

Tribute to a true and loyal friend

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I write this tribute in honour of Dr George Adu, a true mentor, a faithful friend, a great colleague, and a distinguished researcher.

My first encounter with Dr George Adu was in the year 1999 when we were pursuing our bachelor's degree at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). Both of us were in the economics class. George was calm, brilliant, and insightful with a passion to share knowledge at any given opportunity. This was my first impression of him when I joined the economics class. Our relationship began as undergraduate course mates, and progressed to study mates, and colleagues in our alma mater – KNUST.

George was selfless and this nature was evident in his willingness to sacrifice his time to organize free tutorials for his course mates during our undergraduate programme. These tutorials were well attended like a typical lecture. George had a deep knowledge and passion for economics and cared enough to share both. This was a service he rendered with enthusiasm and pride to give new meaning to economics and an appreciation of the field. He engaged his mates in

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intellectual discourse and loved to debate on economic and social issues. This earned him the title ‘professor’ among his mates.

Though he was an outstanding student, he loved to make time for friends and sporting activities on campus, especially football. He had a wide-ranging impact on our year group and left a significant legacy. The Economics Class of 2002 is indebted to George.

George’s desire for more knowledge was unquenchable. To George, learning and teaching came naturally. Through numerous hardships and challenges, he excelled and reached the pinnacle of education, having distinguished himself as a scholar. George was a believer in Keynesian ideas of demand management. One of his favorite quotes from John Maynard Keynes was ‘in the long run, we are all dead’. George had an academic ambition – to excel by transforming others.

George inspired me throughout my undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and my career in academia. While working in the corporate world, he always believed that I belonged to academia. He recommended that I join the university on a part-time basis to share my knowledge and experience. When I decided to join KNUST on a full-time basis, George became a mentor offering his advice on publications and how to climb the academic ladder, while making impact. George celebrated every milestone that I achieved in my career. He was a true and loyal friend to the end.

George was a man of few words, but his words were weighty. He had sarcastic names for almost anything, and loved to tease and talk with proverbs in the local language. He was never intimidated when it came to sharing his opinion. He was never afraid to stand alone so long as he was right.

George, until his demise, was a faculty member in the Economics Department at KNUST where he devoted his time to researching on real economic issues in Ghana and other African countries. He taught various courses at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels and supervised various students imparting the next generation of economic scholars. George soared gracefully through the ranks to become a senior lecturer. He was one of the great economists of our time. His quest to acquire and share knowledge was exemplary. His desire was to help develop his colleagues as well, a trait that endeared him to all. He was useful in his field and understood how economics could help in solving the challenges in Ghana and Sub-Saharan Africa. His dream was to become a full Professor, a dream which was cut short abruptly. Though the dream was not fulfilled, George served his university and community well. He believed in himself. He believed

in others. He believed in his field. He believed in his country. Indeed, he lived for what he believed in, stood for what he loved and he left his mark in the process.

George's transition has been quick and left us in shock. My last conversation with him on the night before his demise was about his flight to Ghana the following morning. When I wished him a safe journey, little did I know he was embarking on a different journey. Indeed, life is not long enough. A beautiful soul has passed on. George, your friendship was a blessing. I celebrate you, for you were a true friend and a mentor. Fare thee well my friend.