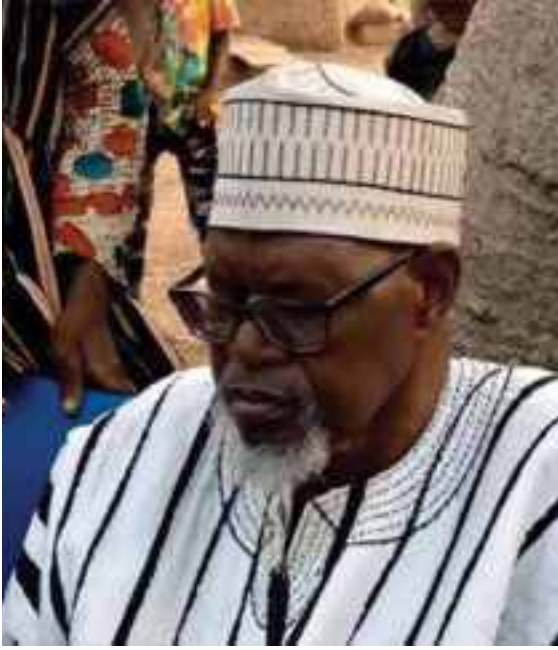


















## HYMNS

### **Through all the changing scenes of life (CH 374)**

Through all the changing scenes of life,  
in trouble and in joy,  
the praises of my God shall still  
my heart and tongue employ.  
Of his deliv'rance I will boast,  
till all that are distressed,  
from my example comfort take  
and lay their griefs to rest.

O magnify the LORD with me,  
exalt his holy name;  
when in distress to him I called,  
he to my rescue came.  
The hosts of God encamp around  
the dwellings of the just;  
deliv'rance he affords to all  
who in his promise trust.

O taste and see that he is good;  
experience will decide  
how blest are they, and only they  
who in the LORD confide.  
Fear him, you saints, and you will then  
have nothing else to fear;  
make serving him your sole delight,  
your wants shall be his care.

### **My soul is longing for your peace, near to you my God (CH 34)**

Lord, you know that my heart is not proud,  
And my eyes are not lifted from the earth  
(my...)

Lofty thoughts have never filled my mind,  
Far beyond my sights all ambitious deeds.  
(my...)

In your peace I have maintained my soul;  
I have kept my heart in your quiet peace.  
(my...)

As a child rests on his mother's knee,  
So I place my soul in your loving care  
(my...)

Israel, put all your hope in God,  
Place all your trust in him, now and evermore.  
(my...)

### **Hark, hark, my soul! (CH 305)**

Hark, hark, my soul! Angelic songs are swelling  
O'er earth's green fields and ocean's  
wave-beat shore;  
How sweet the truth those blessed strains are  
telling  
Of that new life when sin shall be no more.

#### **[Refrain]**

Angels of Jesus, Angels of light,  
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night.

Onward we go, for still we hear them singing:  
"Come, weary souls, for Jesus bids you come;"  
And through the dark, its echoes sweetly  
ringing,  
The music of the gospel leads us home.

#### **[Refrain]**

Far, far away, like bells at evening pealing,  
The voice of Jesus sounds o'er land and sea,  
And laden souls by thousands meekly  
stealing,  
Kind Shepherd, turn their weary steps to Thee.

#### **[Refrain]**

Angels, sing on, your faithful watches keeping;  
Sing us sweet fragments of the songs above,  
Till morning's joy shall end the night of  
weeping,  
And life's long shadows break in cloudless  
love.







The family of  
HON. JOHN  
A. NDEBUGRE, ESQ.  
wishes to express their sincere gratitude  
for your support and prayers.

