



A LEGACY OF
COURAGE
— AND —
RESILIENCE

H.E. NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS

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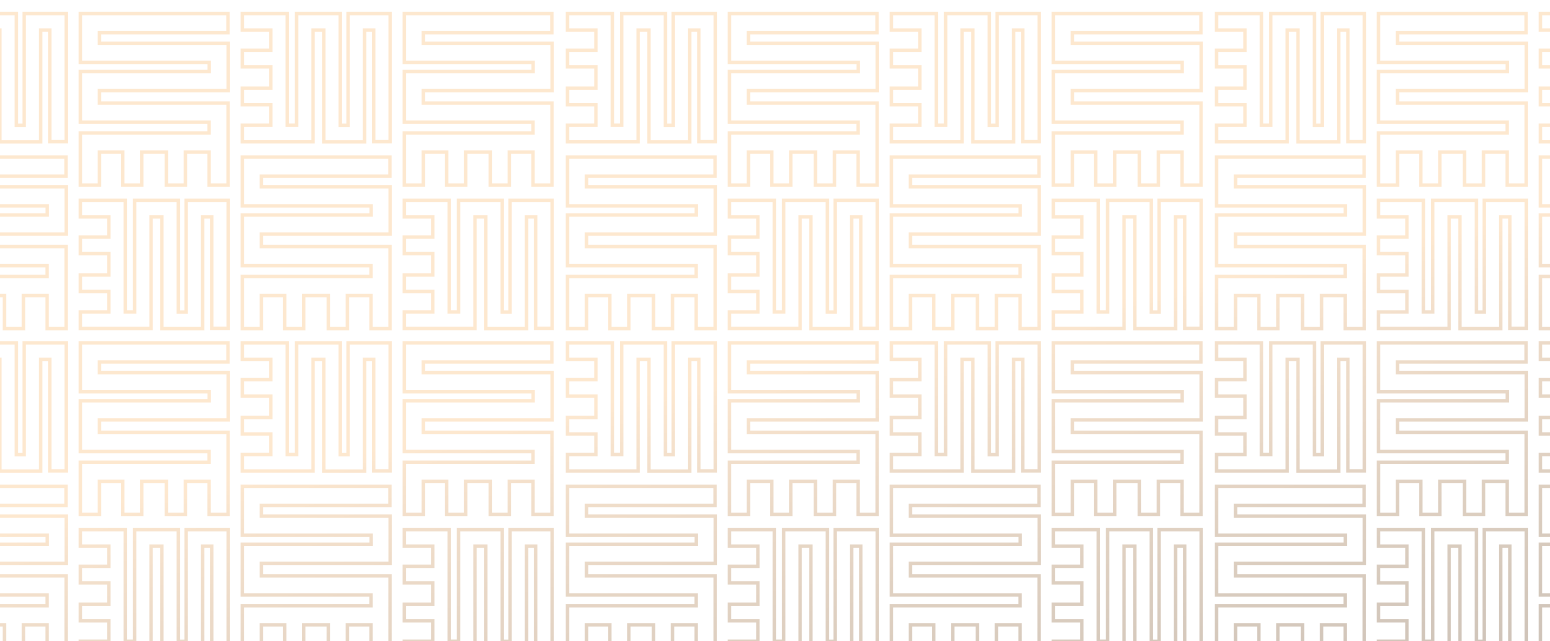








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FOOTSTEPS ETCHED IN *Service*

IN HER OWN WORDS

I never set out to live in the glare of Ghana's political whirlwinds, from the fight for independence, through periods of turmoil, to the nation's ongoing pursuit of hope. I never imagined I would one day stand on the frontlines of some of the most significant milestones in Ghana's history. Yet, I have had the extraordinary privilege of sharing in the dreams of millions of women, young and old, in cities, villages, and everywhere in between. I didn't set out to walk in their shoes, but destiny called. I was 31 years old.

Decades later, I remain humbled and amazed by the people I have met and the places I have seen. Following what proved to be a historic political tide in Ghana, an unscripted, but extraordinary journey unfolded. My guiding star became a mission to amplify the voices of millions of women who had too often faded into the background of the country's socio-economic development. At the time, I had no way of knowing just how profoundly grassroots efforts in Ghana, aimed at uplifting women, would echo across the African continent - and even the world.

In fighting for the women, I met in the quiet corners of the country - women carrying deeply personal fears for the future - I found my calling. Taking even the smallest steps forward pulled me into the heart of a nation's march toward democracy and party politics. That journey

meant I would inevitably be seen as either a friend or a foe. But what drove my every waking moment was a genuine desire to help the next person, someone who might not have been given the same opportunities life had afforded me. And for that, I have no regrets, and there is nothing I would change.

Nothing motivated me more than the chance to work with women and men across the country, many of whom were struggling to find even a glimmer of hope in distant villages and towns. What mattered most was the audacity to believe, to work, and to fight. All of it became preparation for challenges, for failures, and also for unexpected joys I would never have experienced otherwise.

Leadership brought with it many sleepless nights. It tested my faith as a mother, my values as a wife, and my resilience as an advocate.



Yet no amount of grit could shield me from the baseless accusations hurled by perfect strangers who believed the most outlandish things they heard. But such was the price of courage and service in a nation grappling with economic hardship and finding its way through political transition.

There were many highs and just as many lows. If I had the boldness to dream, I had to be just as bold in facing the turbulence that followed. I was never a victim. Pragmatism overtook cynicism. Reality reminded me of the immense opportunity life had afforded me, and of the responsibility I bore to keep fighting forward. I chose, time and again, to tuck away frustration, pain, and fear, and look ahead.

In Asante, kwansuo na ebo ahina means “the one who fetches water from the stream is the one who often breaks the pot.” But sitting idle during a time of significant social and political change was never an option for me. Leading the construction of daycare centres, educating women in crafts such as basket weaving, kente weaving – much to the annoyance of the male weavers, and engaging them in active trades like gari processing, oil palm processing, shea butter production, palm kernel and coconut oil extraction, and groundnut oil processing, even to the extent of exporting products overseas, was clear evidence of the potential and opportunity we held in our hands.

If there was a silver lining in the storm clouds I had to live through, it was the joy on the faces of countless mothers and grandmothers. That joy was the only reward I ever hoped for. It was a privilege to organise women across the country not to sit on the fringes of social change. They had a voice and untapped potential, but what they often lacked were opportunities. Their resilience was a powerful reflection of the nation’s own strength in the face of uncertainty. I had to be willing to learn from every turning point, and even from the imperfect steps, because they, too, held wisdom.

Time flew by.

We lived through many milestones through the 31st December Women’s Movement, but I always knew there was still much more to be done. The fight to uplift women, to empower them to contribute meaningfully to their homes, their communities, and their nation was an urgent cause then. Despite the hard work done at the grassroots level, the issues we tackled remain just as relevant today, decades later.

For the 31st December Women’s Movement, the hope was always to change not only the economic circumstances of the girls, women and mothers who felt left behind, but also the future of their children. We had work to do, and we did it. The fruits of that labour live on in the lives of women and men who were given the rare opportunity to contribute to the development of a nation.

No matter how small the space we occupy, even the slightest glimpse of opportunity may be all we need to make an impact on the world around us. All of us will, at some point, sift through a towering haystack of open doors and missed opportunities, straw by straw, in search of the single needle that might have made a difference in our world. And that is what has filled my heart with great joy.

The rest of the work now lies in the hands of future generations. My hope is that we have left behind a trail they can follow and that we have sparked in them the courage to chart their own course. When the dust finally settles, I know that some of the defining moments of what might have otherwise been an ordinary life will stand as my modest contribution to hope and to country.

Written by Mrs Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, and taken from the introduction of ‘For Hope and Country.’

Mrs Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, author of ‘For Hope and Country.’





BIOGRAPHY



PRELUDE

“For us in Africa, the girl child is a special concern. Hers is the future that is often negated right from birth, and hers is therefore the life that must be salvaged first. We must give her an education that empowers: an education that gives skills; and an education that builds self-confidence.”

(Address by Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995)

Early Life

Nana Konadu was born on 17th November 1948. She was the third of seven children of John Osei Tutu Agyeman (JOT, as he was affectionately called) and his wife Felicia Agyeman (nee Sarpong) of Mpobi, Ashanti, and a daughter of a wealthy Ashanti merchant. JOT Agyeman's father was Oheneba Owusu Sekyere Agyeman, a son of the 11th Asantehene, Otumfuo Mensah Bonsu. Nana Konadu was, therefore, named after Nana Konadu Yiadom III, the 11th Asantehemaa, who was her paternal grandmother.

Her mother, Mrs Felicia Agyeman, was an educationist, who dedicated herself to raising her seven children and to the organisation of both her marital home and the busy social life brought about by her husband's position as the top most manager of the United Africa Company (UAC) in the Gold Coast.

Nana Konadu's early life was shaped by Ashanti culture and traditions of strict protocol, good manners, social graces, self-reliance and the self-control required of a woman to establish a home and raise children of her own in dignity. Education was important to JOT and Felicia Agyeman, and therefore, they ensured their children attended the best schools. As a teacher, who upon marriage could not work because of a colonial law banning married women from engaging in their trained profession, Felicia Agyeman still used her teaching skills inside the home. In her book 'It Takes A Woman,' Nana Konadu explained that “one way [her mother] did this was by giving her children regular tutorials on mathematics, English and elocution. My

mother's insistence on tutoring her children at home ensured a solid educational foundation, not only for each of us her children, but also for all the children of relatives she raised and cared for like they were her own.”





Nana Konadu's mother was strict yet compassionate and had an uncanny instinct to nurture those far beyond her closest family. She single-handedly maintained discipline and order in the home. On the other hand, her father – although committed to his duties as a family man – was an unapologetic workaholic, and who was known for his integrity. With the air of African resistance to the colonial government growing stronger, passionate political debates about an independent Gold Coast between Nana Konadu's parents and friends were a common occurrence in the Agyeman household to which she, Nana Konadu, was inadvertently made privy to. In her words, she explained, "Even though British law rendered Maa [Felicia Agyeman] and other married women virtually powerless in the Gold Coast, addressing the issue of gender inequality was nowhere close to being a priority in our nation's agenda. A far more pressing issue at the time was the widespread subjugation of the African population under the control of European colonial masters. This was a deep-rooted problem that, at some level, affected every African in the colony."

The exposure to the politics of oppression, and gender inequality at an early age, coupled with her parents' value system and character, influenced Nana Konadu's formative years and these would undoubtedly contribute to the foundations of who she became – Nana Konadu the political activist, the committed and loving mother, the loyal wife, the elegant first lady, the workaholic, the fighter for the oppressed, the matriarch of her home and work place. Nana Konadu became all these over her lifetime.

A Foundation Built on Learning

Kwame Nkrumah officially assumed office as prime minister in 1952, and with Nana Konadu's father's extensive business and managerial experience within the United Africa Company (UAC), it is no surprise that he was recruited by the Nkrumah administration to run the government's business sector in Accra. The Agyeman family settled into the Ridge community, and with education a major priority in the Agyeman family household, all Agyeman children of school-going age continued their education.

Nana Konadu Agyeman attended Progress School (Mrs Sam's School) where, for the first time, she would come into contact with a young boy called Jerry John. After two years in Mrs Sam's school, she attended Ghana International School, where she made life-long friends. Following Ghana International School, for her secondary education, Nana Agyeman attended Achimota School – a school that contributed to forming and formulating Nana Konadu's character. In Achimota School, her pool of life-long friends grew, and old ones were nurtured. Achimota School was not just a school, but an institution of pristine all-rounded learning that a vast network of interconnected colleagues, friends and families are built on today. It is, therefore, of no surprise that it was in Achimota School where a young Nana Konadu reconnected with friends from GIS, and saw the same boy from Mrs Sam's school – Jerry John.





The evolution of a love story

"I could not get past the initial encounter on my first day in Achimota School. Nothing could convince me that Jerry and I would become friends. I resolved to stay clear of him. I had slowly come to a point where I disliked him, even reporting his behaviour to the headmaster, but it seemed the more effort I put into staying away from him, the more frequently he appeared."

Nana Konadu Agyeman entered Achimota School in September 1961, at the age of twelve. Jerry John – the boy from Mrs Sam's School was in her class and noticeably bright. Nana noticed that Jerry's circle of friends were not a reflection of his age, but of his personality. He seemed to be liked by students much older than he.

Achimota School had separate provisions – one for Catholic and another for Protestant worship. Nana Konadu attended Protestant worship because she had been raised Protestant. Jerry on the other hand was Catholic, but she recounts that at the age of fifteen in Protestant choir practice, Jerry John suddenly showed up to join the Protestant choir. It was much later that Nana Konadu would find out that Jerry John had no interest in being part of the choir. He had joined the choir to be close to Nana Konadu.

At 17 years and in her fifth year in Achimota School, commotion from outside her room in Kingsley House woke the teenager: from the radio in the common room in the House, teenage girls heard from the radio announcer – Nkrumah had been overthrown. Nana Konadu witnessed, in Achimota School, the organised book burning of Kwame Nkrumah's books, and to her shock, supervised by the newly appointed United States Ambassador.

Halfway through the year of 1966, Nana Konadu Agyeman and Jerry John completed their O-levels at Achimota. While Nana went on to do her A-levels, Jerry John decided to pursue his life-long dream of becoming an Air Force pilot. In 1967, Jerry John enlisted as a Flight Cadet in the Ghana Air Force, and later won the Speed Bird Trophy. Nana Konadu Agyeman went on to the University of Science and Technology after her A-levels, and it was at the University of Science and Technology that Nana Konadu the student political activist, was born.

On the university campus, Nana Konadu immersed herself into university life, where like all students she took part in social events on campus, and formed a music band with other student-friends.





Formation of the student activist

Recounting Ghana's past, Nana Konadu said, "by December 1971, the economy, was on a grim downturn. Life in Ghana had become unbearable for many. Power lay only in the hands of a few powerful men and women. It had become evident that the nation's political stage had turned into one with exclusive circles of corrupt business and political elites who were handing power back and forth."

She also recounted that, the culture of corruption had seeped into the administrative arm of the university, yet people turned a blind eye. Up until this point in her life, Nana Konadu had never really been interested in activism of any kind. However, she soon found herself deeply engaged in student-led movements to address the growing culture of corruption on campus and even beyond. In 1969, Nana Konadu stood for elections and became a member of the Students Representative Council (SRC). As SRC Secretary, Nana Konadu set about plans to organise peaceful demonstrations on campus with the permission of the University president.

On the day of the demonstration, there was a sea of angry students, some with placards chanting in unison on the campus lawn expressing their grievances at the then state of Ghana. Nana Konadu went on to serve on the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) where all members from different parts of the country, shared the same aspirations.

Just a few months before Nana Konadu could complete her university education, on the morning of January 13, 1972 she woke up to the talk on campus of yet another military coup.

Nana Konadu graduated with honours in Graphic Design and Applied Arts in 1972 from the University of Science and Technology. After graduation, she began her career at the Ghana Tourist Board and subsequently accepted a position with the Union Trade Company (U.T.C.), one of the largest trading companies in Ghana at the time, rising to Group Manager a few years later. In 1975, she earned a Diploma in Interior Decoration at the London College of Arts.





After years of courting amidst Ghana's socio-economic upheavals, Nana Konadu Agyeman and Jerry John Rawlings were married at Ridge Church on January 29th 1977. Both in their late twenties, Nana Konadu was a group manager still at UTC, while Jerry John, was a young pilot officer with the Ghana Air Force.

Awakening of the second stage of Consciousness

While Jerry John Rawlings, much like some of his colleagues, developed a keen awareness and utter disgust for the injustices in our society, becoming consumed by the sharp contrast between the affluent few and the impoverished majority of Ghanaians. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings too came face-to-face with the plight of rural Ghanaians.

"The crisis had become too much for any of us to ignore. It was not until I travelled outside of Accra to places like Tamale and Takoradi on an assignment for my company, UTC, that I came face-to-face with the true horrors of poverty as it gravely affected our nation's women and children. The plight of the struggling mothers was gut-wrenching, the conditions in towns like Tefle, Sogakope, Mankesim, Anomabu, Suhum and Enyinam were devastating and not much different from the others. In villages across

the country, the situation for women was even worse as it seemed there was no semblance of any relief in sight for them. In the small towns, I worked in the gated communities of the beautiful UTC compounds, where I managed the interior design of all corporate housing units reserved for Executives, mostly Europeans and their families. Each housing unit was fully equipped with luxury amenities in well-furnished British-inspired architecture and bungalows. Though I worked within the compound, I was deeply affected by the local people who lived outside the compound walls. Their plight was impossible to ignore, and it was difficult to fathom what future lay ahead for them and their children. The women I saw in rural Ghana left an indelible mark on my mind, heart and soul – one I could not ignore." *Nana Konadu, It Takes A Woman.*

Birth of the Women's Revolution

With the second coming of J.J on 31st December 1981, that ushered in what was declared as the 31st December Revolution, Nana Konadu was thrown into the position as First Lady of Ghana. She made it her life's mission to ensure that women would be empowered, so they too can contribute equally to nation-building and be part of the decision-making of Ghana at every level of our society.



So, in 1983, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings and several like-minded women established the 31st December Women's Movement, a women's activist organisation, with the objective of empowering women socio-politically, economically, and culturally. This multi-faceted approach reflects the four key principles of the United Nations Declaration for Women, which urges all countries to promote the development of women in the economic, social, political, and cultural spheres.



Nana Konadu's work with women, in the early days, sent her to countries like the former-USSR where she met with the Soviet Women's Committee; to the People's Republic of China; to former Yugoslavia to mention a few. Meeting women's groups from other countries was educative as she shared her experiences from Ghana while learning about their challenges and successes. She learned how other women's groups overcame their obstacles in their fight for women's empowerment, inspiring her to forge on. In Africa, she formed ties with African countries, such as, Nigeria, working closely with the First Lady Mariam Babangida who shared in her vision. In Burkina Faso, as revolutionary leaders Sankara and Rawlings worked together for the liberation of their people, their wives too joined forces in the liberation of the African woman.





Juggling Family Life amidst Economic Recovery

As First Lady in 1982, at a time of scarcity, and at the young age of thirty-four, Nana Konadu was also building a family. Her first child was born in June 1978, at the height of Ghana's economic decline and was named Zanetor – Let the darkness End in the Ewe language – symbolising the state of Ghana at the time. The children that followed Zanetor were born in the 1980s, where Nana Konadu juggled effectively her role as mother and wife, and her role as activist First Lady. Taking frequent work travels to the rural areas meant that Nana Konadu was not a woman who intended to live a life of luxury as a First Lady. There was work to be done. It is therefore not surprising that one of her key phrases was, “pregnancy is not an illness” as she got on with her work in the rural areas during her pregnancies. Imbuing her children with her own upbringing, she balanced a strict, disciplined disposition with laughter and love. Very conscious of the political reasons that brought about the June 4th 1979 Uprising and the 31st December Revolution, Nana Konadu was very intentional in keeping her children grounded. Ais, arrogance and a sense of entitlement were not tolerated. Having come from a home that practised strong family values, she imparted those qualities to her children, raising them in an environment that espoused patriotism, honesty, duty, forthrightness and courage.





Grassroots Advocacy for Women and Children

Growing the 31st December Women's Movement was not without its obstacles. However, encouraged by the enthusiasm of women around the country, who were open to transforming their lives, Nana Konadu persevered with her mission. The Organisation, over the years grew to nearly two million members across Ghana, embracing women irrespective of social standing, profession, religion, marital status, or ethnicity.

The goal has always been to bring all women together through educational programmes, workshops, forums, and Theatre for Extension and Communication projects.

The success of Nana Konadu's advocacy work has been evident in the awakening of Ghanaian women, who have developed a more positive image of themselves, moving beyond the limitations imposed by traditions, customs, and social expectations. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings is widely credited with mobilising and encouraging more women to exercise their franchise at all levels of political participation, from district assembly elections to presidential and parliamentary contests.

Under the leadership of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, the Movement received wide recognition both nationally and internationally for its contribution to issues concerning women. Her political struggle provoked the promulgation of several monumental social legislations under the PNDC Government with its flag-ship PNDCL 111, 112, 113, 114, 115 and Article 28(1) of the 1992 Constitution, also reflected in Children's Act 650.

The most notable - the Intestate Succession Law, PNDC Law 111, today protects spousal rights to inheritance when a husband dies without a will. Although the PNDC Law 111 applies to the spouse, women were the primary victims of the unfair cultural practice whereby, upon the death of a husband intestate, the widow and her children lost the husband's property to his extended family. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings has repeatedly credited other leading women, such as Justice Annie Jiaage, for their instrumental role in shaping the Movement's agenda and offering hope to thousands of women across the country.

From its inception, the 31st December Women's Movement, was an independent grassroots organisation, choosing to raise funds through member contributions as well as voluntary donations to support its projects. While the limited resources often compelled Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings to invest her personal funds to advance the Movement's cause, the life-altering results demonstrated the meaningful impact individuals could make in their local communities.

Occasional support from international organisations and donor agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Tropical Timber Organisation, the African Development Bank, and Sasakawa also contributed to the funding of various projects.



Duty to Serve

From the large cities to the smallest villages, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings embraced the duty to serve the least privileged and to stand beside those who felt left behind and marginalised. Away from the news headlines, the Movement became a critical lifeline for many women and families across the country, creating a blueprint for the next generation of advocacy groups and development-focused non-profit organisations.



Vanguard of the Fourth Republic

With the decision for Ghana to return to multi-party democracy, while other members of the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) returned to their pre-existing political parties, Nana Konadu advocated for the creation of a new political party that would reflect the pervading political consciousness of Ghana. She believed that the party should further reflect the revolutionary ideals that had been the driving force of what got Ghana out of socio-economic turmoil, under the leadership of J.J Rawlings. This was to be a party borne from the ideals of probity, accountability, and transparency, open to Ghanaians from all walks of life that upheld these convictions. The National Democratic Congress (NDC) covered everybody, hence the emblem – *Akatamanso*.

So, Nana Konadu, after ten years working diligently with her women's group, and also pushing the economic recovery programmes

(primary health care and decentralisation programmes, just to mention a few) of the PNDC at the community level, joined hands with some like-minded members of the PNDC, and non-government political activists to form the National Democratic Congress with Flt Lt Jerry John Rawlings as their presidential candidate.

Her political acumen combined with her artistic prowess came to the fore with the concept and emblem design of this new party. As part of the core team that created the NDC and developed the campaign strategy, Nana Konadu hit the ground running and mobilised the grassroots to vote for the NDC and for its candidate J.J Rawlings, who went on to win the 1992 general election. On January 7th 1993, Flt Lt Jerry John Rawlings was sworn in as Ghana's first President of the Fourth Republic, with Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, his wife, as First Lady.



Continued Work at the Grassroots

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings did not slow down as First Lady of the Republic of Ghana. She worked even harder. With the establishment of the First lady's Office, a distinction between her First Lady's responsibilities and her work as President of the 31s December Women's Movement was created, even though they sometimes overlapped.

As part of her ongoing advocacy agenda for children's rights, Nana Konadu, under the auspices of her Movement, opened more early childhood development centres across the country, because she recognised the central role of education, health, and nutrition in the development of children. It was this commitment to children's wellbeing that led her to revive the education of children through Ghanaian folklore. "By the Fireside" - a television programme and the brainchild of Nana Konadu - which captured the traditional setting of adults passing down life lessons orally through song and dance, was televised on Ghana's national television station, GTV. In 1998, another children's programme, "Story Time" sought to create an educational platform to teach proper diction while encouraging reading and writing habits. These programmes entertained children while instilling Ghana's social values and cultural heritage in them.

Over the next thirty years, the Movement's projects included family planning education programmes, which benefited more than two hundred and forty communities; the construction of boreholes in Guinea worm-infested areas to support several dozen rural communities; afforestation programmes with a target of planting tens of thousands of trees in three communities in the northern parts of Ghana; planting of trees along the Independence Avenue in Accra and along the complete stretch of the Tema Motorway; the establishment of over a thousand day-care centres to offer pre-school training facilities for children; establishing income-generating activities in tie and dye making, shea butter processing, palm oil processing, gari processing, farming and processing of food and vegetables, basket weaving and creation of leather cushions – just to mention a few. In the areas of health, Nana Konadu and her women's group were dynamic in implementing prenatal, postnatal, and child immunisation programmes in conjunction with the Ministry of Health of Ghana. Nana Konadu also worked in conjunction with the late President Nelson Mandela on the 'Kick Polio out of Africa' Campaign in 1996.



Further education

Nana Konadu remained committed to learning, obtaining diplomas from the Management Development and Productivity Institute (MDPI) and the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) in Advanced Human Resource Management, Administration, Population, and the Chief Executive Programme.

With several decades of experience in public service and grassroots advocacy work, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings continued her academic pursuits as a Senior Fellow at Johns Hopkins University, where she undertook a postgraduate diploma in Policy Studies. In 1995, she received an honorary doctorate degree in Social Science from Lincoln University for her relentless commitment to equality, economic advancement, and empowerment for all women. Her passion for uplifting women and less privileged individuals in society earned her recognition as both a Fellow of the West African College of Nursing and a member of the World Health Organisation's Global Commission on Women's Health.

An Activist First Lady: Elegance, Courage, Resilience and Conviction

At the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings expressed her deep concern for the girl child in particular. She stressed, "For us in Africa, the girl child is a special concern. Hers is the future that is often negated right from birth, and hers is therefore the life that must be salvaged. We must, therefore, give her education that empowers, education that gives skills, and education that builds self-confidence."

This declaration followed her relentless advocacy efforts which contributed to Ghana becoming, in 1991, the first nation to approve the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was for this reason that she sacrificed so much of her own life, standing tall for as long

as she had the strength, irrespective of the risks that accompanied her work. For Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, it was imperative never to lose sight of the privilege she possessed and the platform upon which she stood to touch as many lives as she could.

Committed to peace on the continent, Nana Konadu hosted the first West African sub regional conference of the Africa's First Ladies Peace Mission themed 'African Women Strive for Peace,' at the Accra International Conference Centre in July 1998. She did this in her capacity as the First Vice Chairperson of West African First Ladies. This Summit was inspired by the 1995 Beijing Conference where Nana Konadu played a pivotal role in highlighting the plight of African women and the girl child.

At the International Conference on Population and Development in The Hague in 1999, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings reminded the audience that, "Though important laws have been promulgated or amended to mainstream gender in a number of African countries today, the institutional machinery established to oversee gender issues still remains weak. The lack of resources, both human and capital, to effectively operate them continues to hinder progress. This is a challenge, and we need the political will and, at the same time, determined efforts to shift resources to support this area of our activities."

As First Lady, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings represented Ghana at conferences where she maintained her unwavering advocacy for gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women through a multi-sectoral approach, drawing on her experiences as President of the Movement. She was outspoken in her opposition to marriages involving female children below the age of consent, which, through a Bill presented to the Parliament of Ghana, was finally set at eighteen.



In her own words, “We would be defeating our adolescent reproductive health goals if we should allow our children, especially the girl child, to be out of school because of marriage. We refuse to accept girl children as mothers at this tender age. They should be in school, undergoing the necessary education and training that will enhance their empowerment status, increase their economic power, and develop their potential for decision-making at all levels.”

As First Lady, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings occasionally travelled with her husband, President Jerry John Rawlings, on his extensive tours around the world to promote investment and trade. She took advantage of these official visits to push her agenda of women and children empowerment soliciting support for community development projects. Beyond official State visits, she embarked on her own journeys to solicit funding for the construction of several radiotherapy centres to improve cancer treatment in Ghana. These centres were

established in three major hospitals, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, and Tamale Teaching Hospital. In some cases, the funds were sourced from the Chinese and American Governments through the International Atomic Energy Agency based in Vienna, Austria. She also served as a Patron of the National Radiotherapy Project.

Other major projects implemented through her efforts included the construction of hospitals in twenty-seven districts; the acquisition of ten mobile hospital vans and ten dental mobile vans for Ghana; securing Chinese loans to build a cocoa processing factory capable of processing up to one-third of Ghana’s cocoa to generate greater revenue than raw bean exports; raising funds from the International Tropical Timber Organisation to replant depleted forests; and soliciting support from Japan and China to build two career training schools - one located in Kanda and another one in Dansoman.





Footprints of Global Impact

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings' work in women's empowerment, advocacy, and leadership made Ghana's presence on the global stage a light that transcended borders. From the National Population Conference in Accra in 1989, the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development in Abuja, Nigeria in 1989, the Fifth Annual Johns Hopkins International Philanthropy Fellows Conference in Accra in 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt in 1993, to the Preparatory Meeting for the Beijing Conference in Dakar, Senegal in 1994, she participated in and contributed to both national and international conferences on issues of national and global concern.

Similarly, she had the opportunity to lend her voice to impactful and forward-looking resolutions that emerged from conferences such as the International Atomic Energy Agency Patrons Meeting in Vienna, Austria in 1994, the United Nations Fourth Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, First West African subregional conference on the African First Ladies Peace Mission in 1998, the International Conference on Population and Development in The Hague, Netherlands in 1998, and the Extraordinary Session of the Crans-Montana Forum on Africa in Brussels in 2010.

An event that laid the groundwork for a future network of empowerment and development initiatives was her collaboration with the World Health Organisation, where she hosted the forum on *"Health, A Conditionality for Economic Development, Breaking the Cycle of Poverty and Inequity,"* in Accra, Ghana, in 1991. Similarly, under her able leadership and initiative, a consultative meeting towards the Conference on Women in Beijing was held in Accra in July 1995. In her capacity as the First Vice Chairman of the West African sub-region, she also hosted the First Sub-Regional Meeting of First Ladies in West Africa on Peace and Humanitarian Issues in July 1998.

In December 1994, she received recognition through the Woman for Peace Award in Rome for her relentless commitment to extending economic opportunities to women and communities in remote areas across Ghana. Even as she tried her hardest to work away from the spotlight, she was humbled by the Drum Major for Justice Award in Atlanta, Georgia, in April 1997, which acknowledged her voice for fairness, justice, and economic empowerment for her people, and highlighted Ghana as an African force for democracy.

Later that year, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was presented with the Soka Women's College Award of the highest honour in Japan for her tireless work in the area of female emancipation and empowerment.

Politics of Resilience and Conviction

In 2001, Flt Lt JJ Rawlings completed his presidential term. And in the same year, Nana Konadu received an award from the European Market Research Centre for her contributions to the empowerment of women's and children's education.

With the NDC's new status in opposition, Nana Konadu was not deterred. She stayed committed to the continued existence, sustenance and growth of the party through the implementation of strategies on the ground. Never relegating her activist role, she would feature on radio and television programmes regularly, to defend the NDC's record and the continued advocacy of her political values.

She supported candidates that showed interest in running for constituency seats by providing support and political guidance, culminating in their electoral victories. Working with other leading members of the NDC, she was instrumental in establishing the NDC's presence in university campuses, and identifying young people in politics who she



schooled on *real politik*. Amidst all her political hurdles while the NDC was in opposition, Nana Konadu remained steadfast in her political convictions. She continued her work on women's empowerment and child education, while continuously mobilising the grassroots over the eight years in opposition, and preparing the ground for the upcoming 2008 general and parliamentary elections. She volunteered as a polling agent many times, one of which was at the controversial Osu-Presby Polling Station in the 2008 General Elections. After eight years in opposition, the National Democratic Congress won the elections with J.E.A Mills as president.

Nana Konadu ran in the NDC national executive elections in 2009, where she won with a landslide victory to become the first female vice chairperson of the Party. In 2011, she resigned as vice chair to run in the primaries for the position of flagbearer, challenging the leadership at the time. She made history as the first woman to challenge a sitting Ghanaian president for the NDC's presidential flagbearership at the Party's Congress in Sunyani, although she was unsuccessful. Not one to be deterred from her convictions, she stayed true to the ideals of probity and accountability and established the National Democratic Party in October 2012, where she became the party's presidential candidate in the 2016 general election.





Dedication To Service

Even while out of Office she continued her work for women's empowerment by continuing to campaign for women and ensuring the electoral victories of female parliamentary candidate across the political divide.

Through several decades of public service, she accepted numerous awards with humility, seeing each one not as personal praise but as a platform to encourage a new generation of activists and change-makers to take on the difficult task of uplifting every member of society and contributing to the development of local communities and the country as a whole. Whether it was the Ghana Excellence Award in 1999 or the many honours she received between 2001 and 2025, the true weight of each award lay in the impact she hoped to have made in the lives of the people.

ko-na-du

For Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, she stepped onto the global stage as a woman who dedicated her life to being the voice of the voiceless, a global voice for equality, and a leader who empowered generations. Her



life was about finding an inner resolve to fight through every challenge till the end, just as in her name, *ko-na-du*. Among her significant publications are *The Japanese Co-operation with the 31st December Women's Movement*, *The Development of Ghanaian Women's Attire from 1700-1900*, and *Effective Design Work and Interior Design*. She is also the author of *"It Takes A Woman"* (2018) and *"For Hope and Country"* (2025).

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings summed her life's work artfully:

"I could not stop reaching. There were many days when I hoped the clouds would disappear so that I could see a picture of what the next chapter of my life would become. Nothing in these moments had been as I had planned. Somehow, I hoped my childhood had prepared me for the life ahead. I hoped every one of my father's embraces and reassuring words would come back to comfort and counsel me. My family's heritage had carried a weight of its own, and I knew I was fortunate to have rested on the shoulders of these courageous men and magnificent women to now make my little contribution. I had to embrace it as God's purpose for my life and determine to never falter in that commitment. That was not the life I chose; it chose me."

Her Legacy Continues

Dr (Mrs) Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was the third of seven children of the late J.O.T. Agyeman, a statesman, and the late Felicia Agyeman, an educationist. She was the wife of the late Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, former President of the Republic of Ghana, and leaves behind four children: Hon Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings, MP for Klorkey Korle, Yaa Asantewaa Agyeman-Rawlings, Amina Agyeman-Rawlings and Kimathi Agyeman-Rawlings; and six grandchildren.

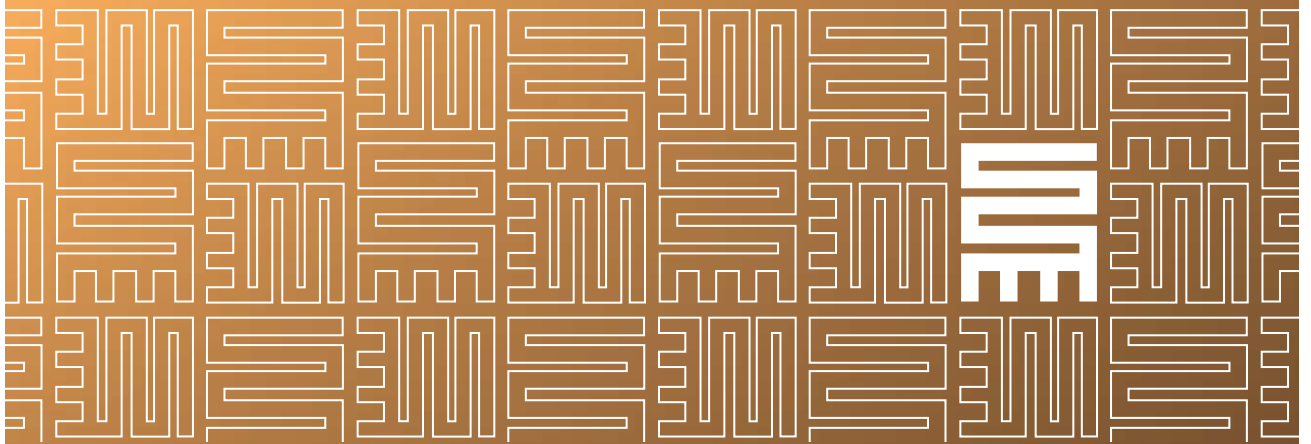


“ Women are the custodians of our culture. We are the caregivers and the bearers of life. We are Africa’s economic agents of change. We ask for nothing less than our right to transform our continent.”

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, Acceptance Speech at the African Women’s Excellence Award, Johannesburg, South Africa, June 12 2015



FAMILY





Tribute TO HER EXCELLENCY NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS

**OHENEBA AKWASI ABAYIE, AKOMFOREHENE
(LOVELACE PREMPEH)**



On Wednesday, 22nd October 2025, H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was among those gathered for the burial service of her aunt and namesake, Mrs. Lucy Konadu Yiadom Effah, at the Christ the King Catholic Church, Accra. Also present at that burial service were H.E. President John Agyekum Kufuor and former Chief of Staff, Mrs. Akosua Frema Osei-Opare. The three of them were in the front row together with my dear wife Jocelyn and me. After the church service, Nana Konadu mingled with family and friends, as was her usual style.



The next morning, Thursday, 23rd October 2025, I was summoned to the emergency ward of the Greater Accra Regional Hospital at Ridge, to be confronted with the death of our renowned First Lady, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Shock and disbelief consumed the rest of my day.

Matrilineally, Nana Konadu had a solid and impeccable Asante regal pedigree. At birth, she was named after the 11th Asantehemaa, Nana Konadu Yiadom II, whose reign as Asantehemaa spanned the period from 1917 to 1945. The latter's brother was the 13th Asantehene, Otumfuo Agyeman Prempeh I, who was exiled by the British from Kumasi to Seychelles Island from 1896-1924.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings hailed from Mpobi, located in the Afigya Kwabre South District of the Ashanti Region. Her mother was Mrs. Felicia Agyeman, affectionately called "Auntie Felicia" (of blessed memory). Indeed, Auntie Felicia and her senior sister, Madam Yaa Safowaa were very close friends of my mother-in-law, Madam Ama Banahene in their youthful days. They lived together in the "Ashtown" vicinity of Atipinhene's enclave, near Manhyia Palace, Kumasi. Nana Konadu's father was the famous Mr. John Osei-Tutu Agyeman (J.O.T.), who was a senior manager of the Gold Coast era British trading company, United Africa Company (U.A.C.), a subsidiary of the multinational corporation, Unilever. J.O.T. Agyeman subsequently, in 1961, became the first General Manager of the newly established state-owned Company, Ghana National Trading Corporation (G.N.T.C.).

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings stepped into Ghana's political, social and economic life in June 1979, more than forty years ago. For two decades, she and her husband, Ghana's former president, H.E. Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings remained the most formidable political couple

in Ghana. She was always the pillar behind President Rawlings. Indeed, in the Ghanaian context, the appellation "First Lady" virtually became synonymous with Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

One sunny morning in January 2018, I received a phone call from Nana Konadu. "Cousin, are you at home?", she intoned on her mobile phone. "Yes, I am". "OK, I shall be there in ten minutes". It was in such manner that she arrived at our Dzorwulu residence. "I have brought you the manuscript of my memoir and I would like you to write the foreword to the book". "Why me?", I asked her. "That is my decision," she replied. It was the greatest honour she could bestow on me.

Nana Konadu's courage, generosity, independent personality, intellect and forthrightness came across easily in her book entitled "IT TAKES A WOMAN". As I wrote in my foreword, Nana Konadu always reminded me of the famous Asante heroine, Nana Yaa Asantewaa, the legendary Queen Mother of Ejisu, who was the first woman to confront the British in their numerous wars against the Asantes in the 19th century and the commencement of the 20th century. In March 1900, the Governor of the Gold Coast, Sir Frederick Hodgson led a British contingent to Asante to demand the Golden Stool, the highly revered, sacred, physical symbol and emblem of Asante power. While some of the Asante Paramount Chiefs were hesitant to take up arms, IT TOOK A WOMAN, Nana Yaa Asantewaa to galvanise the chiefs and people of Asante to stand up, fight and repel the British in their most sacrilegious adventure.

Nana Konadu exemplified Nana Yaa Asantewaa. She always fought against the marginalisation of women and children. As the famous columnist, Africanus Owusu Ansah once wrote: "Nana Konadu was credited with the formation of



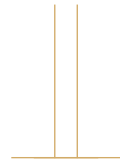
the 31st December Women's Movement, which taught many deprived women how to establish cottage industries to generate income and save money to secure their independence. The Movement gave opportunities for women to be part of the decision-making process. Women were propelled to adopt policies on health and girl child education. They were keen on adult literacy, discouraged early marriages, and were formidable in the affairs of children to the extent of pushing Ghana to adopt the UN Convention on the "Rights of the Child."

Nana Konadu and her husband, His Excellency President Jerry John Rawlings were the co-founders of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), the political party currently in power in Ghana. They contributed immensely to the promulgation of the 1992 Constitution, which ushered Ghana into its 4th Republican Constitutional governance, effective January 1992 and still in progress. Like her husband who became the first President under the 4th Republican Constitution from 1992 to early 2001, Nana Konadu aspired to become the first female President of the Republic of Ghana. In 2016, she contested the presidency. Although she was unable to break the highest glass ceiling women face, she certainly put enough cracks in it to ease the path of the women that will come behind her in their own bid for the presidency. Following her death on 23rd October 2025, the whole nation has been unified in grief, and she has been accorded all the attributes of a former

Head of State. The President of the Republic, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama declared three days of national mourning in honour of her immense service and legacy. Indeed, when he and his wife, Mrs. Lordina Mahama led a government delegation to Nana Konadu's residence on Wednesday, 29th October 2025, President Mahama emphasised that Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings would remain the longest serving "First Lady" of Ghana. She had served in that position for approximately twenty years. Under the prevailing 1992 constitutional dispensation, Presidents and First Ladies have a maximum of eight years. Accordingly, a state funeral would be held for Ghana's longest serving First Lady. The date has since been fixed for Friday, 28th November 2025 at Independence Square.

Alas, death has laid its icy hands on Ohenenana Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. However, as observed in Shakespeare's Macbeth "*Life is but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more.*" Yet; her legacy defies that silence and her courage, her poise and leadership will echo far beyond her time. For who can ever forget, the elegant and unforgettable "First Lady", Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. My wife Jocelyn and I, and our children send our deepest condolences to Zanetor, Princess Amina, Yaa Asantewaa, Kimathi, Nana Serwah, Nana Sefa and Nana Afriyie.

May the good Lord grant our "First Lady" his perfect, peaceful rest.



CHILDREN





Your COURAGE WAS PALPABLE, YOUR GRACE INSPIRING

ZANETOR



Defying the Odds: A Life of Grace and Strength

Your journey began in defiance of the odds, with every step guided and protected by the mighty hand of the Almighty God. From childhood, survival was never guaranteed, yet you flourished, shining ever brighter against adversity. Your departure was as remarkable as your life—a brilliant, radiant light that left us awe-struck, like an exploding star illuminating the sky.



Standing Tall: The Regal Strength of Nana Konadu

Nana Konadu, you always stood tall. In the face of life's storms, you met every challenge with regal dignity and unwavering strength. You were never afraid to uphold your convictions, even if it meant standing alone. Your courage was palpable, your grace inspiring. To me, you were much more than a mother; you were my moral compass, my fashion icon, my anchor in turbulent times, my historian, and my dancing queen.

A Loss Beyond Words

The depth of the loss I feel cannot be captured in words, nor can the size of the void you have left behind be described. Yet, I find solace in knowing that the Lord embraced you in the most peaceful way, calling you home with gentle love. The long, courageous fight is finally over, and now you dance with joy in the eternal peace and presence of the Almighty.

The Gift of Motherhood and Grandmotherhood

You were the best mother I could have wished for—a role model in every sense. As a grandmother, you were incredible: funny, generous, playful, wise, strict, trendy, and above all, kind. You always found time for your grandchildren and understood each of them with remarkable insight. Your witty remarks,

animated storytelling, and even your occasional “blastings” are dearly missed. Our weekend dinner chats and the joy of watching you dance to music videos of your favourite artists brought warmth and laughter into our lives.

Memories Treasured in the Heart

Many words and moments I would rather keep as treasures in my heart, memories locked away in my mind. You showed your love through service—always putting others before yourself, finding joy in making those around you happier and more comfortable. Your *raison d'être* was living for everyone else, and your *joie de vivre* was found in the simple things: good music, dance, and the embrace of family.

One of a Kind: Blessed Beyond Measure

Mummy, you were truly one-of-a-kind. I feel profoundly blessed to have had you as a mother and role model. Your legacy lives on through the lessons you taught us, the love you shared, and the example you set. Dance on, with joy and peace, in the love of the Almighty.

Mummy, nante yie

You were the best mother
I could have wished for—a
role model in every sense.



A MOTHER'S SOUL'S MISSION

YAA ASANTEWAA

Mummy, I am forced to summon the courage to find words to my grief. To speak of you, to bare my pain. And so, if I must, I say:

In a world where values fade, and the grey area of life becomes our refuge, because it is easy, you embraced the discomfort of life's choices in stark black and white. The words of your father, always your lantern, to which you declared: 'emotions are not the judge of right and wrong.' Such a most rare virtue, although, incomprehensible to those not of your design.

So young, so strong, so determined of your earthly mission. Such an enviable place, as we are not all afforded the gift of such knowing. That quiet knowing of what it is we are meant to do and destined to be, most often elusive to souls made to journey here. Yet you knew. All those years you knew. And you never faltered. You were charged with a mission, and it was written; it was etched in the fine prints of your soul's purpose. So well hidden beneath it all. Not once, did you lose sight of who you were, always guided by your soul's whispered rhythm.

The courage of your gait, we see it now, in every unperturbed saunter. In that obstinate stance, was a woman so rare, so daring. An unsubdued spirit, placed here to be the women's rallying cry. And so you were, and so you shall be; sharing your strength, lending your purpose. But, a soul's healed grief stands in earnest; it is indeed a pillar of life's rites of passage, where we are to journey without question of time; thwarted only by the promise of an unweathered storm. Yet we shall weather, as death's presumed cruel reminder of our earthly mortality, piques our curiosity to the implausibility of our finality, as we know it to be.

And so, we weather, because the skin between our worlds remains thin, and our spiritual chords unlaced. And death's inevitable nature is indeed our freedom from the limitations of this earthly confinement. So, we borrow your shared strength of spirit, we are illuminated in the purity of your essence, consoled by the knowledge that your soul's mission is for a higher realm.



IT TAKES A WOMAN

AMINA AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS

Mummy,

I write this tribute to you but I echo the pain, the shock and the deep sorrow of many. That our “Kw33”, our “Nana”, our Nana Konadu, our Madam, our Mrs Rawlings, our mum, is with us no more.

With grief comes forced reflection and recollections: what was, what is, what should have been. So many sentiments, but none as overwhelming as the deeper stillness and silence.

Yours was the consummate life of a tireless patriot: a woman who loved her country and celebrated it every opportunity you got, no solution was ever out of your expertise and no problem too small for you to personally tackle. Not when it came to your beloved Ghana.

You championed a cause that most knew and were victims of, but none would dare to tackle – the unfortunate plight of widows. You challenged ingrained traditional and cultural practices – FGM and trokosi, taking on the role of advocate and persuader at the durbars you organised, in numerous villages. You fought and ensured that your advocacy did not remain just that, but went further to ensure that the PNDC Laws and subsequently our Fourth Republican Constitution codified the protection of women and children. You made it possible for women and their children to enjoy the freedoms and protections we take for granted today, most not knowing the work, not knowing the struggle, not even realising the paradigm-shifting gains made by one lady in her lifetime.

Your work was not limited to women and children alone, you extended your protective nature to all households by empowering our womenfolk through many income generating activities, so they could also contribute to the family’s growth. How many people know that for Ghana’s shea butter to ever have featured in Bodyshop, you approached the leadership and gave a winning sales pitch on behalf of the women processors like any other product supplier. How many people are aware that but for your pitch to IAEA, Ghana would never have received funding to set up the Radiotherapy Units in Korle Bu and Okomfo Anokye Hospitals?

I could fill a library detailing all the successes you made as a loyal patriot of Ghana but I will leave that to others. I could spend my lifetime sharing the heartbreak your departure has caused me. The pain and despair each split-second of amnesia and moment of realization brings. I could spend my lifetime mum. I am not ready to share. But for now, all I will say is: I miss you terribly and...

So many lives touched, countless futures shaped, a plethora of communities developed, a nation empowered. The questions that keep resonating, are: How was it all possible? How did you balance it all? How did you maintain your dignity in the face of adversity? Maintain your beautiful smile and your heartwarming laughter? How did you still look so elegant and graceful till the very end mum?

How?

Because ‘It Takes A Woman’.



Till THE VERY END...

KIMATHI AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS





My mother lived with a conviction that shaped both our family and this country. She was part of a revolution and stood at the heart of political transformation, to become a fashion icon. She protected women and children with a fierce tenderness. She became a First Lady, a leader, and a lifelong advocate for women's and children's rights. At the same time, she lived fully as a daughter, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a mentor, and a dear friend.

When my mother believed in something, she held it with absolute certainty. I remain convinced that no one could have done what she did.

She may never have held formal political authority, but she carried a profound understanding of public policy and politics. Her presence altered that course entirely.

My father trusted her completely because she had an unfailing ability to perceive purpose and possibility. She knew his readiness long before he did. Her vision and strength marked every milestone he reached. She was far more than a right hand. She was strategic, clear-minded and unwavering. She and my father were, in truth, one another's steadiness. They were better together. And we were fortunate, not only as her children, but as Ghanaians, to witness such a partnership that helped shape the nation.

Her impact and strength extend far beyond personal counsel. Through her network of women across the country, she gathered intelligence, understood policy feedback, and knew the pulse of ordinary lives.

She redefined the role of First Lady.

Nana Konadu refused the idea that women existed only to be dependent on their husbands. She carved out her own mission, and as President of the 31st December Women's Movement, ignited a force that transformed the landscape of women's rights and education in Ghana that still resonates today. The movement

“

“The mighty man will
fight for a land”

“The woman births its
strength and its future”

established about a thousand early childhood development centers, advanced adult literacy, set up income generating activities, and led legal reforms granting inheritance rights to women and children. She championed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and fought relentlessly for the dignity and self-reliance of women. She was never just advocating; she was doing. Our mother will be remembered as a woman of action.

Her legacy resonates far beyond our family. The movement she led, and her unwavering pursuit of equality, will continue to shape Ghana for generations. As I grew older, I came to understand her uncompromising, kind, and relentless nature more deeply. She lived her values without reservation, believing that actions were either right or wrong, and never settling for the uncommitted grey space in between. This clarity, rare in politics, made her an exceptional leader. She taught by example - that doing nothing was never acceptable. Her conviction and insistence on action gave courage to countless women and inspired a nation's ongoing progress.

My mother lived a life of remarkable resilience. She lived with an energy that was both generous and exacting, both full of knowledge and mystery. Time spent with her was always a lesson. In her memoir, *It Takes a Woman*, she left me a message about my Ashanti heritage, reminding me that learning is a responsibility. And in living with passion, she also carried



tradition and modernity together with a rare and graceful ease. She always looked impeccable, embracing change in every way while staying rooted in who she was.

To those who knew her, she was a visionary with sharp instincts. She had a way of seeing possibilities that others missed. She brought hope to the end of every day, even through the sheer intensity of it all. She balanced her political and family responsibilities - checking our homework, asking how we arrived at the answers before signing it, all while writing briefs and proofreading documents. To this day, I am convinced she had something supernatural.

My mother, in all honesty, was my everything, my guide and strength that pushed me ahead. A life without her is difficult to fathom, especially without those last moments to say goodbye. But, I will hold this past summer and all its memories of us together as a family dearly.

I see you in my sisters. I see you in my nieces. I see in them your strength, tenacity, and grace. You shaped them in undeniable ways. You, however, never paused to celebrate yourself. You were always looking ahead, working out what needed improvement and, with sharp humour, identifying who or what stood in the way.

I know if my mother were here with us today, she would argue that she still has work to do, and the energy to do it. Now, that work rests with us. She never received the full recognition she deserved. It saddens me that some of it is arriving only now that she is gone. Yet, I also know she never sought the spotlight. Her mission was always central to her *raison d'être*. This alignment between her purpose and her legacy is exactly as she would have wanted.

She gave our beloved country her courage, her brilliance, and her unwavering conviction. And she gave us, her children, her love and time.

And to you, Mother, sharing your love and your time with the people of Ghana demanded a sacrifice from your son, one I embraced not out of duty, but out of reverence for the woman you were and the nation you fought to shape. I understood, even as a child, that your calling was larger than any one of us. Yours was a heart woven into the destiny of a people, and so, my own longing had to learn patience. Each hour you gave to this country, each life you touched, each woman you lifted, taught me that some sacrifices do not diminish love, they deepen it. I carried the quiet ache of those missed moments, not as wounds, but as proof that greatness has a price. And if the world asked for the same offering again, I would open my hands without hesitation, for I saw with my own eyes the impact you created in your wake.

Yet even as your light spread far beyond our home, you remained the compass of my spirit – the steady flame at the centre of every path I chose. Your legacy breathes in every child you shielded, every voice you strengthened, every dream you dared to carve into reality. But what I will miss most, Mother, is something the world has seen but never experienced: the quiet, steady feeling of your hand grasping mine as we walked into conferences, events, and crowded halls. A simple touch that told me I belonged, that I was yours. And now, in the silence you leave behind, I will search for that warmth in memory, holding it gently, like a final heartbeat still echoing through my palm.

Till the very end, you will be forever remembered, and I will miss you dearly.

“Do not go gentle into that good night”

By Dylan Thomas



G R A N D C H I L D R E N

She WAS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME WOMAN

LEILANI

My grandmother lived with a light that seemed woven from something beyond this world, she carried a fire that crackled through every moment of her life. My grandmother moved through life like a flame that knew its own strength: bright, daring and unafraid to burn with purpose. Her presence filled every space. To know her was to feel seen, lifted, and empowered.



But beyond the power the world saw, who was she as a grandmother? What was it like to grow up beside that blaze of grace, elegance, mischief, and excitement?

That is the story I want to share.

She was the most fascinating woman, with stories pouring out of her every time she spoke. These were not ordinary stories; they were vibrant, dramatic, action-packed tales, delivered with a spark in her voice that made you feel as though you were living them right beside her. She found humour in the most unexpected corners of life. Only she could transform National Geographic into a telenovela, turning the animal kingdom into prime-time entertainment.

With grandma, glamour never rested. Even at home she pranced around in high-heeled slippers, as if elegance itself were a language she spoke effortlessly; a quiet reminder that beauty, for her, was simply a way of being.



She meant many things to many people. She was a mother to all, a matriarch who could bring even the mightiest man to heel, shrinking him back into a boy with just one look. Or in my case, even at twenty years old, I was still expected to avert my gaze during any kissing scene on TV, with her fierce insistence on viewers' discretion. In her eyes, I would always be her baby.

The realisation of losing her comes in ebbs and flows. To imagine a world without her is to imagine a world without sun, without birdsong, without the hum of life itself. But she gave us everything. Even when the world left her tired, she still gave. Even when she was stretched thin, she still poured out love.

We were truly in the presence of an angel. Her unyielding love, her boundless energy, her force of life were gifts to everyone who knew her. She was a once-in-a-lifetime woman. She strode through this world with purpose, whilst in 6-inch heels, propelled by a greater calling. Giving, to my grandmother, came as naturally as breathing. She showed us day after day what the definition of selflessness was.

She shaped my understanding of what it means to be a woman. Through her, I learned that womanhood is not defined by sacrifice alone, but by resilience, vibrancy, humour, grace, and an unapologetic embrace of one's own power. She was fierce when the world demanded strength, and gentle when the world needed softness. She is, and always will be, my hero; and I made sure to tell her.

When a woman turns everything she touches into gold, she leaves behind treasures that time can never tarnish; eternal memories, stories, and impact that will outlive us all.

The greatest way we can honour her today is by living as fully, as boldly and as joyfully as she did. She knew how to live. Now, it is our turn to follow her lead.







Her GENEROSITY WAS A GIFT

SISTERS OF NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS

How and where do we begin to tell the story of our dear sister, Nana Konadu? She was our trailblazer from the time we met her in our lives. She was not the oldest sister, but by divine arrangement, while our oldest sister was at the time in boarding school, Nana Konadu slipped into that role and wore the mantle of the leader.

“

Where do I begin to tell the story of how great love can be the sweet love story that is older than the sea, the simple truth of the love she brings to me, where do I start?”

(From “Love Story”)

As we grew up and for as long as we’ve known her, she has always been the one who mobilised us all. Her mobilisation gift was extended at the time to most neighbourhood kids living in the Accra Ridge area. Our neighbourhood kids were all offsprings of the first civil servants of the First Republic of Ghana. With these friends, we formed the “Feather Club,” and our sister Nana Konadu led us into performing plays and organised other activities such as lemonade stands, to raise money for the Ridge Church fund.



The beauty of her talents was fascinating as we grew up, and she taught us so many things including ballet dancing, sewing our own clothes as we grew older, and generally being there for us in many aspects of our lives. She was the “BIG” sister who guided us through life’s turbulence and stood to fight battles if she realised someone was treating us unfairly. She was the example we followed, as our lives were being molded by our parents, and set us straight when she thought we were out of line, but learnt





to negotiate her standpoint with our parents to get them to understand our viewpoint. Her generosity was a gift she extended beyond her siblings, giving of herself to make others better. This in a nutshell describes our sister as we grew up. Such a beautiful soul.

Nana Konadu was our role model, and we aspired to be like her. She was trendy, be it in music, new dances or fashion. She had a passion for culture and showed a vivid interest in the Arts. This was demonstrated in her participation in plays and operas while in Ghana International School as well as Achimota School.

Her childhood abilities and capabilities are clearly the tools that molded her, and gave her the courage to embark into a life of political activism.

She exhibited characteristics of our upbringing in everything she did in her daily life; courage, honesty, compassion, empathy, generosity and more. These characteristics and the good education we received, make up the most important legacies our parents left us.

During her political life, our sister showed strength, courage and resilience in the midst of adversity. It is amazing where she got her

energy from. In all those difficult years she still managed to be a mother and raise four children. She proved over and over again that yes, a woman can do it all. This encouraged a lot of women in this country because they saw their strength in her.

Yes, so where do we begin to tell her story? She told her story throughout her deliberations in life and made us proud all along in everything she did. As written in II Corinthians 4:16 "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day."

Vrs. 18- "While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal"

Chp. 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

So, we believe and know that our dear Sister is now in "a building from God, a house not made with hands..."

Vrs. 7- "For we walk by faith, not by sight"





C O U S I N S

Till WE MEET AGAIN

ERIC AGYEMAN

I met my cousin Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings in 1974, when I was in lower sixth at Achimota School. My father, SOA Agyeman took me to see uncle JOT at his house. Even back then she was a firebrand, and she bombarded me with questions, her, being an old student at Achimota school. I had already established a relationship with Afriyie, Sefa and the late Nana Yaa, who was my junior in Achimota School at the time. The relationship grew over time, and I used to visit her and her late husband, the former President, Jerry John Rawlings at their ridge residence.

Nana was unflinching in her determination to improve the plight of Ghanaians, especially women, children and the downtrodden in the Ghanaian society. To this end several laws that protect women and children today are the result of her tireless efforts and advocacy.

She crisscrossed the country advocating for women's empowerment through the movement she formed and led, the 31st December Women's Movement. She was a loving and dedicated

mother. This is reflected in her children Zanetor, Asantewaa, Kimathi and Amina.

I hadn't seen her in some time and was planning to pay her a visit, so it came as a terrible shock to learn she had passed away.

Konadu, we will miss you.

Nana K, rest in perfect peace until we meet again. You made I and the wider Agyeman family proud.





Composure AND RESILIENCE IN DIFFICULT TIMES

ZULAITU MORTON

Tributes are essentially written to stretch the imagination of those who will lend us their ears, give closure to the grieving living and record perspectives of the history of the dearly beloved departed as told from those privileged to tell it.

My most enduring memory of Nana Konadu's selfless kindness happened many years ago. Her husband had just carried out the coup that would propel her into a new era for us all. Intent on seeking her advice on my final year university thesis, I had taken a walk down an alleyway between our streets to her home on the Independence Avenue. I was stuck at where I'd gotten to in my thesis and time was against me. The deadline for submission was fast approaching and safe in the quiet of our

neighborhood, the enormity of the import of fact that Nana was the wife of J.J. Rawlings who had just carried out a coup, was lost on me. All I wanted was to get my thesis done!

When I got to my destination, Auntie Felicia, her Mum, welcomed me warmly and called out for Nana Konadu. She came bounding down the stairs and after welcoming me asked my mission.....I told her about my difficulty with my thesis and, straight away she went off to look for books I could refer to. In her absence Auntie Felicia broke the silence with a muted announcement that Nana hadn't seen her husband for three days and didn't know his whereabouts. It was in the ensuing silence that the enormity of the coup dawned on me.

My cousin, Nana Konadu's home and life had been violently shaken up and yet in the face of the changes that she faced, she had put aside her worries, hid her fears from me and made my problem her priority. It was from that occasion onward that I stood in quiet admiration of her composure and resilience in difficult times, and nurtured an awe of her that would mark my every close encounter with this giant of a pint-sized powerhouse only, on each encounter, to have my hesitations to hug her, broken down by the warmth of her embrace and her willingness





to be of help to me - and so it was during the last month before she passed, but with a difference.

In the couple of months before her passing, I was privileged to travel down memory lane with Nana as she wrote her tribute in celebration of the lives of my late mother and hers.

Her tribute to our late mother sought to capture the essence of the lives of our brave independence era mothers as they navigated a glided age of glamour and presbyterian restraint.

Typical of her enthusiasm when creating and telling a story, Nana pulled out boxes of photographs and together, whilst writing her tribute, she took us down a memory lane that wove the story of Nana Konadu's fun and sad memories. It meandered down the pathways of her youth, deep faith, her girlhood fears and joys, her relationship with hers and my family, and in the course of what panned out to be celebratory, joy filled afternoons of memories, ploughing through numerous photo albums, she suddenly paused, leaned close to me and whispered one of her most cherished girlhood 'Dreams'.

It was an insight into her oft carefree *joie de vivre* attitude to life, and I am prone to believe her free-spirit contributed to the impetus that became her driving force - her willing and consuming embrace of fate and where it would lead her.

Nana reminded me that our late mother and herself had both been named "Konadu" after great Asanti queens – and which name means 'fought to the end'. A name which spiritually, and psychologically, endowed them with an enduring personal quest to be the best they could be.

Nana embraced the world - her audience - with dance, exhilaration and carefree declarations of independence, warm advice on parenting, a strong but deeply feminine commanding

presence, and with her rhetorical excellence, she communicated an oft-times tender, jovial but vocal leadership power that was to become her guiding acceptance that she was destined to share her husband and children with all of us, and share she did.

In these past few weeks there have been many testimonies about her intentional and spirit-led actions. His excellency, Flight Lieutenant J. John Rawlings', five-year passing was about to be celebrated. In reference to the expectation of the pomp and pageantry she imagined would mark the occasion, she confided that she had declared that she wanted no part in the preparations and would be satisfied to just sit back and enjoy the memories and events that would mark his memory for the party, nation, and her family. It seems she knew that indeed, she was never meant to be a physical presence at the five-year celebration of events that would change the trajectory of Ghana's history as a sovereign nation.

On a personal note, in reference to my visits with her, she majored on ensuring that my family shared in her unfettered access to decision-makers that would influence our lives positively. She stilled mine and my son's fears over the malicious reach of power and assured us that so long as our hearts were clean and our intentions pure, no amount of corruption could quiet the truth.

The invitation to pay tribute and to grieve with our family and friends, prompts us to remember our own recently dearly departed. Our shared grief takes us back in time to lost opportunities to have said so much, done so much for and with them. So it is with a heavy heart, comforted in part by Nana Konadu's excellent preparation of her children for such a time as this, that I say:

Demrifa Dua!

Rest in Peace My sister, Friend and Mentor.



Radiant SMILE AND SPARKLE IN HER EYE

MARIATU ADDY (NEE MORTON)

Unlike my sisters and brothers, of which I have many, I did not go to Tiny Tots Nursery School and so did not get to meet Sister Konadu until later in my adult life, at a reception held in her honour in Washington DC.

I waited patiently in the wings until she looked free, then snuck in and introduced myself as Mrs. Kwadu Yiadom Morton's daughter, i.e. "family".

Her immediate reaction was one of joy and warmth. We hugged and exchanged a few pleasantries. This brief encounter left a lasting impression on me of the sister I would one day come to cherish and respect.

Sister Konadu embodied so many qualities, chief of which was her unique ability, with radiant smile and sparkle in her eye, to instantly make friends and allies! She wore her heart on her sleeve, was patient, generous, kind, a great listener and ever ready to help. She was also playful and had a mischievous sense of humour that made any time spent in her company entertaining. Which brings me to one of the traits that defined her – her love of music and dance. Sister Konadu loved to dance! And dance she did - and did well - whenever and wherever there was a beat!

Her optimistic and can-do nature did not allow Sister Konadu to baulk at challenges. Her knack for finding solutions and forging ahead was what defined her life of service. Since her passing, I have been deeply moved by the many testimonies from everyday people whose lives have been touched by her practical initiatives - not to mention laws that have impacted the wellbeing of the Ghanaian woman, changed our destinies and influenced decision-makers worldwide.

Great public achievements indeed, and many will remember and miss her. But for me, I have lost a dear friend and cherished Big Sister. One who I knew always had my back!

Rest in peace dear one, and until we meet again, fond memories will keep us close.



Sister, YOU EXEMPLIFIED RESILIENCE

THE JOE MAINOO FAMILY

We were blessed to know her not only as the world did - an iconic leader admired across nations - but simply as 'sister'. Our families have been intertwined for generations, and that bond gave us the privilege of experiencing her strength, warmth and humanity up close.

From childhood, her remarkable personality shone through - a reflection of her mother and our beloved aunty. As the years passed, she became the anchor of the extended family, holding us together after the elders were gone. She always made an effort to be present at every major family gathering offering encouragement with a gentle smile, a nod of approval, or sometimes a piercing glance that spoke louder than words. To us, she was not the dignitary surrounded by security, but the sister we felt protective of and with whom we shared intimate unguarded moments.

Sister, you exemplified resilience and always reminded us that truth stands firm even when surrounded by lies. In the face of loss and disappointments, especially in recent years, your influence has kept us strong - still breathing, still hoping and still believing in possibilities.

Big brother Victor (Comrade) still remembers the sometimes animated and hushed conversations with the ideological advisors and key personalities prior to the events of 1979. Our late Brother Joe was her first cousin and confidante; he was also the Rawlings trusted





physician. Our late brother Dan often recalled her role in opening doors for his international bi-lateral funding support to Ghana and our late sister Nana Bema reminisced their days at UST where they were often referred as the eloquent “*Asantefoɔ mbaa*” of Africa Hall.

Ja Bo cherished a conversation with her just about 3 years ago on the profound women’s empowerment in Ghana and urged that her vision and legacy should be extended as a mission across Africa. Nana Serwah is always moved by her humility. Just recently, on 23rd of August, at our late brother Danny’s funeral, she invited her to the VIP Lounge, but she graciously declined, choosing instead to remain at the Pavilion where all the festivities were taking place. Nat continues to honour sister’s relationship with us by helping organize the Rawlings’ family events.

We thank God for the storms that drew us closer to Him, for His grace that carried us through moments of weakness and for His compassionate mercy that has helped us navigate the various stages of grief at the news

from denial to finally accepting the reality of your passing remaining inspired by your life legend and legacy. Death may have ended your life here in the physical realm but not our relationships and family bonds with you.

Sister’s remarkable contributions to women’s rights are truly unmatched and our prayer is that privileged Ghanaian women will continue the fight and press forward toward achieving full equality for women in every sector of the economy. Her life was more than duty to the nation - it was a calling for generations of women and children. Ghana has rightly honoured you, but for us, your legacy is deeply personal. We have lost not just a leader, but a sister whose life achievements changed us forever.

Your passion for humanity, especially for women and children, will continue to inspire us. Your legacy lives on in our family, in Ghana, and across Africa.

Adieu sister!

We have lost not just a leader, but a sister whose life achievements changed us forever.



Providential MOMENTS, ETERNAL MEMORIES

NAT AGYA YAW LOMO-MAINOO

I grew up hearing my elder brother Dr. Joe Mainoo (Bro. Kweku) call her “Kwen”. I also adopted it and lovingly referred to her as Big Sis Kwen.

She became not only a remarkable woman of courage and dignity, but also a beloved cousin whose life was defined by service, wisdom and grace. I remember the special bond she shared with Bro. Kweku, one built on mutual respect, laughter and understanding. When my brother passed, this bond deepened, and we grew even closer.

In the final week of her life, I had the privilege of meeting her twice. Looking back, our conversations now feel divinely orchestrated - a sense of purpose and connection I can only describe as providential.

Though her passing was sudden and deeply sorrowful, I am grateful for the moments we shared, the dancing, the chats, the lessons she imparted and the love that endured between us.

The show of integrity, the offer of service and the warmth of her personality will remain a guiding light.

Big Sis Kwen requiescat in pace

Dayie



*I*ve AND LIGHT

MRS. NANA AGYEMAN ENNUSON

It is said that the pain of loss is regret. I live in London, but on this trip to Ghana, I thought, “I would love to see my cousin,” but it didn’t happen, sadly.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings always sparkled. Even the tone of her voice on the phone was full of vibrant energy. When she danced, despite her status, she truly loved to enjoy the music with everyone and the shyness in her smile revealed her humility.

Frankly speaking, I am in awe of her huge capacity to make time for people: family, friends and everyone whose paths crossed hers. She had the extraordinary gift to make you feel that you mattered. She was so slender and yet so strong, fiercely determined and impeccably dressed with a disarming smile. Her book, “It Takes a Woman” is apt, not least, because in her passing, she brought many of us together.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, you are sorely missed.



Your KINDNESS WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED

OWUSU SEKYERE AGYEMAN

To my dear Madam,

I miss your physical presence, but your memory will live on in my heart forever. I was looking forward to celebrating your next birthday with you but you left too soon. Your impact on my life will never fade.

Madam was instrumental in my journey from Ghana to England as a little boy. She was always there for me, no matter what time I called or texted her. Madam always guided me, which shaped me to become the person I am today.

Madam was my friend, cousin, auntie and sister all in one.

Madam, your smile, your stunning looks, your laughter, your kindness will always be remembered.

Rest in peace, Madam. You will be deeply missed, but your love and legacy will continue to inspire me every day. Thank you for believing in me and everything.

Love always



A TRUE HEROINE

DAVID AMPOFO

It is hard to write a tribute to someone with such a high public profile as Mrs. Rawlings. For close to two decades she was first lady of Ghana; and not a shy one. Everybody has their view of her but not many really know her.

I have known Mrs Rawlings for almost forty years. She was the First Lady but was also my friend. Some years later I also discovered that my father was her “wofa”. We shared many connections. She was my ex wife’s cousin and my mentor’s wife.

Nana, as she was affectionately called, was a complex mix. She could be soft and almost self-effacing, but she could also be defiant and combative.

Thirty something years ago, as we ate lunch at her dining table, her little son Kimathi swallowed a bone and appeared to be choking. I panicked. Yet, Nana calmly put her hand down his throat and removed it. I was struck by the manner in which she handled it, and went away that day thinking about her composure under such a stressful situation. It registered.

Nana felt a need to ensure that women were fully represented in nation building and she championed that cause fully. From daycare centres and home-made business ventures to legal advocacy on family accountability and

inheritance, Nana’s overarching goal was to empower women, especially those in the lower income bracket. Nana’s energy levels were unbelievable. She just kept going. She worked hard. She fought for women. She fought for JJ. She fought for Ghana. She was a true cadre of the revolution.

Over the years, Nana stood for what she believed was right. I didn’t always agree with her and our relationship saw some major ups and downs. Many people have seen a widely circulated interview of mine with her in 2001. I was hard on her, pushing her as far as I could go, but she fought back and stood her ground. The truth is I admired her for stepping up to speak at a time when the NDC had just lost power and were on the defensive. Not many NDC officials at the time were willing to step forward but she did. She was not going to be silenced by a new administration so she came into “the lion’s den”, as Time With David was considered by many at the time.

Ghana has lost a champion of women’s rights and a strong advocate in the fight against underdevelopment. May Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings always serve as an inspiration to young women with the ambition to serve.

May the good Lord grant her soul eternal rest.



My DEAR SISTER AND FRIEND

ADWOA SERWAA



Writing this tribute has been one of the most difficult things I've had to do in such a long while. Your demise indeed is a bitter blow to me and my family and all I can do is to find solace in Ecclesiastes 3:1-2;

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant' and a time to uproot."

You were indeed a true stateswoman whose love for your country and citizens knew no bounds. You were passionate about everything you did and you did it wholeheartedly. The greatest thing I admired about you was your love and support towards your children and grandchildren amidst your demanding schedules. How you would go all out and beyond for us all.

How I will miss our afternoon visits at the shop where we would chat about everything and nothing. Oh! how you would stress on the fact that you were the eldest however, antie Felicia used to bully you about me as if I was older and we would laugh out loud saying "nsem ko ooooh." Your dancing skills wherever you went was to die for.

If I had known that Wednesday mornings usual chat over the phone was our last, I would have spoken longer and said a lot more.

My dear sister, may the good Lord continue to give you rest in heaven.

Menua pa damrifa due, Nana nanti yieeee! Until we meet again.



Your WIT WAS YOUR SUPER POWER!

EWURABENA BERKO

My heart is completely shattered that I should write a tribute in honour of your passing. I am still in denial. Sister. Wa ha me. My sister, my cousin, my friend, my constant, the only who rebukes and shows love and kindness all at the same time. Your wit was your super power!

I recall the day I was lamenting about my health condition and how I would leave my children in your hands when I die; boldly you said to me, "Awura, wo y3 stupid! And chastised me for being so pessimistic. But now sis, you have left me and the children...

You were bold and articulate and always would encouraged me to practice same.

I miss you. I miss our phone conversations.

We had spoken on a Monday, planning how we would unite our children and then 3 days later, you leave me!

Oh death! I am heartbroken.

Sister, rest well.

I love you; until we meet again.





N E P H E W S & N I E C E S

You WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US

DANLADE OSMAN

Dear Aunty K,

There is a hole in my heart that refuses to be filled. You have been a pillar of strength and the Matriarch of our family and quite frankly, whilst I will continue on with all the lessons, empowerment and pride you have filled me with, and will honour you forever this way Aunty K, your being gone is something I did not budget for emotionally.

When I would achieve something, watching your pride and amazement as though you are not one of the most remarkable people on this planet was always interesting to experience. When I do something that I should not, after the blasting, there was always the follow-up long educational talk about pride, family and the proper way to carry oneself. Some may think the way you carried yourself was just for the public, however those of us that knew you personally, knew that you were always you, through and through, whether at home or on television.

From childhood head-knocks and hugs, to real adult advice and comfort, it seemed to me that it was fully clear what you were in my life, but I had no idea the security I felt in my own existence simply because you were there. I always knew that there was a rock that I could lean on, a pitbull I could hide behind, a giant I could look up to, and a Queen whose character I could only hope to be a glimpse of. Now, I don't know where to lean, hide or look.

As for your National, Global and Political deeds, I don't need to address those except to say your life spoke for itself, and your achievements gave our family a standard to live up to that is higher than most. I'll let others do that.

My whole life, "Aunty Kwedu" you have been a constant, solid and consistent presence. Before I went to America to chase life there, you sat me down, just you and I, and you said: "*Danlade no matter where you are, you must always remember who you are. M3n ko ho nko y3 Nkwasiadi en gu y3 anim asi wati? Go and do well. And remember- Never forget who you are.*" I did not even need those words, for although I will remember them for the rest of my life, that was the theme that you lived and maintained, telling all of us from the day I knew you as a baby until this day sitting here with tears writing a letter to you that you will never read.



You have doubled as a mother since the day I was born. You gave your love to a whole nation, and yet still had more than enough for those you loved personally. You brought me up with your children such that I grew up with them as siblings rather than cousins, and we all shared the same ear pulls and knocks for stupid endeavours, and the same grand celebrations when we did good things. I'll bet most people thought your children were definitely spoiled - they have no idea what your version of raising children is.

Your quiet regal strength and quick fierceness when the situation demanded was your call sign. Your love for your family and those around you was your main character trait, and your gigantic aura was the security that some of us counted on that made us confident enough to stride out wherever we were going in this world. "Now what..." this is what I have been thinking since you took your leave... "Now what do I do?"

Aunty Kwedu, I cannot even think clearly enough right now to write the kind of tribute that you deserve because my heart is broken. So broken. And my soul is not at peace because I have never experienced life without you in it, and I don't know. I just don't know, but you taught me to carry on in the face of any type of wind, and so I will.

Rest in peace "Aunty Kwe" Rest in peace knowing that you prepared us well, but I hold a bit of a grudge that you have left with no warning, and picking up the broken pieces when it comes to you being gone is proving to be one of the most difficult challenges of my life so far. I miss everything about you. I love you.

Rest in peace mother. Wa ko ako du just like your name.

Your quiet regal strength
and quick fierceness when
the situation demanded
was your call sign.



The LAST JOURNEY TO THE ASHANTI KINGDOM

ING. NANA POKU AGYEMAN

History, with its flickering lamp, stumbles across the trail of the past, trying to reconstruct its scenes, relive its echoes, and kindle with pale gleams the passion of former days.



These valedictory words of Winston Churchill resonate as I vividly recollect my myriad encounters with this outstanding, widely acclaimed, and self-possessed daughter of Ghana and Africa, whose facets of greatness are impossible to emulate.

Once again, we, in the mystery of life, are brought face-to-face with the mystery of death. H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings was charismatic, radiant, and full of charm.

She lived life to the fullest, from her marital bliss to her unique and elegant headgear. Never a prey to fashion, she became an iconic figure recognizable far beyond the tramlines of Ghana. Nana Konadu was freshness and euphoria of a kind that could never be faked.

Ineluctably feeling a mix of trepidation and numbness, why had she suddenly left us? Unexpectedly gone like a puff of wind, never to hear her voice again. It is too hard to bear. But this is no time for guilt or regret; rather, it is a moment to fondly reconnect with the most memorable, splendid, and wickedly witty times and tales we shared with this edifying and revered matriarch of the Rawlings household.



I had known Nana Konadu from childhood with her regular visit to my father (Okumkom Barima Akwasi Agyeman) whom she cherished and respected dearly. She made it known publicly that my dad was her brother whom she treasured and rightly so because she was a Grand Daughter of the Golden Stool.

She was ever grateful to my father for facilitating various lands for the establishment of the 31st December Day Care (Nursery) Schools in the Ashanti Region and for his Mayoral role in maintaining Kumasi's accolade as *"The Garden City of West Africa."*

However, I became closer to Nana Konadu when she entrusted her daughter Amina Rawlings under my care in Achimota School.

Nana Konadu's last visit to the Ashanti Kingdom was on 9th October, 2025 to participate in the burial rites of my mother Mrs. Elizabeth Agyeman. She was in the company of her daughter Amina Rawlings and was full of life and actively joined the Old Achimotans (Akoras) to sing our school song in memory of my mother. Indeed, she was in the same house as my mother (Kingsley House).

Exactly two weeks after my mother's burial; on 23rd of October 2025, I received the shocking news of her demise. It seems she came to bid farewell to her kinsmen in Kumasi but the Almighty God knows best.

I would be remiss not to add my voice to her seminal role in Ghana's societal and political life as the seamlessly devoted wife, the plucky confidante and firm anchor of the longest-serving Head of State of our great nation, H.E. Jerry John Rawlings, affectionately known as Papa J. There is no modicum of doubt that her legacy provides a powerful platform for women within Ghana's political purview. There was a captivating tale of love, passion,

devotion, and selflessness in all their unbridled manifestations.

Her work toward Women's Empowerment and Women's Rights, albeit massive, remains lamentably unsung and overlooked. At a time when Ghana had emerged as a model of democracy in Africa, Nana Konadu stood stalwart behind the PNDC (later NDC) leadership. As the fog of time clears and the pieces come together and solidify, it will be possible to see clearly the pivotal role she played. She gave her soul to our nation, Ghana. Indeed, her contribution to the fast-paced development of modern Ghana unlike any other was as altruistic, as noteworthy as resolute. She was a rock of rectitude amid the political turbulence of the pre-Fourth Republic era (the PNDC era).

Today, we pay our final, fond, and sorrowful homage to the longest-serving First Lady of this country. Now a dark cloud has beckoned, leaving a dire predicament that has left me crestfallen. We stand united in grief, but in our moments of solitude, we shall forever hold her dearest in our hearts. She fought an admirable fight and lived by priceless example.

Sleep well, Ohenenana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings. My tribute would be incomplete if I did not express my personal and heartfelt condolences to her grief-stricken children—Zenator, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina, and Kimathi - and the rest of the bereaved family, of which I also count myself one.

May this marvellous soul, who endlessly enriched our lives, rest in perfect peace until we meet again in heaven where the angels sing beautifully.

Damirifa Due; Due ne Amanehunu



Kind, THOUGHTFUL AND UNEQUIVOCALLY AUTHENTIC

NANA AFUA KOBI S.A PREMPEH DARKO

What many words are unable to capture, a heart of love and gratitude is able to convey. Aunty, I am truly broken. How is it possible that my beautiful Aunty Nana is gone. Your life is the ultimate example of a phenomenal woman. One who inspires generations to live out their highest potential; One who gives hope to the girl child that tomorrow can and must be better; One who stands tallest as an immovable pillar of strength and wisdom.

A woman with exceptional foresight, a true visionary blessed also with the ability to tirelessly bring into manifestation whatever she puts her mind to.

You excelled in every aspect of your life, breaking boundaries and rewriting what it means to be a leader who boldly creates new paths while shattering the limitations of women and children both nationally and globally. Aunty, you have set the bar exceedingly high and we are proud to call you ours.



We had an enviable bond and over the years I had the opportunity and privilege of learning from you. You were always there for me. As long as it concerned Nana Kobi, you didn't miss it! You were incredibly kind, thoughtful and unequivocally authentic. I love you Aunty Nana. The vacuum your passing has created in my life cannot be overstated. I will cherish our time together and our conversations will continue to guide my life.

Dearest Aunty, rest well in the bosom of our Lord Jesus and please give Uncle and my Daddy lots of hugs from me.

Your beloved niece.



I KNOW YOUR GOOD WORK HERE IS COMPLETE

LOVE AMA FREMA JESS (NEE AGYEMAN)

*My heart is shattered,
From the moment I awakened,
To the most devastating news—
My first cousin, whom I lovingly called Aunt,
Had left this earthly realm, and my tears flowed endlessly.
I know your good work here is complete,
That you now rest in eternal peace,
May you be embraced by divine love,
In the presence of Our Creator in the heavens above.
Aunt Nana K, Nante Yie. Damifira Due!*



Gone BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

SAFFRON BONSU

Dear Auntie,

I still cannot believe you are gone. When I first heard of your passing, I was in absolute shock - and even now, that feeling remains.

You were more than just my aunt; you were my friend, my guide, and someone I looked up to. The love, care, and kindness you showed to me and my siblings, especially after Mummy's passing, is something I will never forget and will always cherish.

I will miss our little chats and laughter but your warmth and generosity will live in my heart forever. You were a woman of grace and wisdom, and your legacy continues in the lives you touched. You were resilient, full of strength, courage, and compassion. You inspired everyone around you, and I am proud to have called you my aunt. Truly, you were one of a kind.

Though you have departed this world and are no longer with us in body, your love and spirit surround us every day. You were a light in so many of our lives, and your absence is profoundly felt. Thank you for always being there - with love, wisdom, and unwavering support.

Your love and laughter live on in all of us and in our hearts forever. I miss you deeply, and you will never be gone from my heart.

May you find eternal rest in the loving arms of the Savior, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rest in perfect peace.

Your love and laughter
live on in all of us and
in our hearts forever.



Fight FOR FAMILY, TILL THE END.

KISSY AGYEMAN-TOGOBO



Aunt Nana K. Wow. I struggled with how best to call you initially because though our fathers are brothers, making you my first cousin, I couldn't possibly call you by your first name, especially since some of your children are older than me. Our grandpa started life rather early, wouldn't you agree? How we would chuckle about that!

“

'Tons of love'

*"every word
was gold dust"*



Hmm. How can I be writing a eulogy for you, on your birthday, no less? My Auntie who always signed off her messages to me with 'tons of love' or something equally sweet. How can I be writing this message as a last farewell to someone who impacted mine and others' lives so profoundly and personally? Alas, it makes sense that you have gone into the celestial realm, because in your passing, I see that this earth could no longer contain you. Your star is far too bright.

Of course, I had heard of you many years before I actually met you, as I lived on the other side of the Atlantic, cocooned in my Kentish bubble. But the first time we met was quite different to what I had imagined of what the longest serving first lady of Ghana and a formidable political force would be like. Dressed in light blue jeans and a light blue top from recollection, you looked hip, agile and a good few decades younger than you were meant to be. "Must be in the genes (or jeans!)", I thought. The warmth you exuded to my mum and dad at Maa's house sparked in me a contagion effect of intergenerational familial love for Ma, your siblings and your children. My dad used to say to me, "Afia, abusua is God-given", meaning love them or loathe them, family is family – deal with it. There's a reason God places us in the families we're birthed in. Well, being grafted into the same family tree as you – indeed you spoke to me of wanting to create a huge Agyeman family tree – was a privilege.

Like your father, the diminutive yet dignified J.O.T. Agyeman, who was able to stand tall as the patriarch of the Agyeman family of his generation, you too embodied the matriarch for your generation of siblings and cousins. You extended your wings over each of us, bringing us close. That experience translated into many delicious Sunday lunches with Gustav and I, eating your famous *nkatankwan* and you, Auntie Sefa and Yaa politely indulging me with

my homemade (& curious-looking) desserts! You had a way with words, a way of reassuring those who were less confident, less sure of themselves. You did that for many. You did that for me. I remember how, on occasion, you would take me, arm in arm to places, and say boldly, "This is my cousin" and introduce me to family members, narrating your endless stories amid peals of laughter. The curtain incident in Kent was a firm favourite – well, that's Uncle Bernard for you! Each time, I wished I could have been a rapporteur for what you shared. I knew every word was gold dust that I simply didn't want to let slip through my fingers.

But thank God, that gold dust was gathered into something so precious: your first book, which you gave me the honour of helping to edit. You clearly loved history because you respected the truth and acknowledged the power of the pen to accurately narrate events that you witnessed and experienced. I often marvelled at the detail with which you remembered so much nuance, even from your days as a youth at Kingsley House, Achimota. Your photographic memory was second to none. When we would discuss the drafts of your book, you were able to recount things like: "The uniform from Form 1 to Form 5 was green square necked, gathered around the waist with a belt of the same fabric for the waist. In the 6th Form the fabric was between a dull pink and orange but same design as that of the lower forms". Clearly, your penchant for style was etched in you early on! I felt so humbled to proverbially "sit at your feet" and imbibe your stories from infancy to womanhood. Who else could wear your shoes Auntie? You walked in uncharted territories. Actually, knowing you, you probably danced through them.

The day of your book launch was meant to be my penultimate day in Ghana before flying back to the UK; little did I know what lay in store. Like I said in the speech you asked me to deliver



that day, it felt as if one chapter had closed and a new one was beginning, as if the baton was being passed along from our forebears to the next generation, from our fathers to their daughters. Indeed, that very day actually marked the transition to glory of my beloved father, your uncle who you described as “charming, disciplined, stylish and softly spoken”. That day was the end of his earthly story, yet the start of the narration of yours to the world. From history to herstory...

You were crushed when I had to break the news to you at the end of your illustrious night. That was difficult. Yet in your grief, you were able to comfort me during the most difficult time in my life, your beautiful daughters also. I shall always be indebted to you and the girls for that.

Almost exactly seven years on, seven being the number of completion, I hasten to add, Auntie Nana K, it is now your turn to migrate to the realm of the greats. Woabo wo bra yie. Awuraa Yaa Asantewaa, with a heart so warm and full of love. Your book taught me that “Konadu” means “Fight ‘til the end”. Indeed, “[You] have fought the good fight, [you] have won the race, [you] have kept the faith. Now there is in store for [you] the crown of righteousness”. (Slightly adapted from Timothy 4 v 7). Gye w’ahome yiye wo Awurade mu.

Tons of love,

Kusiwa.

Her LEGACY WILL CONTINUE TO SHINE

OHENE KOFI & AWO

Auntie Konadu was a strong, courageous, and purposeful woman whose presence touched many lives. We are grateful for the moments we shared with her and for the example she set through her determination and grace.

Her legacy will continue to shine, and she will always be remembered with respect and affection. Though we will miss her deeply, we take comfort in knowing she rests in peace, reunited with those she loved.

Rest well, Auntie. You remain in our hearts.



Your LEGACY OF GRACE, AUTHENTICITY, COURAGE, AND HOPE

ALBERTA NANA AKYAA AKOSA SARPONG



“

“We should never give up on hope,
Nana Akyaa” “Don’t worry – we will
walk confidently through it all.”

A unty K... these encouraging and
empowering words and so many more,
you shared with me constantly.
Is “thank you” even enough?

Hmmm... perhaps not.
But I’ll still say it — thank you.

Thank you for teaching and giving me an
understanding of life, and what it truly means
to live it.

Thank you for showing me and giving
me the privilege to witness boldness,
courage, positivity, and power — all
wrapped in your humility.

Thank you for reminding me to value
people, over profit. Thank you for
helping me to appreciate, the true
significance of being human!

Your words echo louder now.
Your advice, your presence, your unwavering
support — they’ve shaped me emotionally,
physically, mentally and spiritually.

You believed in every idea I shared, redefined
and reshaped each one with creativity and
deep insights and celebrated my progress
and milestones with genuine joy

Thank you for the many compliments and
congratulations you sent my way! They
have powered and empowered me.

Dearest Aunty K, Thank you for your time.



Your time! Wow... what a gift.

You shared your life's experiences, lessons with me so openly and generously.

And because of that, you can be certain: I will navigate this life with the hope you carried.

But now, I find myself wondering...
How will the next Gathering of the Royals event feel without you?

And how would you want us to host the next Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlins Legacy Honours?

I'm waiting to hear you speak to me, Aunty
And I know, with certainty, you'll drop it in my spirit again or in a trance.

I alone know.
I alone feel.
I alone see.
But who do I tell?

My dearest Aunty K,
knowing you was loving you.
Loving you is appreciating life.
Appreciating life, you said, is remaining positive, serving humanity, and walking confidently, diligently, never giving up... And yes — dancing to the sound of music.

So I will dance, Aunty.
To every rhythm, every melody,
every beat — henceforth.

I will walk with a smile.
I will embrace people from all walks of life.
I will remain confident, transparent, positive — and live a life of dignity.
Because that is what you would desire of me and exactly as you told me in your office, where you sat to review your second book and watched the forestry documentary with me!

And oh, Aunty — I will keep a close eye on the kids as well. and just like your name means — KO-NA-DU
I will keep my head held high, inscribe your

name on my forehead,
And live with its meaning: to fight to the end.

Thank you for inspiring hope.
For defining hope.
For giving hope.

Thank you for all the support you have given me
The kind you asked me to keep silent about.
You didn't just give me material things, Aunty.
You stood with me. You fought with me.
You made sure, in all, I win.

I hear your whispers, Aunty.
You live.
Your messages — are seeds sowed in me.

Seeds of power, commitment, trust, loyalty.
transparency, hard work, positivity and more.

You stood for all these, and I will do my best to stand for the same too.

Thank you for loving me.
For embracing me.
For supporting me.
For making time for me, my work, and the kids.

A beautiful soul.
A genuine spirit.
A sacrificial soul.
Now an angel — dancing to the sound of music.

And now I dance too, Aunty.
Freely. Heartily.
As you smile and shine on

We will uphold your legacy.
We will celebrate you.
We will honour your memory.

And oh — we shall dance over and over.
We will, Aunty.
We will.

Love you for life

Your dearest niece



InCHERISHED REMEMBRANCE

SERWA AGYEMAN-BOTCHEY

Beautiful, bright, vivacious Auntie Nana K—so sparkling and effortlessly effervescent, a joyful energy to be around. Never still around music. Hardworking, no-nonsense, courageous, and honest. A night owl (that Agyeman gene). Funny even when you were stern.

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." — Philippians 1:3 (KJV); and for your kindness and friendship with my family over the years. I am ever so grateful, proud, and inspired to have had you in our lives.

May God, who is always so kind, continue to watch over you, richly bless you, your memory, and surround you and all who love you with His peace.

With deepest affection

You WERE AN INSPIRATION TO MANY

AYESHA AND RAHMA HARRUNA ATTAH



Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women." - Maya Angelou

We saw how you lived fully and courageously. You were an inspiration to many and from that, we have learned how to fight the good fight.

We hope you have found Maa, Auntie Yaa Achiaa, and Mummy, and are resting well and are at peace.



E X T E N D E D F A M I L Y

A LIFE MARKED BY GRACE, STRENGTH, AND DEDICATION TO COUNTRY

THE AGYEMAN & ALLIED FAMILIES

With profound sorrow and deep gratitude, we, the Agyeman and Allied Families, pay tribute to our beloved matriarch, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, whose passing, on 23rd October 2025, has left a huge void in our hearts.

As a young person, Sister Konadu was a creative, intelligent, and public-spirited member of our family. However, soon after her marriage to Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, momentous developments in her life catapulted her to the national level. As a family, we recognised that we had to share her with the whole nation.

Over the years, she has made us very proud. Nana Konadu lived a life marked by grace, strength, and unwavering dedication to her country and her people. She was more than a stateswoman — she was a mother, mentor, and beacon of inspiration, who touched countless lives.

Nana Konadu was very proud of her lineage as an Agyeman and often boldly asserted this fact to our delight. She was among our respected

elders and a source of inspiration. Through the example she set as a statesperson, she taught us to live with integrity, to serve with humility, and to love without measure.

Though her physical presence is no longer with us, her spirit lives on in the values she instilled, the dreams she inspired, and the legacy she built. We find comfort in knowing that her remarkable journey continues through all whose lives she touched.

Dearest Nana Konadu, your light will never fade. You will forever remain in our hearts — cherished, honoured, and remembered with endless love.

Damirifa due, ɔdishyɛ ba. Onyame mfa wokra nsie.



When ONE WOMAN STOOD, MANY ROSE

MPOBI & ALLIED FAMILIES THE ABOATIA ABUSUA OF MPOBI

Nana Konadu was a courageous daughter of the Aboatia Abusua of Mpobi and a fearless voice for women and children. Her life's work broke barriers, uplifted generations and carried our name into places of honour both at home and across the world.

In her life, she embodied the call of scripture to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and defend the rights of the poor and needy (Proverbs 31: 8-9).

Her dedication to the empowerment of women and children was a living testimony of this divine mandate and in her strength, we saw purpose, in her compassion, we saw hope. Though she has left our sight, the legacy she built continues to shape lives and inspire many. We are proud to call her our own, our Yaa Asantewaa and we cherish the paths she carved for all who follow. Konadu Yiadom, da yie, Onyame enfa wo nsie.



The EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF HER EXCELLENCY

DESCENDANTS OF PREMPEH I



We gather today to honour the extraordinary life of Her Excellency, the Former First Lady, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

As a granddaughter of the Golden Stool, our dear Sister, Aunt and Grandaunt was very present and active at family gatherings. Her relationship with all members of the family has been one of loyalty, mutual respect and support; A family bond that transcends both time and circumstances. The last family gathering at which she was present was the funeral of our loved one, Ohenenana Awurafua Konadu Yiadom Morton.

As the devoted wife of His Excellency, the Former President of Ghana, Jerry John Rawlings, and in her own capacity, our dear Aunt and Sister has tremendously impacted and inspired countless lives, particularly the lives of women and children, across Ghana and the world.

Our beloved Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was an unwavering pillar of strength, courage and pride, and her warm personality and love for mankind earned her the admiration and respect of our family. She will truly be missed and although she is no longer with us, her immense impact will continue to be felt for generations to come. We honour the memory of Her Excellency Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings and pledge to continue to protect her values and commitment to God, family, and the people of Ghana.

Our wonderful Sister, Aunt and Grandaunt, rest in perfect peace and may your strength, sacrifice and good works live on.



You HAVE FINISHED YOUR RACE

THE ENTIRE DWIRAFIESO
FAMILY OF ANTOA

“

I have fought the good fight, I have
finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

- *2 Timothy 4:7*

Yes, indeed our beloved daughter as her name depicts, (*Ko-na-du*)
“fought the good fight, and has finished the race”

Nana Konadu Yiadom, may the Lord keep you safe till we meet again.

Awurade enfa wo kra ensie.



I N - L A W S

Her SEASONS STILL SPEAKING

THE AGBOTUI FAMILY
BY COL. JOSHUA AGBOTUI (RTD),
HEAD OF THE AGBOTUI FAMILY

I first met Nana Konadu in 1976, when my nephew, the late Jerry John Rawlings, introduced her to me as the woman he hoped to marry. Though our interaction that day was brief, it left a lasting impression. She showed warmth, intelligence, and readiness to build a meaningful relationship. She carried herself with a quiet confidence that was unmistakable, composed, thoughtful, and certain of her path.



*A wife, a mother, and
a public figure, her
seasons still speaking,
now in a different light.*

Their marriage followed soon after, in January 1977, and I had the honour of being present and serving as a co-signatory of their marriage certificate.

After their marriage, our paths did not cross often until 1983, when Nana invited me to her office. Despite her demanding schedule, she made space for our relationship to grow again. From that point onward, we maintained a steady and respectful connection that strengthened over the years.

When I lost my sister, Victoria Agbotui, her mother-in-law—and later when Jerry passed, she sought my counsel and kept in close contact. We spoke openly and supported one another through several difficult seasons.

In more recent years, that bond deepened even further. When my younger brother passed, and shortly after my beloved wife also died, Nana did not stand at a distance. She stepped forward. She rallied the children, and together, they supported me and my family through our grief. They were present at every gathering, visiting my home often, bringing meals and drinks, which we shared together. Those conversations and quiet moments helped steady the heavy days. These acts of care remain some of the clearest expressions of true family.

A few weeks before Nana's passing, precisely on August 25th, 2025, she invited me to her residence to discuss plans for Jerry's fifth year anniversary observance. We had a lengthy discussion in the presence of the children,



and when it was time for me to leave, Nana autographed her book “IT TAKES A WOMAN” and encouraged me to read it. Neither of us imagined that moment would become our final interaction.

News of her death reached me while I was away in America, and it came with deep sadness. Yet I am reminded that the seasons of our lives are not ours to command. “To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” — Ecclesiastes 3:1.

Nana Konadu was strong-willed and unwavering. She stood by her beliefs, spoke plainly, and met both praise and criticism with equal resolve. Not everyone agreed with her, and she understood that reality well. But those who spent time with her closely saw another side, a steadying presence, a softer tone, and a willingness to create understanding without many words.

Her love for Ghana ran deep. She championed women, protected children, and helped build institutions that shaped families and communities across the country. Her legacy is woven into the nation’s history and into the personal stories of those whose lives she touched.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings’ commitment remains a lesson, her work, a legacy, and her memory, a blessing that will endure.

May she rest in perfect peace.

Her legacy is woven into the nation’s history and into the personal stories of those whose lives she touched.



She LEFT AN IMPRESSIVE TALLY OF LEGACY TO ALL OF US IN THE COUNTRY

AMBASSADOR JAMES VICTOR GBEHO
FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE
GBEHO AND ALLIED FAMILIES

Only a few months ago, I paid H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman - Rawlings a visit at her 31st December Women's Movement offices in Accra. She was her usually ebullient self and her welcoming words and manners reminded me of her unforgettable days as Ghana's First Lady. It is therefore a terrible twist of fate that I should now be writing a tribute to her memory in death.





That Nana Konadu left an impressive tally of legacy to all of us in the country that she loved best, is a consensus that Ghana will always be very proud of. But, the impact of her empowerment of women and the girl child goes beyond those accolades.

She was also at the heart of policy making in the National Democratic Congress. It is, therefore, important to emphasise that her home and domestic partnership with her husband provided the much needed forum for impromptu and open discussions among many party enthusiasts in the presence of His Excellency the President.

Many of us will not easily forget the First Lady's penchant for thorough preparations before embarking upon the implementation of a new policy. I remember being invited to participate in one such event soon after my return to Ghana from my posting as Ghana's Permanent representative to the United Nations. It was also just before the International Conference on Women held in Beijing, China. The leadership of our First Lady, together with the executives of the 31st December Women's Movement, was impressive and meticulous. Little wonder that Ghana's contribution at the conference in China itself won the approbation of all participants.

How can I or any other person present at the Press Conference she held in New York after the 31st December change of governance, fail to be

impressed by her narrative of their response to the change of government. How she and other women in leadership had to pawn or sell their jewellery in order to raise capital to start small businesses around the country. The notable example was in the bid to win the new contract for cooking kenkey and other meals for the armed forces.

Your Excellency, the manner in which your proposals and policies won the hearts and confidence of women in every part of our country will continue to be testimony of your strong and impressive leadership skill for many more years to come.

Dear Nana, we the members of your extended family and friends have been plunged into a terrible state of mourning ever since the fateful morning of 23rd October, 2025 when you were called suddenly by your maker. We will continue to summon courage to encounter the terrible loss that we have suffered and, as faithful Christians, rest in the hope of being reunited with you on the day of the resurrection. Until then, rest in perfect peace in the company of our Lord and his Angels and Saints.

Farewell Dear Sister and Cousin-in-law. We will continue to love and cherish the fond memories of you while you were here with us on earth.



A FRIEND IN NEED, IS A FRIEND INDEED

MRS. MATILDA AGYEMAN

Madam K, as I affectionately called you...

My mummy always used to say, when you've got someone good in your life, you should show love to the person while they're living, not when they're gone. This tribute, therefore, is the smallest of gestures in comparison to the love and admiration I had for you, and that I received from you.

I thank God so much for having had you in my life. You became instrumental when my husband, your uncle, passed away and when I began to spend more time in Ghana, having returned to live here for the first time since 1968. You helped me to find my feet in Ghana, with your comforting words, advice, support and direction. You were so incredibly open, telling me so many stories about the Agyeman family and your own life experiences. I haven't come across anybody so open and honest. It was something I will cherish forever.

Whenever we would go out, you would treat me like a queen. You would spot me in a crowd, introduce me to others and simply make sure that I was fine. You made me feel so good and were so kind to my family also. For that, I am immensely grateful.



We got on so well, to the extent that just after your passing, two of your girls reminded me: "Auntie Mat, your phone companion is gone." On my birthday and at Christmas, you would surprise me with parcels full of goodies. You showed nothing but love. We were planning so many things...but man proposes, God disposes.

Life is going to feel very different without you Madam K. The last time we spoke, we were chatting so much that even the phone went off, yet we were still talking, not realising what had happened! Thank you for bringing so much sparkle and joy back into my life after such sadness. You were so special to me.

Madam K, Damifra Due. Nyame mfa wo sie, wo Yesu deemu.



Always IN OUR THOUGHTS

UNCLE TONY BARBOUR

With profound sadness I took notice of your passing. It isn't fair, you're much too young. You personally greeted me with your wonderful smile at the airport when I arrived in Accra in 2010. What a welcome!

As Ghana's former First Lady you were very gracious to your guest from Scotland. You and Jerry made me feel I had come home, to the country where I spent four happy months at the age of four.

I respectfully express my condolences to your lovely family and pass on love from Christine, Zoë, Max and myself at this saddest of times.

Dear Zane, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina and Kimathi



She GAVE SO FREELY — ALWAYS OFFERING HER HELPING HAND”

KATERINA STRAZDING

Mrs. Rawlings welcomed me into her family with a warmth and openness I will cherish forever. I truly could not have asked for a more incredible mother-in-law. From the very beginning, she showed me genuine care and kindness.

Every time I came to Ghana, she would say to me, “Welcome home,” and she made me feel exactly that — at home, loved and truly part of the family.

So much of what Ghana means to me comes from her — her presence, her warmth and the feeling of belonging she created.

Those memories will always stay in my mind and in my heart.

To me, she was the very definition of class and elegance, not only in the way she carried herself, but in the kindness, dignity and gentleness she showed to everyone around her.

I will remember her moving through life so beautifully, best dressed, dancing, and almost always in her high heels. She always had the best advice, offered with sincerity that made me feel safe and understood. In so many ways, she was a role model to me—in her purpose, her strength of character and the quiet beauty of how she lived.

She taught me about family and motherhood in ways that changed me and she shared with me the Ghanaian traditions and history she held so close to her heart. These are lessons I will carry for the rest of my life.

As a grandmother, she gave so freely — always offering her helping hand, always so gentle with the children, yet firm in the way only someone full of love and wisdom can be. It was a blessing to witness the love she shared with them.

I will miss her grace, her strength, her laughter and her quiet reassurance. I feel a deep sadness knowing we were only at the beginning of building our relationship—a bond filled with so much unspoken warmth, so much love we still had ahead of us.

I am endlessly grateful for every moment we shared, every conversation, and every piece of wisdom she passed on to me.

Rest peacefully, Mrs. Rawlings.

You will always remain in our hearts



Nana WAS A REMARKABLE WOMAN

AUNTIE OTOVI

Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings was my sister-in-law, my big sister and my friend. I first met Nana through a mutual friend, Ama.

One Sunday morning after church, Ama came to visit me at my house in Regimanuel Estate. I invited her to stay for lunch, but she told me that Nana was coming to see her. As I was walking her out to the gate, a vehicle drove past us, then reversed and stopped right where we were standing.



It was Nana, sitting in the back seat - smiling - with a large pot of fufu and soup on her lap. After the presentations were made, she wanted me to join them for lunch. I am not much of a fufu eater, so I politely declined, but I invited them to come over later for a digestif. Honestly, I didn't expect them to accept. Yet by 5 p.m., there they were at my door. That's how our friendship began.

From that day on, Nana became more than just a friend. She became a true sister to me. She loved to dance and so did I. And together, we simply enjoyed life. Her family became my family, and mine became hers.

I will forever cherish our nights out at +233 Jazz Bar, sharing a glass of white wine, some kebab and good music. Simple moments that are precious memories.

There is so much to say about Nana. Nana was a remarkable woman: strong, direct, fearless, one not to tolerate nonsense. Yet she was also deeply caring, full of life and full of love.

Nana, I will miss you more than words can express.

Why so soon, my dear sister?

Rest in perfect peace, my beloved Nana.

Until we meet again.



She LEFT AN INDELIBLE FOOTPRINT IN THE SANDS OF TIME

YVONNE AWOYO SALLAH-TAMAKLOE



When the soul of a great person departs its mortal body, it sends waves of sorrow through the hearts of all who knew and loved them, and leaves many others in disbelief. Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings fulfilled her mission on earth with unwavering dedication. She served her nation with distinction, championed the vital role of women in society, and highlighted the importance of giving every child a strong foundation through the establishment of her early childhood development centres.

I always remember her visit to our home when we lost our father Mr. E.K Sallah in the year 2000 who was a close friend to her father the late Mr. J.O.T Agyeman, her words of comfort and her calls to check up on my late mother, Mamaga Miedoafe II still lingers on in my memory. After the death of my mother in 2017, her concern

for my well-being became one of my treasured memories of her. She never failed to remind me that we are related through her late husband, His Excellency, Jerry John Rawlings and that she and her children will always be my family.

She has left an indelible footprint in the sands of time, and generations yet to come will learn of her enduring contributions as the history of Ghana is told. Her legacy lives on in the very fabric of this country. May her soul rest in perfect peace.

To her children, Honourable Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina and Kimathi, may God's love and presence surround you as you endure this earthly separation from your beloved mother. She is at peace with her Maker—may that truth be your comfort.



Dreams AND VISIONS

TOGOBO, LORD-GUSTAV

My early years—and the way I came to understand Ghana’s political and social journey—were shaped in no small part by you (Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings) and Chairman Jerry John Rawlings. Your names were part of everyday vocabulary in our home, constantly on the airwaves through GBC radio and TV, the only broadcaster at the time. The stories of the projects you led through the 31st December Women’s Movement filled our living rooms, showing us how deeply committed you were to improving the lives of women across the country.

Nana Konadu, your work inspired countless people and generations. And it wasn’t only women who benefitted from the initiatives you championed. Some of us men grew up seeing, perhaps for the first time, the indispensable social and economic contributions women make every day—especially in a society where patriarchy was the norm. One of my earliest memories was a primary school play I participated in, in which a father was convinced to send his daughter to school. Today, I can’t help but think that play was influenced by the example you set and the empowerment of the girl-child you fought for.

Providence later brought me even closer to your family through marriage. I finally put faces to names I had heard in my father’s stories from his days in the Ghana Armed Forces—stories of your courage and Chairman’s leadership. The moments I was invited as part of my wife’s family to share meals with you and your family

remain priceless memories. Your devotion to your family was remarkable, especially given the demands on your time. When you visited my wife’s family in Tema, you blended in effortlessly—status meant nothing to you. You ate what was available, joked, laughed, and made everyone feel seen. That humility left a lasting impression on me.

Your kindness to me, to my wife Kusiwa, and to our son knew no borders. Even when we were in faraway London, your warmth found us. Nana Konadu, we are truly going to miss you. But your work here is done, and who are we to question God’s timing? You served your family and your nation with unmatched dedication. Take the rest you deserve. Your legacy will live on—through your wonderful children and through all those whose lives you touched.

***Rest well, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings,
in the bosom of the Lord.***



A TRIBUTE TO A NATIONAL TREASURE

TOGBUI CRYSTAL-DJIRACKOR AND FAMILY

Our beloved mother and guiding light has left us far too soon. Your passing is a monumental loss, but your legacy will forever be etched in our hearts and nation's history.

We celebrate you our great Heroine, Mother and Queen. You're a woman of substance. You embodied strength, humility, and kindness. Your unblemished compassion and generosity inspired countless lives, earning you the revered title of *"First Lady"* and *"Mother of the Nation"*. Your impact transcended borders, touching hearts and transforming lives across our nation. Your selflessness, wisdom, and warmth made you a beloved figure, cherished by all who were blessed to cross your path.

We'll always remember your radiant presence barely a year ago at our son's wedding together with the family - cutting the cake with words of wisdom, dancing and spreading love and joy. Your life was the true embodiment of Ghanaian values: respect, empathy, and community.

As we mourn your loss, we take comfort in the countless lives you touched, the families you united, and the future leaders you inspired. Your memory will continue to inspire us to strive for greatness, kindness, and service to others. The entire family will continue to support each other. We'll keep your spirit alive, and honour your memory by being there for one another.



We'll always celebrate you Nana. Forever in our hearts, we'll always continue to celebrate your greatness. Your Excellency, we'll always cherish you and forever.

You may be gone, but your impact will never fade. We'll miss you, but we'll also celebrate your life. The incredible legacy you leave behind will continue to live on in our nation, in our hearts, and in the lives of those you impacted.

Rest in peace, our very dear Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

May you find peace with the Almighty and rest well !!!

Nana, Damirifa due!!!



Her INFLUENCE WILL ALWAYS REMAIN A QUIET BUT POWERFUL PRESENCE

SHIRLEY ATIASAH TSIKATA



My reflections on the late Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings, former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, are shaped by memories that have remained vivid throughout my life. Long before I understood her national significance, I knew her as a woman whose presence left a lasting impression on everyone around her.

My first encounters with her date back to the late 1970s, when she and her husband, the late former President Jerry John Rawlings, visited my family home in Sogakope, the residence of my father, then Deputy Superintendent of Police Patrick Agboba, now Togbui Sri III of the Anlo State. As children, my siblings and I would watch her shyly from behind half opened doors,

drawn to her poise and elegance. She often noticed us observing her and would call us forward, offering small tokens and gentle words of encouragement. She spoke to us about possibilities, about aiming beyond the limits familiar to us, and about believing in the worth and potential of the girl child in Ghana.



During later visits she continued to ask for me specifically, wanting to know how I was faring and how I was progressing in school. These moments, although brief, became deeply meaningful. Through them, she became a figure of guidance and affirmation in my life. I came to regard her as a role model, and her confidence in me nurtured an enduring desire to make her proud. Her kindness and reassurance shaped my aspirations, and her influence continues to be woven into the course of my life.

Many people know of her public work and her commitment to uplifting women and advancing their rights. However, I was fortunate to witness that commitment personally. One of the most significant changes she championed was the reform of laws that, before 1980, prevented women from buying or owning land without a man. Her persistence and advocacy helped to dismantle that barrier, creating opportunities

for generations of Ghanaian women. This achievement remains one of the enduring examples of the impact she made on the nation.

As I reflect on her life and legacy, I do so with gratitude. I saw in her not only a national figure of strength, but also a woman who made time to nurture a young girl quietly watching from the background. Her belief in what was possible helped shape the path I walk today.

Her work, her conviction and her example continue to speak for themselves. For me, her influence will always remain a quiet but powerful presence.

May her memory endure with the dignity and honour she embodied.

Her work, her conviction
and her example continue
to speak for themselves.

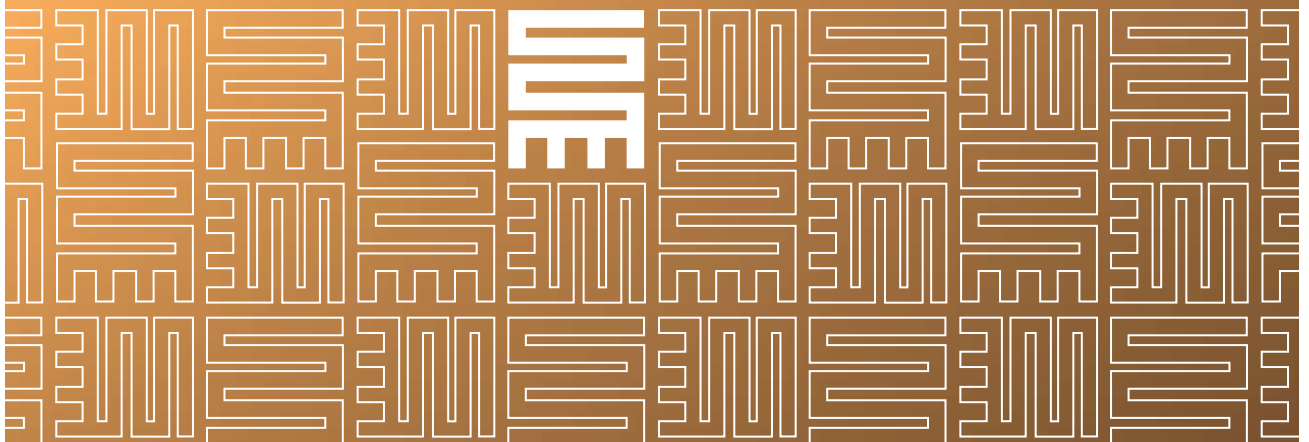


“Achieving gender parity in political decision making in Ghana can be achieved through a common vision by both men and women of our society combined with an unflinching commitment to translate this vision into real action. Democracy is fully attained when every citizen is given an equal opportunity without bias or discrimination or prejudice to participate in the decision making of Ghana at every level.”

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, International Women's Day Celebration; 'Political Inclusiveness of Women, March 8, 2017



LEADERSHIP OF GHANA





Ghana WILL REMEMBER YOU

HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Today, we gather with heavy hearts to honour the life and legacy of a truly remarkable woman—Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. She was a towering national figure whose influence, courage, and contributions to Ghana will continue to resonate for generations.

Nana Konadu was far more than a former First Lady. She was a pioneering leader, an unwavering champion of women's empowerment, a trailblazer in our political landscape, and a deeply committed patriot. Her life's story is one defined by boldness—boldness to speak, to challenge, to lead, and to stand resolutely for what she believed was right for Ghana.

As First Lady, she redefined the role and transformed it into a platform for national development. Through her inspirational leadership of the 31st December Women's Movement, she expanded opportunities for women and girls, especially in rural communities where support was most needed. She championed literacy programmes, reproductive and maternal health, early childhood education, and economic empowerment initiatives long before these became central themes in our national development agenda.

Her work touched thousands of families and laid the groundwork for many of the gender-sensitive policies and social interventions Ghana benefits from today.

In public life, Nana Konadu was assertive, principled, and unyielding in her convictions. She was never afraid to push boundaries or to stand alone when her conscience called her to do so. Yet behind the determined public image was a warm, engaging, humorous woman—devoted to her family and fiercely protective of those she loved. As a mother, grandmother, sister, friend, and mentor, she brought energy, clarity, and purpose to every space she occupied.

Nana Konadu lived a life of service, courage, and deep conviction. Even in challenging moments of our national journey, she carried herself with dignity, always guided by her commitment to Ghana's unity, progress, and stability. She believed passionately in the transformative power of women and the potential of young people, and she dedicated her voice and influence to help uplift them.



Her passing is a profound loss—not only to her beloved family, to whom Lordina and I extend our heartfelt condolences—but also to our nation. It marks the closing of an important chapter in Ghana’s political and social history, even as her example continues to inspire generations to come.

As we bid farewell to Nana Konadu, we celebrate a life richly lived: a life of leadership, advocacy, service, and unbroken purpose. A life that challenged our nation to think boldly and to invest in the potential of its people—especially its women and children.

On behalf of my family, on behalf of the National Democratic Congress, and on behalf of a grateful nation, I honour her memory.

May her soul rest in perfect peace, and may her legacy continue to guide us toward a more just, inclusive, and equitable Ghana.

Fare thee well, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlins.

Ghana will remember you.

On behalf of my family, on behalf of the National Democratic Congress, and on behalf of a grateful nation, I honour her memory.



Bold, DYNAMIC AND ELOQUENT

HIS EXCELLENCY NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO
(5TH PRESIDENT OF THE 4TH REPUBLIC)





Undoubtedly one of the most consequential Ghanaian women of her generation, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, Ghana's longest serving First Lady, became the embodiment of the women's struggle for self-empowerment. Bold, dynamic and eloquent, she used the opportunity provided by her late husband, Jerry John Rawlings' starring role in the tumultuous events of the June 4th Uprising and the 31st December Revolution, as their adherents styled them, to found the 31st December Women's Movement, and assume unashamedly the part of foremost advocate of women's rights and women's empowerment initiatives in our country.

Her activism struck a chord beyond the borders of Ghana, and, in time, she featured amongst the continent's best known women. Indeed, in 2018, I had the pleasure, as President of the Republic, to appoint her to lead Ghana's delegation to South Africa to the funeral of another iconic African woman, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the widow of the late great Madiba, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. She was not a member or sympathiser of my government, but I believed, as I still do, that she was the most appropriate Ghanaian woman to undertake that assignment.

Like all historic figures, she was an object of considerable controversy. Even though I was neither a partisan nor a supporter of the 31st December Revolution, I had little hesitation in acknowledging and recognising the positive impact the 31st December Women's Movement had on the progress of Ghanaian women. Her place in history is firmly grounded.

She was a vivacious, sparkling woman whose company and wit I enjoyed very much. Even though she and her husband came from different poles in the political spectrum from my wife, Rebecca, and myself, all of us found it possible during and after my presidency to enjoy warm, constructive relations until their deaths that I, for one, cherished and continue to cherish. We will miss her very much.

We extend our deepest condolences to her children, Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina and Kimathi, to her wider family and to the entire Ghanaian nation on the loss of this vibrant woman.

May God bless her and give her soul a peaceful place of abode in His Bosom until the Last Day of the Resurrection, when we shall all meet again. Amen.

She was a vivacious, sparkling woman whose company and wit I enjoyed very much.



Office of H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor
Former President of the Republic of Ghana

Tribute in Memory of the Late Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings
By His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, Former President of the
Republic Ghana.

It is with deep sorrow that I pay this tribute to a dear friend and one of our nation's remarkable former First Ladies, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings, whose untimely passing came as a great shock to me.

Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings will forever be remembered as a trailblazer, a pillar of strength, and a passionate advocate for the rights of women and children. As Former First Lady, she partnered her late husband, His Excellency Jerry John Rawlings during his tenure of office as Head of State and President of our nation, in fashioning and implementing policies which radically affected the evolution of the country.

She founded the 31st of December Women's Movement putting real meaning in the advocacy for gender balance in the national society. Intriguingly, she combined her natural flair for fashion and the arts, including music and dancing, with her other aspects which depicted deep and serious commitment to radical politics.

Beyond her public achievements, Nana Konadu was a loving and proud mother of her beautiful set of children.

She indeed, was what you saw without pretences and towards the end of her life she proved to be a respector of customs and traditions of our land.

My heartfelt condolences go to the children and the family.

May her soul rest in perfect peace.

Nana Damirefa Due! Dayie!!

John Kufuor
President of Ghana (Jan 2001 – Jan 2009)

P. O. Box 16390 K.I.A. - Accra ☐ Telephone: +233 302 774878 ☐ Fax: +233 302 761170 ☐ E-mail: johnakufuor@yahoo.com



Nana KONADU'S LEGACY IS WRITTEN IN THE LIVES SHE TOUCHED AND THE FUTURES SHE HELPED SHAPE

**HER EXCELLENCY NAANA JANE
OPOKU-AGYEMANG
VICE PRESIDENT OF GHANA**

We honour the life and legacy of a remarkable woman whose impact on our nation will endure for generations. She was a tireless advocate and a steadfast champion for the rights and empowerment of men, women and girls across Ghana.

Her commitment to girl-child education was a mission she pursued with unwavering dedication and passion. Through her advocacy, mentorship, and countless initiatives, she opened doors for young girls, inspiring them to dream boldly and equipping them with the tools to achieve those dreams. Her work reminded us that when a girl is educated, a community is strengthened, and a nation is uplifted.

Nana Konadu's legacy is written in the lives she touched and the futures she helped shape. She stood firm in her belief that every young girl deserves dignity, opportunity, and a voice, and she devoted her life to creating a Ghana where those ideals could flourish.

As we mourn her passing, we also celebrate a life of purpose, compassion, and exceptional service. May her memory inspire us to continue her work, uphold her values, and remain committed to building a society where every girl can rise to her fullest potential.

May her soul rest in perfect peace.

Her work reminded us that when
a girl is educated, a community is
strengthened, and a nation is uplifted.



Guiding STAR OF GHANA

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. MAHAMADU BAWUMIA, FORMER
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA AND
HER EXCELLENCY SAMIRA BAWUMIA**



With a heavy heart, we bid farewell to our cherished friend and beloved sister, the former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Her passing leaves an immeasurable void, not only in our souls but in the heart of our great nation.



As we contemplate the tapestry of Nana Konadu's extraordinary life and enduring legacy, we are overwhelmed by profound admiration and reverence. She was the embodiment of radiant vision, a luminous beacon whose indomitable spirit for women's rights blazed a trail across Ghana and beyond. To all privileged to bask in her presence, she was both the gentle touch of compassion and the fierce voice of justice; her strength and sincerity, unforgettable.

As our revered former First Lady and the illustrious Founder of the 31st December Women's Movement, Nana Konadu carved an unassailable path of transformation; one that continues to inspire the dreams of generations yet unborn. Her unwavering devotion to gender equality, coupled with her relentless advocacy, flung open doors once bolted against women and illuminated the corridors of education and leadership. Through her courageous actions, she consistently challenged established social norms, significantly shaping outcomes and leaving a lasting impact on those affected by her progressive approach.

Through the founding of the 31st December Women's Movement, Nana Konadu infused a vision of Ghana with vibrant life in which women and children could ascend, unfettered. With boundless compassion and unyielding resolve, she planted seeds of hope that even now burst forth in splendid bloom. She stood as an unshakeable sentinel for justice, unafraid to confront the tempest of societal injustice and dismantle the ramparts of convention. Her courage became the wind beneath the wings of many, emboldening us to stand tall and lead with resilience, empathy, and dignity.

Within the esteemed sphere of public service, Nana Konadu demonstrated unwavering courage, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to justice. Yet, it was in the sanctity of her private life that her light shone

with singular warmth. She was a devoted wife to the late President Jerry John Rawlings and a caring mother, whose kindness held her family together and inspired those around her with steadfast strength in even the most difficult times. As colleagues in service and confidantes, we witnessed how her unassailable integrity and far-reaching vision became a beacon, gently guiding our nation along the path of progress and equitable development.

Nana Konadu's luminous legacy is woven with threads of empowerment and service, a clarion call that continues to awaken the hearts of generations. Her visionary pursuit of gender equity and social progress continues to shine, igniting hope and courage in all who dare to dream of a just tomorrow. The flame she kindled will never be extinguished; it burns eternally, inspiring those who walk in her footsteps and the nation she so dearly loved. It is from the chambers of our hearts, that we pay tribute to a woman whose life will forever be the guiding star of Ghana and a beacon to all who yearn for justice and equality.

Farewell, Nana. Damirifa Due.





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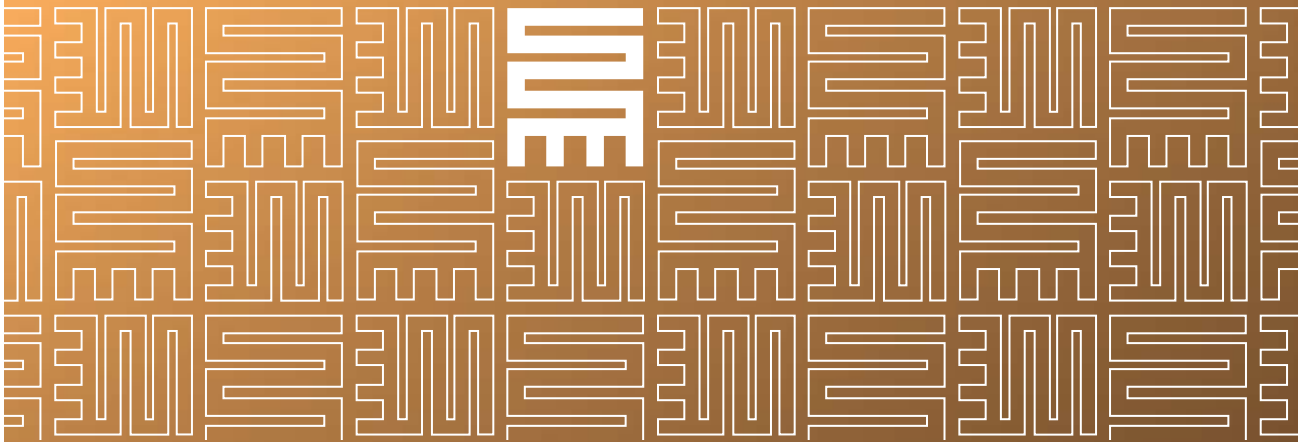
For us in Africa, the girl child is a special concern. Hers is the future that is often negated right from birth, and hers is therefore the life that must be salvaged. We must therefore give her education that empowers, education that gives skills, and education that builds self-confidence.

”

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, Address at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.



WORLD LEADERS





Rest ETERNAL, WOMAN OF PROGRESS

**HIS EXCELLENCY, NETUMBO NANDI-
NDAITWAH, PRESIDENT OF NAMIBIA**

I have learnt with deep sadness about the passing of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, the former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, who played a prominent role in Ghanaian politics and social advocacy. She was recognised for her leadership in championing women's rights and empowering communities in the country.

During her reign, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, among others, established the 31st December Women's Movement, an initiative aimed at empowering Ghanaian women through entrepreneurship, education and participation in the political affairs of the country. She advocated for the emancipation of women at every level of development to enable them to contribute to the socio-economic and political progress of their country.

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Republic of Namibia, I extend my heartfelt

condolences to my dear brother, President John Dramani Mahama, Her Excellency, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings' children, the entire bereaved family, and the people of the Republic of Ghana on the loss of the former First Lady.

Namibia stands in solidarity with the people and the Government of the Republic of Ghana during this time of bereavement, and we keep you all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

May the soul of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings rest in eternal peace.



Présidence du Burkina Faso

N° 2025-121

Le Président

Ouagadougou, le 19 novembre 2025

Monsieur le Président,

C'est avec une profonde affliction que le Peuple du Burkina Faso a appris la disparition de l'ancienne **Première Dame du Ghana, Madame Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings**.

En cette douloureuse circonstance, je tiens à adresser, au nom du Peuple révolutionnaire du Burkina Faso, du Gouvernement et en mon nom propre, nos condoléances les plus attristées ainsi que l'expression de notre solidarité au Peuple frère du Ghana.

Nous rendons hommage à la mémoire de **Madame Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings** dont l'engagement inlassable pour l'émancipation de la femme et la protection de l'enfance restera gravé dans l'histoire du Ghana. Son héritage continuera d'inspirer les générations futures à travers toute l'Afrique, qui trouveront dans son parcours un modèle de courage, de conviction et de service à la Nation.

À la famille éplorée de l'illustre ancien Président Jerry John Rawlings, nous exprimons notre compassion la plus profonde. Nous souhaitons aux enfants la force et le courage nécessaires pour surmonter cette épreuve.

Que l'âme de **Madame Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings** repose en paix.

**Son Excellence Monsieur John Dramani MAHAMA,
Président de la République du Ghana.**

-ACCRA-

Capitaine Ibrahim TRAORE



Office of H.E. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone 2007-2018

On behalf of former President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone, please receive our heartfelt condolences.

Your mother's life was **anchored** in loyalty, devotion, and strength. These virtues defined her not only as a mother, but as a **patriot** in her own right.

Standing beside President Rawlings with courage and conviction, she shared in his vision for a better Ghana and reflected the **dignity** and **resilience** that inspired so many across our continent.

Her unwavering commitment to preserving his **legacy** — his words, his ideals, and his memory — stands as a **sacred testament** to her own purpose. These are gifts that should fill your hearts with pride, even in this moment of sorrow.

Today, we pray that the Almighty grants her peaceful rest, and welcomes her into joyful reunion with her beloved husband.

And may God grant you comfort, strength, and **divine fortitude** in this time of grief.

May her soul rest in perfect and eternal peace.

Book of condolences:

Your mother's life was defined by loyalty, devotion, and strength — virtues that shaped her not only as a mother, but as a patriot in her own right. Standing beside President Rawlings with courage and conviction, she embodied dignity and resilience that inspired many across Ghana and Africa.

*Her tireless commitment to preserving his **legacy** — his words, ideals, and memory — will endure for generations. May this bring you pride and comfort even as you mourn. May her soul rest in perfect peace.*

H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma

Former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone



General A A Abubakar, GCFR, CSG

Plot 150 XYZ • General Abdulsalami Abubakar Way • PMB 1152 • Minna • Niger State • Nigeria

Reference: AAA/757/16/CON

18 November, 2025

The Children and Family of
Her Excellency, Late Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings

**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS
BY GENERAL ABDULSALAMI ABUBAKAR, FORMER PRESIDENT
OF NIGERIA**

1. It is with profound sadness that I received the news of the passing H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, my good friend and wife of President Jerry John Rawlings of blessed memory, who was also a dear brother and friend.
2. I use to call her my Mama In-law as she has the same name Nana with my mother In-law. On behalf of my wife Fati, children and family, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, especially the children, the government, and the people of Ghana.
3. Nana Konadu's unwavering dedication to the socio-economic development of Ghana, particularly her tireless advocacy for women's empowerment and children's welfare, left an indelible mark on our collective consciousness. Her leadership as the First Lady of Ghana from 1981 to 2001 was a testament to the unyielding commitment to the well-being of the people of Ghana.
4. My friend Nana's pioneering work in establishing organizations such as the 31st December Women's Movement and her instrumental role in promoting girls', children's education and women's economic empowerment inspired countless individuals across West Africa and beyond.
5. As a champion of democracy and good governance, her support for her husband, His Excellency Jerry John Rawlings, during his tenure as Head of State and President of Ghana, was instrumental in steering Ghana towards a new era of democracy and prosperity.

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E-mails: fathersalam@yahoo.com • salamiabu@hotmail.com
Mobile: +234 803 591 0577



6. Nana Konadu was a consummate diplomat who possessed the natural ability to portray the distinctive qualities of the Ghanaian wherever she represented the country abroad. I have met her at several forums internationally, where her intellect, cultural astuteness and confidence, sold Ghana in incalculable ways.

7. May I add that she was a colourful personality whose fondness for the traditional Ghanaian kaba won her a lot of envy and admiration even as she strutted the style in exquisite African print whenever she appeared in public.

8. Your courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the principles of justice, equality, and human dignity have earned you a place among the pantheon of Africa's most revered women leaders. Your legacy will continue to inspire generations to come, and your memory will be cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing you.

9. My Mama In-law, may your soul rest in perfect peace, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlins.

General Abdusalami A. Abubakar, **GCFR**
Former Head of State, Federal Republic of Nigeria



ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
PRESIDENTIAL CENTER FOR
WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

Statement on the passing of Former First Lady of Ghana, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings

We mourn the passing of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, Former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana.

A formidable advocate for women's rights, her vision and courage helped transform the landscape of gender equality in Ghana and beyond. Through her leadership of the 31st December Women's Movement, she advanced women's political participation, education, and economic empowerment, leaving an enduring legacy that continues to inspire generations.

We extend our deepest condolences to her daughter, Hon. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings, a member of our Amujae Initiative, and to the entire Rawlings family. During this period of mourning, the EJS Center stands in solidarity with them and with the people of Ghana as they celebrate the life and impact of this remarkable woman, whose legacy lives on.

May her soul rest in perfect peace.



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Private Bag 301
Lilongwe 3
Malawi

OFFICE OF THE FOURTH PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

23rd November, 2025

Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings,

As Africa bids farewell to one of her most distinguished daughters, I wish to thank God in a very special way for the precious gift that you were to the continent and people of Ghana, in particular. You were able to help transform lives, especially millions of poor Ghanaian households through the 31st December Women's organisation.

For us, as young women then trying to do the same in our countries, were amazed at how you were able to combine the roles of First Lady, Head of your organisation and as a mother whose husband was busy with matters of State. How you were able to bring up your young children at the time to what they have turned out to be is a big lesson to younger women that it is possible to juggle roles successfully.

I first met you in Ghana in the 1990s. I had just founded the National Association of Business Women in Malawi in April of 1990. Later, with the support of UNECA, we formed a continental organisation called the African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs. Our continental chair was Madam Lucia Quachey. Most of our meetings, including our launch, took place in Accra at the peak of your noble work. Later, between 2015-2020, you and I worked together during SHEROES International Annual Conferences in Accra.

What I have learned from you, Mama, is humility, hardwork, compassion not only for Ghana but as a Pan Africanist and more especially as a wife and mother.

May your soul forever rest in everlasting peace.

Dr Joyce Banda
4th PRESIDENT of MALAWI





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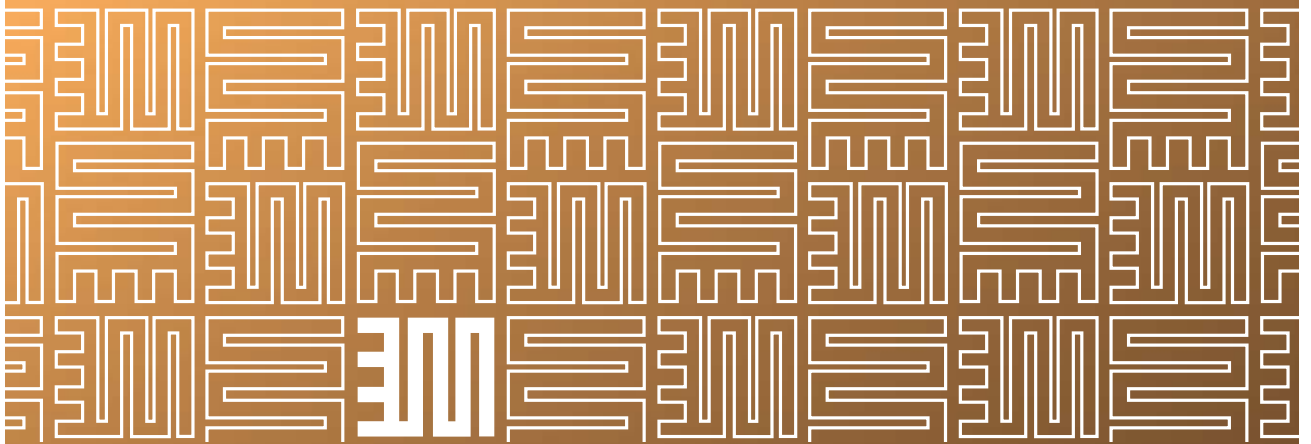
You have to believe in yourselves
and dare to be different.

”

***Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, 'The role of
creativity in personal success and nation building,'
Accra Polytechnic SRC Week Celebrations, April 2016***



FRIENDS, ASSOCIATES AND YEAR GROUPS





A WOMAN OF CONVICTION AND COURAGE

DR. SIMONE EHIVET GBAGBO
PRESIDENT OF THE MOVEMENT OF
THE CAPABLE GENERATIONS

Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was a woman of conviction, courage, and commitment, whose life was dedicated to serving her people and defending the dignity of African women. Her inspiring journey will forever remain engraved in the collective memory of Ghana and the entire continent.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the members of the Mouvement des Générations Capables (MGC), I extend my sincere condolences to the brotherly people of Ghana and to the bereaved family of the late Mrs. Rawlings.

In these moments of great sorrow, I invite the Ivorian people to unite in prayer, so that the Almighty Lord may grant our departed sister eternal rest, and bring strength, comfort, and peace to all those left in grief by her passing.

Her inspiring journey will
forever remain engraved in the
collective memory of Ghana and
the entire continent.



Hommage DE MADAME MARIAM SANKARA

À NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS

MARIAM SANKARA VEUVE DE FEU LE PRÉSIDENT SANKARA

Montpellier, le 17 Novembre 2025

“

'elle fut une actrice
authentique de
changement'

Aujourd'hui, je rends hommage à une femme exceptionnelle, une amie chère dont la lumière s'est éteinte trop tôt. Épouse du feu Président Jerry John Rawlings, elle portait en elle la force, la dignité et la générosité qui faisaient écho à l'esprit de ceux qui ont marqué l'histoire de notre continent.



Son parcours, façonné par l'engagement, l'élégance morale et la fidélité aux idéaux de justice, fait d'elle bien plus qu'une compagne de vie: elle fut une actrice authentique de changement, une voix qui portait loin, une conscience qui n'a jamais vacillé.

Je pense aussi à l'amitié profonde qui unissait son époux, le Président Rawlings, à mon propre époux, le Président Thomas Sankara. Une amitié scellée par une conviction commune : celle de défendre les peuples, de bâtir des nations debout, de croire en un avenir africain

fondé sur la dignité et l'intégrité. Elle partageait ces valeurs, les nourrissait, les honorait.

En perdant cette amie, nous perdons un repère, une présence rassurante, une femme de courage dont la mémoire continuera d'inspirer ceux qui ont eu le privilège de la connaître.

Que son âme repose en paix. Que son souvenir demeure une source de force, de loyauté et d'amour pour tous ceux qu'elle laisse derrière elle. Et que l'amitié qui a uni nos familles continue de vivre à travers les valeurs que nous portons.



Dear Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina, and Kimathi,

It is with profound sorrow and heartfelt sympathy that I extend to you, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Suriname, my deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved mother, the late **Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings**, former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, who departed this life on 23 October 2025 in Accra.

Your mother was a woman of remarkable strength, dignity, and unwavering devotion—not only to her family but also to her nation and to all whose lives she touched. For Suriname, she will always be remembered with respect and gratitude for her outstanding service as **Honorary Consul of the Republic of Suriname in the Republic of Ghana**, a role she fulfilled with distinction, integrity, and a deep dedication to strengthening relations between our two nations.

The passing of your mother, coming five years after the demise of your esteemed father, the late President **Jerry John Rawlings**, brings a particular weight of grief. Their partnership—rooted in love, courage, leadership, and service—was admired across the African continent and beyond. Their legacy now lives on in you, their children, and in the countless lives they strengthened and inspired.

I recall with deep emotion the close friendship between our late Presidents. After completing his tenure, President Rawlings visited Suriname on several occasions to spend time with his dear friend, my late husband, President **Desiré Delano Bouterse**. Most remarkable and deeply cherished was his presence—with your mother, the late Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings—at the **2010 Presidential Inauguration**. Equally unforgettable was the attendance of the **entire Rawlings family** at the **2015 Presidential Inauguration**, a gesture of solidarity and friendship that remains profoundly appreciated and will forever be remembered by the people of Suriname.

As you mourn the loss of your beloved mother, may her memory be a source of strength, healing, and unity among you. In moments such as these, we are reminded of the profound wisdom of the African continent:

“When a mother dies, a whole library burns.”
— *African Proverb*

Your mother was indeed a library of wisdom, compassion, resilience, and grace. May the warmth of her spirit continue to surround you, and may the noble example she set guide you through the days ahead.

Please accept the assurance of my prayers, my compassion, and my sincere solidarity with each of you during this difficult time. May the Almighty grant her peaceful rest and grant you comfort as you carry forward the legacy of both your remarkable parents.

With deepest sympathy and respect,

Mrs. **Ingrid Bouterse-Waldring**

Former First Lady of the Republic of Suriname





DARUSSIDIQ
Istana Nurul Izzah
Jerudong BG 3122
NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

TRIBUTE TO MADAM NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. We are deeply saddened by your loss but your kindness, especially in helping with the adoption of my two beautiful boys from Ghana, shall forever be remembered and appreciated beyond words. A truly beautiful soul with whom I shared a beautiful friendship through the years. You were one of the kindest, loveliest, and most selfless individuals I have ever known. I am grateful for your friendship which has been a true blessing. You shall remain an inspiration and a role model to many. You will be greatly missed.

Forever remembered with love and utmost respect by

Datin Paduka Seri Hajah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz
Darussidiq, Istana Nurul Izzah
BRUNEI





In LOVING MEMORY OF MY CHERISHED CHILDHOOD FRIEND

MRS. EILEEN AMARTEFIO (NEE MILLS)

“

“curious,
adventurous
and bold”

It saddens my heart writing about my dearest childhood friend with our unforgettable friendship spanning over seventy (70) years. This is especially so since she had been present in my life since I was about seven (7) or eight (8) years old; meaning this loss is akin to losing a part of my own history.

I was shocked and saddened by the news of the passing of my childhood friend. Nana Konadu Agyemang-Rawlings is her name, but I always called her Nana.

Nana and I met at the Gold Coast International School (now Ghana International School) at our most impressionable ages; like I said we must have been about seven or eight years old. Our parents after a while inquired about our progress at Gold Coast International School, but somehow the information reaching back to them gave the impression we were having a good amount of “play time”. Our parents, being tough disciplinarians, transferred us to Experimental School which was a new primary school at Accra Newtown hoping we would have more study and less play time. After a year or two there I returned to England and Nana transferred back to Ghana International School.

Later while back in Ghana, we both sat for the common entrance exam and gained admission to Achimota Secondary School in 1961. With much irony and surprise, I was placed in Form 1C and housed in Kingsley House with Nana and I sharing a bunk bed. From the first days

of secondary school, we were inseparable. Together we explored the world with the eyes of teenagers: curious, adventurous and bold. Nana was very athletic and thus by default very good in sports. She participated in high-jump, hurdles and several sporting activities. We also joined the Achimota school choir. Nana was also very bright and that showed in her academic performance. Interestingly, when we both were in Form 4 in 1965, Nana was made the Dorm Monitress, and I became the Assistant Dorm Monitress.

Nana had many admirers while we were in secondary school, and I remember a particular boy from Adisadel College who wrote Nana a love letter and when she showed me the letter; I just remarked how this particular admirer didn't deserve her and that she was too good for him. So, with my help, Nana wrote a rejection letter to him. I am sure he was a bit distraught but, in his letter back to Nana, he wrote that he was very sure I was the one that advised Nana to reject him. Speaking of admirers, there was another boy that was also in Form 1 with Nana and I by the name of Jerry John who was very mischievous and troublesome but perhaps in a



not so troublesome fashion and following his heart without even knowing exactly what those feelings were joined the choir with Nana and I, perhaps to get closer to Nana.

After completing Form 5, I returned to England and Nana stayed on at Achimota to continue her sixth form education, but we definitely kept in touch. Several years after Achimota secondary school, Nana informed me that Jerry, had asked her hand in marriage and wanted my opinion or perhaps a tacit form of blessing. I quickly gave my blessing, green-light and approval and reminded Nana that Jerry is someone we had all known and grown up with since we were teenagers; essentially, he is one of us and has protected us from potential bullies and shared a lot of gossip and laughter growing up. The beautiful thing about this admirer is that we all know the story of Nana and Jerry John Rawlings with a marriage spanning almost fifty years.

Nana was in attendance at my wedding and was one of the first faces I saw after I delivered my first child. Fast forward several decades of friendship, Nana was with me at my seventieth birthday party where we laughed a lot and danced the night away. A few months later at

Nana's seventieth birthday party my family and I were also in attendance laughing throughout the night and dancing the night away with Nana, our classmate Jerry John and their children. A couple of years ago, following the same theme of laughing and dancing, Nana was in full attendance to celebrate the one-hundredth birthday party of my mother.

Our close friend Majorie who was also a classmate from Achimota spoke to Nana and they both tried getting in touch with me sometime in October 2025, but I was unfortunately unreachable. The idea was for all of us to plan a girls outing before the end of the year (2025) as we felt we were all getting up there in age. Oh Nana, couldn't you have waited a bit longer for us to laugh and dance some more? Nana, the impact of our friendship will last forever. As I reflect on all these years together, I am filled with gratitude for every moment we shared, finding comfort in the knowledge that your spirit lives on in Zanetor, Yaa, Amina and Kimathi.

Thank you, my dear friend, for the gift of your friendship and the light you brought into millions of lives. You will always be remembered, always loved, and forever missed.





My SISTER, MY FRIEND

MARJORIE QUIST ABDIN



Where do I start?

What do I write?

Why do I feel numb?

How do I capture the essence
of our unique relationship?

Do I celebrate your life or
mourn your demise?

Flashes of memories of significant moments that span a lifetime come and go. Perhaps in recalling memories of you, I can validate and honour your presence in my life. I can still hear your voice on the phone a few days before your demise, saying,

“Take care of yourself”, when we were discussing my ill health.

I first met Nana Konadu Agyeman at Mrs Sam School when I was 5 years old. We became immediate friends. She was popular, as she was skillful at the games we played at breaktime: Hopscotch, Ampe, and As) pronounced “Asor”. Everyone wanted to be on her team because she always won.



As we prepared for our Common Entrance Examinations, Nana and I attended “extra classes” at Mrs Bannerman’s home in Adabraka, Accra. I would go home with her, where my Dad would pick me up at 5.30pm. Her mother, Aunty Felicia and her siblings, warmly welcomed me and we remained friends. It was during this period that I discovered Nana’s love for music and dance. We danced at every opportunity, laying the foundation for becoming permanent dance partners. Our specialty was the rock’n’ roll which we danced right through the years at Achimota School, and well into our old age. At my 70th birthday party at Marriott Hotel, we shook the floor! Nana was an excellent dancer, graceful, skillful, expressing her joie de vivre.

While Nana continued her primary education at Ghana International School (GIS), I went to Christ the King International School. We met in Achimota School, where we were both put in Kingsley House and in the same dormitory. Eileen Mills and Rosemary de Graft Hayford, having known Nana from GIS, joined us, making us a foursome. Rosemary soon left for London, after which we became known as The Three Musketeers until we left Form Five. We did everything together and were inseparable. My favourite memory is of us walking back at night, after prep, singing under the starlit sky, the latest songs by Elvis Presley, Cliff Richard, Bobby Darin and the Rolling Stones. Being the only girl in a class of 30 boys, my “bodyguards” were Anthony Gbeho and Jerry John. They often tagged along and Jerry did his best to befriend Nana, but she would have none of it!

Achimota School was the backdrop that exposed Nana’s energy and interest in extracurricular activities. She joined the Girl Guides and in a short while, made Captain. She also joined the Red Cross and the School Choir. Her prowess in sports, athletics and gymnastics was well known in secondary schools across Ghana. She represented Achimota School and Ghana in high

jump and hurdles. In track events, she was often paired with Alice Anum to represent Ghana.

We parted ways when Nana stayed on in Achimota School for sixth form and later attended the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) while I went to Holy Child, in Cape Coast and the University of Ghana, (Legon) in Accra.

After I married, Nana would come visit after work at UTC. For decades, she often recounted, while shrieking with laughter, how my eldest child, Sonia, at three (3) years old would rush to welcome her with a red ring around her mouth from her interrupted lunch of fufu and palm nut soup. Nana loved children and found them intriguing.

I followed my late husband, Faisal, into business, while Nana followed her husband Jerry, into politics. We kept in touch, meeting at Women’s empowerment conferences. We also celebrated family events and lent each other support during funerals. Jerry had introduced me to Faisal, who had been his close friend from the “Adabraka days”, giving Nana and I another reason to bond. It was inevitable that our children would also become friends.

It wasn’t until Nana’s father, Mr J. O. T Agyeman’s demise, when I went to commiserate with Aunty Felicia, that she told me that Nana and I were “nuanom”. She traced our families’ relationships, dating back to the period the Asantehene was exiled to the Seychelles. The Ashantis who remained at Cape Coast intermarried, joining our families. Our relatives were the Amoo Gottfrieds, and Owusu Ansahs and my dear Aunt, Dr Mary Grant. She revealed that Nana’s father had considered my grandmother’s twin brother, Uncle Frank, his father. Now I understood the warm friendship between my mother and Mr Agyeman. Now, I understood the spark of familiarity I experienced when I first met Nana as a child. Now, I understood our



friendship through thick and thin that defied the passage of time. We were just continuing an old tradition.

In 2018, when Nana invited Eileen and I to Morocco to celebrate her 70th birthday, I was so excited. Not only was Morocco on my bucket list, but here was an opportunity for the Three Musketeers to spend quality time. It was obvious from the first day, that nothing had changed. We resolved to meet more often, but alas! we went back to our old habit of meeting only during family events, calls and WhatsApp messages. If only we had known that one of us would leave so soon.

Nana, your legacy, national and international, is obvious for all to see. In women's empowerment and in political influence, no other Ghanaian woman comes close. Others who know you better in those spheres, will continue to expound on your accomplishments. You achieved all this while performing your duties as a wife, mother, sibling and daughter. Ayekoo!

Much as your children, Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina and Kimathi are broken by your passing, I know they'll do you proud because you and Auntie Felicia brought them up right.

Your remaining siblings will miss you greatly, especially your concern and support.

Nana, you left too soon. Who do I reminisce with about the past, our families, our husbands, our frustrations? Who do I exchange confidences with? Who do I share medical information on aches and pains brought on by the advancing years? Who do I dance with?

Sleep well, my sister, my friend. May God forever hold you in His Loving Arms.

Da yie, me nua!

Nana, your legacy, national and international, is obvious for all to see.



Bold AND UNAFRAID TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

SARAH HONNÏY (NEE DAGHER)



Our friendship took off when we entered the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in 1968, though we had met briefly in our infancy. At Africa Hall, we were separated by only one room. I was in Room 51, and you, Nana, were in 53.

You were affable, respectful, and focused. These values formed the bedrock of nearly 60 years of a deep and loyal relationship that transcended friendship. We ended up doing almost everything together, including our laundry. On campus, we organised many events to raise funds for Africa Hall, such as Christmas dinners and fashion shows in which you were always prominent.

I remember a musical concert at the University by Jackie Edwards and Millicent Small, during which they gave a wonderful rendition of their song, *"My Boy Lollipop"*. You instantly became the face of that song on campus, and sometimes, your own show was just as exciting as theirs.

Bold and unafraid to stand up and be counted, you were audacious in your thinking, sincere in your commitments, and untiring in your efforts to achieve your goals. You worked extremely hard, pursuing your beliefs with a passion hard to match. Nana, you were my highly talented friend - dynamic, energetic and articulate in mobilising people and, unsurprisingly, these qualities ultimately defined your future path. You very



gracefully played the role of maid-of-honour at my wedding in 1971. The only thing we did not do together, after University, was politics as you went into governance, and I did not.

You shot sensationally into the limelight one day, and overnight, became a national inspiration for many. You motivated with a peculiar vibrancy, rallying women towards causes you championed, and bringing some to the frontiers of public life. A disciplinarian with a strong character, and not one to be counted among the fainthearted, you always spoke your mind, and forcefully, when necessary. That may not have endeared you to everyone, but at least those around you knew where you stood. Importantly, you kept an admirable balance between getting the work done and letting the hair down.

At the purely personal level Nana, you were easy-going, pleasant, extremely genial and chatty, even to those you met for the first time. Many people became aware of how much you loved to dance and did so very, very, well. You surprised my lady pharmacist colleagues with your free-spirited nature when you were invited as the Special Guest of Honour to the 30th Anniversary Celebration Dinner dance of the Lady Pharmacists Association of Ghana (LAPAG), on 10th November 2023, mingling effortlessly with them and deploying your dancing skills.

I recount vividly, how magnificently and artistically you choreographed your movements and danced away at our family party in Cape Coast only in March last year, and the wild cheers you drew from the adoring guests. But, was that a farewell dance to our long friendship that I so badly misread? Dancing was to you the therapy of life. You were also a supremely artistic and a gifted designer with a cute sense of fashion. You believed that life must be lived, and you did just that.

In 2018, you launched your biography titled “It Takes A Woman”, and were writing a second book. Our last time together was when my sister Josephine and I, visited on May 2nd, this year. We spoke till the early hours of the next day. Even worse, you and I texted on Wednesday morning, but like the dream no one wanted to have, the news struck me like a thunderbolt that had found its target, shocked and left me in a state of utter devastation. How was I to understand, let alone accept, what had unfolded just one day after we had chatted so heartily?

If courage were all that was needed, Nana, you would have prevailed and not been silent now. But that is simply God’s way, and to paraphrase Wisdom 2:23: “In the eyes of the foolish they seem to have died, ... but to the faithful they are at peace and alive.” So, while I might not see you Nana, my dear friend again, I will always feel your presence and be at peace. Your work is finished.

I am heartbroken, and I offer my deepest condolences to your children Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Princess Amina and Kimathi; those grandchildren you so loved and adored; your sisters; your other family members and staff, especially Mildred. May they all find peace in their hearts, and may God your Creator, who controls all things, guide you safely home. Nana, your history has made you a visionary. Our friendship will never end.

***ETERNAL REST NANA MY DEAREST FRIEND,
AND FAREWELL !!!***



A LETTER TO MY PRECIOUS SISTER NANA

MUATA “AFI” TAMAKLOE

I cannot believe that I am writing this. When you passed unexpectedly, I pondered the question of life. How can you, so full of life, be here with us in one moment and gone in the next? You, my dearest sister, *now live in the answer*, reunited with your cherished parents and grandparents, your siblings who have gone before you, other precious loved ones and your beloved twin ray Jerry.



“I am honoured to call such an exceptional woman my sister...”

Those of us left behind are in deep sadness; your four adored children and six grandchildren, your faithful sisters Serwah and Sefa, dear Mildred and many others.

I believe that the Divine Spark of God lives within each one of us expressing different attributes. One attribute of God is the Force of Nature. You, my precious sister embodied and contained within your small frame of a body that Force of Nature which is God.

How did you, one person, in one lifetime, contribute so much to our beloved Ghana, the African continent and the world? It is humanly impossible. It had to be the presence of God operating in you, through you and as you.

The public saw the strong Warrior Queen, many were unaware of your deep sensitivity and caring. It was your sensitivity that connected you to the plight of women and children and your caring fueled your over forty years (40) years of committed service to them all while fulfilling the sacred responsibility of a devoted wife and present mother.

Your genuine relationship with God enabled you to perceive your life’s work and to fulfill that work.

Thank you for accepting The Most High’s assignment for your life. Thank you for being an earnest instrument by aligning your actions and will with God’s Guidance in Service to a Divine Purpose. Job Well Done!

Our sistership began some 36 years ago. We were connected by each other’s pure honesty. This honesty was the foundation of our shared trust in one another and our love. I Am so grateful that it was God’s Divine Plan that we would share our lives in this time and space. I Am honoured to call such an exceptional woman my sister.

I cherish the times we laughed together, cried together, and of course danced together big time. Oh, and thank you for the history lesson educating me that “Dutch” wax prints *are not* a Dutch creation but originated from West Africa.

WHERE YOU ARE, GOD IS and I AM.

Your Sister, Afi



A TRIBUTE TO NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS

DR. SHAWKI KOJO HAFFAR

“

“She is the Mother
of Modern Ghana”

This was a difficult tribute to write. I have lost one of the most beloved people in my life and I am still reeling from the shock.

What can I write without saying too much or saying too little?



Nana Konadu and I had a special relationship. We loved and trusted each other. We were true friends.

What defined her was her unique love most pointed to the powerless. It was this love that drove her life's mission towards the upliftment of the disempowered woman of Africa, and Ghana in particular.

It was upon her passing that I came to a new and deeper realization of the enormity of her legacy to women and children of Ghana.

The intimate testimonies which flowed from numerous grateful beneficiaries of her contributions were compelling, self-evident of her distinct significance.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings bequeathed to Ghana and Africa a new way in the dismantling of barriers against women, opening avenues of self-determination to women, the holders of the keys to Africa's future. She enshrined her glorious vision in one aphorism- "it takes a woman".

She came down to us like a meteor and flashed us a guiding light for a rising Africa and quickly spent her material form.

Without question, she is the Mother of Modern Ghana.



Tribute TO A SISTER AT HEART

MARIA MAYLIN



We met on the banks of the Congo River, in Brazzaville.

In just a few moments, a simple encounter became a certainty: we were bound for life.

Born to different parents, we nevertheless shared the same heritage — strong values passed down by our families and friends, and a deep love for the African continent that beats within our hearts.

Your journey to Morocco, on the occasion of your birthday, forever sealed the bond of friendship and love that united us.

Today, your spirit remains among us. It inspires and guides us each day through the principles that defined you: friendship, love, and dignity.

You will remain forever present in our lives, our thoughts, and our hearts.

Maria Maylin



Still SHINING IN MY HEART

EKUA BOAMA ADDO-YOBO

We were born on the same day — 17th November — and our connection felt written long before either of us took our first breath. Our parents were mates from Mmofraturu Girls' Boarding School through Achimota College (then), and because of that, our lives were intertwined from the very beginning.



“The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.” - Job 1:21

We grew up side by side, sharing not only a birthday but the kind of bond that feels more like family than friendship. Now that you are gone, our birthday carries a bittersweet weight. What used to be a day of double laughter and shared memories now comes with a quiet ache. I miss your voice, your warmth, dance, and the way you understood me without needing many words.

But even in the sadness, I remain deeply grateful. Grateful for the childhood we shared, the dreams we whispered, the comfort of knowing you were always on my side. On our coming birthday, the 17th of November 2025, we planned to dance till break of day — but it was never to be. “Man really proposes, but God disposes” indeed! He knows why, sister!!

I will celebrate you on our day. I miss you deeply, but your light hasn't dimmed. It lives on in me, and in everyone who loved you. And though you're no longer here, the love, the bond, and the history we shared will never fade.

Rest peacefully, my dear sister and friend. You are forever part of my story, my heart, and my beginnings.

Shine on, Konadu (Kuen), till we meet again!



Until OUR PATHS CROSS AGAIN

BETTY AKUFFO-AMOABENG

My dear friend Nana KR

So, our laughter is over?

Even so, I have memories. Certainly, the memories keep the friendship alive despite your unannounced departure. The suddenness made it so painful but how else could it be? Indeed, things have been said since your departure that you and I would have fits of giggles, but you are not here so I rather weep alone.

You carried more than what was yours alone to handle because you believed it was just. What many never understood was how passionate you felt on so many of the issues. Yes, we had our tiffs from time to time as any longtime friendship undergoes, but the anchor of family links grounded us over our forty years plus association. We remained stitched together through thick and thin.

My dearest friend, I am so happy that you managed to complete the second book, to God be the glory. It was so important to you that you completed it. Hallelujah!

Rest well. You will be always remembered for your intellect and elegance but we will miss you greatly.



A HEROINE OF LEGACY

HILTON JOHN MITCHELL

Mummy, today I celebrate you with tears in my eyes, knowing that the face of happiness, joy, smiles, laughter, jokes and dance moves will never be seen again.

You stood as a true heroine, a tall beacon on morality, clear conscience and unwavering love. You were a guiding light to all of us, as you walked the path of righteousness and justice.



Many saw you as a tough and difficult person not knowing your real personality. You navigated life complexities with unerring clarity, seeing only “black and white, never grey”. Some made their own conclusions, many who had not even spoken to you before, describing who you were, positively or negatively, but for us that didn’t really matter at all.

What mattered were your convictions that stood on truth, which proudly directed every step, every action and every decision, continuously, standing by your name - “Konadu” (fight to the end).

There wasn’t a morning, afternoon and evening you would not be there to listen to me and share many of your life’s experiences, that will sometimes just leave me speechless. I wish the world knew how loving and kind you were. I will never forget all of those beautiful times.

Mummy, your legacy will continue to inspire me, the values you cherish and how you stood firm in your convictions will be with me for life.

Your memory will forever be a blessing to me and all who knew you and your love will continue to guide and inspire me.

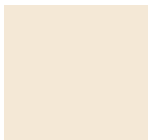
The tears will not stop, the evenings will not be the same.

Mummy, Rest in the Lord.



The SPACE SHE LEFT STILL BREATHES HER INFLUENCE

PAA KWESI YANKEY



Today, we gather to celebrate the life and legacy of an extraordinary woman, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, the former First Lady of Ghana. I'm honoured to stand before you, with a heavy heart, to pay tribute to a friend, a mentor, and a pillar of strength.

To the family, particularly her children, grandchildren, and loved ones, I extend my deepest condolences. Your loss is immense, but I pray that the memories of her love, strength, and resilience sustain you during this difficult time.

Nana Konadu and I shared a bond that spanned over 60 years, a friendship that began long before we were born. Our mothers, pioneers of Mmoafratuo Girls' School, met at the school's inception, and their outstanding friendship blossomed into a lifelong bond between our families. As children, we were taught to see each other as siblings, and our parents' friendship became the foundation of our own.

As we grew, Nana Konadu and I strengthened our friendship, sharing laughter, tears, and countless moments. One remarkable coincidence that always brought smiles to our faces was the fact that my elder sister, Boama, and Nana were born on the same day, date, and year. Our families would often joke about what our mothers did to secure such a unique date and day for both girls. This synchronicity seemed to cement our bond, and our families' friendship has endured.

Nana Konadu's life was a testament to her unwavering commitment to the welfare of others. As First Lady, she championed causes close to her heart, particularly women's empowerment and children's rights. Her tireless advocacy and compassion inspired a nation, leaving an indelible mark on Ghana's history.

Her legacy extends beyond her public life. Nana Konadu was a devoted mother, grandmother, and friend, loved by many. Her strength, resilience, and kindness inspired countless individuals, including myself.

To her children and grandchildren, I want you to know that I'm committed to being there for you, to support and care for you, just as Nana Konadu would have wanted. You are not alone, and I pledge to stand by you through the joys and challenges of life.

As we say goodbye, I take comfort in the memories we shared. I pray that the family finds solace in the love that surrounds them and the knowledge that Nana Konadu's impact will continue to inspire future generations.



To those grieving, "Grief is the price we pay for love." I offer words of comfort: though she may be gone, her legacy lives on. Let us draw strength from her life, her love, and her unwavering commitment to others.

She is a GREAT WOMAN.

What makes a man great? Some men are great because they climb mountains. Some men are great because they are victorious. Some men are great because they save lives. My sister Konadu is GREAT because she embodies and represents all these great feats required: Courage, Strength, Determination, Discipline and Love.

I am reminded about a conversation between Plato and Socrates, the greatest and wisest Philosopher to have lived on this earth. Plato asked him, "Teacher, who is the greatest man alive?"

To which Socrates responded saying, "Don't be foolish Plato, your very question is a contradiction!"

"To be a great man you must first die but then be immortal." Plato asked, very puzzled by this apparent contradiction, "But how does one gain everlasting life through death?"

Socrates answered him, "The key to immortality is to first live a life that's worth remembering."

KONADU IS A GREAT WOMAN.

Rest in peace, dear Nana Konadu. Your friendship was a gift to me, and I will cherish it forever.

Her strength, resilience, and kindness inspired countless individuals, including myself.



Nana KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS PASSES ON

KOJO YANKAH



Deeppest condolences are in order to the children of late Flt-Lt Jerry Rawlings and Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Then to the immediate family and of course all Ghanaian women for whom Nana Konadu fought relentlessly from 1979 till today.

To Ghana, Africa and the world, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings stood as a champion of Women's Rights; she fought political battles and made her mark as a social person. She meant differently to different people and will remain an enigma for a long time.

A significant and unapologetic patron of Pan Africanism and the Pan African Heritage Museum, her name will be etched on the walls of the physical Museum when it is completed. May she rest in perfect peace.



The LIGHT SHE LEAVES BEHIND

DR ERIC OBENG EDMONDS

"I'll see you tomorrow, Thursday, at 11 a.m."

Those were the final words that I hold on to and a memory I will always cherish. Because 11 a.m. on Thursday, 24 October, never came.

I was fortunate to have known Mrs Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings beyond the public gaze. As a researcher, I had the rare opportunity to listen as she retraced her steps. With a pen in her hand, she scribbled her thoughts gently and carefully read every word she saw on paper. The joy in her recollection was that of a woman who had lived a full and fearless life.

In my heart, her absence leaves a silence that words cannot fill. In my mind, the truth of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings having taken her final breath still feels distant. In all the years that I had the honour of working alongside her, nothing was more powerful than her recognition of the weight of her legacy and her humility in reflecting on her own journey. In her own words, she shared her fears and faith just as much as she did her challenges and hopes. There was something about the meticulous nature and precision with which she wanted every story retold that made her life's work both graceful and authentic.

In one afternoon, I lost a mother. Many others did too. She urged the men and women who sought her counsel to live with conviction and to fight on, but quietly. She was full of counsel and encouragement and listened intently when I shared what I also hoped to achieve in my work for the country. And still, I knew that my own contributions would always pale beside the devotion she had poured into her country and into the world.

My friend is gone. It is the laughter that I miss. It is the long talks about Ghana's history and its diverse culture that make us complex and beautiful that I miss. And it is the kindness I saw in the friendship of a stateswoman who rose above the noise that always reminded me of how fortunate she had been to have touched the lives of women and children who would otherwise have been left on the margins of life.



"I'll see you tomorrow, Thursday, at 11 a.m." was a promise the world was never meant to keep. Mrs Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings is gone too soon, still, because she had much more to give to a generation of leaders she quietly had the chance to mentor. I still hold on to every smile and remember the joy with which she spoke of her children and grandchildren. I had the rare privilege of knowing her, not as a public figure, politician or even an advocate.

Despite the grief of loss, my friend will live on in the courage of those she inspired, and in the dreams of those who still believe in the better Ghana she imagined. In time, the world she left behind will come to see the full measure of her legacy and cherish the indelible footprints she left behind.

There was something about the meticulous nature and precision with which she wanted every story retold that made her life's work both graceful and authentic.



A HEART THAT LIVES ON

UNCLE PAT S. DOGBE



I t's hard to believe that you're gone. Your sudden passing has left a void in our lives that can never be filled.

I am still so shocked and heartbroken by the news of your death.

I spoke to you on 22nd October 2025 and you told me you were in a funeral church service at Christ the King Church, and for that matter let's talk in the evening. That conversation never happened that wednesday evening. I called you on 23rd October 2025 in the morning, but there was no response from your end.

I sent a WhatsApp message and also didn't receive any response from you. Only to hear a few hours later that you had passed on exactly at 1120hrs.



“How can that be accepted, or believed?”

It feels unreal to have lost you so unexpectedly. I will always remember your kindness, your warmth, and the way you could make me and others laugh.

You were more than just a sister-in-law to me, because you always called me my brother-in-law or Uncle Pat. You were my confidante, a friend and a true source of inspiration and happiness.

I will cherish the memories of our time together on the political platforms, around the country from the West to the East and from the North to the South, in the office, and the numerous events we had attended.

You gave so much to everyone around you and touched so many lives with your love and generosity. You left an indelible mark on all of us, and your spirit will live on through the memories we hold dear.

Though our hearts are broken, we find comfort in knowing that you are at Peace. You brought calm and kindness to every room that you entered. Your love was quiet, but powerful. I will always be grateful for having such a warmth, humorous relationship with you. Your standards and legacy as the former first lady can never be compared with any former first ladies in Ghana and Africa as a whole.

We will miss you more than words can say, but I and the rest of the families will never forget you. Rest in perfect peace my dearest sister-in-law. May the Almighty Father give you a perfect place to rest peacefully.

Though you are gone, your memory will forever be a blessing.

Farewell, Farewell, Hede Nuyie.

You gave so much to
everyone around you and
touched so many lives with
your love and generosity.



Uncompromising IN HER PROMOTION OF AFRICAN CULTURE

AMBASSADOR PATRICK HAYFORD

For nineteen years, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings served as First Lady of Ghana, a courageous, steadfast spouse, partner and collaborator to His Excellency Flt. Lt. J.J. Rawlings in the leadership of the country.

They travelled the length and breadth of Ghana, learning at first hand the stark painful realities faced by most of the people of Ghana. Together, they spearheaded the beginning of Ghana's long, painful, difficult journey on the path to stability and socio-economic recovery.

She will be remembered for championing the rights of wives, mothers, and children; for the many day-care centres established all over the country; for the countless primary school buildings built through her initiatives; and for pushing for greater gender balance in national life.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was uncompromising in her promotion of African culture and fashion, and in this area, led by example.

May her soul rest in perfect peace

She will be remembered for
championing the rights of
wives, mothers, and children ...



Farewell MY DANCING PARTNER

AMARKAI AMARTEIFIO



Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings lived the dream of Dr Kwegyir Aggrey. “Educate a man and you have educated an individual but educate a woman and you have educated a whole NATION.”

Nana was versatile as she championed the cause of women and worked for what she believed will further this cause; she was totally committed to the cause as part of national development and global peace.

Sometime in 1985, I travelled to the United States and returned with a video of “EVITA”.

EVITA PERON was a phenomenal lady, wife of a pilot in the Argentina air force who became the President of Argentina. I told Mrs. Rawlings what I brought from America. The next day Mr. Elvis Aryeh was in my house to pick the video for Nana. I have no doubt that Nana saw herself in the mirror that Elvis took to her.

Even though I served in the PNDC, my relationship with Mrs. Rawlings was more social than political. Indeed, I have lost a very veritable dancing partner by her death.

Nana was a member of the “Kpokpoi” club made up of the Akufo sisters; Sophia, Stella, Betty and Mrs. Anderson, and other prominent Members of Accra society who met at my home every year to celebrate Homowo.

Exactly a year ago on her birthday, Nana invited me, Betty Akufo and Ladi Nylander to join her and her children and two of her grandchildren; one of whom is my grand-niece, to lunch. It turned out to be a hilarious and very happy occasion.

Never a dull moment in your company Nana. I will miss you.

Nana, rest in eternal peace. May Mother Earth lie lightly upon you.

Farewell my dancing partner.



The MEMORIES WE SHARE WILL LIVE FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

MRS AMA SIEGRIST AND HER CHILDREN



We are at a loss for words. We still cannot believe that my dear friend Nana, as I affectionately called her, and Auntie Nana to my children, is no longer with us. It is even harder to accept that she is truly gone.

You were more than a friend, and I was fortunate to have had you in my life for almost 50 years.

I could never have imagined on that day in 1976 that our brief encounter in Zürich — while you were working as an interior decorator at Jelmoli, one of the largest department stores in Switzerland, and I, a student nurse — would grow into a lifelong friendship.

We bonded deeply during our charity work in 1985.



My late husband, Dr. Daniel Siegrist, a Swiss medical doctor, and I came to work in Ghana with the Basel Mission of Switzerland at Agogo Presbyterian Hospital for one year, and then continued to Bawku Presbyterian Hospital until 1990.

You visited us in Bawku.

Spending time with your family, and you with mine, remains one of my most treasured memories.

You always made us feel like family. You believed that family was not only defined by blood, but by love — and you showed this through your actions and your generosity over the years.

I am so grateful for the time we had together.

The memories we share will live forever in our hearts.

Our family trip with the children to Disneyland in Paris is one of our joyful memories. We will look back on that time, and the photos that captured it, with a smile and think of you fondly.

Thirteen years ago, when my husband passed away, you could not attend the funeral, but you sent Amina and Kimathi in your place, and you came to spend time with me soon after. Your kindness and support during that painful period meant more to me than you could ever know.

You stood by me when I donated three 40-foot containers of medical equipment from my husband's medical practice to the hospital in my hometown, and to Bawku Hospital. These were important moments for me, and I am grateful that you were there in my hometown to share them with me. We later visited the Cocoa Research Institute together.

Nana promised to visit me in Switzerland in autumn, and now I am coming for her funeral, so sad.

I will certainly never forget your love for Swiss Berner Platte and the joy the whole family shared while enjoying it.

All these memories, and the lasting friendship we were blessed with, are your gifts to me, and I thank you with my whole heart.

I will miss your love, your honour, your loyalty, your comfort, your honesty, your reliability, and your integrity — and these are only a few of the words I would use to describe you.

Your friendship will live in every part of me forever.

Adieu, unsere liebe Nana, und Auntie Nana.

Your friendship will live in
every part of me forever.



Tribute TO H.E NANA KONADU AGYEMAN—RAWLINGS

(17 NOVEMBER 1948 – 23 OCTOBER 2025)

VIVIENNE IDUN-OGDE



“

“Nana Konadu’s impact endures – in every woman who leads, every community that thrives, and every effort towards a more inclusive Ghana.”

I write this with great sadness over the unimaginable loss of a classmate and a friend.

I’m still in shock!

Nana and I met before Achimota School. She attended Ghana International School, but her younger sisters, Nana Serwaa and Nana Sefa, attended Demonstration School, Legon with me.



I remember how she would always come to the front door of their Ridge home, waiting with a warm smile and a gentle wave as we dropped her sisters off after school on the bus.

We continued exchanging photos and notes until we were both admitted by Achimota in 1961. She was assigned to Kingsley House and I to Slessor House.

At Achimota, Nana and JJ's paths crossed again, after Mrs Sam's Nursery School. They both found themselves in the same classroom – Form 1C. That was when it all started!

JJ found her intriguing and she was clearly smitten. They got married in 1976. A formidable union that transformed Ghana & took the office of the First Lady to another level.

She worked tirelessly to empower and advance the status of Ghanaian Women.

H.E Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, whose courage and conviction lit the path for generations. A former First Lady of Ghana, a tireless advocate for women's rights, and a visionary who believed deeply in justice, equity, and the power of collective action.

In 1995, at the fourth Women Conference on Women in Beijing, she played a key role by helping establish the African First Ladies Peace Mission, championing the protection of women and children affected by conflict.

Her leadership at the Abuja Summit in 1995, also strengthened this mission and inspired meaningful reforms in gender equality back home in Ghana and beyond.

Through the 31st December Women's Movement, she uplifted countless women, established preschools, and opened doors to education, leadership, and dignity for those once unheard. She showed that empowerment and humanity are inseparable – and that women are not just supporters of change but leaders of it.

As she once said,

"Women's vital role of promoting peace in the family, the country, and the world at large must be acknowledged. And to do this, they must be empowered politically."

Nana Konadu's impact endures – in every woman who leads, every community that thrives, and every effort towards a more inclusive Ghana. Her life reminds us that service is strength and that one person's conviction can echo across generations.

Nana had a beautiful soul and a genuine smile. She laughed a lot and also loved dancing. She enjoyed music so much that, she and my brother Jimmy of blessed memory, performed with "The Human Beings Band" of KNUST where their voices became part of so many evenings.

Thank you, Nana, for believing, for serving, and for lighting a path that continues to guide us all.

May your spirit rest in eternal peace, and may your legacy forever empower.

We Salute You!

Goodbye Nana.

Rest peacefully in the Lord!



Your CHARACTER IS ONE HISTORY ITSELF CONTINUES TO APPLAUD

KWABENA ASARE (“K”)

In this great theatre of life, where destinies cross like actors meeting under the warm glow of footlights, there are figures who do not merely enter a scene—they command it. You are one such presence. A matriarchal force, a resolute spirit, and a woman whose poise echoes nobility.

A woman’s dignity is her crown. I can only describe you as a noble heroine: unwavering in principle, regal in bearing, and fiercely devoted to the welfare of people and what is right. Whenever I saw you, I saw you stride in confidence and your voice was always assured. It is clear your views and convictions were carved from the granite of purpose. From my personal interactions with you, you embodied leadership the way a seasoned thespian embodies a role—not as a performance, but as truth lived boldly. You lived life for real, not for show.

To be in your presence was both an honour and a lesson. For in your presence, one is reminded that elegance is natural, and that vision, when fused with courage, can reshape nations or a desire in life. Despite our height differences, whenever I was in your presence you stood very tall, as a pillar—firm, unyielding, yet warm with the heart of a mother who knows the weight and worth of legacy.

I have not only read and heard about you. I have learnt directly from you. Your life’s stages have seen triumphs, trials, applause, and critique, all of which you met with the composure of a grand Lady standing graciously. Still you rise, scene after scene, chapter after chapter, defining your life with passion, intellect, and a timeless dignity that would make anyone great or small take a respectful bow or curtsy.

I certainly am not happy writing this today, but I offer this tribute, not as mere written words, but as a standing ovation to a woman whose impact resounds beyond family, beyond era, beyond the universe.

May your light continue to illuminate the paths we tread, and may your example remind us always of what it means to live with purpose, honour, and an indomitable spirit.

Your character is one history itself continues to applaud.

Rest Perfectly and Rest Well, K



An INDOMITABLE SPIRIT THAT IS WHO YOU WERE

MILDRED ANNAN



When I first joined the 31st December Women's Movement, now Developing Women for Mobilization as a national service person some two and a half decades ago, I never imagined the profound impact one individual; Her Excellency Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings would have on both my professional growth and personal development. Rising through the system to eventually become the administrator and her Executive Assistant, I have had the privilege and honour of working closely with a woman who exemplified strength, discipline, and unwavering dedication. Throughout this progression, one constant has been the formidable presence and guidance of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, a leader who embodied strength, integrity, and excellence.



I remember those early days when I often earned a “black eye” from you, for one thing or the other, but with time, I came to understand you, and everything began to fall into place. You were a true disciplinarian, firm, wise, intentional, and principled and I am eternally grateful.

You were strong, strict, and tough and an enigma in many ways. At first glance, your no-nonsense demeanour can be intimidating. You spoke your mind without hesitation and never sugarcoated the truth. Yet, beneath that tough exterior lied a warm, sweet soul who was deeply kind-hearted and an incredibly nurturing person who cared genuinely for the people she led. You were a mother figure to many, and me, offering support and guidance, balancing fairness and firmness with genuine care and empathy.

As the leader of the organization, you were action-driven and highly organized, and always focused on results. Your organizational capabilities were outstanding, and your ability to manage multiple responsibilities with precision was a testament to your dedication. Your ability to compartmentalize personal matters from your professional responsibilities was one of your greatest strengths, allowing you to remain efficient and composed even in the most challenging situations. Your dependability was unmatched, and when you committed, you delivered.

An indomitable spirit that is who you were. A woman who could not be subdued, who faced life with dignity, humour and style, no matter the circumstance. You lived colourfully, boldly, and courageously. You taught me accountability in the simplest but most lasting ways: keeping records, staying organised, and even when we gave gifts out to people, we documented them. Little did I know then that these were lessons in responsibility, integrity, and stewardship.

You were loving, giving, and caring. You had a special way of making everyone around you feel seen, valued, and cherished. You attended to each of us individually, nurturing our unique needs with grace. You never left anyone behind; you carried us all along with you. No matter our mood when we arrived at work, the moment we saw you, your infectious joy and radiant smile transformed the atmosphere. You had a gift for turning sorrow into laughter and worry into hope.

Even when some members and executives of the Movement deserted the organization, and tried to crush and ground the organization, you forged on all alone, through court cases here and there. You never lost focus through the highs and the lows and you did the best you could consistently to the best of your ability.

Your mind was a library of history, wisdom, and knowledge. No one ever left your presence the same, everyone walked away having learned something new. You impacted minds, shaped characters, and refined destinies.

What made you truly exceptional was your authenticity. You were dependable, and unwavering in your commitment to excellence. You were straightforward and strong-headed, yet always fair and just and grounded in a desire to see others succeed while upholding the highest standards. Your leadership style challenged those around you to rise to their potential, while your kindness and helpful nature provided a strong support system for those in need.

Working with you has been an invaluable experience, one that I will value for life. Your mentorship and leadership has shaped not only my life, but also my outlook on what it means to lead with both strength and heart and you have left an indelible mark on my character.



You are without question, an exceptional and an inspiring woman and if I had to do life again I would chose you repeatedly.

Your generosity was not measured by abundance, whether it was your breakfast or a small snack, you shared everything you had, even when I was out running official errands, you always left a portion of whatever you had aside for me. Your generosity travelled beyond those of us close to you to even our family members who had never had an encounter with you. That was your heart: selfless, thoughtful, giving without holding back.

You have seen me through a lot and supported me every step of the way, always giving it your all. I will never forget the morning of my eye surgery, how you held my hand, prayed with me, and reassured me as a true mother would. That gesture meant the world to me. I asked myself how I could ever repay that love. Thank you for all the wonderful things you have done. Some of them I cannot put into writing but I acknowledge and appreciate them deeply. Thank you for being there every single time.

In our conversations when you questioned the behaviour of people and why some people said horrible things about you even though they did not truly know you, I told you posterity would be your judge and almost immediately you left us, people started praising you and eulogizing your good works and all that you did, although the very same people failed to do so while you were alive, so mum, you did not toil in vain, your work was not in vain. My only wish was for you to have

heard it yourself when it mattered most, but it is well. As you told me one day, that Dee, your late father had told you never to look back when doing good or hope for a thank you, because it hardly comes back.

You were a rare gem, strong, vibrant, compassionate, and unforgettable.

To me, you were four people in one, my boss, my mother, my friend, and my confidante. Losing you feels like losing four pillars of my life at once. I miss our late-night calls, the early-morning check-ins, and our weekend conversations. Oh Mum, why did you have to leave so soon? My wish was for you to grow very old, so that just as you cared for me, I would in turn care for you. However, the Lord, in His wisdom, had other plans.

Thank you for loving me deeply and treating me as one of your children. Thank you for shaping me into a better person. Thank you for every smile, every lesson, every prayer, and every sacrifice.

Even in my dreams, I still see you smiling so keep smiling, Mum, until we meet again.

You are loved beyond measure.

Your legacy lives on, it remains supreme.

Fare Dee well mum, rest well in the bosom of the lord, and rest peacefully, until we meet again.



Heart TO HEART, LOVE TO LOVE

ROBERT QUAYE TETTEH



“

“The Day is over, the Night is drawn near. What remains is to take our REST”. HEART TO HEART, LOVE TO LOVE, and all the heroes and heroines have paid their due to the ALMIGHTY.

I came into contact with Nana Konadu Agyeman as she was then referred to, and Jerry John Rawlings in 1970, together with some Achimota School Graduates. We were a small group of young exuberants within the Ring Way Estate. It was a lovely sight to behold. Cast your mind back then. Rock & Roll, wild



conversations, musical displays and a great fun. Nana was a BALLET Dancer, she was a dancer of other cultural music.

Even though Nana was from a very affluent background, she never allowed the influence of affluence over shadow her desires. We sometimes teased her that their house was a small G.N.T.C. because her father was the Managing Director of the then G.N.T.C. and did perceive her home as lacking NOTHING. One should also take a look at a Boulevard and so the place was. But interestingly, she descended into our domain and soldiered on with us.

At discussion time, she was eloquent, sharp in thought and very aggressive with her points. We sometimes wonder where she got all her ideas from. But whatever she did or said then, was with great equanimity.

Nana was cute, well labelled and already a lady and beautiful. Nana after graduating from K.N.U.S.T got employed at U.T.C. Fortunately, she got married to one of us, Jerry John Rawlings in 1975 and became Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings Mrs. By providence she became a 1st Lady for 3 months in 1979. Again by providence, she became the 1st Lady for the 2nd time in 1982 and for the 19 years remained Ghana's longest 1st Lady to year 2021. I recall those days with nostalgia, when we walked from the Ring Way Estate to the Kwame Nkrumah Circle just to buy RUFFIANS (SPECIAL RICE & STEW) with what we then referred to as "encomiums". It was lovely. We came back to No. 13 Ring Way Estate, spread it on the dining table in the dining room and ate gleefully.

The road there was our domain till late at night. With her zeal, tenacity of purpose and principled position, and her organizational skills, I never doubted her abilities in the establishment of the 31st December Women's Movement. Being an Artist by training, she designed all

visuals of the Movement. Replete with ideas, she spearheaded Women's liberation and emancipation campaign. A cursory look into her activities at the December Women's Movement Offices will tell a lot of the numerous things she embarked upon.

On the International front, she became an envoy of Ghana and got well appreciated, accepted and respected, thus bringing dignity to the Women of Ghana.

Many a woman had been impacted by her singular role as she did boldly advocate for their emancipation. Today, as we celebrate Nana, we have women now standing tall on her shoulders as leaders of our time. Nana didn't shy away from POLITICS. When time came for political activities to resume, she together with other colleagues got involved in the FORMATION of the N.D.C

The paraphernalia of the N.D.C, is believed to have been produced by her. Her contribution towards the sustenance and maintenance of the Party, Party Officials and Party members from the humble beginnings to date cannot be overemphasized.

Her support for Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings leading to 2 victories of the Party is phenomenal. And so therefore, OBAA KONADU, WOBYEYI BI, YE'DI NYAME DAWO ASE.

The day is ended. Your work pleases your maker. He and He alone is clothed with the POWER of RECALL INTO ETERNITY. HE THEREFORE CALLED AT A TIME HE CHOSE TO SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO US. HEART TO HEART, LOVE TO LOVE, FOR WHENCE WE KNOW NOT OF. FARE YOU

WELL. SLEEP WELL. NANA NYAME NFA WO SIE. AMEN



A BOLD, STRONG CHARACTER

MAAME YAA EDUSEI



“

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write, blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Revelation 14:13



It is with profound sorrow that I have to write this tribute in memory of a beautiful soul I have known since our childhood days and later in life to work with, Her Excellency Dr. (Mrs.) Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

Our relationship began years ago when our two families were residing at the Ringway Estates Enclave at Osu.

I used to play in their house with her younger siblings Nana Sefa and Nana Serwah, My older siblings Gloria and Christiana were her mates at the Ghana International School, Cantonments, her late father Mr J.O.T Agyeman whom we called Uncle J.O.T and my late father Benjamin Kyem Edusei (BK Edusei) were good friends. When her family relocated we lost touch till 1966 when I entered Achimota School (The then Prince of Wales College) and met her in Lower 6 form.

When we both left Achimota, She gained admission to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), and I entered the Ghana Institute of Journalism. After school I was employed at the Daily Graphic and she was working at the UTC stores in Accra, I frequently visited her at the store from time to time to do some shopping.

When she formed the 31st December Women's Movement, my late Mum worked with her as an Organizer, and later when the NDC was formed she became the Women's Organizer for the Okaikoi North constituency.

She worked closely with her, although I was not a member of the Movement, I saw the good works she did to empower women into economic ventures. The Girl Guide Education was on her heart and as a result she established a number of schools through the length and breadth of the country.

To enable our market women to concentrate on selling their wares she established a number of Day Care Centers in the markets. She was not an arm-chair President of the 31st December Women's Movement; she travelled to remote villages to engage the women in food processing.

When she formed the National Democratic Party (NDP) she asked me to be part of the Communication team and I obliged, because I believed in her vision and what she stood for. I did a lot of media related work for her, both for radio and print media. During the year 2012 I travelled with her to Abuja Nigeria, I invited the ITV station based in Benin city Edo State, Nigeria, the owner, His Excellency Sir Chief Gabriel Osawaru Igbinedion, the ESAMA of Benin kingdom to interview her, the interview was aired all over Nigeria, We then continued to Equatorial Guinea at the invitation of the 1st Lady of that country.

When we got back to Ghana we started campaigning for the 2012 General Elections. She was disqualified to contest as a Presidential Candidate by the Electoral Commission under the chairmanship of Mr. Afari Djan. This did not deter her, four years later in 2016 she stood as the Party's flagbearer once again to contest, The EC under Madam Charlotte Osei tried a second time to disqualify her together with other Presidential Candidates, we went to court and the EC lost the case. She appeared on the ballot paper, and together with the campaign team, we vigorously toured all the regions of the country.



She taught me how to pass the Party's message across to the electorates. The Party fielded a number of Parliamentary Candidates, although she did not win the election, her participation made an impact on the General Election. She was a very bold, strong character and never gave up on what she believed in.

She was a lover of music and dancing, this made us attend a number of music shows which included the Legends Night Show by the late Daddy Lumba at the Accra International Conference Center with her late husband, Former President J.J Rawlings and Former President J A Kuffuor. She was always present at my luncheon parties, and on some occasions she came with her late mum Mama Felicia Agyeman and the her children, Princess Amina and Kimathi.

She was kind and loving to all, my daughter in-law, Joan, a Philipino National, who worked in her Adjiriganor School commented that she treated her as her daughter and was kind and very loving.

She became a face at the ICGC Open Heavens Temple at Adjiriganor where I worship, She attended my late mums 5th Anniversary Service, the Church's Night of Gratitude Service and a Thanksgiving Service.

The congregants were delighted at seeing her; as usual she exchanged pleasantries with church members.

I can go on and on.

This tribute is to let the world know her true nature and the bond of our friendship spanning over 5 decades and the warmth and love she showed during our time together.

I will forever be grateful to you for the good times we shared and the memories we created.

Your Excellency, fare thee well

Your Excellency, rest well in the bosom of our Lord.

Da Yie, Damirifa Due.

I will forever be grateful to you
for the good times we shared
and the memories we created.



Her ENDURING LEGACY WILL SURVIVE HER LIFE ON EARTH

ADAMA GAYE,
FORMER EDITOR WEST AFRICA
MAGAZINE AND ECOWAS DIRECTOR

Rest In Peace, Princess... “Next to every great man is a woman” - so said the then Ghana’s First Lady when I submitted to her the well-known sentence placing women behind successful men. I was doing a profile on Madam Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, nearly thirty years ago, for the prestigious Paris-based pan-African magazine, Jeune Afrique.

Ever since, I have come to associate this Ashanti Princess with clarity in her standing, principled stance, personality, intelligence, commitment to the upliftment of Ghanaian, African, women and their causes. Her enduring legacy will survive her life on earth. She contributed decisively, along with her also late husband, President Jerry John, in the making of the powerful and among the most recognisable African political Brand: The Rawlings, reminiscent of the Kennedys, Bushs, Clintons. The Rawlings saga is here to stay.

What an honour to have become a Senegalese-Ghanaian owing to what Madam Rawlings stood for: an African hospitality with joy and rigour as Ghana reclaimed its dignity through the Rawlings purposeful leadership.

Rest in peace H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.



To MY WARRIOR SISTER

SOPHIA BRAKATU ADADE



Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings embodied the spirit of a modern-day warrior—resilient, tenacious, and politically inclined—even when we were on the UST campus. She wasn't afraid to speak her mind and always demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities. On campus, Nana Konadu was renowned for her impeccable style and her graceful dance moves—always executed with perfection, smoothness, and elegance. She actively participated in various events across Africa Hall, including fashion shows.



Nana accepted people for who they were, regardless of their background. She loved fiercely and unconditionally. She never forgot to acknowledge her friends, regardless of her social status or global influence. She remembered friends during holidays and sent them hampers, cards, and other thoughtful gifts.

\After graduating, I made it a point to visit her at UTC. Whenever we met again, it felt as though time had stood still. Our conversations flowed effortlessly, picking up right where we left off. As friends, we were open about our feelings and experiences. When we felt wronged, we would apologise—and that was the end of the matter.

We even met each other's children during their formative years, when we visited Nana at her Ridge residence. Her compassionate nature touched me deeply. She always remembered my joys and sorrows. She even made it a point to acknowledge the passing of my parents and my baby brother, Colonel Edward K. Brakatu.

We had one rule: no politics in our conversations. However, when she and President Rawlings visited the United States, we made sure to attend their events to support them. I remember a particularly moving visit to the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies, where she took a course in Philanthropy. Our mutual friend, the late Frank Savage of Equitable/AXA and a Johns Hopkins board member, organised dinners in her honour, both at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore and at The Equitable/AXA boardroom in New York City, USA.

Despite her petite stature, Nana commanded attention. She exuded confidence and charisma. She moved with purpose—and was highly strategic and effective. She had Chutzpah. Nana's contributions to society were truly remarkable. She charted her own course and left an indelible legacy for many women. She will be forever missed.

Nana Konadu, rest peacefully with the Lord.



“

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” (Luke 6:37 NIV)



Farewell, DEAR ONE

SUSAN L. TAYLOR & KHEPHRA BURNS

Dear Nana,

When we heard of your passing, we wondered how you could have gone so suddenly, leaving us with the mess that is the world we now live in. Certainly not a mess of your making but one in need of your grace now more than ever – your smile, your laughter, broad as all Africa's embrace, welcoming as an open door; your open heart the burning hearth at the centre of the Rawlings family you welcomed us into. You walked among us in integrity, a woman of unshakeable conviction, radiant beauty and deep wisdom, beautiful in spirit and in stature. You carried such joy and seriousness in perfect balance, always searching for the better way, always building bridges to a brighter future for the people.

From Accra to New York City, we broke bread not just as friends but as witnesses to your brilliance,

your strategies to organise, your vision to move our Motherland forward. You were a leader, yes, but also a teacher, a committed wife, a devoted mother, a faithful friend, an emblem of what it means to live fully in service and love.

Your legacy is now entrusted to the children, who imbibe your spirit, who will wear the mantle and carry the banner into generations to come. We bow in gratitude for your presence in our lives and lift our voices among the chorus of millions who also honour the path you walked.





Nkar IS STILL ALIVE

CONMANY B. WESSEH

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings is not dead, cannot and will not die. Nana is a heck of a woman who I began knowing and tried to understand since post June 4, 1979 - the "first coming of JJ Rawlings" era. Two of my memorable learning curves about her were her sterling leadership of Ghanaian women through the 31st December Women's Movement during my 10-year exile life in Ghana (1981-1991). In later years, I accompanied the venerable Dr. Amos Claudius Sawyer to try dissuading her to abandon her quest, at that juncture, for the Ghana presidency. She had formed a new party against the now ruling National Democratic Congress whose creation she and her husband had championed.

Sawyer had been prodded onto this venture by key Ghanaian and some African leaders. We were moved by her strong reasoning and so Sawyer gave up. Jerry had obviously failed or did not try enough. We continued engaging once in a while including a reminder about my contribution to JJ's unfulfilled wish for a memoir. My most recent interactions with her were at two historic events in Accra this year: The 40th

Anniversary (June 22) of the Dedication of the W. E. B. Du Bois Memorial Centre for Pan African Culture - an entity I was privileged to head in 1989/90 - at which event, one of her daughters, Yaa Asantewaa Agyeman-Rawlings delivered a brilliant and powerful Keynote Address; and again on August 27, at the 62nd Anniversary of the Passing of the great Du Bois in Accra.

All speakers, including myself at both events, paid glowing tributes to Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings in acknowledgement of her role in the recent history of Ghana. She is certainly such a woman, it takes to be a lifelong partner of my friend and leader, a national and Pan-African hero as Jerry John Rawlings and to step out of his huge shadow into her own big bright light.

Cry not, my dear - Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina and Kimathi.

With all respect,

***Conmany B. and the whole Wesseh clan -
including Medina and all our children from
Monrovia***



To LIVE IN HEARTS WE LEAVE BEHIND IS NOT TO DIE

AKWASI OPPONG-FOSU

There are lives that illuminate history — lives so impactful that their echoes endure long after their earthly journey ends. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was one such remarkable woman — a symbol of courage, purpose, and devotion who redefined what it meant to serve a nation and humanity.

A Supportive Wife and a Protective Mother

My earliest memory of her remains vivid. It was shortly after the revolution when I was Chairman of the June 4th Movement at the University of Ghana. We had organised a public lecture with Chairman Rawlings at the Great Hall. When the programme ended and I stepped outside into the cold, dusty Harmattan night, I saw a sight that spoke volumes about her character.

There she was — Mrs. Rawlings — sitting quietly on one of the concrete slabs in the flower garden outside the Great Hall, waiting for her husband to finish his discussions. The weather was chilly, yet she sat patiently with her baby daughter wrapped tenderly but protectively with her body and shawl. It was a moment that revealed her humility, devotion, and deep sense of family. She was not just a public figure — she was a supportive wife and a nurturing mother, embodying strength through simplicity and grace through sacrifice.

A Fierce Advocate for Women's Empowerment

Beyond the home, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was a towering figure in the struggle for women's empowerment in Ghana and across Africa. She did not just speak about change — she lived it. Her work with the 31st December Women's Movement became a lifeline for countless women across the country, from cities to the remotest corners of Ghana.

I remember her visits to Tapa, where I served as the PNDC District Secretary — now known as District Chief Executive. During those visits, we walked together through cocoa farms, hamlets, and small communities. She met the women where they lived and worked — in the fields, by their firesides, and in community centres — encouraging them to take charge of their own destinies.



At Tepa and beyond, she showed genuine interest in the economic empowerment projects of the 31st December Women's Movement – soap making, gari processing, tie-and-dye, and batik production. She insisted on visiting every project site herself, walking long distances through difficult terrain, often under harsh weather conditions. Even when her health was not at its best, she pressed on – driven by a sense of mission, always accompanied by loyal comrades. Her leadership was not about position; it was about purpose. She was an advocate who believed that the progress of women was essential to the progress of the nation.

Her Legacy Lives On

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings lived her life with integrity and conviction. She was fearless in her pursuit of justice, steadfast in her principles, and tireless in her commitment to Ghana's development. She redefined the role of the First Lady – not as an ornamental figure, but as a partner in nation-building.

Her name will forever be linked to empowerment, courage, and service. Through her work, she transformed the lives of women who once thought themselves forgotten. She inspired generations to believe that leadership can be compassionate, and that true greatness is measured by the lives one uplifts.

Rest well, Nana Konadu. You have finished your course with honour. You have left footprints that will never fade - in the hearts of women you empowered, the communities you touched, and the nation you helped shape.

Indeed, to live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.

She redefined the role of the First Lady – not as an ornamental figure, but as a partner in nation-building.



To MY FRIEND, NANA KONADU AGYEMAN— RAWLINGS

MRS. WINNIFRED OKYERE



“

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”

– Psalm 90:1-2 (NKJV)

We began our journey together as bright-eyed girls in Form One in 1961. The world was wide open, and our futures were a blank page waiting to be written. Little did I know that the young girl in the same dorm with me would become not just a schoolmate, but a thread woven through the entire tapestry of my life. Our paths diverged after June 1966 - Nana returned to Achimota School for her sixth form, while I embarked on my nursing career. Yet, even in separation, the bond forged in those hallowed school halls held fast.



Life, in its mysterious way, brought us back together in Kumasi in 1970, a joyful reconnection that was, once again, followed by seasons of silence. It was in 1992 that our paths crossed meaningfully once more. Nana, with her characteristic drive, sought my husband's firm for a project with the 31st December Women's Movement, the remarkable NGO she spearheaded. That was Nana - always building, always pushing for progress, and never forgetting a face from her past.

There is a regret I must voice, a quiet ache I have carried. In all the years she was the First Lady of this nation, I never went to see her. It was a silence she never forgave me for, and she was right to chastise me years later, when we met to commiserate with her after her mother-in-law's passing. "You never called; you never visited!" she scolded. I had no excuse. I simply smiled, her husband smiled in that knowing way of his, and the unspoken understanding between us was that some friendships are so deep, they can withstand even the weight of long silences and regretted distances.

And then, as if to compensate for lost time, we began to meet more often. It was, as it so often is in Ghana, at funerals - for her husband, the late President of the Republic, for her siblings, her cousins, our classmates. In these moments of shared grief, we found our connection rekindled, a testament to a friendship that was resilient enough to weather any storm.

But oh, we had our joyful times, too - precious, sun-drenched memories I will cling to forever. She graced my fiftieth wedding anniversary two years ago, a celebration of enduring love. And then, for my husband's 80th birthday last year, Nana demonstrated the depth of her care in a way that still moves me to tears. She came directly from an assignment in the Central Region, ensuring she was punctually at our door by 8 a.m. She cared enough to make that effort. In that simple, selfless

act, she showed a love and support that I will cherish for the rest of my days.

Nana was a force of nature. Stubborn? Unquestionably. Determined, confident, and fiercely capable? One cannot deny it. She was a fighter, but her battles were never for herself alone.

Nana Ko-na-du! Why did Dad JOT have to give you this heavy, powerful name? It was a name you were destined to grow into, a name that spoke of a burden and a purpose. And indeed, life for you was always a fight to be fought. You battled asthma, a condition that never gave you a moment's breathing space, yet you refused to be confined by it.

They called you "Cassava sticks" in Kingsley House because of your skinny legs, but those very sticks became pillars of strength. They propelled you to become a celebrated athlete for our House and for the school - a star in the High Jump, the Long Jump, the Sprints, and of course, in the water, swimming with grace and power. You had an incredible gift for turning every challenge into a stepping stone.

When your husband's duties took him away from home more often than you would have liked, you did not simply wait. You grew wings. Your fighting spirit, your unwavering belief in justice, liberated the Ghanaian woman and child. You built a legacy of empowerment that will be difficult for any First Lady on this continent to match.

And now, Nana, the battle is done. The race has been run and run so gloriously well. The asthma that once tightened your chest is gone. The heavy burdens you carried for so many have been laid down.

So rest now, my dear friend. Rest well, dear Konadu. Your work here is complete.

Da yie, Dɔfo pa. Da yie.

Rest well, good friend. Rest well.



An INDELIBLE MARK ETCHED UPON THE HISTORY OF GHANA

ISAAC TETTEH
CEO OF TT BROTHERS

On this solemn occasion, I join the nation in mourning, the passing of Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, a true definition of strength, a timeless spirit of courage, and an enduring symbol of bold leadership.

As Ghana's longest-serving First Lady, she etched an indelible mark upon the history of our nation, championing women's empowerment, social justice, and national development with passion and conviction.

I have a deep personal connection with the Rawlings family; sharing a birthday with the late President Jerry John Rawlings has always been a reminder of our intertwined paths and shared moments of significance. I remember vividly when President Rawlings and Mrs. Agyeman-Rawlings graciously attended the 10th anniversary memorial of my late father at Prampram. It was on that memorable day that my late uncle, Hon. E. T. Mensah, asked me to introduce the late Ade Coker to both President and Mrs. Rawlings, a moment that remains deeply engraved in my heart. In the warmth of our familial bond, I will never forget how, whenever Mrs. Rawlings said with her characteristic firmness, "Mr. T.T., speak to your father," I instantly knew what she meant — a phrase that carried both affection and purpose.



To the bereaved family, particularly Amina Rawlings, Hon. Dr. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings, Yaa Asantewaa Rawlings and Kimathi Rawlings, I extend my deepest condolences. May the memories of her love, resilience, and selfless dedication to the welfare of Ghanaians bring you comfort and inspiration in this difficult moment.

Please know that I, Isaac Tetteh, remain steadfast in my commitment to the family, and my fidelity to the enduring Rawlings legacy remains unshakeable and resolute.

May Mrs. Rawlings' exemplary life continues to inspire us all to work toward a better, fairer, and more compassionate Ghana.

Rest in perfect peace, Nana Konadu.

Your light will forever shine in our hearts.



When GIANTS WALK AMONG US

DR KOFI AYIM

Every generation is granted only a handful of giants, souls whose presence are a force, whose convictions recalibrate the world around them. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings -Mum - was one of those rare giants. She did not wait for history to find her; she confronted it, shaped it, and carved her name into its stone with a will that few could match. To know her was to witness a living chapter of Ghana's struggle, its pride, and its unbroken resolve. She was a lioness whose wisdom could disarm, whose devotion to her country could move even the most unmoved heart.

To stand in her presence was to feel the rhythm of Ghana itself.

Before anything else, I knew her through a professional relationship built on trust, responsibility, and a shared commitment to dignity. And yet, what began as a formal engagement transformed into something profoundly human: a connection born of mutual respect, sharpened by shared conviction, and illuminated by laughter only those who see the world through similar eyes can share.

We discovered early that we spoke the same language, a language of integrity, of an Africa that must stand on its own feet, of Pan-Africanism not as a slogan but as a sacred responsibility. What a privilege. We shared the same intolerance for corruption, the same belief that dignity is not granted but defended, and the unshakeable conviction that self-reliance is the truest form of freedom.

Our humour intertwined effortlessly, bridging generations. In our long conversations, she became not only a professional counterpart but a mentor, a guide, and a philosopher of the most unexpected kind.

I remember vividly the time she allowed me to read her unpublished book, the work she guarded with extraordinary care. For over an hour, she let me into her private world: her thoughts, her memories, her unfinished truths. I would have read until dawn if my eyes had not surrendered to fatigue. My mind, however, remained illuminated long after.

Not often, but one day she shared with me a story from the 1980s, when she was First Lady. She had made a decision that no one else dared: to wear African fabrics, Ghanaian-designed kente and wax print, at international gatherings instead of European couture. She was literally the first First Lady to spearhead this transformation. It was more than fashion, it was identity, pride, and a statement of sovereignty.



Through her courage, African wear began claiming its place on the global stage, inspiring a generation of women to wear their heritage with dignity.

She narrated to me her leadership of the 31st December Women's Movement, recounting with clarity and passion how she travelled every village and town, reading the pulse of her people. She was a strategist, a political force, a storyteller whose memory could humble even the most seasoned scholar. Her mind was a map, her will an unshakeable current, and her courage a legacy that refused to whisper, it roared.

From my professional vantage, I witnessed her discipline, passion, and relentless commitment to women, children, and the nation. She taught me Ghana's history not as dates but as a living organism: its triumphs, scars, rhythms, and transformations. She spoke of women's rights not as a concept but as duty. Through the Movement, she built over 800 early childhood development centres, improved education and health programmes, organised income-generating projects, and shaped laws that reshaped women's lives, from customary marriage to intestate succession.

In the final years, she confided in me with a heavy yet hopeful heart. She worried deeply about the nation's direction, not as a political observer, but as a mother of the nation. She lamented the fading etiquette, declining discipline, indifference toward cleanliness, and how wealth seemed to replace integrity, sacrifice, and duty. Yet beneath her concern lived unbroken faith

that Ghana's spirit could be rekindled. She believed strongly that a nation loses its soul the moment its people stop believing in higher principles.

We spoke of all these things, and many more. I came to know her not just as a national figure, but as a towering mind and deeply human soul. She was not merely part of Ghana's story; she was one of the architects of its modern identity.

To have worked with her was a responsibility.

To have learned from her was a privilege.

But to have known her over these final years, when her wisdom had matured into something rare and unfiltered, was an honour beyond measure.

What a woman.

Fire, fire, fire.

A mind that challenged, a heart that carried a nation, and a legacy that will not fade, because she planted seeds, awakened minds, and altered the destinies of countless women and families.

She has left the earth, but not the world.

Her imprint is permanent.

Her voice echoes on.

May her memory rise like the sun she so fiercely believed in: Unapologetic, illuminating, and absolutely unstoppable.



A TRIBUTE TO MY DEAR FRIEND

NANA OFEI NKANSAH AND FAMILY



My beloved friend, as you take your gentle walk into eternity, I whisper the words our elders taught us words of blessing, of love, and of farewell.

"Abosomakɛtɛrɛ nam brɛbrɛ, the chameleon walks gently, and so did you moving through this life with calm grace, humility, and kindness.

And just as it is said, *ɔde brɛbrɛ bɛkɔ nea ofiri*, may your spirit return gently to the One from whom you came.

Today, with a heavy heart, I say: *Makra wo o... Nante yiye o, makra wo o*. Farewell, my dear friend. Walk well.

You were a true companion *medɔfo ebrɛbrɛbrɛ* gentle, patient, and full of quiet strength. May gentleness mark your new path. May blessings guide your way, to the left, to the right, and through every passage your soul must take.

As we look back on your journey, we see a life lived in love, a heart that gave freely, and a spirit that embraced others with warmth.

Woka wanim a, kosekosekose. As you go forward, May blessings surround you like a soft cloak. And as for those of us left behind, may love widen the path before us, so we may walk through our grief gently, step by step.

Anigye nkura wo mu dwodwodwo... May joy accompany you into peaceful rest. Yiye nni wo akyi daa daa, May goodness follow you always.

If I ever wished anything for you, it was only goodness merepe wo biribi a, na yiye nko ara na merepe wo. And goodness, indeed, is what your life reflected.

So I bid you farewell, my beloved friend, Not with despair, but with gratitude for the gift of your presence in my life."

Nante yiye o, makra wo o. Walk well, journey peacefully. I will remember you always.



In LOVING MEMORY

SHARON DEDE PADI (PADIKI)

I am paying this tribute to a legendary woman, and while I join you all to mourn her sudden exit, I am also deeply grateful for the opportunity and time spent with her.

Forever etched into my memory is the first encounter I had with her. She approached me at a programme and with the matter-of-fact voice of hers I had come to love addressed me, "Young lady, you look very familiar." Then she asked me, "Are you by any chance related to Beatrice Padi?"

With excitement, I said, "Yes, she was my mom," and then she proceeded to tell me about how wonderful my mom was during their time at Achimota school. I felt so honoured and that was exactly how I felt throughout the time I had come to know her.

Whenever we would meet at a function, she never hesitated to take a picture with me. It became a routine where she would playfully say "Padiki please come and let's take our picture before I eat so that I wouldn't have to get up when I'm eating." These are memories I will forever cherish and keep.

She was one of the people who had a great impact on my artistic career. She always urged me on at the slightest chance and even bought several of my works to encourage me.

You have been a great role model to many women across the country, myself included, a trailblazer and a pacesetter whose memory will



forever be a significant part of the rich tapestry of Ghana's history.

As I bid you farewell, I express my gratitude for her presence and impact on my life and for the gifts of Zanetor. May her legacy continue to live on, and may her soul rest in perfect peace.



A MOTHER BEYOND TITLES

CROMWELL GOKAH

It is difficult to fully articulate who Mum was to me. To the nation, she was Ghana's longest-serving First Lady, a woman whose Grace, Courage, and unwavering Dedication transformed lives across generations. Through her leadership, she became a powerful voice for women, opening doors that had long been closed. She inspired women to Be Bold, to lead, to dream beyond the limitations placed before them. She championed empowerment not as a slogan, but as a lived mission, creating opportunities, elevating voices, and nurturing a new culture of confidence among women in Ghana and beyond.

But my tribute today is not just about the trailblazer the world knew. Those stories will be told in the eulogies, in the history books, and in the countless lives she touched through public service. I want to speak about the woman behind the national figure, the mother I was privileged to have in my life.

Mum loved me as one of her own. She didn't just guide me; she shaped me. She corrected me when I needed direction, pushed me when she knew I could do better, and celebrated me with warmth and pride when I made progress. Her discipline was never harsh, it was purposeful. Her kindness was never passive, it was intentional. She had this rare gift of being firm and nurturing at the same time, reminding you of your potential while holding you to it.

I never felt like a visitor in her space. She embraced me with sincerity, with a depth of care that left no doubt that I belonged. The values she embodied; Service, Humility, Strength, Integrity,

were not just principles she stood for; they were lessons she quietly poured into us through how she lived.

Losing her feels like losing a pillar, both personally and as a nation. Yet, in this grief, I find comfort knowing that her legacy is layered. The world will remember the First Lady, the leader, the stateswoman. I will remember the mother who saw me, guided me, scolded me, and loved me.

Mum, thank you. Thank you for the doors you opened, the barriers you broke, and the confidence you instilled in women everywhere. And thank you for the love you gave me, the lessons you taught me, and the honour of being part of your journey in a personal way.

You lived with purpose. You served with dignity. You loved with depth.

Rest well, Mum. Your light continues in the lives you touched and in mine especially.



Now RESTING IN THE BOSOM OF ALMIGHTY GOD

GEORGE FORDJOUR,
ON BEHALF OF MRS. NORA ASUBONTENG
AND THE ASUBONTENG FAMILY

The former First Lady was a dear friend to the Asubonteng family. She was kind, funny, loving, and selfless, always carrying a warm sense of humour. She was a matriarch and an advocate who tirelessly fought for the equality and empowerment of women and children.

She once celebrated with us during a surprise birthday organised for Capt. George Opoku Asubonteng, GN (Rtd.), of blessed memory. She danced the night away with everyone on that special occasion, and the joy she brought was truly infectious. She had so much love to give and was always ready to offer help.

She will be dearly missed. May her soul rest in perfect peace.

She was a matriarch and an
advocate who tirelessly fought
for the equality and empowerment
of women and children.



Her LIGHT REMAINS UNEXTINGUISHED

THE ATUKWEI OKAI FAMILY

Like many young Ghanaians, our earliest memory of Ghana's former First Lady, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, was of her strong public presence and the confident image she carried. We grew up inspired by her bold advocacy for women and children, which reshaped national conversations and opened doors for young Ghanaian girls, in the 1990s and beyond.

Through our close friendships with her daughters in Wesley Girls' High School and Achimota School, we later came to know her beyond the public view as a warm, vibrant, and engaging personality. We fondly remember the lighthearted exchanges she shared with our late father, Professor Atukwei Okai, during visiting hours at Achimota School, both proudly coming to see their daughters in Kingsley House.

Her iconic sense of style, her radiant energy, and her genuine warmth made every encounter unforgettable. Beneath her elegance was a firm, disciplinarian spirit, which reflected so clearly in the strength, grace, and character of her children, who we imagine will miss her very much.

A recent encounter with her underscored the above sentiments to her credit and has left us with a deep sense of how sacred every moment is, as it would be the last time we would see her.

To her wonderful children, our dear sisters and brother; Honourable Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina, and Kimathi, May the Lord comfort you and surround you with His perfect peace. Your



mother lived a remarkable life whose impact will continue to shine through each of you.

In the words of Nelson Mandela:

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

Indeed, her life was profoundly significant, and her light remains unextinguished.

May her soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.



To A FEARLESS GENDER AND WOMEN'S RIGHT LEADER

ELSIE APPAU-KLU ESQ

Today, I pay tribute to a remarkable Ghanaian and global icon H.E Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings, who has left an indelible mark on our nation.

I first met H.E Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings in the year 2005 exactly 10 years after she led the famous women's agenda in Beijing 1995. I was, at the time, the Secretary for the Student Representative Council (SRC) in the University of Cape Coast and that encounter changed my leadership journey as a young Ghanaian woman.

I must confess, I only knew of H.E J.J Rawlings and H.E Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings in the skies from my little village in Sokode anytime a helicopter or any airplane flies above us, as children in admiration of J.J. Rawlings, I fondly remember signing and shouting J.J. Rawlings... J.J. Rawlings until the plane or helicopter disappeared. I never could imagine meeting Nana Konadu in real life, let alone engaging with her, in person.

My first meeting with H.E Nana Konadu was iconic as she insisted I called her by her name. She gave me a warm hand shake with a normal student leader like me on my first meeting with her. I did not wash my hands that day! She made the encounter and interaction so simple and comfortable for us as a mentor and leader.

She won our admiration and that made a lot of difference in my life as a leader.

I later joined the United Nations Agency responsible for promoting gender equity as an employee and again had the opportunity to interact with Her Excellency Nana Konadu. To my surprise, she remembered my name and called me out of a huge crowd after our programme- as a young girl, I froze that day. We worked together with Her Excellency on a number of women-led activities and she made remarkable inputs into our programmes and activities with the Government of Ghana particularly from the NGO perspective. Her knowledge and influence on the Ghanaian governance system and how she passionately promoted the rights of the Ghanaian woman remains admirable.

I was fortunate once again to encounter and work with Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings through my work as Gender and Governance Advisor to the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Accra, Ghana. She participated in our activities, and



her style and courage - especially to the King's Day celebrations- remain a great memory. I remember her telling me, "Elsie, everyone will address you the way you are dressed - stand out always. You do not know whom you will meet in the elevator." I picked a lot of lessons from her.

We talked on a number of issues mainly on gender, governance and children's rights which she was so passionate about. As a lawyer again, I had the privilege of knowing her as a strong and principled leader, who dedicated her life to public service through my work in private practice.

We talked, laughed when we had to but were also not spared when I did not get something right. My mother and mentor had an open mind and will tell you things just as they are. Having worked with the Dutch People for many years, I appreciated her open-mindedness and how she frankly gives feedback particularly to those she appreciated.

Her unwavering commitment to social justice, women's empowerment, and the well-being of the Ghanaian people is a testament to her character. Her courage and resilience inspired me and many other people and her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

As a former First Lady, Her Excellency championed numerous initiatives that transformed the lives of Ghanaians, particularly women and children. She introduced me to Sheroes where I met a lot of other influential women leaders across the world. Her passion for education, healthcare, and economic empowerment was unparalleled. I remember visiting a number of schools with her while I worked with the Dutch Embassy which gave me great incites for advocacy.

I remember her as a strong and compassionate leader, who listened to the voices of the marginalised and worked tirelessly to address their concerns. Her vision for a better Ghana was clear, and she worked towards achieving it with dedication and perseverance using various platforms.

Her passing is a loss to our nation, but her legacy lives on.

Mama, may your soul rest in peace, and may your memory continue to inspire us to work towards a better Ghana. I will remember the jokes we shared, your commitment to family life and values, the dance moves, the conversations and lessons on the rich Ghanaian political history. It has been an honour serving you, knowing you and learning from your rich experience and humble Life.

***You served your nation and humanity well.
Rest in peace, Her Excellency, Mrs. Rawlings.***



Her LEGACY WILL FOREVER ECHO IN THE HEARTS OF GHANAIS

AMMA P.

Ghana, and indeed the entire African continent, has lost a rare gem — a woman of grace, strength, and unmatched dedication to her people.

Dr. Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was not only a former First Lady, but also a symbol of resilience, culture, and empowerment whose legacy will forever echo in the hearts of Ghanaians.

Named after the Queen of Ashanti, she carried her royal lineage with dignity and pride, embodying the virtues of leadership, courage, and service. She stood tall as a true daughter of the Ashanti Kingdom and an icon of Ghanaian womanhood — bridging tradition and modernity with elegance and conviction.

Her passion for Ghana's cultural heritage was evident in every aspect of her life. Dr. Mrs. Rawlings played a significant role in promoting the Kente industry, ensuring that this timeless fabric — woven with stories of identity, pride, and unity — continued to shine on the global stage. She lent her powerful voice and insight as a cast member in the documentary film "The Importance of Kente to Ghanaians and Black Africans," where she eloquently shared the deeper meaning behind the Kente tradition and its enduring symbolism for African people everywhere.

Beyond her cultural contributions, she was a champion for women's empowerment — a visionary who believed in the power of women to transform society. Through her work with the 31st December Women's Movement, she created platforms for countless women to gain education, leadership opportunities, and economic independence. Her voice, unyielding and clear, challenged barriers and opened doors for generations to come. Her book "It Takes A Woman" is a bestseller.

Those who knew her will remember her infectious energy, her laughter that could light up a room, and her ever-youthful spirit that found joy in dancing and celebration. Even in her later years, she carried herself with the poise and glamour of a Kente Icon — elegantly rocking her heels with the same confidence and grace that defined her entire life.

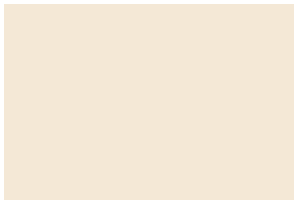
Today, Ghana mourns not just a former First Lady, but a cultural custodian, a mother, an aunty and a trailblazer. Her family, the nation, and indeed all who loved her will forever cherish her memory. Dr. Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings leaves behind a legacy of purpose, elegance, and empowerment — one that will continue to inspire generations of Ghanaians and Africans around the world.

Rest well, H.E Nana Konadu Your light will never fade.



A MIGHTY TREE HAS FALLEN

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW



Yes, Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings has abruptly and sadly exited the realms of earth.

This is a tribute to an extraordinary woman — former First Lady, whose legacy will forever illuminate the path towards women's empowerment, justice and independence.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was a true super-hero in all aspects of the word, and space here cannot do justice to a deserving tribute.

So, dear readers, allow me to dedicate this to a woman who became part of my early life here in Ghana after 20 years studying and working in England. She was a mother, advisor, mentor and a client par excellence.

I got to know her through her daughter, a colleague barrister in the UK. My numerous conversations with her daughter about politics in Ghana, I believe, convinced her to introduce me to her parents after we both came down to Ghana to pursue the post-call law programme designed for lawyers who had qualified in other jurisdictions. It didn't take long after meeting my colleague's mother - Mrs Rawlings - to become part of her set-up at her Ridge office. She was a passionate human rights activist and a consummate advocate for women's empowerment.

Given my human rights background, it soon became clear that we both had a singular devotion to all things 'human rights'.

Before long, I had become her lawyer, both in a personal capacity as well as for her party, the National Democratic Party (NDP), when she broke away from the National Democratic Congress (NDC), even though I had been a member of the NDC branch of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Advocate

Mrs. Rawlings was not only a formidable leader in her own right, but a tireless and unrepentant advocate for the voiceless.

Her unwavering commitment to human rights, especially the rights and dignity of women, transformed lives and inspired, and continues to inspire, many today.



Through her fearless voice and compassionate heart, she championed women's empowerment, education and social justice.

Her singular devotion to the founding of the 31st December Women's Movement, and the spectacular impact its formation bestowed on many Ghanaian women, is the stuff of legend. Into every space she entered, she carved grace, wisdom and courage. She spoke truth to power, often in circumstances where it was neither easy nor popular, and she did all this with total humility and absolute conviction.

Her lasting legacy endures in the women who now walk taller because she showed them that they could; in the young girls who dream freely because she opened the door; and in the countless communities across the length and breadth of the country, uplifted by her compassion and extraordinary strength.

Her human rights advocacy was intense and infectious, manifested in many achievements, not least her role in Ghana's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. She organised, encouraged and supported many women through the establishment of numerous cottage industries, which elevated them from poverty.

By setting up countless nurseries across the country, she socially engineered their economic freedom by creating time and space to enable them to venture into many small-scale industries, thereby freeing them from the shackles of poverty and ushering them into financial independence.

Empowerment

Not only was she a colossus in women's empowerment, but she also had a pulsating human touch and affection for people.

For me, on a personal level, her most singular act of compassion, which I will forever cherish, was making time, despite her tight schedule, to travel all the way to Dunkwa-on-Offin to grace my mother's funeral and support me in my grief. Her work ethic was well known, and she spent many long hours campaigning for the issues she believed in.

But this didn't prevent her from enjoying the lighter side of life. She loved fashion (she designed all her own clothes), she loved celebrations, music and, above all, dancing. She was full of 'joie de vivre' and it was infectious.

As the whole nation comes to terms with her sudden demise, the least I can do is to continue to follow her blazing trail by championing human rights.

Damirifa Due, Mama – I am privileged to have known you and worked with you. Fare thee well.



A PRESENCE THAT TIME CANNOT SILENCE

AMBASSADOR BARBARA AKOUKOR BENISA

My Dearest Auntie,

Your sudden demise has left me devastated and in a state of shock. I never imagined a day like this would come so soon as you were full of energy and life. The tragic news is so deep and difficult to comprehend.

The irony of the whole matter is that you and I were just chatting about the smoke problem in Accra. God knows best. We were blessed to have had you in our lives, when our Father died in 1983. You and your late Mom (Maa Agyeman), brought us food on a daily basis for which we have never forgotten.

You engaged our late mother Mrs Diana Akua Atta Benisa in the 31st December Women's Movement. You made her one of the executives who steered the affairs of the nursery school you established. When our mother passed away, you stood as a pillar of strength for us.

When I informed you that His Excellency Nana Addo Danquah Akuffo Addo had appointed me as Ghana's High Commissioner to Malta, you were so happy, you assured me of a visit. You fulfilled your promise by visiting me in Malta with your two beautiful daughters, adoring granddaughter and your administrator for five fun-filled days. I was so excited to have had the former first lady of the Republic of Ghana visit me at post.

You enjoyed your visit so much that, on the day of your departure back to Ghana, you looked at me and said, "Akoukor, I will come again." Auntie, I



miss you so much already. Thank you for all you did for us. I am grateful for all the pieces of advice, encouragement and the countless memories we shared together. I will hold on to them forever.

As you embark on your journey to meet your Maker, the children of Akua Atta (especially Akoukor) bid you farewell with heavy hearts and with deep gratitude to God for lending you to us, your family, friends and the country Ghana.

May God grant you an everlasting peaceful rest.



Her INFLUENCE OUTLIVES THE SILENCE

MR. MICHAEL DONATUS TURKSON

It is with a heavy heart that I remember and honour Her Excellency Dr. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. In a world often defined by titles and positions, she stood out not only for her leadership but for her humanity, her warmth, and her ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

I recall occasions when her presence alone could transform a gathering. She had a way of listening intently, offering encouragement, and sharing a smile or a laugh that would linger long after the moment had passed. Her humour was gentle yet sharp, her wit always insightful, and her approachability made everyone feel at ease, from the young student to the seasoned professional.

Through the 31st December Women's Movement, she opened doors for women, challenged societal limitations, and inspired generations to dream bigger than they had imagined. Yet, beyond her public accomplishments, it was her personal touch that left the deepest impression: the small acts of kindness, the heartfelt advice, and the unwavering encouragement she offered to those around her.

Her passing leaves a void that cannot be filled, but her influence and spirit endure. May her legacy continue to inspire, her ideals continue to guide us, and may her soul rest in peace.



An EXTRAORDINARY FORMER FIRST LADY

MR. KWAME ASUAH TAKYI ESQ
THE IMMEDIATE PAST COMPTROLLER-GENERAL
OF IMMIGRATION

“She was a true leader, a trailblazer, and a champion of women’s rights, and her passion for creating positive change was contagious.”

I am deeply sad, but however honoured to pay tribute to the extraordinary former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Her remarkable life and legacy in women and the girl-child empowerment continue to inspire and motivate me, and I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to associate closely with her during my tenure as the Comptroller-General of the Ghana Immigration Service.

Her wise counsel and guidance were invaluable to me, and I often sought her advice on matters of national issues, leadership, and women’s empowerment. She was a true leader, a trailblazer, and a champion of women’s rights, and her passion for creating positive change was contagious.

I will never forget her sage advice to “hit the ground running” by engaging with officers of the Ghana Immigration Service at the various borders, understanding their challenges, and working towards creating a more responsive and people-centered Service. Her emphasis on gender mainstreaming and building the capacity of women in leadership positions was particularly impactful, and under her guidance, I was able to implement initiatives that promoted gender equality and supported the professional development of women within the Ghana Immigration Service.

Her Excellency’s simple Office near Alisa Hotel was a haven for me, a place where I could seek advice and guidance whenever I faced challenges as the Comptroller-General of Immigration. Her advice was always spot on, and I would leave her office feeling rejuvenated and focused, with a renewed sense of purpose and determination.

The former First Lady was a true leader, a mentor, and a friend, and her legacy will continue to inspire and guide me, and I am sure, many others who had the privilege of knowing her. Her impact on Ghana’s development, particularly in the area of women’s empowerment, will be felt for generations to come.

May her soul rest in peace, and may her memory continue to inspire us to work towards a better Ghana.



Farewell TO A CHERISHED PRESENCE

NANA POMAAH NTI

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Mrs. Konadu Agyman-Rawlings, affectionately called “Maa”, a remarkable woman whose presence enriched our lives for years. I also had the privilege of knowing her from 1994 until Saturday 11 October 2025, when she visited the salon for her regular appointment.

As always, we shared our usual friendly chats-warm and light-hearted. None of us knew that day would be the last time we would see her. That memory will forever remain with us. To me and my family, Mrs. Rawlings was far more than a loyal client. She was a mother, a guide and a constant source of encouragement. Her influence and support shaped my journey in ways I will never forget. I am especially proud and grateful for the immense contribution she made to my education and personal growth by furthering my education in the UK.

Her belief in me helped me become who I am today. As a philanthropist, Maa touched countless lives with kindness and generosity. In the salon, she related beautifully with every worker. Her presence always brought joy and a sense of togetherness. Her motherly heart and unwavering kindness have left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her.

May her soul rest in perfect peace and may her family find comfort in knowing how she was cherished.



A HEARTFELT TRIBUTE IN TIMES OF LOSS

REGINA QUAYE OF REGINA'S SALON

I first met Mrs. Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings in 1994 when she was introduced to the saloon by a friend for a hair appointment. Although the salon was modest in size at the time, Mrs Rawlings, despite her distinguished status, chose to patronise it wholeheartedly.

From that very first encounter, a warm and sincere friendship developed, one that grew beyond ordinary client relations and became deeply personal. Mrs. Rawlings accorded me exceptional respect. She never addressed me by my first name, instead, she fondly called me Auntie Regina, a reflection of her humility, kindness and regard for others.

Through her influence, the salon's clientele expanded significantly as she continually recommended us to her friends from all walks of life. My final moment with her was about six months ago, time I remain grateful for, as it allowed me to express my heartfelt appreciation for all she had done for me, for my family and the growth of the salon. Her loyalty, generosity and warm spirit will forever be cherished.

I pray that her gentle soul rests in perfect peace.



Farewell TO A CHERISHED PRESENCE

SHERELLE PANEL
ATLANTA, GA, USA

“ I felt her spirituality, strength and sense of purpose and I couldn't help but be inspired every time I was around her.

Sometimes, if you're lucky, you come into the presence of great, brave, compassionate souls who have no desire to be great, but are just passionate about an idea or ideal and they have the courage, strength and faith to bring it to fruition. They don't seek accolades or fame, but an acquiescence to their vision for the benefit of others.

The dear Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was one of those souls who I met over 20 years ago and though our times together were few, they were memorable, like seeing the joy in her face as we hit the dance floor at an event. I felt her spirituality, strength and sense of purpose and I couldn't help but be inspired every time I was around her. I was more in awe because she accomplished her goals while also being a wife and mother of four which in themselves require great love, emotional, mental and physical commitment. Her beauty, warm big smile and grace were all so evident, but then she spoke

and commanded a room for her purpose which inevitably would be fulfilled.

Our and the world's loss is heartfelt and there are no words fitting enough to describe the loss! Thank you and God Bless You, Nana, for being that great, courageous woman taking on the criticism, meeting every challenge and making personal sacrifices for your love of Ghana and the betterment of our women and children. Another tree has fallen, but not before reverberating through future generations.

Well done thou good and faithful servant!



From FOREST PATHS TO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, YOUR LEGACY LIVES ON

D. B. AFFUL
ARCHIVIST, JJ RAWLINGS FOUNDATION

“My desire is to see the emancipation of women at every level of development, to enable them to contribute and benefit from the socio-economic and political progress of the country.” – Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings

The most difficult assignment in my professional career as archivist has been to retrace the footprints of the Rawlings administration and the 31st December Women’s Movement, creating a collection of projects undertaken between 1979 and 2001. Your contribution to national development is evident throughout this work.

The first region I started with in 2024 was the Central Region. Naive as I was, I belittled a list of 110 projects of the Movement presented to guide my movement in the region. Therefore, I quickly mapped out my journey and imagined that I could accomplish that entire task within 14 days. Little did I know that I had underestimated this endeavour, and I was to spend 40 days travelling the length and breadth of the Central Region particularly, in rural communities.

Each project I visited left me with a memory and an unanswered question, “Why this place?”. I always queried because, whenever I tried to compare the picture of the present with pictures

of the past of these communities, I could not fathom how gloomy the picture of the past was. Yet, the 31st December Women’s Movement, found a way to emancipate women in these areas by providing them with needed assistance, making them useful to national development.

Until date, there are no tarred roads to the villages, and to some, the only access are paths that I had to risk commuting on motorbikes. Riskier were farm communities I visited deep inside the Assin forests – Asano, Aworoso Ayaase, Bankyease, Bosomadwe and Wawase. Wamaso in the Twifo forests. Dehia, in the Cape Coast forests. Otsenkorang, in the Agona West forests. Duakyimase and Anweem, in the Komenda-Eguafo-Abirem forests. Abuenu, Obohen and Oboka, in the Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese forests. Abompi and Anomabo Pomaase in the Mfantseman forests. Abonko and Ngyiresi in the Gomoa forests. Attakurase, Anyinasu, Boso, Enyan Kokwado, Etsii Abaka, Oboom and Solomon in the Ajumako-Enyan-



Essiam forests. Most of these roads are without streetlights or mobile network signal.

The responses received from indigenes of these rural communities about your contributions to their lives are remarkable. Some wept whilst I interviewed them. The well you dug for the Ayaase community in the 80's and a mechanised borehole constructed in the 90's still serve the community as its only source of drinking water. I was astonished to meet men from Assin Akonfudi, Assin Akrofuom, Assin Dosii, Assin Dompim, Assin Nyankomasi, Assin Nnuaso, Nkodwo, Attakurase, Frami, Ajumako Boso, Ajumako Solomon, Ajumako Anyinasu, Anomabo Pomaase and Ekumfi Edukuma, who served as members of the Movement.

Although I am sad, nonetheless, I am sharing excerpts from my interviews here in your memory. This gives me assurance that you have indeed completed your assignment on earth.

*"...I can tell you frankly that all the women of this town (Wamaso) were all members of the Movement. It helped us, especially, mothers who before then carried their babies to the farm... We received training in many ways and through the Movement, I had opportunity to travel to see different parts of the country...I once spent 40 days in Accra, spending time with Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings and she treated us well... I can tell you that the School Feeding Programme began under the 31st December Women's Movement because they provided kitchens (as at the 1980s) in our schools where we cooked and served our children food."- **Madam Agnes Baidoo, former Day Care teacher and member of the Movement, Wamaso (Twifo-Ati-Morkwaa District Assembly)***

*"We (the community) had begun a nursery school in a bamboo structure. We contacted the Movement and they came to our aid providing us with building materials to put up the structure you still see here. We also received help from the Movement who connected us with Technoserve for the palm oil extraction project. The milling machines cost us 5 million cedis at the time and this was the time of Mr. Ibrahim Mahama, then, Minister for Agriculture. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings came to Dosii to inaugurate this project and also came along with some international investors too...we also received training and equipment from Cape Coast all because of the Movement" - **Moses Aboagye, Committee Chairman and former member of Movement, Assin Dosii (Assin South District Assembly)***

"In 1992, they brought the Association (Movement) here in Ekumfi Ekrawfo. The elders donated land for the project. We formed three all-women groups with three leaders – painting, carpentry and brick laying. I chose painting.

During our training, we went to Tech (KNUST) to paint. We painted storey buildings to about six and seven floors. Some of us went to Keta and Accra. In fact, we travelled to many places, and this gave us enough motivation. We did not only train here in Ekrawfo, when we were about graduating, then, the Movement challenged us to build the Clinic and a Day Care Centre for the community. We built everything from foundation to roofing. We even produced roofing tiles ourselves.

I have reaped the benefits since then...as I am speaking with you now, I still paint, and I have used the proceeds to cater for my children's school fees some of whom have graduated from



the university. I have also built a store from the proceeds. One of my colleagues who is residing in Kumasi is still in the painting business. See, I am the first person to paint the beautiful Ahmadiyya mosque you see over there before anybody else.

...as you can see for yourself (pointing to the direction of the Clinic), the Clinic is still operating...for the kindergarten, the children used it until a new and bigger classroom block was built for them. Then, after moving them to the new location, the community has now rented the building to the Secondary school for a hostel.” - **Madam Fatima Quansah, former trainee painter and member of the Movement, Ekumfi Ekrawfo (Ekumfi District Assembly)**

“We installed our mother as a Chief in this community. This encouraged her to help us. First, she built the Day Care Centre for us and later brought us Acacia seedlings for planting. The Acacia farm is still generating income for the community. We use some for making charcoal ...We have for years been looking for ways to reconnect with our mother, but it has been difficult finding somebody to lead us to her. We need a lot of teaching aid in this school. We do not have computers for teaching our children. We are therefore appealing to her to come to our aid once again following her good works from the past so that her legacy will continue to shine.” - **Nana Sintim (pseudonym), Unit Committee member, Anomabo Pomaase (Mfantseman Municipal Assembly)**

How did you do all this, whilst raising your children and carrying out your First Lady duties?

Your contribution to gender equality and early childhood development remains unmatched. From building day care centres to loans for women development. From fish smoking factories to Gari processing factories. From palm kernel oil production to palm oil extraction factories. From soap making factories to bakeries. From batik/ tie and dye to corn mills. From building clinics to digging wells. From Teak plantations to Acacia plantations. Finally, from maize farms to oil palm plantations all in your vision of women empowerment and children’s development.

Your Excellency, your legacy is written in the hearts of many Ghanaians who through your hard work have been economically empowered, and the many Ghanaian children who continue benefitting from the fruits of your labour.

We are indeed, “Pencil(s) in God’s hands, He does the thinking. He does the writing. He does everything and sometimes it is really hard because it is a broken pencil, and He has to sharpen it a little more.”- **Mother Teresa**

Your Excellency, Ayekoo!



Y E A R G R O U P

A BORN LEADER

HER ACHIMOTA 1966/67 COMBINED YEAR GROUP



Nana Konadu was a born leader. While still a pupil at the Ghana International School (GIS), living in the Ridge area of Accra, she marshalled the neighbourhood children into a group called The Feather Club. They held parties, sang pop songs, and put on plays for their parents. Nana was the clear organizer and creative force, though her Uncle Harry served as the official manager. She acted, sang, and danced, and even choreographed and performed ballets.

In September 1961, she entered Achimota School where she continued to shine. She formed a girls' pop group for "pop chain" competitions and was renowned for her powerful renditions of Aretha Franklin's "Respect." She also took leading roles in the popular Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, which always drew large public audiences. Her early experience with The Feather Club proved invaluable in helping organize the annual Kingsley House Entertainment Night. Years later, some *Akoras* recalled being baffled by the ballet performances - their first introduction to the dance form. During the Tribal Drumming & Dancing Nights, Nana was as comfortable dancing *adowa* as she was performing ballet or other types of dances.



Queen Elizabeth II made a state visit to Ghana in November 1961, just two months after Nana had entered the school. With Achimota on her itinerary, a physical education group was selected to perform for her. Polished by her GIS training in gymnastics and ballet, Nana was the star of the show with her leaps, splits, and incredible handstands. She also excelled at athletics, confidently sailing over the high jump bar at heights most girls ducked under, and was a valued sprinter in the 4x100 and 4x200 yard relay teams. During house practices, she would encourage and coach her less-proficient peers in rounders, netball and hockey. She also swam and took up lawn tennis in 6th Form. She was a key player on Kingsley House teams and represented the school in local and international competitions.

Achimota offered many extracurricular activities, and Nana was actively involved in the Girl Guides, Red Cross, and School Choir. She managed her time well, never neglecting her studies. In Form 5, she and a group of girls would spend hours in the peace of the Housemistress's study, reviewing past questions from the West African Exams Council. Although we were competitive, the group was united, focused on helping each other master the material in the hope of collectively outperforming our perceived rivals at Aburi and Wesley Girls' High Schools.

There was still time for fun, particularly in Kingsley House, which Nana had chosen because her older sister Yaa Achiaa, of blessed memory, had been there for three years. Though many of her neighbourhood and GIS friends had chosen to join her in Kingsley, Nana quickly expanded her circle of friends. She wisely warned the new girls, or ninoes, about the various forms bullying could take but, thanks to the protection of Sister Yaa Achiaa and her friends, we experienced very little of it. In later years, Nana extended the same kindness to younger girls, who looked up to her and competed for her attention. She was

a member of several "soaking" groups, enjoying snacks from various chop boxes without ever gaining weight. On Sunday mornings, she could be found in the common room, singing and dancing to rock 'n' roll with friends. To those who knew her best, she was creative, sociable, and the life of every party. By contrast, some other students perceived her as quiet and reserved. If there was a budding relationship between Nana and her classmate Jerry John, it was so well concealed that most of us were astounded, years later, to learn they had got married.

In 6th Form, many assumed Nana would be the obvious choice for Entertainment Prefect. The authorities, however, selected her to be Kingsley House Prefect - a decision that reflected her overall leadership qualities, her popularity, and the fact that the younger girls saw her as a role model.





A good school helps students identify their talents and nurture their potential. Nana Konadu took full advantage of everything Achimota had to offer: its exceptional Art School led by Kofi Antubam, strong academics, great sports facilities, and numerous extracurricular activities. She continued to develop her interests at the then University of Science & Technology (UST), which she entered in 1968. As one of fewer than 80 women in Africa Hall – a hall that had opened the previous year, she threw herself into her Art studies and participated in several sports, representing UST in the Ghana Inter-University and West African University games.

In her second year, she ran for Africa Hall Secretary, a role that, along with the Hall President, came with automatic membership of the Student Representative Council (SRC). She was re-elected twice, serving for three years, including as SRC Secretary during P.V. Obeng's presidency.

While advocating for the entire student body, she still found time to organize highly successful Africa Hall events, such as a fashion show and a hall dance. Her time at UST capped her education in Ghana, which prepared her well for a future she could not possibly have anticipated.

On behalf of all her schoolmates, from GIS and UST, but especially from the seven years she spent in the Grey City of the Outlaws' Hill, we thank Nana Konadu for her friendship, for helping us win sporting events, for cheering us on, for encouraging us to do our best, and for entertaining us with her singing and dancing. We cherish the memories of our time together. Rest in Peace, dear Akora!

To those who knew her best,
she was creative, sociable,
and the life of every party.



Your LEGACY WILL REMAIN ALIVE

HER COURSE AND CLASSMATES (KNUST) 1972 YEAR GROUP



Nana Konadu Agyeman was one of the 35 students admitted to the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi in 1968 to pursue a B. A. degree programme in Art. Throughout her stay at UST Nana was a diligent student, a typical student who engaged in almost all student activities to enhance campus life. She continued her passion in sports from Achimota School in high jump, hurdles, and sprints representing her Hall of Residence (Africa Hall) and the University. She was an outstanding member of the UST Drama Society that staged the famous play - *We Shall Overcome* - throughout Ghana to raise money for the University Endowment Fund Committee. Nana was also a member of the UST Yoga Club.



Her interest in student politics came to the fore in her third year when she stood and won in the Hall elections to become Secretary of Africa Hall that catapulted her to become a member of the Student Representative Council (SRC) under the dynamic presidency of the late Mr. P.V. Obeng (may his soul rest in peace).

As a student of Graphic Design she was the only female amongst nine (9) tough boys in her class, but she was never intimidated as she competed gallantly in all projects and assignments with the boys to everyone's admiration. Her fashion consciousness made her attractive to the entire university community. She joined the university's pop group – *Human Beings* – to provide musical relief at many functions. Nana will also be remembered for leading Africa Hall in a famous Fashion parade during her tenure as Hall Secretary.

Nana Konadu Agyeman was heavily involved in the design and production of new road signs in the Kumasi metropolis in connection with the redecoration of the city during the funeral of the late Asantehene Otumfuo Sir Nana Osei Agyeman Prempeh II. We can go on and on and on, but the summary of it all is that Nana Konadu Agyeman played a pivotal role in the life of the University and the Kumasi Metropolis.

After graduation in 1972, Nana continued to keep her links with her mates with occasional meetings in her office and at the Alisa Hotel in Accra, which occasions were always filled with numerous old time jokes and stories.

Sometime in the 1970's Nana and her mates contributed and donated a handsome number of books to the College of Art (UST) to support student work and progress.

Nana's fashion consciousness reflected in her final year thesis which she titled: "Fashion trends amongst Ghanaian women" which we believe, helped her in determining her own fashion perspective. May her legacy remain intact for all time.

Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings, we are proud of you. Her stature rose high in the history of our nation; and now that we will not be able to behold her face again, let us all unite in our hearts and minds to pray for her soul, and wish her eternal bliss and peace. Rest in peace, brave warrior.

***Your legacy will remain alive for all time.
Amen.***

Nana Konadu Agyeman played a pivotal role in the life of the University and the Kumasi Metropolis.



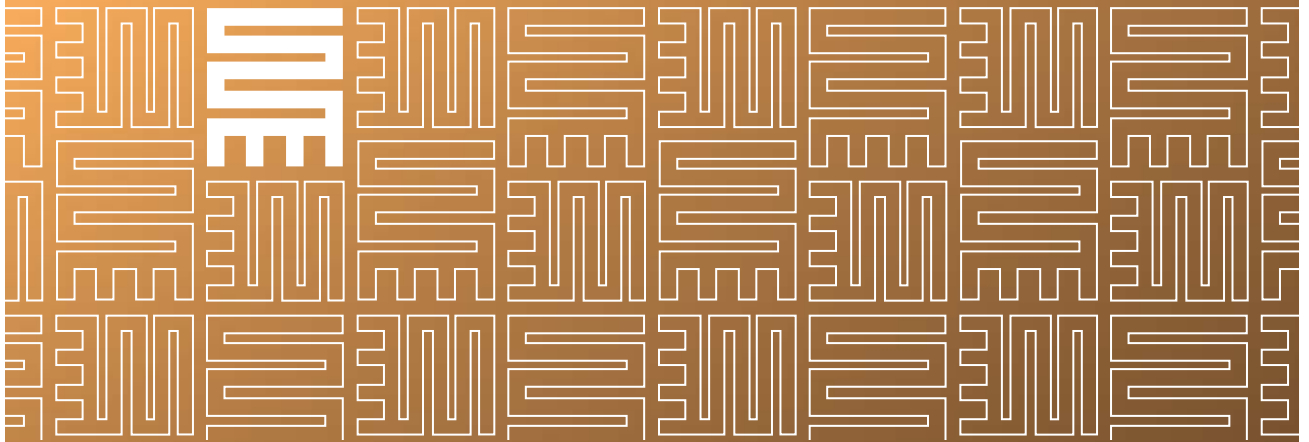


“Many of us have relegated the responsibility of giving our youth the moral training necessary to equip them to approach life with humility, patience, hard work, a sense of integrity and love for country. Our approach to life means that our offspring see the urgent quest for money and material possession as the primary desire of life. We simply fail to address the fact that success goes with hard work.”

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings address on 'Development, Politics and National Development,' Ghana Technology University College, April 1 2016



GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS





Fare THEE WELL

NANA KONADU AGYEMAN— RAWLINGS

THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Today, we gather to honour the life of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings. Many members of the Council of State encountered her in different moments of our national journey. We knew her as a hard-working woman of uncommon drive, one who carried herself with certainty and clarity of mission.

Nana Konadu was a distinguished Ghanaian public figure and the wife of the late President Jerry John Rawlings. As the longest-serving First Lady of the Republic, she held that role from 4 June 1979 to 24 September 1979, and again from 31 December 1981 to 7 January 2001. Throughout those years, she stood firmly beside him and contributed meaningfully to their shared service to the nation.

She entered public life when the role of First Lady was expected to remain at the margins. She chose a different path. She believed in the law as a tool for social engineering. This conviction led her to influence her husband's government to pass a number of laws to address social injustices, particularly those affecting women and other marginalised groups. These laws include PNDC Laws 111 on intestate succession, 112 on registration of customary law marriages, 113 on the administration of estates and 114 on the accountability of the head of family, the Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560) and the Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, 1994 (Act 484) which criminalised female circumcision, later referred to as Female Genital Mutilation. These laws

broke new ground in Africa and brought dignity and protection to countless women, children and families across our country.

Nana Konadu also built a movement that touched every region. Through the 31st December Women's Movement founded in 1982, and led by her from 1984, she mobilised women at the grassroots and translated the ideals of empowerment into tangible social, economic, and political advancement. Daycare centres/Pre-schools, skills programmes, economic projects and community initiatives opened new possibilities for mothers and young girls who had long been overlooked.

Her efforts carried her beyond Ghana. Her leadership was pivotal in Ghana's early ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. At the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference, she emerged as a prominent African voice advocating for the recognition of women's rights on the global stage, signifying her commitment to challenging long-standing barriers and expanding opportunities for the African woman.



She played a significant role in the history including the formation of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), and worked diligently in many respects. Her political career was marked by several notable firsts. She was a woman of conviction and this conviction led her to contest for the vice chairperson of the NDC as the only former First Lady in the history of Ghana to do so. This election she won. Again, she was the first former First Lady not only to contest the presidential primary of a major political party but to contest a sitting president. Later in 2016, she became the first woman to contest the presidency of the Republic of Ghana, marking another step in her evolving political journey.

Her style could be uncompromising. It commanded respect and, at times, caution from those who worked with her. Yet, her impact on national life and on the African women's movement remains clear. She showed what determined leadership can achieve, even in difficult circumstances.

Today, as we lay her to rest, the Council of State pays tribute to an influential life that shaped policy, stirred debate and opened doors for generations of women and girls, born and unborn. We extend our warm condolences to her family, loved ones and pray for comfort in this period of grief.

May the Almighty grant her peaceful rest, and may her contributions be recorded faithfully in the story of our nation.

***Fare Thee Well Nana Konadu
Agyeman-Rawlings.***

She showed what determined leadership can achieve, even in difficult circumstances.



**HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



24th October, 2025

**CHILDREN OF H.E. MRS. NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS
(FORMER FIRST LADY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA)**

**MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FROM THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE, THE
JUDICIARY AND THE JUDICIAL SERVICE OF GHANA**

It is with profound sorrow that I, on behalf of the Judiciary and the entire staff of the Judicial Service of Ghana, express our heartfelt condolences at the passing of your beloved mother; Her Excellency Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, Former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was a woman of remarkable vision, courage, and conviction. Throughout her public life, she championed the causes of women and children, tirelessly advocating for gender equality and social justice. Her impactful work through the 31st December Women's Movement stands as a testament to her enduring commitment to women and children's empowerment, as well as national development.

While her passing marks the end of an era, her influence will continue to resonate in the hearts of countless Ghanaians whose lives she touched through her service, compassion, and leadership.

The Judiciary joins the family of the late President Jerry John Rawlings, their children, and all Ghanaians in mourning this painful loss. We pray that the Almighty God grants comfort to the bereaved family and eternal rest to her gentle soul.

SGD.

**HIS LORDSHIP, JUSTICE PAUL BAFFOE-BONNIE
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



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When GREAT TREES FALL

THE PARLIAMENT OF GHANA

When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down
in tall grasses,
and even elephants
lumber after safety.

When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with
a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines,
gnaws on kind words
unsaid,
promised walks
never taken...

(A Poem by Maya Angelou)

The Parliament of Ghana, with solemn reverence, pays tribute to a great tree that has fallen; a tree that opened its branches to welcome all the birds of the air. Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was a woman whose strength, fortitude, elegance, and unyielding advocacy shaped the lives of generations, both home and abroad.

Her sudden departure is not only tragic but has also occasioned a void in the annals of Ghana's political history in recounting the journey to the Fourth Republic and beyond.

Like the playwright who joins her cast at the end of the play, she joins her husband, the late former President His Excellency FIt Lt Jerry John Rawlings, leaving us with memories of their charismatic figure forever etched in our minds. In the chronicles of this Republic, the name Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings will stand as a testament to what courage, vision and conviction can build.

Today, we stand in solemn tribute to a woman whose life intertwined with the institution of Parliament, with our dear nation Ghana, and

with the cause of women, children, and justice. We honour the memory of Her Excellency Dr. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, former First Lady of Ghana, founder of the 31st December Women's Movement, advocate for early childhood development, fashion icon of our national fabrics, and courageous trailblazer in Ghanaian politics. Throughout her decades of public service, Nana Konadu's connection to Parliament remained constant and visible. She graced the House in the company of her husband, the late former President FIt Lt Jerry John Rawlings, during official events, State of the Nation addresses, national milestones and state ceremonies. Honourable Members recall her dignified presence in the Speaker's Gallery during major national addresses, debates



and commemorative sessions. Even after the passing of her husband, she continued to honour the House with her attendance at special sittings and solemn national observances.

Remembered as Ghana's longest serving First Lady, she did not treat the role as ceremonial. Rather, she made it a platform. A platform on which she launched the 31st December Women's Movement, which she founded in 1982, building one of the most influential grassroots organisations in our history, and galvanising millions of women in the nook and cranny of the nation Ghana.

Under her leadership, the Movement facilitated women's access to credit, launched businesses, and found their voices in community decision-making. It can be stated without any equivocation, her moderating influence behind the scenes which ultimately birthed the Intestate Succession Law 1985 (PNDC Law 111), a groundbreaking legislative reform, which guaranteed stronger protection for the rights of women and children, including and in particular improved property and inheritance rights. Ghana's early ratification of key international conventions on the rights of women and children. Contrary to the then prevailing entrenched practice in officialdom which relegated women to the background, with varying degrees of subordination to their male counterparts, she held on to the strong conviction that the woman's place is wherever decisions were being made; be it in the marketplace, in the community, or in the corridors of power. In every piece of legislation or policy that affects women and children in this nation today, we can conveniently trace the interweaving cords of her advocacy and activism.

Being a mother, she understood the burdens of juggling parenting while engaging in socio-economic activities. She understood the quiet, often invisible burden that women carry as caregivers. And so, in villages and towns across the country, the Movement established hundreds of community day-care centres and pre-schools. I daresay that but for these interventions, many women sitting in high places today would have remained in the villages as hewers of wood and drawers of water. These centres gave working mothers a safe place to leave their children, and gave the children something priceless: a strong, nurturing start to life. In investing in the child, she freed the mother, and in freeing the mother, she strengthened the nation.

Her remarkable public life forever remains a bold statement of the women's rightful place in politics. She rose to become First Vice-Chair of a major political party and, in 2016, made history as the first woman to contest presidential elections in Ghana. Whether one agreed with her politics or not, her courage broadened the horizons of what Ghanaian girls could dare to imagine for themselves. She showed that a woman could not only influence power, but also seek to occupy it.

Beyond policy and politics, she communicated without words through something every Ghanaian recognised: her style. Long before wax prints found expression in our corporate accoutrement, she turned fabric into language. In an era when imported suits and foreign labels were considered the height of sophistication, Nana Konadu wore her wax prints boldly and proudly, igniting a wave of stylish "*kaba and slit*" designs among women across the nation. Her impeccable sense of fashion, her poise and her sleek grace enhanced these African prints and made them fashionable.



Today, many women step out proudly in Ghanaian fabrics to offices, to church, to Parliament, to international conferences, walking in paths she charted. Here in Parliament, when we see first ladies, Ministers of State, and our Hon women Members of Parliament wearing Ghanaian textiles, we are reminded of the intentional choice she made: not merely wear fabric, but use it to affirm culture, identity and self-worth. She proved that to dress in one's heritage is to claim one's place.

Yet behind the cloth and the cameras was a woman of strong convictions and deep feeling. Those who worked with her speak highly of her discipline, her directness, her intolerance for laziness and injustice. But they also speak of the warmth of a mother that came through in private gestures and quiet interventions.

But perhaps her most enduring legacy will be found not only in official records or grand speeches, but in small, ordinary testimonies: the market woman who was able to leave her child at a safe day-care centre and earn a living; the little girl who stayed in school a little longer because the law now recognised her rights; the young woman who entered politics or community leadership because Nana Konadu showed her it was possible; and the seamstress, whose business flourished because Ghanaian fabrics became symbols of prestige rather than poverty.

As we bid farewell, we honour Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings not as a perfect figure, but as a profoundly human one: strong yet tender, exacting yet generous, fierce in her convictions yet devoted to her family and her country. She was a wife, a mother, a First Lady, a political leader, a fashion icon, a builder of schools, a defender of children, and a tireless advocate for women who had long been told to stay silent.

While her steps may grow still, the path she carved remains bright for all who follow. May we stay faithful to the ideals she embodied: dignity for women, opportunity for children, culture for identity, and service for nation-building.

May the Lord comfort her family and the Ghanaian people at this time of parting. And may the flame she lit within our national life continue to burn ever brighter in our work.

With reverence, gratitude and hope, we say farewell to Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Your Excellency, your work is done, but our task remains. In your quiet strength, Ghana found a voice; in your passing, we find a call to duty. May your soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory on that day of Resurrection.

Your Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, fare thee well.

Your Excellency, "many women do noble things, but you surpass them all". – Proverbs 31:29 NIV



A WOMAN OF HONOUR AND DUTY

MAHAMA AYARIGA
THE MAJORITY LEADER, PARLIAMENT OF GHANA

The untimely demise of Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings saddens our hearts. Ghana has lost one of its illustrious daughters, a woman whose life was characterised by courage, conviction, and a strong commitment to the progress of women and the vulnerable in society. As the longest serving First Lady of our dear country and wife of the late Former President Jerry John Rawlings, she carried her role with dignity and a deep sense of duty, both on and off the public domain.

There is no doubt that her name will permanently be mentioned whenever the story of Ghana's political and social transformation is being told.

Nana Konadu, as she was affectionately called, was a person who did not just observe events as they unfold, but rather, actively participated in them. From her earliest years as First Lady, she demonstrated a remarkable sense of leadership and responsibility, qualities that would later shape her national influence. Her effort in founding the famous 31st December Women's Movement – a group that started as a women's political movement and later became a non-governmental organisation (NGO), remains one of the most comprehensive and impactful social interventions in Ghana's political history. The organisation impacted issues of political representation and organisation, economic concerns as well as social and family development.

Through the 31st December Women's Movement, she championed women's empowerment at a time when many of the conversations we are having today were just beginning. Additionally, she created platforms for rural women to have direct access to vocational skills, credit facilities, and educational opportunities, helping transform countless households across the country. It is, therefore, not surprising that many Ghanaian mothers can still recall the relief and excitement they felt when their local communities became beneficiaries of the movement's early-childhood development centres, income-generating projects, and women's leadership workshops. These were not abstract policies; they were tangible social interventions that did not only change the perspectives of women on political leadership, but also, lives in general.



Beyond her public role, many knew Nana Konadu as a woman of extraordinary discipline and personal strength - features that are inseparable from her husband. Those who encountered her, whether at official ceremonies or informal community engagements, mostly speak of her elegance and unique appearance, her noticeable presence, and her approachable personality. She carried herself with a confidence that inspired admiration even from those who did not always share her political views. Despite the diverse democratic culture in Ghana, Nana Konadu earned respect across the political divide because she stood consistently for what she believed in.

In her marriage to President Rawlings, one can confidently say that Nana Konadu embodied loyalty and partnership. Together, they navigated the endless demands of public service, raising an energetic family while bearing the heavy weight of national expectations. Many communities across the country remember her visits those days, as she engaged women's groups, inspected community projects, and encouraged young ladies not to give up on their education. These moments, recollected vividly by many Ghanaians, is a testament to her commitment to national development beyond power and political office.

Nana Konadu's life also reflected a strong alignment to Ghanaian culture. Whether in her beautiful traditional clothing, her noble manner of speech, or her constant emphasis on self-reliance, she demonstrated a sense of identity that resonated deeply with the public. Many Ghanaians fondly remember seeing the two together at state ceremonies, festivals, and community visits, a pair united by purpose and mutual respect. Their partnership became, for many, an epitome of commitment not only to each other but also to the nation they served.

Her devotion to her children was admirable. She helped grow a family deeply rooted in discipline, public service, and national pride, values that continue to shape the contributions of the Rawlings family till date.

As a political figure, Nana Konadu pushed barriers and redefined the space for women in Ghanaian public life. At a time when female participation in national politics was limited, she stood firmly as a voice for representation, courageously contesting for leadership positions and encouraging younger generations of women to emulate the same. Her presence on the national stage created a channel for others to follow. Today's growing number of female ministers, parliamentarians, and public servants are part of the legacy she helped build. Her advocacy reminded the nation that the progress of Ghana must necessarily include the full participation of its women.

Nana Konadu's contributions were not limited to the political environment. Her passion for social welfare, maternal health, community development, and youth advocacy was known to many. She dedicated decades to ensuring that minority groups received the needed support. Many communities across the country remember her visits those days, as she engaged women's groups, inspected community projects, and encouraged young ladies not to give up on their education. These moments, recollected vividly by many Ghanaians, is a testament to her commitment to national development beyond power and political office.

This, in fact, is one of the reasons many Ghanaians admired her not only as a political personality but also as a cultural figure.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings leaves behind a legacy that will stand the test of time. The institutions she helped build, the thousands



of women she empowered, and the national conversations she sparked have undoubtedly become indelible features of Ghana's development narrative.

As we have gathered here to mourn her departure from us, we also celebrate an outstanding personality, a woman who lived with purpose, dignity, and a strong belief in Ghana's future. Her passing sadly marks the end of an era, but her legacy will continue to shape our country's social and political landscape.

May the memory of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings inspire us to continue the work she devoted her life to: building a Ghana where both women and men have the chance to rise, contribute, and lead. Till we meet again, may her soul find peaceful rest.

Farewell to a stateswoman!

Farewell Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings!

As a political figure, Nana Konadu pushed barriers and redefined the space for women in Ghanaian public life.



A LIFE OF COURAGE AND GRACE, NOW IN GOD'S ETERNAL CARE

ALEXANDER KWAMENA AFENYO-MARKIN, MP
MINORITY LEADER, PARLIAMENT OF GHANA

From that June morning in 1979 when she became Ghana's youngest First Lady at just 30 years old, to this sorrowful day when our nation stands still in grief, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings has embodied the very best of what it means to be Ghanaian. Today, I stand with millions across our beloved country and beyond who are honouring her remarkable journey and feeling the weight of her absence.

Nana Konadu was an artist, a mother, a student leader, and a highly intelligent woman. History placed her in the spotlight during Ghana's most difficult times. Over the years, she transformed what many saw as a ceremonial role into a powerful platform for real social change. During her nineteen years as First Lady, she was bold and authentic. She worked fiercely to lift up Ghana's women and broke through every barrier society placed before her.

Through revolution and reform—from the dramatic changes of the early 1980s to competitive politics—Nana Konadu always spoke up for those rarely heard. She never asked for authorisation to make a difference; she simply rolled up her sleeves and got to work. She did not ask for an easier world. She worked to make the world easier for others. She did not wait for doors to open. She kicked them down so others could walk through freely.

Nana Konadu worked with presidents and international organisations. She brought together leaders from around the world. She learned deeply, acted strategically, and changed how Ghana approached women's economic participation. Through the December 31st Women's Movement, she built support systems for female entrepreneurs decades before such programmes became common. Despite her influence, she remained approachable. She was just as comfortable discussing batik designs with artisans at the Arts Centre as she was addressing policy forums in Beijing.

As a young politician, I saw her political courage firsthand. She fought for power when retreat seemed safer. She challenged her own political family when her principles required it. In 2016, she broke Ghana's ultimate political barrier by running for president. Her campaign was not just about personal ambition. It was a message to every Ghanaian girl that no office is beyond your reach, no dream too big.



Those who knew Nana Konadu beyond her public role describe her generous spirit, her infectious laughter, and her deep interest in people's lives. She had a rare ability to make each person feel their story mattered. Whether creating textile patterns that honoured our heritage or crafting programmes that freed women from economic hardship, she brought the same artistic passion and intellectual dedication to everything she did.

Her book, *It Takes a Woman*, was more than an autobiography. It was a testimony, a blueprint, and a rallying cry for Ghana's women. The remaining volumes may never be written, but the life she lived teaches us more than any book could.

I am deeply moved by Nana Konadu's half a century of public service to our country. I admire her persistence, her refusal to make herself smaller for anyone's comfort, and her insistence that Ghanaian women deserved not just inclusion but real power to shape our nation's future. As a father of daughters, I am filled with gratitude that my girls will grow up knowing her story—a story that will teach them they can be bold, uncompromising, and powerful in pursuit of their dreams, just as she was.

My heart goes out to her children—Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina, and Kimathi—her grandchildren, her family, and all whose lives she touched. To every Ghanaian, to the proud people of Asanteman, and to women everywhere who found courage in her example: her unfinished work now passes to us.

Ghana received an extraordinary gift in Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. History will remember her not through others' perspectives, but as she wrote herself—fearless, brilliant, and utterly irreplaceable. May she find everlasting peace in the bosom of Almighty God, and may she now enjoy the sisterly company of Yaa Asantewaa, Esther Ocloo, Harriet Tubman, and all the other departed great women who dedicated their lives to liberating others.

Damirifa due, Nana. Wo kra nko asomdwee mu.

Xedé nyuie, Nana. Wò luɔ dzudzɔ le nutifafa me.

History will remember her not through others' perspectives, but as she wrote herself—fearless, brilliant, and utterly irreplaceable.



A LEADER OF IMMENSE STRENGTH AND CONVICTION

AMBASSADOR KOJO BONSU
GHANA'S AMBASSADOR TO CHINA

In loving memory of Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings, a remarkable woman, devoted mother, and visionary leader whose life and legacy have left an indelible mark on Ghana's history. As her cousin and a proud member of the Royal Family of the Asante Kingdom, I am deeply honored to pay tribute to her extraordinary life.

Nana Konadu's influence on my life is immeasurable. She was the one who introduced me to the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and played a pivotal role in shaping my political journey. I vividly remember her encouragement to join the party, even though I was the only NDC member within a family and social circle largely aligned with the NPP. Her conviction, passion, and clarity of purpose were infectious. I was drawn to her vision for a just and prosperous Ghana.

But her impact on me went beyond politics. Nana Konadu was a source of strength, inspiration, and mentorship. She taught me resilience, hard work, and the courage to stand by one's principles. Her wisdom and guidance remain a part of who I am today, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

As a trailblazer and champion for women's empowerment, Nana Konadu transformed the landscape of women's development in Ghana. Through the 31st December Women's Move-

ment, she opened doors for countless women to access credit, training, and opportunities that changed lives and livelihoods. Her work laid the foundation for a generation of women to rise with confidence and independence. She was a fearless advocate for gender equality and social justice. She was bold, determined, and unwavering in her mission to uplift others.

Nana Konadu was also a leader of immense strength and conviction. She never shied away from tough decisions or unpopular truths. Her leadership served as a beacon of hope and courage for many, and her dedication to the ideals of the NDC was resolute. She played a defining role in shaping the party's philosophy and growth, grounding it in the principles of social justice and people-centered governance.

It was she who insisted that the NDC's symbol, the bird under the umbrella be a coucal, not an eagle. To her, the coucal represented our cultural identity and spiritual depth. In Akan folklore, the coucal is a symbol of insight and mysticism, a



fitting emblem for a party born from the people and for the people. That attention to symbolism reflected Nana Konadu's deep respect for heritage and meaning.

Her departure from the NDC, the very party she helped nurture, was painful for all who loved her. Yet, in that moment lies a profound lesson for us all: anger divides, but patience heals; anger destroys, but patience builds. Let us learn from her journey and choose patience, understanding, and unity above all else.

To my brothers and sisters in the NDC, I urge that we celebrate her life not only with words, but with renewed purpose. Let us honor her legacy by coming together, setting aside our differences, and recommitting to our shared dream, a better, stronger, more united Ghana.

The NDC remains the party with the vision and capacity to transform Ghana. Just as China achieved great transformation within four decades, we too can do it. I dare to dream and believe that Ghana can and must do better.

When many thought the Kejetia Market project could never be done, President John Dramani Mahama entrusted me with the task and together, we made it a reality. That experience reaffirmed my belief that nothing is impossible when we have faith, unity, and purpose.

To the family of our beloved Former First Lady, Ezanator, Amina, Yaa Asantewaa, and Kimathi. I extend my deepest condolences. Please know that I am here for you, and I will always be ready to offer any support you may need.

Rest in peace, our bold, brilliant, and beautiful Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Your light will forever shine. Your legacy will never fade.

Rest well, Nana. Ghana remembers you.

Nana Konadu was a source
of strength, inspiration,
and mentorship.



A VISIONARY, A MATRIARCH

EMMANUEL SIISI QUAINOO GAMING COMMISSION OF GHANA

In this extremely difficult moment of grief, the Gaming Commission of Ghana extends its deepest condolences to Hon. Dr. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings and your siblings, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina, and Kimathi on the passing of your beloved mother, former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings.

A mother's love is a pillar of strength, and losing such an influential and inspiring figure leaves a silence and a huge vacuum that cannot easily be filled. Yet, amid this profound loss, the Gaming Commission honours both her memory and the resilience she nurtured in her family and mother Ghana.

When widows and their children lift up their heads today to mourn their beloved dads, they should pause to remember Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings' immense role which led to the passing of the Interstate Succession law (PNDC Law 111), which emphatically put a stop to the "wofase ediadie" menace, that was predominantly the order of the day in Ghana at the time.

Ghanaians will profoundly remember Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings (the three-time First Lady (1978, 1981 and 1992), a feat that will be extremely difficult to break in centuries to come, for her tireless efforts as the President of the 31st December Women's Movement, in establishing multiple day-care centers for nursing mothers, gari and soap factories across the country.

Nana Konadu, was a visionary, a matriarch and a woman who stood firmly for what she believed in. Today, her legacy lives on through her daughter, Dr. Zanetor's tireless service and devotion to uplifting communities.

Nana Konadu's life is a reminder that when women lead with conviction, societies change for the better.

The Gaming Commission mourns especially with Hon. Zanetor, whose passionate speech in Parliament during the 2025 Budget Approval process of the Gaming Commission gingered the Commission to take a different and proactive approach towards abating addictive gambling that is engulfing the country through intensified public education.

Hon. Zanetor's zeal, that can be equated to her late mum, led the Commission to appoint her as an advocate towards addictive gambling. Hon. Zanetor Rawlings has carried forward the spirit of purpose, courage, and compassion that her late mum, Nana Konadu embodied.



Even in moments of personal pain, Zanetor has remained committed to the well-being of others, particularly in her advocacy against gaming addiction, a rising concern that threatens the lives and future of many young people. Zanetor's dedication to protecting the vulnerable, promoting responsible choices, and championing awareness is a testament not only to her leadership but also to the values instilled in her by her late mother.

Hon. Zanetor, as you mourn, may you also be comforted by the knowledge that your mother's impact endures. Your strength, compassion, and determination speak loudly of the foundation she built in you. We pray for peace, consolation, and renewed grace for you and the entire Rawlings' family.

May her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings rest in perfect peace, and may her legacy continue to inspire generations.

The Gaming Commission has your back!

Nana Konadu's life is a reminder that when women lead with conviction, societies change for the better.



To MY GODMOTHER, MY MENTOR, AND A MOTHER OF THE NATION

DR. PETER BOAMAH OTOKUNOR
(ADVISOR AND DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES IN AGRICULTURE
AND AGRIBUSINESS – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT / FORMER DEPUTY
GENERAL SECRETARY, NDC)

One calm Tuesday afternoon, during my first year at the University of Ghana, a colleague and I, both serving on the Commonwealth Hall Week Celebration Planning Committee set out to deliver a sponsorship letter to the Office of the former First Lady at Ridge. What was meant to be a simple, uneventful errand became the greatest encounter of my life; an encounter that would shape my future and open the door to a political journey I had never imagined.

When she heard that some students from the University of Ghana were around, she asked her Personal Assistant, Madam Sylvia Ahorlu, to invite us in. I remember the excitement surging through me, mixed with a trembling nervousness I could barely control. To meet Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings? I, a young boy from Russia (Sukura), standing before the most powerful woman of our generation in my loose red vandal round-neck T-shirt? That moment alone felt like the highest honour life had yet offered me.

But the instant she welcomed us with her signature deep smile, all my anxiety melted away. It was a smile that carried warmth, strength, and reassurance. That first meeting marked the beginning of a mother-son relationship—one that would later give birth to history when

I became the first student leader to bring the Former First Lady to Commonwealth Hall.

My biological mother idolized Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings. As a committed member of the 31st December Women's Movement in Russia-Sukura, my mum would tell endless stories of Nana Konadu and President Rawlings. She even managed to convince us that Nana Konadu was a distant relative, that is why she bears the name Agyeman. As a young boy, I vividly remember following her to the commissioning of the 31st December Women's Movement Daycare and Nursery School at Tunga, near the Dansoman SSNIT Flats. Nana Konadu was, to us, a giant, an embodiment of leadership, courage, and hope.



After I completed my first degree at the University, I had the rare privilege of working even more closely with her. She encouraged me to establish a youth pressure group to mobilize young people and to champion the cause of the NDC. That assignment became the genesis of several youth-focused pressure groups that undertook mass actions in the interest of our people and our country. Some of which later transmogrified into the famous FONKAR. She taught me the true meaning of grassroots mobilization and was the one who urged me to contest my first national elections.

She was a master of political mobilization, a relentless champion of women's empowerment, and an inspiration to countless young Ghanaians who anchored their dreams on her example. She cared deeply about the welfare and development of her "boys." When I was ready to get married, she paid the entire cost of my wedding and supported me with my first rent advance after school. To me, she was not only a mentor; she was a compassionate, devoted mother.

She gave me the extraordinary opportunity to meet, serve, and work closely with my mentor and idol, H.E. President Jerry John Rawlings. These are gifts I will cherish forever.

Mummy, today, I grieve deeply; not only because you left suddenly, but because I carry regret. I regret that I did not get the chance to make amends. I told my sister, Dr. Zanetor, only days before the sad incident, that I was ready to receive my baggage of reprimand from you, at least before the 5th Anniversary celebration of the passing of our father and founder, President Rawlings. I promised that after returning from an official trip to the United States, I would visit you without fail. But just two days after I left, I was met with the heartbreaking news. Mummy, I am truly sorry, sorry I did not make it in time. And sorry for not heeding to your passionate counsel on "that matter." I promise I will act on it before we meet again.

Today, we mourn deeply because you are no longer with us, but we are equally grateful because you lived for us. Death cannot extinguish the torch you lit in our lives, in our nation, and in the NDC. If the flame ever dims, it is only because dawn has come for you to meet your Maker.

Indeed, Proverbs 31:28-29: sums it all "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."

Rest well, Mummy. We shall miss you greatly. Your legacy shall live on in every life you touched.

Your son.





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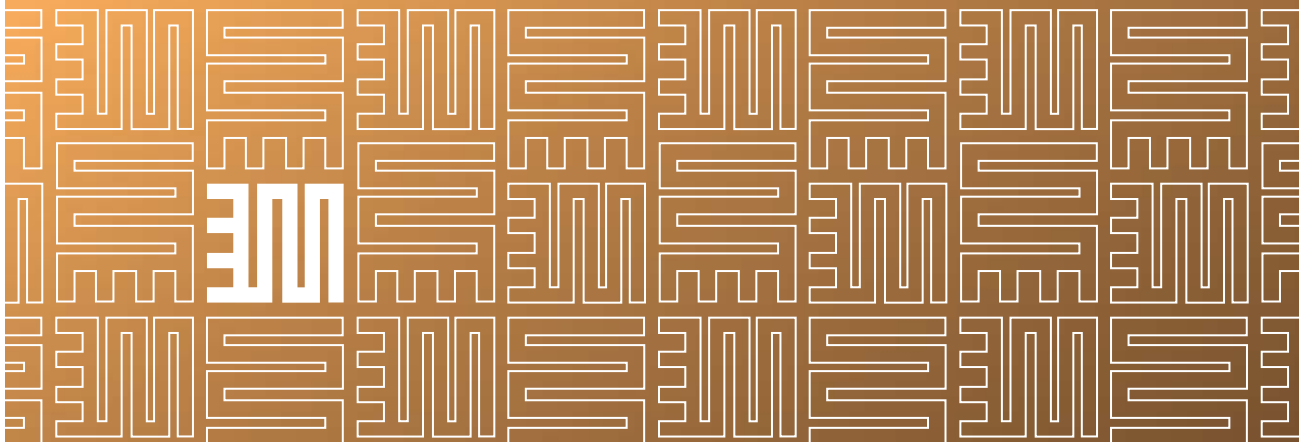
“Solidarity is not just a question of conscience. Solidarity is a question of our mutual progress and well-being.”

”

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, Address at an event to mark ‘Japanese Cooperation with the 31st December Women’s Movement’ in Ghana, 1990.



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY





AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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No.10225/APU/SG

Abidjan, 3 November 2025

Honourable Mrs.
Zanetor AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS
Member of Parliament of GHANA
Member of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union
(APU)
Accra (GHANA)

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

Honourable Member of Parliament,

It is with deep sadness that we learned of the passing of your illustrious mother,
Mrs. Nana Konadu AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS, former First Lady of the Republic of
GHANA, on 23 October 2025.

At this painful time, on behalf of all the members of the African Parliamentary
Union (APU), we offer you our sincere condolences and express our deepest
sympathy.

We fully share your grief and that of your family, as well as the emotions felt by
all those who had the privilege of knowing and esteeming the late **Mrs. Nana
Konadu AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS**.

May the memory of her commitment and kindness remain a source of comfort
and inspiration.

May she rest in peace.

IDI GADO Boubacar
Secretary General





*Embassy of the Kingdom
of Morocco
Accra*



سفارة المملكة المغربية
أكرا

Accra, October 24th 2025

Dear Honorable Dr. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings,

I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to you and your bereaved family, over the sudden passing away of your Mother, H.E Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

May her gentle soul rest in peace and may God Almighty give you the strength to bear this great loss.

Please accept, Honorable, the expression of my highest esteem and consideration.

Mrs. Imane Ouaadil

Ambassador



A FORMIDABLE LEADER IN HER OWN RIGHT

MYRIAM MONTRAT, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CANADA TO GHANA

On behalf of the High Commission of Canada and the people of Canada, I extend our heartfelt condolences on the passing of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

Her Excellency was a trailblazer whose life was defined by courage, compassion, and a deep commitment to public service. As First Lady, she reimagined her role to champion grassroots development, women's empowerment, and children's welfare. Through the 31st December Women's Movement, she mobilised millions of women across Ghana advancing literacy, education, entrepreneurship, and community health.

Her Excellency will be remembered not only as the lifelong partner of the late President Jerry John Rawlings, but as a formidable leader in her own right, whose compassion and conviction shaped Ghana's progress and inspired generations across Africa and beyond.

Her legacy resonates strongly with Canada's values and our commitment to gender equality and inclusive development. Her work continues to inspire efforts around the world to uplift women and build more just and resilient societies.

As you mourn the loss of a beloved mother, grandmother, and stateswoman, please know that our thoughts are with you. May you find comfort in the enduring impact of her life and in the admiration she inspired across generations.



SHE OCCUPIES A PLACE OF PRIDE IN OUR POLITICAL HISTORY

**DR MOHAMED IBN CHAMBAS, THE AFRICAN UNION HIGH
REPRESENTATIVE FOR SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA.**

The greatest tribute that can be paid to Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, former first lady of Ghana is to continue her remarkable work to advance the equality and dignity of Ghanaian women in particular, and African women in general.

Nana Konadu, as she was popularly known, was a towering Ghanaian woman who will continue to occupy a place of pride in the political history of the country as a leading light in championing the right for gender parity and equity in an essentially patriarchal society. She was unapologetically vocal, firm and unwavering in advocating for redressing traditional legacy injustices, discrimination and oppression of women and children.

Even before the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on the political advancement of women in 1995, she was already blazing the trail as a woman activist in standing to demand for the full participation of women in all aspects of life and the development of our country and the continent.

Through her 31st December Women Organisation, of which she remained President until her demise, she mobilised rural women, small traders and market women. The Movement established small credit schemes, clinics, nurseries, cottage industries and related enterprises to economically empower the less privileged women, educate their children as a means of social mobility and poverty elimination.

As Ghana mourns her fallen patriot, Nana Konadu Agyeman- Rawlings, it is worthy reminding ourselves that there are fewer women in the 9th Parliament of Ghana than in the previous one. In government, the private and other sectors, Ghanaian women remain grossly underrepresented. Ghana's record in attaining African and internationally set gender parity benchmarks is woefully lagging.

May the bright torch lit by the courageous and indefatigable Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings continue to shine.

May her gallant spirit inspire many more in the fight for equity and justice.

Nana, you fought a heroic fight.

Now, rest well!!!

MOHAMED IBN CHAMBAS



UNCT's visit to commiserate with the Rawlings family on the passing of Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings, Former First Lady of Ghana

Talking Points Dr. Wilfred Ochan, RC ai

The children, honorable members of the Rawlings, Agyeman Rawlings and allied families, distinguished friends and loved ones, ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the United Nations in Ghana, we extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the children, family, loved ones and the entire country on the passing of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings, former First Lady.

We are here to honour a woman whose life was defined by courage, conviction, and an unwavering commitment to the empowerment of women and the advancement of Ghana.

Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings was a trailblazer—not only as Ghana's First Lady, but as a formidable advocate for gender equality and social justice.

Her legacy will live on in the lives she touched, the institutions she helped shape, and the path she paved for future generations.

Her presence at the landmark 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing was a powerful affirmation of Ghana's voice in the global movement for gender equality.



She championed policies and programs that uplifted women and girls, and her leadership in founding the 31st December Women's Movement catalysed grassroots change across the country.

Her work remains a cornerstone in Ghana's journey toward inclusive development.

We stand with you in this moment of sorrow, and we celebrate a life that inspired change, uplifted voices, and championed dignity for all.

The impact of the late Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings transcends politics; it lives in the spirit of empowerment she ignited.

May her legacy continue to guide us and may her children, family and people she left behind find comfort in the knowledge that her life made a profound difference. May her soul rest in peace.

Her presence at the landmark 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing was a powerful affirmation of Ghana's voice in the global movement for gender equality.

The impact of the late Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings transcends politics; it lives in the spirit of empowerment she ignited. Her life made a profound difference.



الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in Accra

سفارة الجزائر بأكرا

No. 333/2025

Hon. Dr. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings
MP for the Klottey-Korle Constituency
Accra

23rd October 2025

Honorable, and Dear Sister,

I learned with great sadness and a heavy heart of the passing of your beloved mother, Her Excellency Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana.

In these painful circumstances, I would like to express my most sincere and heartfelt condolences to you, Honorable, and through you, to your sisters Amina and Yaa Asantewaa and your brother Kimathi. I express my deepest sympathy to you and to your entire family.

Paying a glowing tribute to her memory, I recount her determination and tireless commitment to gender advocacy, the advancement of women in politics and to peace and development in Ghana, and beyond. Her legacy as a leader and stateswoman will ever live on.

May God give her a peaceful rest.

Please accept, dear Honorable, the assurance of my sincere sympathy and highest consideration.



Mourad Louhaidia
Ambassador



Embassy of the
United States of America
Accra, Ghana

Office of the Ambassador

October 30, 2025

Honorable Agyeman-Rawlings,

On behalf of the government and people of the United States of America, I extend our heartfelt condolences to you and your siblings on the passing of your mother, Her Excellency, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

As the Founder of the 31st December Women's Movement, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings made a transformative impact on women's empowerment, entrepreneurship, and early childhood education, and left a monumental legacy in Ghana's social and political landscape. Her historic candidacy in 2012 as the first woman to run for president underscored her unwavering commitment to advancing women's participation in national development.

Please accept our sincere sympathy as the nation mourns the passing of your dear mother. Her legacy of leadership will forever be remembered.

Sincerely,

Rolf A. Olson
Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

Hon. Dr. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings,
Member of Parliament
Korle – Rlottey Constituency
Parliament House – Accra



Mother OF THE MOVEMENT, QUEEN OF OUR CONSCIENCE

**HER EXCELLENCY BRIDGETTE MOTSEPE,
PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT GOODWILL AMBASSADOR AND
SPECIAL ENVOY FOR INTER AFRICA TRADE, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

There are moments in history when a single life so perfectly encapsulates the spirit of an age—its struggles, its triumphs, its fierce and unyielding hope—that their passing feels less like an end, and more like the turning of a great and sacred page. Today, Ghana, Africa, and the world feel the weight of such a moment.

The great loom of Ghanaian history has fallen silent. The master weaver, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, has laid down her shuttle.

We are gathered not simply to mourn a death, but to stand in awe of a life—a life lived with profound purpose, unshakeable conviction, and a grace that could calm a storm, even as she herself so often was the storm. On October 23, 2025, at the age of 76, our mother, our sister, our queen, and our inspiration, answered a final call, leaving a world immeasurably changed by her presence.

To understand Nana Konadu is to understand the soul of Ghana itself. She was a woman woven from the nation's two most powerful threads: the ancient, royal poise of the Ashanti Kingdom and the restless, revolutionary zeal of a new republic. Born on November 17, 1948, in Kumasi, she walked with the innate dignity

of her heritage. But this was a royalty not of passive privilege, but of active purpose.

Her journey through Achimota School and later the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, where she studied art and textiles, was not merely an education; it was the honing of a unique vision. Where others saw lines and colours, she saw the very fabric of society. She understood that to empower a nation, you must first empower its women. She saw that a nation's culture—its art, its textiles, its stories—was not a relic of the past, but the engine of its future.

In 1977, her life was woven inextricably into the destiny of Ghana with her marriage to a young, charismatic Flight Lieutenant, Jerry John Rawlings. Theirs was not just a marriage; it was a partnership of fire and conviction. In the turbulent crucible of revolution and national



rebirth, she was far more than a “wife.” She was the anchor, the strategist, the quiet steel in the spine of a movement.

While her husband’s call was to remake the nation’s political structures, hers was to rebuild its human soul. She was the matriarch, not just to her four beloved children—Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina, and Kimathi, in whom she instilled her own values of service and cultural pride—but to an entire nation. She humanised the revolution, ensuring that the call for “probity” and “accountability” was matched by a profound and tangible “care.”

She was a giver. Not in the passive sense of charitable handouts, but in the active, radical sense of giving power. She did not just give fish; she overturned the boats of injustice so that women could fish for themselves.

Her tenure as First Lady, spanning two tumultuous decades, was a masterclass in transformative leadership. She did not simply occupy the role; she redefined it. She saw the immense, untapped power of Ghana’s rural women—the market traders, the farmers, the mothers—and she resolved to give them a voice.

The 31st December Women’s Movement (DWM), which she founded in 1982, was not a project. It was a phenomenon. It was a revolution of the spirit. She crisscrossed the country, from the coast to the savanna, not in motorcades of detached ceremony, but with the grit and determination of a field organizer. She sat on mud floors, she shared in their stories, she held their hands, and then she built them ladders.

Through the DWM, she championed microfinance long before it was a global buzzword. She built schools, clinics, and mills. She taught literacy, she advocated for child welfare, and she fought for legislation that would forever protect the rights of women. She turned

silent suffering into a collective, economic, and political force that could no longer be ignored. She told Ghanaian women that their work mattered, that their voices mattered, and that they, too, were architects of the nation.

Nana Konadu was a bridge between tradition and progress. She championed Ghanaian textiles, wearing our vibrant Kente and adinkra with an elegance that made it a statement of power and pride on the world stage. She was a pan-Africanist at heart, who, like her contemporaries Winnie Mandela or Wangari Maathai, embodied an unapologetic African womanhood—strong, intellectual, and visionary.

Yet, she was uniquely herself. She possessed a rare fusion of royal poise and revolutionary fire, of maternal warmth and warrior’s resolve. She was as comfortable debating global policy at a United Nations conference as she was mobilising women in a remote village.

And her spirit was, above all, unyielding.

When she believed her political home, the NDC, had lost the path she and her husband had forged, she did not fade into quiet retirement. That was not her way. In 2012, with characteristic courage, she founded the National Democratic Party (NDP). When she stood as the first woman to run for the presidency under a major party banner in 2016, it was not a symbolic gesture. It was a profound statement: that a woman’s place was not just in the home, or even in the movement, but at the very head of the table.

She was no stranger to the crucible. She endured the winds of coups, the shifting sands of political transitions, and the sting of criticism. But she met every adversity not as a barrier, but as a test of her strength. The fire that sought to consume her only served to forge her resolve into something unbreakable.



Today, a great baobab tree has fallen, and the forest feels its absence. Her passing, so soon after that of her beloved Jerry John Rawlings, marks the end of an era. It closes a chapter on the foundational story of Ghana's Fourth Republic—a story she did not just witness, but which she actively wrote.

But let us be clear: Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings is not gone.

She is alive in the woman who now runs her own business because the DWM gave her a first loan.

She is alive in the child who learns to read in a school she helped build.

She is alive in the young woman, from any party, who now dares to run for office because Nana Konadu showed her it was possible.

She is alive in the vibrant colours of the Kente cloth she championed, a textile that now speaks of Ghanaian pride across the globe.

Her tapestry is complete. It is a masterpiece woven with threads of courage, sacrifice, intellect, and an undying love for her people. It hangs in the halls of our history, radiant and enduring, a pattern for generations to come.

We mourn her as a mother, a wife, and a leader. But we celebrate her as a giver, an icon, and an ancestor.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, you were a queen in your own right. You were the mother of a movement. You were the conscience of a revolution. Your work is done. Your light endures.

Rest in power. Rest in peace.

Her tapestry is complete. It is a masterpiece woven with threads of courage, sacrifice, intellect, and an undying love for her people



中 华 人 民 共 和 国 大 使 馆

20th November 2025

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF H.E. NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS

It is with deep sorrow that the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Ghana extends its heartfelt condolences on the passing of H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, former First Lady of Ghana and a renowned advocate for women's rights and social activism.

H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings dedicated her life to promoting gender equality, women's empowerment and child welfare. Her passing represents a significant loss to the cause of women's advancement both in Ghana and globally.

H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings is an old friend of the Chinese people, and made great contribution to China-Ghana relationship. The Embassy and the people of China express the sincere sympathies to the people of Ghana, her family and all who mourn her loss.

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China
in the Republic of Ghana



Family of H.E. Agyeman-Rawlings



“

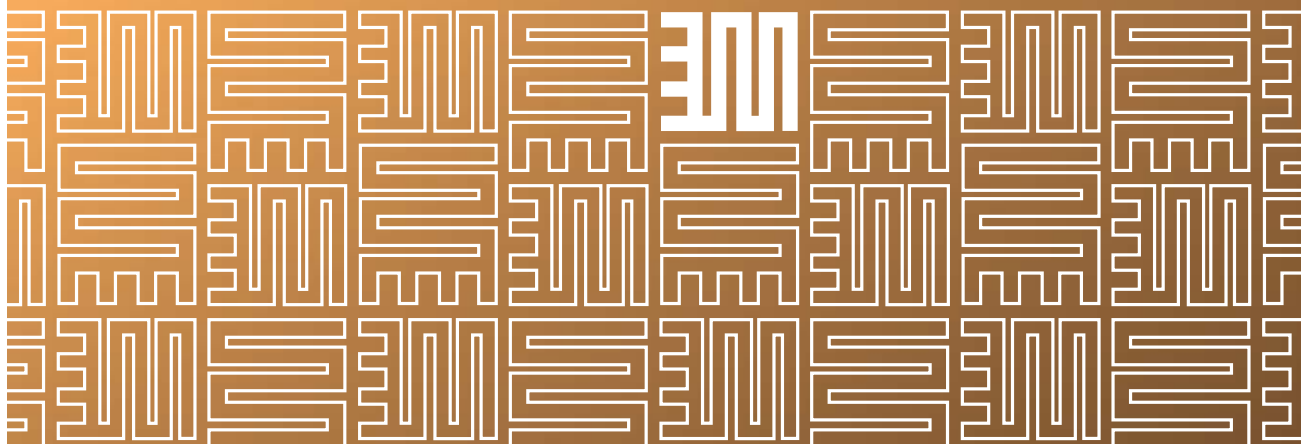
I have never been one to do what is popular over what is right, because I am and will always be guided by moral obligation to support the needs of the people over the interest of politics.

”

***Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, Acceptance Speech at the
2nd NDP National Delegates Convention, April 30, 2016***



ASSOCIATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND RELIGIOUS BODIES





A S S O C I A T I O N S

A POWERFUL FORCE YOU ARE, YOUR EXCELLENCY; BOTH IN LIFE AND AT REST

AGRIHOUSE FOUNDATION

Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was not only a national treasure; to us at Agrihouse Foundation, she was and remains a mother, a guide, and an unwavering pillar of strength. Today, as we celebrate her journey, we stand in awe of the legacy she built and the legacy she leaves behind. A powerful force in life, and a radiant light even in rest.



To the legacy you have built
and the legacy you leave
behind; a powerful force
you are, Your Excellency;
both in life and at rest

If any agricultural youth-led organisation has felt the absence of your presence, it is Agrihouse Foundation. Yet, even in this loss, we find immeasurable gain—because your influence has shaped our mission, our work, and our identity forever.

A Mother to Our Mission

Her Excellency was one of the very foundations upon which the Agrihouse Foundation was strengthened. She guided and shaped national agricultural intervention and project we have championed especially for youth, women in agribusiness, farmers, and farmers living with disabilities.

Through her courage, confidence in our work and persistent encouragement, we have grown to impact over 970,000 value-chain actors across all 16 regions of Ghana. We vividly recall 2017, when the USAID-ADVANCE project entrusted Agrihouse Foundation with the annual Pre-Harvest Agribusiness and Exhibitions event as part of their exit strategy. She celebrated this milestone with us and took the stage during the official launch and handing over ceremony, delivering one of the most impactful speeches, charging us and recommending strategies to tackle post-harvest losses and strengthen market linkages for farmers. That moment changed everything. Her presence alone



amplified stakeholder trust in us, a young and rising organisation at the time, this gave us to courage to carry forward and implement this major internationally recognised agricultural intervention.

Again, in 2020, we recall with pride when she stood at the 3rd Women in Food and Agricultural Leadership Training Forum and the Gold in the Soil Awards, alongside Global Affairs Canada, queen-mothers, and women in agribusiness. Her words ignited confidence and purpose and motivated women to elevate their farm enterprises and agribusinesses. Even five years later, we continue to witness the impact of her message among the 200 plus women farmers and value chain actors from Ashanti, Bono, Central Regions and beyond, who were present.

What a beacon she has been, still is, and will forever be! Her messages have always flowed from the heart and spoken to the soil – watering, nourishing and transforming livelihoods.

A Legacy of Service, Strength, and Transformation

Your Excellency, you believed in our mission before the world fully understood it. Because of you, we dare to dream bigger and continue to find bolder ways to empower women, youth, farmers and contribute to the advancement of the agribusiness sector as a whole.

Through your efforts, the 'Gathering of the Royals' has now empowered over 12,000 queenmothers and traditional leaders, equipping them with agribusiness knowledge and inspiring them to shape their communities with confidence and innovation.

Today, queenmothers across the nation are not only hands-on with farming, but many are shaping their communities, and mentoring young women to build dignified and meaningful careers, rooted in agriculture.

Whenever you mounted the stage, Your Excellency – commanding it with purpose and passion, and ending with a joyful dance – you taught us that transformation is not only heard; it is felt, it is lived, it is danced.

Last year, we were honoured to celebrate you before 800 industry players, traditional leaders and stakeholders, acknowledging your lifelong commitment to women, humanity, to the future of young people and generations to come.

It brings us comfort to know that you were with us, and that you understood how highly we esteemed you – not merely through our words, but through every action we took, every programme we executed, and every woman we empowered and every young person we supported.

The Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings Legacy Honours

Your Excellency, the Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings Legacy Honours event has become our most cherished flagship. But we remember your initial reaction, when we shared the concept with you:

"Why do you want to name a Legacy Award after me?"

"Why do you want to do this in my name?"

"Why such trust in me?"

"People will attack you—are you sure?"

"How will you fund it?"

"How do you hope to sustain it?"

Your Excellency, you were that person who always sought to celebrate everyone, yet you were reluctant to be celebrated yourself. Finally, when you realised we would not back down on the Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings Legacy Honours, you stopped trying to talk us out of it. True to your nature, you embraced the concept and, as you always did, advised us on how best to make it have a generational impact.



Celebrating you while you were with us is one of our greatest joys. Today, as the video of you dancing to “NEA WODE ME ABEDURU NI” during the Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings Legacy Honours circulates widely, it reinforces and reminds the world of your joyful spirit, grace, and enduring passion for humanity.

We were already planning the 2026 edition under your guidance—until you departed physically. But your words remain the torch we will carry, in hosting future editions. Your Excellency, your legacy is woven into the very fabric of our work. We shall stand firm, carrying forward your name with gratitude and reverence.

A Vision That Crossed Borders

Your wisdom extended far beyond Ghana. When we introduced the Nebraska State Senators to you, your counsel reshaped our trajectory. You urged us to strengthen ties and pursue a transactional relationship that would bring lasting value.

It was through your advice, that we were motivated to pursue a strategic collaboration with the state senators from Nebraska — a vision that led to the establishment of the Ghana–Nebraska Agribusiness Growth and Trade Relations Chamber. This milestone continues to strengthen agribusiness trade ties and expand opportunities for countless actors within the agricultural space, both in Ghana and Nebraska. This achievement stands as a testament to your foresight.

We were equally proud to share your remarkable impact and story on the global stage in Brazil, when our Executive Director, Alberta Nana Akyaa Akosa, received the Rally Mulheres do Agro Ambassador Award and delivered a powerful message titled “Ko-Na-Du – Fight to the End.”

The message, which earned applause and praise from the crowd, reflected you — your extraordinary achievements, your unwavering zeal, and your tireless dedication to uplifting women and youth across generations. It encouraged women struggling in their quest to succeed to keep fighting, pressing on, and challenging themselves, resulting in many triumphs.

We are justifiably proud of how far we have come in advancing and empowering women, through the effort of a single woman — you, Your Excellency — who stood tall and took the bullet for all of women, so that we women could come far.

Thanks to your efforts, everyone now, more than ever before, recognises the fundamental impact you have had in empowering women, men, and generations to come. You selflessly advocated, crusaded, fought, and firmly stood by your convictions, demonstrating that promoting the welfare of women enhances the integrity and dignity of all humanity.

Your Legacy Lives in Us

The mission now is clear: to celebrate, to inspire the future, and to sustain your legacy.

Today, even in this moment of grief, we want you to know:

Your legacy lives in us.

Your strength remains our compass.

Your values continue to shape our every step.

To preserve everything you stood for, we solemnly reaffirm our promise that the Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings Legacy Honours will continue.



It will remain a living reflection of who you were — a woman of courage, conviction, and boundless compassion. Through these honours, your boldness will continue to shine, guiding and uplifting those whose work mirrors your resilience and vision.

With Eternal Gratitude

Thank you, Your Excellency:

For believing in us when our path was still forming.

For mentoring us with patience and truth.

For lifting up those the world often fails to see.

For showing us, through your life, what it means to serve with heart and purpose.

For pushing us beyond our limits, always demanding excellence.

Your leadership was bold yet gentle; firm yet nurturing. You led with conviction, but always with kindness. You carried strength without ever losing compassion. And you taught us that true power lies not in authority, but in the lives we touch and the change we inspire.

And so, as we bid you farewell, we say this with reverence:

May your legacy rise like the morning sun: steady, golden, and unending.

May your footsteps continue to guide those still learning to walk their path.

And may history remember not only what you achieved, but the countless hearts you awakened, strengthened, and inspired.

With unwavering gratitude, love, and honour!

We salute you, Her Excellency, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings

Agrihouse Foundation

Ghana-Nebraska Agribusiness Growth and Trade Relations Chamber

What a beacon she
has been, still is, and
will forever be!



IT TAKES COURAGE FOR WOMEN TO LEAD

FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE 'NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-
RAWLINGS LEGACY HONOURS AWARD'

**CAPTAIN GEORGINA JOPAP
(MASTER MARINER)**

For many years, my understanding of H.E Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was shaped from a distance. I admired her as Ghana's First Lady; a bold advocate for women and a woman who carried the hopes of many upon her shoulders. Never did I imagine that one day our paths would cross in a way that would touch me so deeply.





Earlier this year, she honoured me with the maiden **NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS LEGACY HONOURS AWARD**, together with Agrihouse Foundation. As a woman navigating the male-dominated maritime industry, this recognition remains one of the most meaningful acknowledgements of my life. I felt profoundly moved by the sincerity and grace with which she recognised women breaking barriers. She understood, perhaps more than most, the courage it takes for women to stand tall in spaces where we are often unseen.

In her presence, one could feel the strength, dignity, and unwavering conviction of a woman who had carried the hopes of many and fought tirelessly for their progress. She believed in celebrating women not only for their achievements, but for the unseen battles they endured along the way.

The Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings Legacy Honours award ceremony provided an opportune time for Her Excellency and I to deliberate on ways that we could collaborate and encourage women to build their capacities to excel in their respective fields. During our brief but profound encounter, Nana Konadu noted that “it takes courage for women to lead and more importantly, women who blazed the trail serve as beacons to propel the next generation to higher heights”. Her lifelong commitment to women empowerment and creating opportunities for them to excel resonated deeply with my own journey, creating a quiet bond of shared purpose between us. We were determined to work together to empower more women in the nation's development.

Through that encounter, I came to see beyond the public figure and former First Lady. I saw a visionary whose impact had touched countless women across Ghana and beyond; a woman who recognised potential, purpose, and power in every woman's story. Though the future collaborations she envisioned with me, through the Legacy Honours Awards scheme could not materialise, I cherish the honour she gave me. I remain profoundly grateful for it and more committed to support the team to ensure this inspiring, bold and courageous awards scheme is organised in her honour always.

May we honour her legacy by championing the virtues she stood for, and for her legacy to continue to inspire every woman who dares to rise, to lead, and to believe in the greatness within herself.

May her powerful, positive, and unequivocal impact, and the memory of her, shine as a guiding light for generations to come.

I offer my deepest condolences to Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings' children and her entire family.

Rest in Peace, H.E Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

Damirifa due, Nante yie.



A POWERFUL CHANGE AGENT, WHOSE INFLUENCE TRANSFORMED THE TRAJECTORY OF WOMEN IN THE POLICE SERVICE.

POLICE LADIES' ASSOCIATION

Members of the Police Ladies' Association (POLAS), today join thousands of people to mourn our Role Model and Refuge. She was our inspiration, guidance and anchor.

“

What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monument, but what is woven into the lives of others”

- PERICLES

Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings had a great personality and radiated charisma and excellent leadership qualities. She was a top-notch influencer who promoted goodness for the POLAS. There was no doubt she could play the notable roles she did for the benefit of every policewoman in the Ghana Police Service.



In 1952, when Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah in wisdom introduced Women Policing, they had limited roles to play at the time. Policewomen were forbidden to get married or pregnant among others, and those who did were compelled to resign. Though our forebears fought to change the narratives, there was still the rule for policewomen to work at least two years before qualifying to apply to get married, albeit with a consent letter from their suitors. As if that was not enough, prior to the enactment of the 1992 Constitution, women in policing were retiring at age 50, while our male counterparts did so at 55 years. Policewomen were not promoted beyond the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) and the system allowed for one ACP at a time. This meant that when one policewoman got promoted to the rank of ACP, the others had to wait till she retired or left the Service before another promotion got facilitated.



All the above discriminatory processes changed with the help of the unseen hands of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, who supported POLAS. We have chalked many successes in terms of promotion which includes rising to the rank of Acting Inspector-General of Police. Today, we boast of three female Commissioners, five Deputy Commissioners, four Deputy Regional Commanders and several Divisional, District, Unit Commanders, and Station Officers in active service.

Your Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings; though bodily absent from our midst today, you remain visible in your indelible imprints on us and many others through the diverse projects you stood for and fought for. You supported the establishment of the then Women and Juvenal Unit (WAJU), now Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU), at a time when there was a need for a medium through which domestic violence victims could exclusively lodge complaints and seek justice. You also championed the inclusion of policewomen in Peace Support Operations and today, Policewomen from Ghana are excelling in United Nations and African Union operations. The Police Ladies' Association owes these successes to your beautiful memories. We are not here to cry, but to eulogise your great deeds and your cherished memory.

We can vividly visualise you in your fancy-styled POLAS blue and white cloth during the climax of the 70th Anniversary of Women Policing in Ghana in 2022. You honored our invitation and graced the occasion with your splendid presence. The cheers you received from the crowd when you stepped out can still be visualised as if it was yesterday. Not forgetting your usual dancing steps at the Officers' Mess after the climax parade. You were indeed the PEOPLE'S MOTHER.

The leadership of the Police Ladies' Association will miss your warm welcome, pep-talks and advice during this year's christmas visits to the Association's heroines. Your name has always been at the top of our list. You are irreplaceable, our gorgeous heroine.

With your passing, a mighty tree has fallen, and a yawning hole created in the deep forest of POLAS. The birds of the air have lost their rest stop and their breeding nests.

For your legacy, your name will forever be deeply imprinted in the history of the Police Ladies' Association and, as in our slogan, we shall continue to Arise and Shine, wherever we find ourselves.

Mother-of-All Nana Konadu, the Ghana Police Ladies' Association says find eternal peace in your resting abode.

Adieu.





A NURTURER BEYOND BORDERS

THE ESBECAN ASSOCIATION

Today, we, the members of the ESBECAN Association, gather with heavy hearts, but full of gratitude and admiration to pay a heartfelt tribute to Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings a visionary leader, a compassionate advocate, and above all, a mother to the Ghana-Cuba Educational Cooperation Programme and to all of us, the ESBECANS.

When the Ghana-Cuba programme began in **1983**, it was more than a diplomatic collaboration, it was a bold and transformative vision for the future of Ghanaian youth. It was a bridge of solidarity between two nations built on shared ideals of education, empowerment, and social progress, and standing at the heart of this vision was H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

As First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, she recognised the immense potential of this partnership and championed it with extraordinary passion and commitment. She saw in this initiative an opportunity not only to educate Ghanaian youth, but to nurture a new generation of disciplined, skilled, and patriotic citizens who would return to serve their nation with pride and excellence.





Her Excellency's involvement went far beyond official duty. To the thousands of young Ghanaians who journeyed to Cuba, she was more than a leader, she was a **mother, mentor, and moral guide**. She cared deeply for our welfare, celebrated our achievements, and continually encouraged us to persevere in our studies and to give our best to Ghana. Her warmth, accessibility, and genuine concern touched countless lives and gave the programme a deeply human face.

Thanks to her vision and advocacy, the Ghana-Cuba Educational Cooperation Programme became one of the most successful international education initiatives in our nation's history. It has produced a rich tapestry of Ghanaian professionals across virtually every sector of our society such as teachers, doctors, engineers, scientists, agriculturists, architects, security experts, veterinary officers, public servants, consultants, et cetera, many of whom trace their success and inspiration to the foundation laid by this programme.

Today, we, the ESBECANS, proudly carry forward that legacy. We stand as living proof of what can be achieved when leadership is guided by compassion and conviction. We owe much of who we are to her vision and her motherly support, which sustained and inspired us throughout the decades. As a mother who watched her children grow, you spoke with us,

laughed with us, and danced alongside us. These treasured moments of joy, warmth, and love will forever live in the hearts of all ESBECANS.

Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings's enduring contributions will forever remain part of the ESBECAN story and part of Ghana's educational and developmental journey. Her life exemplified service, courage, and a deep belief in the transformative power of education.

As we honour her memory, we reaffirm our commitment to uphold the values she cherished, discipline, hard work, patriotism, and solidarity. We will continue to build upon her legacy, ensuring that the light she lit through this programme continues to shine brightly for generations to come.

On behalf of the entire ESBECAN fraternity, past, present, and future we say: Thank you, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

Thank you for believing in us, guiding us, and mothering a dream that continues to transform lives and build the future of our nation.

May your legacy live on in the countless lives you touched and in the enduring friendship between **Ghana and Cuba** that you so lovingly nurtured.

Rest in perfect peace, mum.

With deepest gratitude, love, and respect,





A PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS, LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE LADY PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION OF GHANA

The Lady Pharmacists Association of Ghana (LAPAG) expresses our profound sorrow at the passing of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana. Her Excellency was a devoted and passionate advocate for women's rights, leadership, education, and national development.

“

In the hush of our mourning, we feel the weight of absence, yet even in sorrow, the echoes of a life devoted to service continue to guide and inspire us.”





To us as LAPAG, she was more than a national figure. She was a patron, friend, and inspiration whose relationship with LAPAG began years ago when she served as Guest Speaker at one of our anniversary celebrations. Since then, she honored our invitations and supported our work with warmth and enthusiasm.

Recently, she graced our 'LAPAG@30' fundraising dinner, showing her trademark warmth and generous support for women's empowerment and girls' wellbeing.

Her Excellency's belief in LAPAG's mission to empower communities through health education, especially among women and youth, reflected the ideals she championed through her 31st December Women's Movement.

On behalf of all Lady Pharmacists in Ghana, LAPAG extends heartfelt condolences to the Agyeman and Rawlings families and the people of Ghana.

In this hour of sorrow, the nation bows in reverent remembrance of a life whose legacy will endure beyond our time.

Her legacy of service and empowerment will continue to inspire generations of pharmacists and women leaders.

Rest in perfect peace, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

Your light will continue to shine.





Her IMPACT IS UNPARALLELED

THE MEDICAL WOMEN ASSOCIATION OF GHANA

The Medical Women Association of Ghana (MWAG) received the news of the passing of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, with profound sadness and shock. We extend our deepest condolences to her family and acknowledge her remarkable life and enduring legacy.



Fight the good fight with all thy might!
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally."

She touched countless lives and championed the rights of women, girls, and the vulnerable across the country. She recognised the double burden women face - caring for their families while striving to earn an income, and responded with action. Through the 31st December Women's Movement, she designed and implemented practical solutions to empower women economically. She inspired productivity and entrepreneurship, opening avenues for women to earn a living and care for their families. Additionally, day care centres were established across the country for young children while their mothers worked. Leveraging her position as First Lady and President of the Movement, she worked tirelessly for the common good. Many were educated or started businesses because of her efforts.

She fearlessly stood and spoke for the rights of women and children, advocating for professional and social recognition for women. Her commitment extended beyond activism; she gifted us her insights through beautifully written books that continue to inspire.

Her impact is unparalleled. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was a true transformational leader who fought with all her might for what she believed in. It is heartbreaking to see her go, but her example will remain a beacon for us as lady doctors and leaders.

At this difficult time, please accept our heartfelt sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and loved ones. It is MWAG's earnest prayer that the Almighty God grants them comfort, strength, and peace.

Thank you.

MWAG: Healing with a Mother's Heart.



True GREATNESS IS MEASURED IN SERVICE TO OTHERS

MUSIGA

The Musicians Union of Ghana (MUSIGA), honors the life and legacy of the late Nana Konadu Agyemang-Rawlings, a formidable advocate for women's rights, a devoted patriot, and a pillar of strength for Ghana.

Nana Konadu had a special relationship with the music industry and was very supportive of the industry playing a major role in the development of many careers.

Our paths crossed on numerous occasions with Nana, however, during the preparations for MUSIGA's virtual tribute concert in memory of the late President Jerry John Rawlings, her grace, wisdom, and unwavering dedication inspired all who had the privilege to engage with her.

Her passionate commitment to women's development in Ghana was a driving force behind her leadership, empowering countless women to rise and contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress.

In reflecting on her life, we find solace and inspiration in the words of scripture, **"A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children"** (Proverbs 13:22). Nana Konadu's

legacy is a precious inheritance of courage, resilience, and love for her nation, especially in championing the advancement of Ghanaian women.

As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You do not have to have a college degree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." Nana Konadu embodied this spirit of servant leadership, reminding us that true greatness is measured in service to others.

MUSIGA extends our deepest condolences to Dr Ezanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina and Kimathi, her family, and all who cherish her memory.

May her legacy continue to inspire and uplift us all, especially the women she so fervently supported throughout her life.

Rest in peace Nana, damirifa due.



I N S T I T U T I O N S

She WAS MORE THAN A FORMER FIRST LADY

THE PRINCESS MARIE LOUISE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Management and Staff of the Princess Marie Louise Children's Hospital join the nation and the world in celebrating the life of a remarkable woman, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.



'Don't let your heart be troubled.
Trust in God, and trust also in me.'
John 14:1

To us, she was more than a former First Lady. She was a compassionate mother, a visionary leader, and a tireless advocate for women and children. Through her exceptional leadership of the 31st December Women's Movement, she extended her nurturing hand to our hospital, adopting one of our wards (the Cecily Williams Ward), and giving it a new sense of life and hope.

That singular act of love went beyond walls and equipment. It brought warmth, dignity, and renewed purpose to the care of our patients. Her commitment to the welfare of children was visible, personal, and deeply touching. Today, that ward stands as a lasting reminder of her heart for service and her belief that every child deserves a chance at life.

Her Movement's continued partnership with our hospital and the representation on our Advisory Board is a living testimony of her vision that when women are empowered, families are strengthened, and when families thrive, nations prosper.

About 4 months ago, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings made a heartfelt donation into The PML Endowment fund. Just before her passing, she made a further donation into the Endowment Fund and towards the

refurbishment of the ward she had adopted for over 25 years. Her Excellency was in constant contact with the Hospital through her Representative and ensured that she remained an active member of our Advisory Board. A day before her passing, our Board Chair, Reverend Father Andrew Campbell, had met her at church and shook hands with her. It was, therefore, a great shock to us to hear of her passing.

Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings will forever be remembered within our walls as a symbol of grace, strength, and compassion. She leaves behind not only the memory of her deeds, but also the light of her example, one that continues to inspire us to serve with empathy and excellence.

As we bid farewell to this great woman, we celebrate a life beautifully lived, that touched many and transformed generations.

Fare thee well, Your Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

Your legacy lives on in every child whose smile you helped restore.

From the Advisory Board, Management and Staff of Princess Marie Louise Children's Hospital (PMLCH)



She SUPPORTED OUR VISION WITH GENUINE LOVE FOR GHANA

THE W. E. B. DU BOIS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

“

Some lives leave an imprint that time can never fade.”

Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was one of those rare souls whose presence touched hearts and inspired purpose.



CAPTION: Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings joins Hon. Lydia Lamisi Akanvariba, Minister of State for Public Sector Reforms, and Japhet Aryiku, Executive Director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Museum Foundation, in cutting the ribbon to mark the 40th Anniversary of the dedication of the W.E.B. Du Bois Centre for Pan-African Culture.



She believed in what we do, keeping the memory and work of Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois alive for generations yet. She supported our vision with genuine love for Ghana, deep respect for history, and a lasting faith in the African spirit that embraces its Diaspora.

We were deeply honored by her presence and support. She stood with us at the 61st and 62nd Anniversary commemorations of Dr. Du Bois's passing, and again at the 40th Anniversary of the dedication of the W. E. B. Du Bois Memorial Centre for Pan-African Culture by her dear and late husband, Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings on 22nd June, 1985.

She carried herself with strength and compassion like a true mother of purpose, whose gentle encouragement and kind words continue to give us courage to keep going. Her smile, her calm voice, and her belief in what we do meant more to us than she ever knew.

We celebrate her life with love and gratitude. Her story is forever part of ours. As we move forward, we will do so with her light in our hearts and her legacy in our steps.

May her beautiful soul rest in perfect peace.

Signed,

Daniel Rose, Chairman

Japhet Aryiku, Executive Director

Dr. Kofi Boateng, Chief Operating Officer/ Chief Financial Officer

and the entire team of the W. E. B. Du Bois Museum Foundation

Together with our distinguished Board Members:

Dr. David Levering Lewis

Dr. Deborah Rose

Dr Humphrey Ayim-Darke

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado

Michael J. Morand

Jeffrey Alan Peck

"Your light will forever guide our path."

Her smile, her calm voice, and
her belief in what we do meant
more to us than she ever knew.



Unwavering COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A MORE JUST AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY

STANBIC BANK GHANA

Stanbic Bank Ghana joins the nation in profound mourning at the passing of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, a visionary leader and former First Lady whose indelible courage and compassion transformed the lives of countless Ghanaians.

Her legacy as a pioneer for gender equality was cemented on the world stage at the historic 1995 Beijing Conference. There, not only did she amplify Ghana's voice but also brought home a global mandate for women's empowerment, which she fearlessly translated into tangible action. Through the pioneering 31st December Women's Movement, she championed access to education, economic independence, and political participation, creating a ripple effect of opportunity that continues to uplift generations.

This unwavering commitment to building a more just and equitable society resonates deeply with our purpose: "Ghana is our home; we drive her growth." We believe that driving Ghana's growth requires the full and equal participation of all its people. It is in this shared sense of purpose that we find our work aligned with her lifelong mission.

For over a decade, Mrs. Agyeman-Rawlings was not only a valued client, but a cherished friend

and an inspiration to the Stanbic family. Her wisdom and steadfast belief in women's agency directly strengthened our resolve to champion initiatives like our HeForShe project. This commitment is more than a programme; it is a core part of our drive to provide innovative and best-in-class products that empower women-led businesses and foster inclusive prosperity, ensuring that her foundational work continues to move forward.

On behalf of the management and staff of Stanbic Bank Ghana, we extend our deepest condolences to the Agyeman-Rawlings family and all who loved her.

May her towering legacy as a trailblazer, mentor, and national icon continue to inspire us all to build a future anchored on empowerment, innovation, and progress for every Ghanaian.

Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings will forever remain in our hearts.



An ICONIC STATESWOMAN

GCB BANK PLC

We pay a heartfelt tribute to H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman- Rawlings, an iconic stateswoman, a passionate advocate for women's empowerment, and a valued client of our Bank.

Her strength, vision, and unwavering commitment to uplifting Ghanaian women and children will remain enduring pillars of her legacy.

As First Lady, she stood firmly as a contributor to the vibrant democracy Ghana enjoys today.

We at GCB Bank express our profound respect and gratitude to her for choosing to do business with the oldest and largest indigenous bank, a partnership we have always cherished.

To the family she has left behind, we extend our deepest sympathies. May you find comfort in her remarkable life and continue to build on the strong foundations she laid: foundations of courage, service, and nation-building.

May her legacy live on.

Rest in Peace H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-
Rawlings

Management,
GCB Bank PLC



Excellence, LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND INCLUSION

GHANA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (GIS)

We pay heartfelt tribute to Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings — an extraordinary woman, a trailblazer, and a cherished member of the Ghana International School (GIS) family.

As a proud alumna of GIS, a former parent, and a grandmother to four (4) GIS students— former and current—Nana Konadu's connection to the school spanned generations. Her presence at school events over the years enriched our community, and we were honoured to welcome her once again at our 70th Anniversary Celebration, where she joined former classmates, alumni, and friends in celebrating

the enduring legacy of GIS. Having attended GIS in the 1950s and 1960s, she built many meaningful connections with fellow alumni over the years.

During this milestone celebration, we were reminded of the deep roots and shared history of our alumni. Many, including Nana Konadu, fondly recalled the early years of the school





— the student body was small, with only a few Ghanaian students, and sporting and artistic talents, including gymnastics, ballet, long jump, and sprinting, flourished on the school grounds. She excelled in long jump, high jump, gymnastics, and sprint events. She left GIS after her common entrance in 1961 and entered Achimota School. She praises her parents for their early vision in enrolling her at Ghana International School.

As Ghana's First Lady, she was a visionary and tireless advocate for women's rights, dedicating her life to empowering young girls and women through education, leadership, and opportunity. Through the 31st December Women's Movement, she championed programmes that opened doors for countless women to gain skills, economic independence, and a voice in society.

Her deep belief that gender should never be a barrier to one's contribution to national development resonated powerfully with the core values of GIS — excellence, leadership, service, and inclusion.

Though she has departed, her legacy remains firmly embedded in the lives she touched — including the alumni who walked these halls with her and the many young people across the country whose lives were transformed through her advocacy and work. She had expressed a desire to remain connected in an even more impactful way with her school and had indicated that she would join us for our United Nations and National Costume Day celebrations in October. Instead of her presence, the whole community had the difficult and painful duty of observing a long moment of silence for our departed colleague.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings will forever be remembered as a cherished daughter, parent, and grandparent of GIS, and a leader of immense impact.

May her soul rest in perfect peace!





More THAN A FIRST LADY

... A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

GOSPEL CHURCHES INTERNATIONAL (CGCI)

We, the Most Rt. Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Osei-Bonsu, Presiding Archbishop of the Council For Gospel Churches International (CGCI), the Executive Council, and the entire membership of the CGCI, gather today not only to remember a remarkable woman, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, but to honour a life that touched our nation Ghana, with grace, compassion, and quiet strength.



Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

Revelation 14:13

As the wife of our former President Jerry John Rawlings, she carried a role that demanded integrity, dignity, resilience, and an unwavering ardor and commitment to service — and she fulfilled it with unmatched elegance.

She was more than a First Lady; she was a mother to many, a voice for the voiceless, and a beacon of hope for the hopeless in times of deep uncertainty. Her kindness reached beyond the walls of the Osu Castle and her home, touching communities, uplifting the defenseless and vulnerable, and inspiring countless women to believe in their God-given power.

In her presence, one felt acceptance and warmth; in her words, wisdom and candor; and in her actions, a deep and unwavering love for people and country. She stood beside her

husband not in a fleeting trail or shadow, but in partnership and a true pillar of strength whose influence will be felt for generations.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings achieved significant milestones in her career, notably championing women's empowerment through the 31st December Women's Movement, which led to the establishment of several daycare centres and markets. She was instrumental in passing laws like the Intestate Succession Law to protect inheritance rights of widows and children.

In her quest for sanity and sanctity for the girl-child, she became a driving force behind legislation against harmful practices like female genital mutilation and undignified social vices such as the "trokosi" system in Ghana



where young girls were sent as slaves to make amends for wrongs and as payments for family debts. This dehumanising trend had defied several moves of many churches and religious bodies. She embodied driving measurable change that uplifts communities, strengthens families, and empowers future generations to carry the torch of leadership.

A memorable political achievement was becoming the first female presidential candidate in Ghana in 2016 with the formation and leading of the National Democratic Party in October 2012, and advocating for women's rights through various roles. No doubt, she was encouraged to pen her commitment to women's empowerment in a book she entitled - "It Takes a Woman" in 2018.

We appreciate extensively the training and impartation of her resilient spirit to many, especially her children – Dr. Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina and Kimathi Rawlings.

We will surely also miss her bold headgear and smooth dancing steps.

Though she is no longer with us in body, her legacy of compassion, humility, and service will forever remain in the heart of our nation. We are grateful for the light she shared, and we will certainly carry it forward.

We stand in prayerful solidarity with His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, His Excellency President John Mahama, The Rawlings Family, and the government and esteemed people of Ghana.

Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, rest in perfect peace.

His Eminence Most Rt. Rev. Prof. Emmanuel O. B. Osei-Bonsu

Presiding Archbishop.

... her legacy of compassion,
humility, and service will forever
remain in the heart of our nation.



Nana KONADU'S PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO CERVICAL CANCER AND WOMEN'S HEALTH WON THE DAY FOR GHANA

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RADIOTHERAPY AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE, KORLE BU TEACHING HOSPITAL

Among the many accomplishments of the former first lady, there is one that deserves mention and cannot be glossed over because it concerns human health and has resulted in a lasting effect, affecting the quality of life of Ghanaians in particular, and some of our neighbours.

Her spirited presentation as leader of Ghana's delegation to the 1994 edition of the general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna attracted a standing ovation in the first instance and culminated in a technical cooperation agreement between the Agency and Government of Ghana. Ghana benefited from over 3 million United States Dollars which ensured training of doctors in Clinical Oncology, Physicist in Medical Physics, Radiographers in Radiation Therapy Technology and Nurses in Oncology Nursing abroad. In addition, the

government of Ghana provided counterpart funding for construction of bunkers to house equipment donated by our benefactors.

The Accra Centre became operational in 1997, whilst the Kumasi one started treatment in 2004. Even though she made arguments for a third centre in Tamale, it has remained on the drawing board to date. We intend to build on the initial dream to ensure country-wide coverage of cancer services by building new centres in Ho, Cape Coast and Tamale.





The story may appear routine at this stage but during our twenty-fifth anniversary celebration, at which occasion we honoured her, human-interest stories of patients who had benefited from treatment in these centres and were treated over ten years ago were interesting to listen to. Hitherto women in particular, who suffered from cancers of the cervix and breast and who could afford treatment abroad went outside leaving behind the ordinary “Esi Mensah” to languish in pain and suffering.

Nana Konadu’s particular reference to cervical cancer and women’s health won the day for Ghana. Today these centres have gained reputation for quality care that is evidenced by the numerous training requests it receives from the international community. The singular tribute we can offer is to continue to offer high quality cancer care and extend our territories of excellence.





Courage, HONESTY AND AN UNWAVERING BELIEF IN JUSTICE

BENTSI-ENCHILL, LETSA & ANKOMAH

We at the law firm of Bentsi-Enchill, Letsa & Ankamah had the honour and privilege of being the late Madam Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings' lawyers for many years. In that time, not only did our professional relationship with her grow stronger, it was complemented by a sincere personal rapport and connection. Our proximity to her allowed us to experience, at close range, the truly remarkable woman she was.

We came to know her not only as a client, but as an extraordinary human being – warm, principled, gracious and unfailingly authentic. That our every encounter with her left us better for it, testifies to the kind of person she was. Her radiant smile, sharp wit, unwavering strength and generous spirit had a way of uplifting those around her. She carried herself with a calm confidence and humility that endeared her to all who interacted with her, including us.

Working alongside her at our offices and in the courtroom was a great privilege. Through every document, pleading or affidavit drafted, motion argued, evidence prepared for trial and appeal filed, she showed courage, honesty and an unwavering belief in justice. Together we faced victories that reminded us of the power of persistence, and overcame setbacks that taught us resilience and grace. She met each challenge with dignity, humour and a determination that inspired everyone around her, and which ensured that together we reversed every setback. And whenever that happened, she would giggle, ask for and give hugs to the team, and even turn up at the end of that day with champagne to celebrate.

“

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die...” - John 11:25-26a

Madam Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings trusted our expertise and believed that our work made a difference in her life. But especially now, we hope she knew how profoundly she touched our own lives – how her kindness, humour, candour and quiet resilience left lasting imprints on each of us. We will carry with us the lessons we learned together about the law, about humanity, about standing tall against adversity, and bouncing back to win that very battle.

We are grateful for the opportunity to have worked so closely with her and are deeply pained by her sudden passing. Her absence will be deeply felt, but her legacy lives on in every battle we fought side by side. We are grateful for the trust placed in us and for the journey we shared in triumphs and trials. We take solace in knowing that she now rests peacefully in the Lord, and that her memory will continue to inspire the values she so faithfully embodied.

May her gentle soul rest in perfect peace.



Geneva, 24 October 2025
AWLN/ADM/921/2025

**Statement by the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) on the Passing of
Former First Lady of Ghana, H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings**

The African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) expresses its deep sorrow at the passing of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, pioneering women's rights advocate, and trailblazing political leader.

H.E. Agyeman-Rawlings was a symbol of courage, vision, and determination whose life's work transformed the landscape of women's empowerment in Ghana and across Africa. As Founder of the 31st December Women's Movement, she championed the social and economic advancement of women, especially in rural and underserved communities, empowering countless women to become agents of change in their families and societies, and the Ghanaian Nation.

Her advocacy played a defining role in securing inheritance rights for women and children, and her influence helped shape the gender equality provisions enshrined in Ghana's 1992 Constitution. Beyond her national contributions, she inspired generations of African women leaders to claim their rightful place in governance, politics, and development. She also played an important role as the First Lady of Ghana during the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

The AWLN extends its deepest condolences to the Government and people of Ghana, to the Rawlings family, in particular, our member and Sister, Dr. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings, and to all who were touched by her extraordinary legacy.

May her soul rest in eternal peace, and may her legacy continue to inspire the work of women leaders across Africa and beyond.

H.E. Bineta Diop

Former African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (2014–2025)
Co-Convener, African Women Leaders Network (AWLN)



International Committee Thomas Sankara Memorial (CIM-TS)

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

To the Family of Her Excellency Jerry John Rawlings

Accra – Republic of Ghana

Subject: TRIBUTE TO Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings

“She upheld and radiated the values of service, loyalty, and steadfastness”

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is with immense sadness that we learned of the passing of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, former First Lady of Ghana and a towering figure of social and political engagement in Africa.

On behalf of the International Committee Thomas Sankara Memorial, and in my own name, I extend to you, and to the entire Ghanaian Nation, our deepest and most heartfelt condolences.

Today, we remember her, but also the memory of her illustrious husband, His Excellency President Jerry John Rawlings — a Great Man driven by the transformation of Ghana, a committed revolutionary, a man of honour inspired by sovereignty and justice. He remains a reference for all those who fight for a free, upright, and prosperous Africa.

We know that behind every Great Man stands a Great Lady, and Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, through her stature, strength of character, humanism, and commitment to women, fully embodied the same struggle for dignity and progress. She upheld and radiated the values of service, loyalty, and steadfastness, contributing to the exceptional journey of her husband and leaving a lasting imprint on Ghana's development.

In this moment of painful separation, we stand by your side. May the Almighty welcome Her Excellency into His light and grant the Rawlings family peace, strength, and comfort.

Please accept, Dear Sir/Madam, the renewed expression of our fraternal solidarity and our highest consideration.

For the International Committee Thomas Sankara Memorial,

The President

Colonel-Major (Ret.) Daouda TRAORÉ

Ouagadougou – Burkina Faso



RELIGIOUS BODIES

Faith IN ACTION

THE METHODIST CHURCH GHANA

The Methodist Church Ghana joins the nation, and the Agyeman and Rawlings families, in giving thanks to God for the life, witness, and faithful service of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana.



“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord... their deeds follow them.”

- Revelation 14:13

She was born to the late Mr. J. O. T. and Mrs. Felicia Agyeman, leading Methodist laypersons who worshipped with the Calvary Methodist Church, Adabraka, and was nurtured in Christian virtues that shaped her lifelong commitment to humanity and the development of her nation.

As First Lady, she was a visionary leader and tireless advocate. Through the 31st December Women’s Movement, she empowered generations of Ghanaian women, inspiring leadership, self-reliance, and social transformation.

She maintained a close connection to The Methodist Church Ghana, gracing Methodist Women’s Fellowship programmes with her presence and support. Her life exemplified the Methodist ethos of *faith in action*, leaving a legacy of courage, compassion, and service.

May her noble example continue to inspire all Ghanaians to serve God and country with integrity and love.

**Public Relations and Ecumenical
Affairs Directorate**

**The Methodist Church Ghana
Wesley Towers, Accra-Ghana**



Her LEGACY LIVES ON IN THE COUNTLESS LIVES SHE TOUCHED.

APS. ERIC NYAMEKYE (PHD)
CHAIRMAN OF THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST

In the annals of our history, many have contributed to national development through remarkable works of service. I deem it a great honour to pay tribute to one such individual, the late former First Lady, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

Her life was a radiant beacon of influence and service to our beloved nation, Ghana. She touched her world in a unique way through advocacy in women's empowerment and social justice.

Nana Konadu was vibrant, full of life, radiating warmth and wisdom. Her clarity of mind, strength of spirit, and passion for Ghana were exemplary.

I had the opportunity to meet the former First Lady, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings through the gracious arrangement of her daughter, Honourable Dr. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings on 6th October, 2025. Our interaction was rich and deeply meaningful. We shared great thoughts about our nation—its past, its present, and future prospects. Beyond matters of state interest, we spoke about life: its meaning, challenges, and the sustaining power of faith.

Thus, news of her passing, just fourteen days later, came as a great shock. This reminds us of the words of Scripture in Psalm 90:12: 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.'

Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched. Her values of resilience, strength, and service continue to shine as guiding lights for our nation. My deepest condolences go to her children, family, and the entire nation. May her soul rest in perfect peace, and may her memory inspire us all to serve with the same devotion and love she so beautifully exemplified.



الإمام الأكبر ومفتي جمهورية غانا

NATIONAL CHIEF IMAM & MUFTI OF REP. OF GHANA



**TRIBUTE FROM HIS EMINENCE THE NATIONAL CHIEF IMAM, SHAIKH
DR OSMAN NUHU SHARUBUTU, TO THE FORMER FIRST LADY NANA
KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS**

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Her Excellency the former First Lady, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, was a woman of timber and caliber. She was a symbol of service, perseverance, resilience, and excellence. Therefore, Thursday October 23, 2025, the day she departed to eternity, has joined the list of the darkest days for Ghana, Africa, and humanity.

On behalf of the Muslim Community in Ghana, I, the National Chief Imam, renew condolences to the family of the former First Lady and the Government of Ghana, as the nation mourns her.

It is a fact beyond dispute that the former First Lady was an icon of women empowerment, youth development, and societal enhancement.

Long before the twin concepts of gender equality and child protection flourished on the African continent, she had made, on the global stage, an inedible imprint on her advocacy for the wellbeing of the underprivileged.

Indeed, during her tenure, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings elevated the Office of the First Lady to another pedestal, where it was largely regarded as a tool of national service rather than an opportunity of personal aggrandizement.

Ghana has lost a daughter; Africa a mother; and the gender fraternity a voice. Surely, the world would, forever, remember a personality whose voice helped shape global advocacy for social protection and equal justice.

In conclusion, I hope that the former First Lady's legacy of leadership and mentorship would continue to inspire confidence in the national efforts at providing equal opportunities that transcend gender, religion, and ethnicity.

May Almighty Allah grant the bereaved family, the Government, and the Nation the needed strength to bear this great loss. Amen



P.O.Box AN 6859, Accra-North, Ghana - Mob: +(233) 0244954171/ 0264285072/ 0243661350



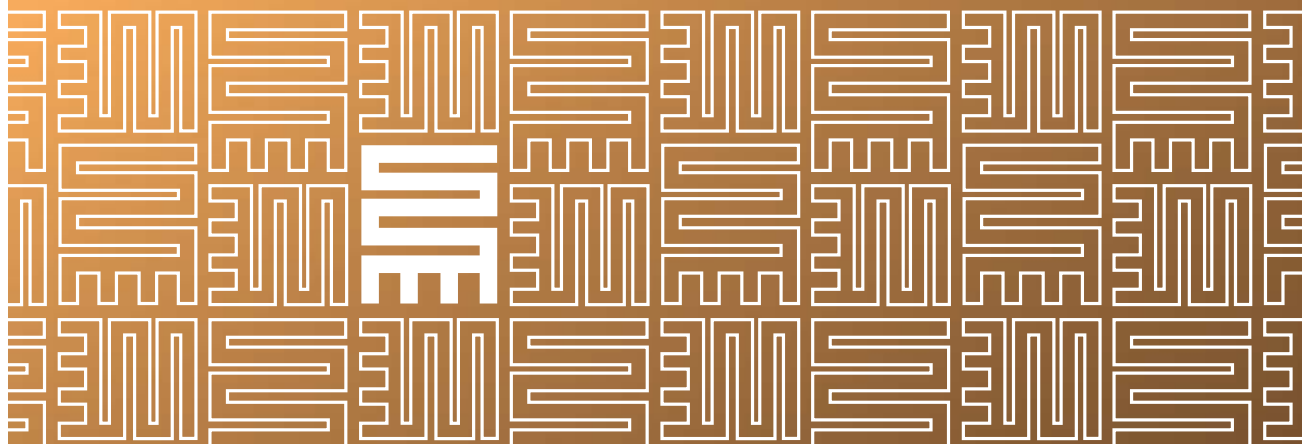


In the light of the requirements of the next century, the greatest area for action is in the field of science and technology. We would seek here, the use of appropriate mechanised tools of production in the activities of our women as a means of reducing labour and enhancing production levels. While designing training programmes that will place our women in the mainstream of economic activity in Ghana, we shall encourage interest in economic activities not traditionally open to women. As a further step, we shall explore the diversification of the productive base to take advantage of the local and sub-regional markets, which offer higher returns than production for the industrial world.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, 'Role of the Women of Ghana in the 21st Century with Respect to Population,' at the International Forum on Population held in Amsterdam, November 6-9, 1989.



TRADITIONAL LEADERS





Her LIFE WAS A TESTAMENT TO COURAGE

DAASEBRE KWEBU EWUSI VII

**PARAMOUNT CHIEF OF THE ABEADZE TRADITIONAL AREA, FMR.
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS & FMR.
MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, BOARD CHAIRMAN OF THE
WATER RESOURCE COMMISSION**

It is with profound sorrow and a heavy heart that I bid farewell to Her Excellency Dr. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Ghana has lost a mother to the nation, a pillar of strength, and a radiant advocate for women and children. Her life was a testament to courage, compassion, and unwavering dedication to the service of others.

On a personal note, I cherished a warm friendship with Dr. Agyeman-Rawlings and her husband, Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings. Over the years, they honoured me by attending my festivals, sharing in our celebrations, and embracing our traditions with genuine interest and joy. Her Excellency's presence was always uplifting, her wit, humour, and welcoming spirit brought laughter and warmth to every gathering. She had a remarkable ability to make people feel valued and at ease, leaving lasting memories for all who met her.

Through the 31st December Women's Movement, she planted seeds of empowerment, nurtured dreams, and transformed the destinies of countless individuals. Her legacy is indelibly etched in the hearts of a grateful nation.

Though she has departed this earthly realm, her light endures, guiding us, inspiring us, and reminding us that a life devoted to service and love is never forgotten. May her soul rest in eternal peace, and may we honour her memory by carrying forward the flame of hope, courage, and love that she so beautifully ignited.



The WORLD NEEDS STRONG WOMEN, WHO WILL LOVE AND BE LOVED

OKOKODRUFO OHEMEA AFRAKOMA II – AKWAMU HEMEA

These words by Amy Tenney aptly describe the life and legacy of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, a trailblazer and champion for women's rights and empowerment.

“

“The world needs strong women. Women who will lift and build others, who will love and be loved, women who live bravely, both tender and fierce.”

I had the honour of working with you personally and through the 31st December Women's Movement, which you birthed and nurtured in your quest to unleash the potential of women. You established nursery schools across the country, and Akwamu was not left out.

You empowered women with skills and knowledge to support family and national development.

Recognising the important role of queenmothers, you dedicated your energy, your position, and resources in ensuring that queenmothers have inputs in decision-making in our communities.

Your tireless advocacy for women's empowerment, education and healthcare left an indelible mark on Ghana. Your legacy continues to inspire from generation to generation, and your impact will be felt forever.

Your relationship with Akwamu is very special as your late husband, His Excellency Jerry John Rawlings, is from Osomanyawa Nana Bekai's family, through his mother's lineage.

Your love for Akwamu and myself, underscored your decision to grace and celebrate my 60th anniversary of enstoolment as queen mother of the Akwamu State with your children and granddaughter last year.

You were filled with so much life and energy that I least expected that a year on, I would have to write a tribute in your honour.

However, as a philosopher once said and I quote, “As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well spent brings happy death.”

Sleep well, Your Excellency! You have lived well.

You will forever remain in our hearts.

Rest in peace, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Your contributions to Ghana will never be forgotten.





Nana KONADU HAS JOINED THE ANCESTORS, BUT HER 'SUNSUM' REMAINS WITH US

THE QUEENMOTHERS FOUNDATION



Today, we, the Queenmothers Foundation, bow our heads and lift our hearts in honour of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings— a true daughter of the land, a strong woman whose spirit carried the courage of our foremothers.



Nana Konadu lived like an ‘*ɔbaa hemmaa*’: firm when the times demanded it, gentle when the people needed comfort, and bold when the nation required a voice. She stood for women, she fought for children, and she worked so that every Ghanaian girl would know her worth.

In her, we saw the spirit of Yaa Asantewaa – the woman who rises not for herself but for her people. She believed that when a woman stands tall, a whole community stands with her. Her work with women’s empowerment, education, and family welfare touched many homes across the country.

Madam, as we always call you, you made us proud in our various communities by helping us establish farming, poultry, soap making, and skills training for women.

Mrs. Rawlings believes in self-enhancement and also advises - that as a queenmothers you have to be informed about what is happening around you - locally, national and internationally- so that your community will not be left behind. She believed in education and networking and she exposed us to this. We are forever grateful.

In 2009 when she became the first vice chairperson of the NDC, she helped the queen mothers to write a petition to the late John Evans Atta Mills to include paramount queen mothers in the monthly allowance and also organised workshops for queen mothers in Ghana.

And through this the then Finance Minister was asked to include paramount queen mothers in the monthly allowances. We are grateful Your Excellency.

She also connected the queenmothers with some international donors who helped us with funding for our advocacy programmes and workshops.

She insisted that the queenmothers must be part of the Regional and National House of Chiefs respectively, where she explained that it is an institution not a traditional council and this was a project that was still ongoing before her demise.

She played a significant role in the adoption of the laws which allowed women to inherit from

their husbands. Case in point, the Intestate Succession Law. She highlighted the need for the inclusion of queenmothers in the National House of Chiefs sittings by promoting their role in national development. She worked to address the challenges we faced, such as the lack of access to our lands. She championed policies to improve our participation in sectors like agriculture. She supported initiatives to improve women’s access to education and leadership opportunities. Through her advocacy, we, the queenmothers, were given a seat at the National House of Chiefs. She empowered the queenmothers to develop a resilient character in delivering their duties and roles.

Her leadership gave us the enthusiasm to contribute to the socio-economic development of our dear country. She was one of our patrons. In fact, through her, we established the Queenmothers Foundation. She gave us knowledge in the area of agriculture. Today, our women are doing extremely well in agriculture and all thanks go to her.

Today we the queenmothers have gained knowledge of our right and roles through her education and tutorials. We stand strong and can’t be cheated anymore. She helped us with credit facilities, which enabled us expand our business to support our communities. Today, some of us can boast of pipe-borne water in place of underground-unpurified water.

We remember her for her strength, her fearlessness, and the dignity with which she carried herself. She walked proudly as a wife, a mother, a leader, and a servant of the nation.

Nana Konadu has joined the ancestors, but her ‘*sunsum*’ - her spirit, remains with us. The seeds she planted will continue to grow in the lives of women and children everywhere.

As queenmothers, we honour her journey. We thank her for lifting the banner of womanhood high, and we pray that the ancestors receive her with peace.

Nante yie, Nana.

Wo ye ɔbaa pa.

Your legacy will not fade.



The QUINTESSENTIAL TALENT-SPOTTER AND PEOPLE-LOVER

NANA OTUBEA II
PARAMOUNT QUEENMOTHER OF NKONYA TRADITIONAL
COUNCIL AND PRESIDENT OF ALL REGIONS QUEENMOTHERS
ASSOCIATION GHANA.

I knew I would write about you one day but not so soon. I also know that death is inevitable but I was not expecting it would come now, especially not when we have an ongoing project to complete.

My mentor, friend, confidant and advisor, I thank you for choosing me as one of your friends and trusting me. You were the voice of the voiceless and champion of women's empowerment in Ghana. You made sure that women are part of the decision-making process in every aspect of the country's policy and development.

As I sat with the family after your demise to receive visitors who came from near and far to sympathise with the family, I heard a lot of good things said about you and the impact you had on so many people's lives. I was convinced that your life on earth was worthy of emulation. I also realised that we all have to do our best in whatever capacity we find ourselves in.

Regardless of the stiff opposition, you defied all odds and moved on with your agenda, which is women's empowerment and making sure that our voices are heard, because you believed in the welfare of Ghanaian women and children.

Your Excellency, you never discriminated. Your doors were open to almost anyone who came knocking and you never ignored one's talents. You polished people's gifts to the highest level of attraction, regardless of their religious, political and ethnic background. I must say, this was one of your unique qualities. I'm yet to see anyone who can fit into your shoes.

We mourn you today but also celebrate a life worth living, Your Excellency. Your work on earth is done. Rest peacefully with your Maker.





THE LA-SULOR

OSU NADU KLOTTEY WULOMO

WOR-LUMOR BONI NUUMO NOI OSEKAN KPENUKU II



Date: 3rd November, 2025

Subject: Heartfelt Condolence on the Passing of the Late Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings

OFFICE OF THE NADU KLOTTEY WULOMO

Osu Ashante Dzaase – Accra, Ghana

(Spiritual Custodians of the Nadu Klottey Jurisdiction)

Dear Honourable Member of Parliament,

CONDOLENCE LETTER TO HONOURABLE DR. ZANETOR AGYEMAN – RAWLINGS AND THE BEREAVED FAMILY

With heavy hearts and bowed heads, the Nadu Klottey Wulomo, his elders, and the people under his spiritual care extend to you and the entire Rawlings family our deepest sympathy upon the transition of your beloved mother, the distinguished Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings – a mother not only to her family, but to a nation.

The winds that whisper through the sacred groves of Osu carry with them the echoes of an old friendship – one forged in respect, honour, and shared service between the Rawlings family and the Office of the Nadu Klottey Wulomo. Through the years, this bond has endured, rooted in the understanding that both the traditional and the political must serve the same sacred purpose: the well-being of our people.

The late Nana Konadu walked this sacred path with strength and grace. She was a torchbearer for Ghanaian womanhood – fearless in speech, firm in conviction, and unwavering in her pursuit of justice and dignity for all. Her hands-built bridges for women to rise, her heart nurtured hope, and her deeds left footprints that no tide can erase.

We remember her not only as the beloved wife of the late Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, whose own bond with the Wulomo was one of profound mutual respect, but as a daughter of Africa who carried her light into every home she touched.



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BLOHUM STREET, ACCRA.





THE LA-SULOR OSU NADU KLOTTEY WULOMO

WOR-LUMOR BONI NUUMO NOI OSEKAN KPENUKU II



As tradition commands, when a great tree falls, the forest does not remain silent. The Nadu Klottey Dynasty, the Osu Ashante Dzaase, and the elders of our land

join their voices to the nation's mourning. We pour libation to the Almighty and to our revered ancestors, that they may receive her spirit with honour and grant her peaceful rest among those who walked before us.

OSU ASHANTE

Honourable Member of Parliament, in this moment of grief, know that you are not alone. The spiritual gates of Nadu Klottey stand open in solidarity with you. We pray that the wisdom of your mother's life and the courage of your father's legacy continue to guide your steps as you lead the people of Korle Klottey and beyond.

OSU KINKAWE

May her journey home be filled with light.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

And may the friendship between our two houses – the Nadu Klottey Dynasty and the Rawlings family – continue to blossom in strength, respect, and divine favour.

With deepest sympathy and spiritual solidarity,

OSU ANORHOR

Wor – Lumor Boni Nuumo Noi Osekan Kpenuku II

Osu Nadu Klottey Wulomo

For and on behalf of the Osu Ashante Dzaase

For: 

OSU ALATA

Wor – Lumor Boni Nuumo Noi Osekan Kpenuku II



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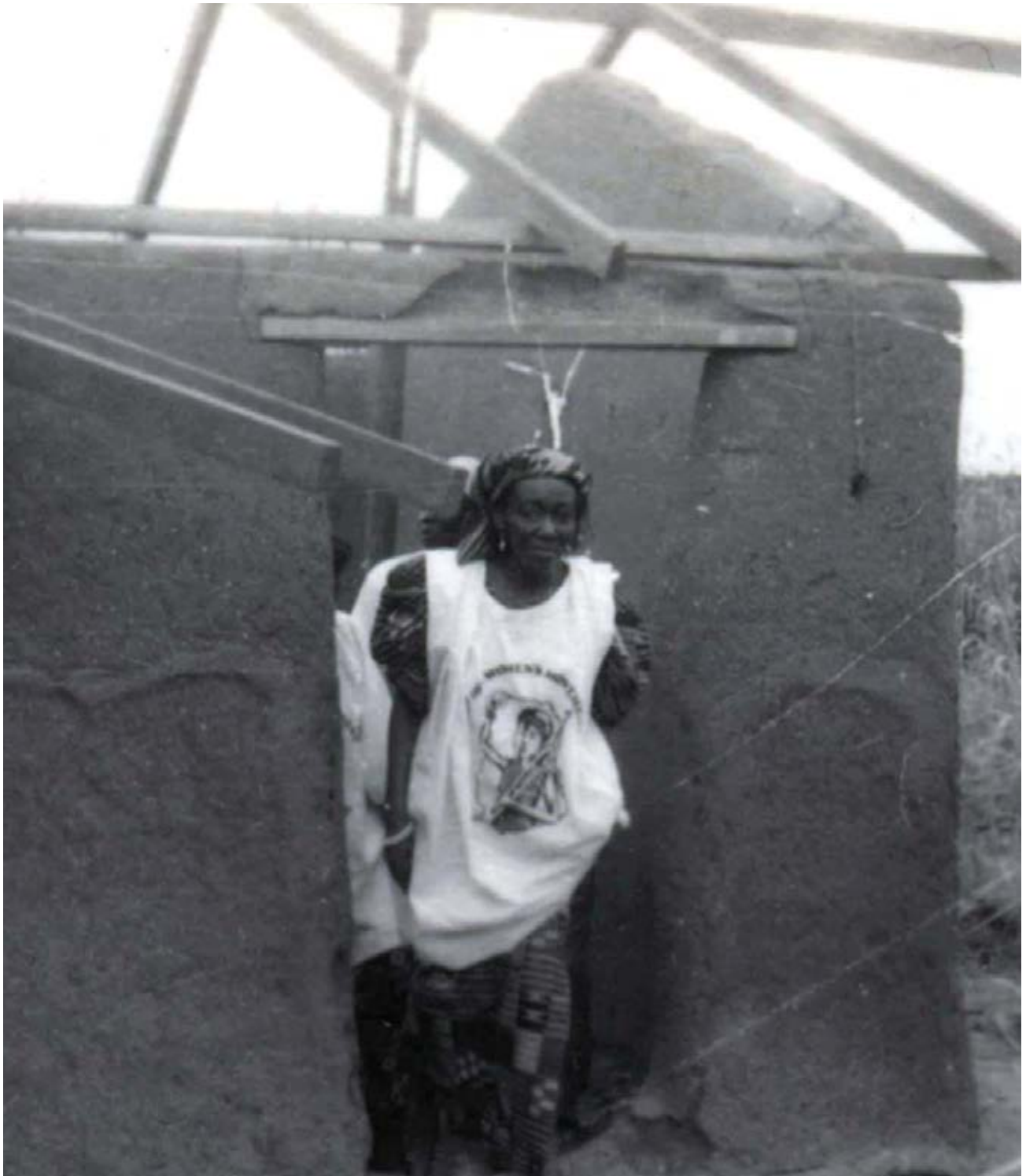
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Gender equality at the highest level is not a privilege accorded women; it is our right. Therefore, when a woman finds herself in high office, it is within her reach and responsibility to contribute to ‘opening the way’ for more women to rise up.

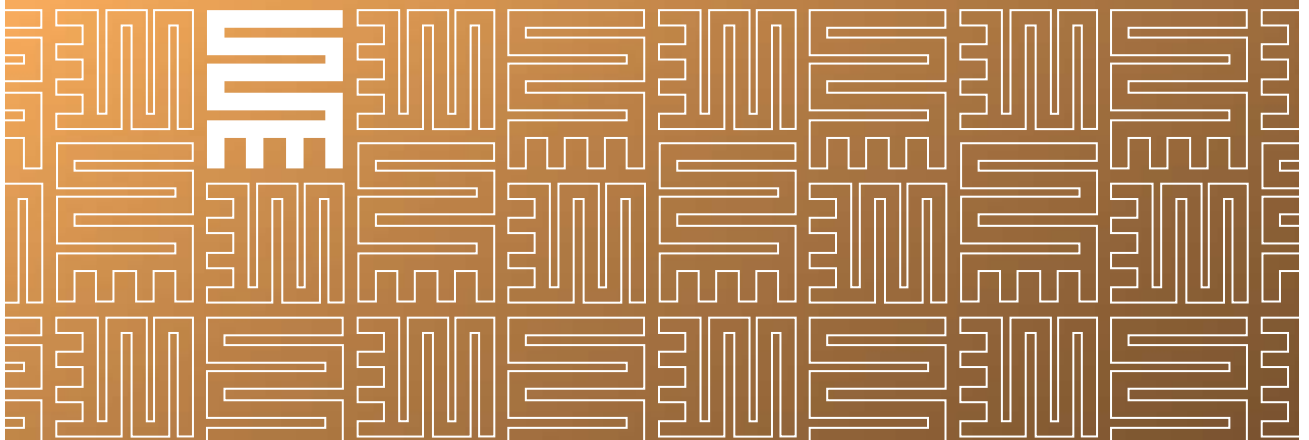
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Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, ‘Challenges and Successes of the Christian Woman in Governance/Politics in Ghana,’ Christian Council of Ghana, March 8, 2017



31ST DECEMBER WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

EMPOWERMENT BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY





A SYMBOL OF AFRICAN WOMANHOOD

THE 31ST DECEMBER WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

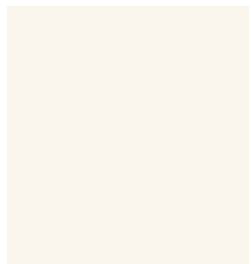
With hearts weighed by sorrow yet uplifted with gratitude, we the women of the 31st December Women's Movement gather to honour the memory of our Founder, our Leader, and our Mother, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Her sudden demise is not only a loss to our organisation, but also a profound loss to our nation Ghana, to Africa, and to all who believe in the power, dignity, and potential of women and children. Her passing brings us deep sorrow, yet we are comforted by the promise of Scripture:

"The memory of the righteous is blessed." – Proverbs 10:7

Indeed, the memory of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, is a blessing to all of us.

Her Excellency, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings' vision was bold. At a time when many women in Ghana were confined by limited opportunities and social constraints, she dared to perceive a nation where women could rise, lead, and transform their communities. She believed that women were not just supporters of development, but drivers of development. With that conviction, she built a Movement that reshaped the social and psychological landscape of our country.

Her Excellency's work did not end at grassroots empowerment. She was a fierce and fearless advocate for systemic change. She understood that true empowerment required legal and





policy reforms that protected the vulnerable and upheld justice. Her relentless advocacy contributed greatly to the passage of the Intestate Succession Law, (PNDCL 111 of 1985) which ensured fair inheritance rights for widows and children. Through her tireless efforts in 1991, Ghana became the First Nation globally to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child (UNCRC). She championed the Children's Act, a ground-breaking piece of legislation that secured the rights and welfare of children across Ghana. These laws stand today as living testaments to her courage and commitment and helped many women claim what would have been denied.

Her endless advocacy was pivotal in pushing for legislation to curb abusive cultural practices and contributed to the passage of laws that criminalised harmful socio-cultural practices such as Trokosi and female genital mutilation.

Her efforts echo the biblical call in Micah 6:8: **"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."**

Nana Konadu lived this out by standing for justice and defending the vulnerable.

Under her leadership, the 31st December Women's Movement was founded, and its achievements were concrete and tangible for Ghanaians especially women and children to enjoy. The Movement mobilised over two million women across the country, with over 1000 pre-schools, freeing mothers to engage in economic activities.

With the enormous work being undertaken by the Movement over the years to eliminate and alleviate poverty in Ghana, the Movement received assistance from various countries and international agencies for specific projects and sort support from outside sources to aid the development of Ghanaian women. Numerous groups nationally and internationally formed

alliance with the Movement and worked closely with the organisation. Over the years, she sought funding from different sources to no avail due to misconceptions about the status of the Movement. This led to the changing of the name of the organisation to Developing Women for Mobilisation with the consent of the leadership of the Movement in all the regions, comprising of those who were still active and aligned with the organisation in the year 2013. This change helped to reposition the Movement and placed it in a better position. Her endless efforts has maintained the status of the Movement to date and for that we the women of the Movement are grateful to her.

The 31st December Women's Movement was her heartbeat, her mission, and her lifelong commitment. Under her leadership, the Movement grew from a small collection of dedicated women into one of the most influential and formidable empowerment organisations Ghana has ever known. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings travelled from village to village, community to community, listening to the concerns of women, encouraging them, and mobilizing them into a united force for progress.

She introduced programs that touched every aspect of a woman's life:

- » vocational training that gave women skills to support their families;
- » micro-credit schemes that turned small ideas into thriving livelihoods;
- » preschool and day-care centres that gave children a nurturing foundation and a head start into education;
- » health and nutrition programs that improved the wellbeing of mothers and infants;
- » literacy projects that opened doors for thousands of women previously denied education.



Her work reflected the words of Proverbs 31, which describe a virtuous woman as one who **“opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy” (Proverbs 31:20).**

This is who Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was, a woman of compassion, generosity, and action.

Through these initiatives, she restored dignity, confidence, and hope to countless women who had previously been disregarded by society.

To us, the women of the Movement, she was more than an advocate, she was a mother. She believed in us even when we doubted ourselves. She pushed us beyond our comfort zones, taught us to lead with confidence, and reminded us that every woman had within her the strength to transform society. She celebrated our victories, corrected us with love, and never stopped encouraging us to aim higher.

Even in moments of challenge, she displayed the resilience described in Isaiah 40:31:

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength... they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.” Her strength renewed our strength. Her bravery fuelled our courage.

Even in moments of difficulty, when others chose to leave, when some members and executives of the Movement drifted away, she remained steadfast. She never allowed difficulties to dim her purpose. Instead, she chose resilience. She chose service. She chose to keep building with those who stayed, inspiring us with her humility, fortitude, and unshakeable belief in the mission of the organisation.

Her life was a lesson in dedication. She showed us that leadership is not about titles or recognition, but about standing firm when it is hardest, lifting others when they are weary, and working wholeheartedly until the very end.



She was bold, articulate, principled, and deeply dedicated to the people she served. She taught us to be fearless, to stand for justice, and to serve with integrity. Her voice carried the wisdom of experience, the strength of conviction, and the hope of a brighter Ghana with many more women contributing effectively at the decision-making levels.

Even beyond Ghana's borders, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings stood as a symbol of African womanhood and leadership. She represented our nation at international forums, championing gender equality and children's rights. She brought global attention to the struggles and triumphs of African women, securing partnerships and opportunities that strengthened the work of the Movement.

As we reflect on her life, we see a legacy that is vast, enduring, and immeasurable. Her work lives on in every woman who gained economic and social independence through the Movement. It lives on in every child who benefited from a DWM preschool, the parents who sent their children to the day care so that they could concentrate on their wares. It lives on in every community uplifted by her programs. It lives on in the laws she helped shape, the leaders she mentored, and the generations of women she inspired to believe in themselves. The opportunities she gave many women to develop their careers. All of these did not come without challenges but the strength of her resolve took her through, holding our hands to keep moving.

Today, though our hearts are heavy, we choose to celebrate her. God blessed this nation with this woman of extraordinary purpose. We celebrate a visionary who paved pathways where none existed. We celebrate a mother who nurtured the dreams of countless women of different

ages and backgrounds. We celebrate a leader whose dedication reshaped Ghana's social fabric, and we celebrate a life that continues to echo through every accomplishment of the 31st December Women's Movement.

As we bid her farewell, we take comfort in the words of 2 Timothy 4:7:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings fought her fight courageously, passionately, and with unwavering faith in her mission. She finished her race honourably, and she kept the faith in her people, her Movement, her nation and her God.

We affirm our commitment to uphold her legacy. We will continue the work she began, advancing women's economic empowerment, protecting the rights of children, and building strong communities anchored in justice, equality, and compassion. Her journey may have ended, but her vision lives on in each one of us.

Though she is no longer with us in body, her legacy remains deeply rooted in this Movement. Her vision will continue to guide us. Her spirit will continue to strengthen us, and her work will continue in every woman and child whose life she touched.

Rest in perfect peace, Your Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. You remain forever our Founder, our Leader, and our Mother.

Your legacy is eternal, and your spirit will continue to guide this Movement for generations to come.











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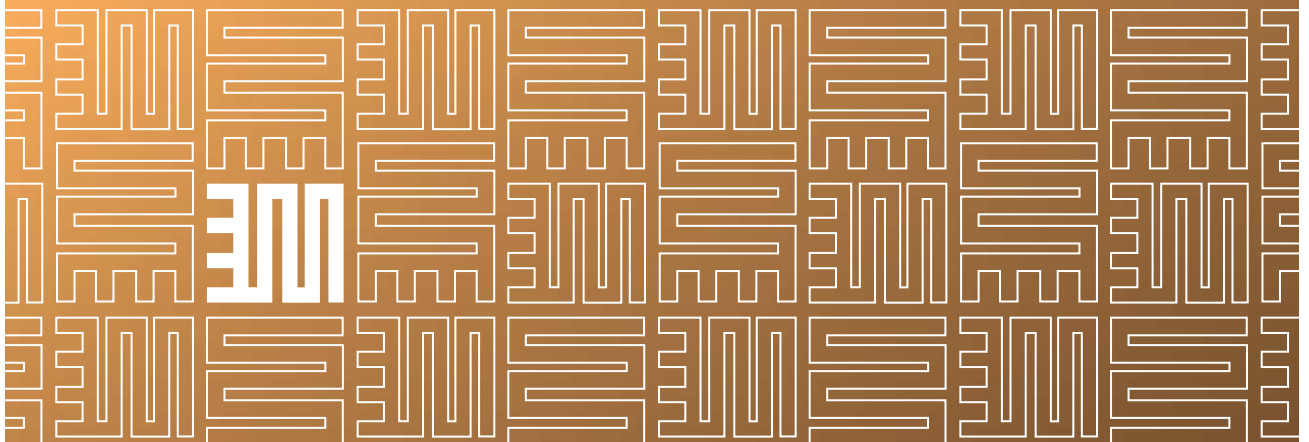
Freedom and Justice must not become mere rhetoric but a reality that must permeate every aspect of Ghanaian society.

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*Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, Speech at the
IEA Gardens, IEA Encounter, July 27, 2016*



BUILDING A NATION TOGETHER





AREQUIEM

FOR OBAAPANYIN KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS

NANA KWASI OPOKU-ACHEAMPONG
CASTLE INFORMATION BUREAU, THE CASTLE, OSU

A journalist I do not know from Adam thrust his microphone in my face rather crudely the other day and asked: "Sir, what can you tell us about Mrs. Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, the late former first lady?" I scanned the environment to see who I have to thank for this unwanted visitation and finding none, brought my gaze to rest on the anxiously grinning journalist to determine whether he had what it takes to responsibly process any information I may give him.

Interestingly, some half hour before my encounter with the said journalist, I had been discussing the role of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings in the period between 1979 and 2001 with Nana Ato Dadzie, PNDC Secretary at the PNDC Secretariat from 1983 to July 1993, Special Assistant to President Rawlings from 1993 to 1997 and his Chief of Staff in the final leg of the Rawlings Presidency from 1997 to 2001. Also participating in the discussion was Brigadier-General Benjamin Kusi, a distinguished military officer who had been part of the PNDC Secretariat with responsibility for various security arrangements including responsibility for the security of the former first lady and her household and The First Lady's Office at one time.

We had come to a firm conclusion based on what we witnessed that the role she played in her husband's government is much deeper and broader than Ghanaians know and are even ready to hear and process. We were also agreed that it is a truth that must be told one day with wisdom and circumspection so that it does not

descend into the gutter of bipartisan politics and we can wisely harvest its fruits. But for now it must remain a secret and even if spoken, be embargoed until many of us living today are made irrelevant by our deaths.

For now, however, suffice it to say that right from the beginning of her public life, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings made it known with a loud and clear voice that for the avoidance of doubt, she rejects totally the established role of a first lady as drinking tea with ambassadors or arranging flowers with dainty ladies in summer flocks.

On the contrary, she said she was going to descend into the markets and agricultural fields and into the production floors of factories and offices in the public and private sector in whatever clothes they wear and join the women in their daily struggles so that together they may change the narrative and give women a role and image beyond objects of sex, cooks in the kitchen and bearers of children.



The journalist stood patiently waiting, as the cameraman adjusted the Camera lenses and stood ready to press the gizmo to begin recording. I still hesitated. What was I going to say into the camera?

Should I tell the world about the hundreds of sleepless nights you had in the heady days of June 4 and the 1980s with the bush fires and famine and hunger leading to the phenomena called The Rawlings Necklace? And while your children snuggled around you in the innocence of childhood, should I tell them of your loudly beating heart -- unable to sleep, fearing if the next visitor is going to announce to you the news you most dreaded -- that your husband has been killed by an assassin's bullet?

Or should I tell the world of the burden you carried as the wife of the Ring Bearer destined by God to destroy the Ring of Power in the Doom Fire of Coup D'états? Or your battles with the Smeagol and Gollums in our political landscapes? How about the many times you were wounded by some teachers and management staff of the schools your children attended, who would insult your young children and subject them to all forms of emotional and psychological abuse for doing nothing other than being well behaved and well-brought up children?

What about the number of times you nearly died because in your single-mindedness, you had promised rural women in the vast Northern part of Ghana that you would be present yourself to commission their gari processing factory though your doctors had advised against it because of the level of dust in the atmosphere at that time of the year which your asthmatic condition would not tolerate kindly. Should I tell

them that in the end you did and went straight to admission in a Damongo or Jirapa hospital, I forget which.

Or perhaps, I should tell the world about how deep your pain was when it was published in a political tabloid that you were swimming in a Jacuzzi bathtub bought at an extravagant price; or how you were stealing our money and stashing it away in Switzerland. In all these afflictions you bit your tongue and bore your pain. Isn't it amazing how, like the Dung Beetle, your frail and slender body could carry such weight!!

But here is the end of the matter! Obaapanyin Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, you fought a good fight; you won many battles and yes, you lost a few too and that is all right because *wo kooy3 na wo duruy3 nsoso*.

May Asaase Yaa receive you kindly. And may the voice of He who sits on the throne above the circle of the earth declare at your entrance at the great Celestial Banquet in your honour, saying: "well done faithful daughter. You have been truthful in a little, now enter into the rest which I prepared for you before I laid the foundation of the world."

And all God's children shall say: "To you alone O Lord our God Be Blessings and Glory, Wisdom and Thanksgiving and Honour, and Power and Might, Forever and Ever. Amen"

I now turned to the journalist and said, as sweetly as her husband the late J.J. Rawlings would have said, "Chief, too many things are going through me tirimu seisei. Enti, sorry me nua wai, could we do this interview another time? Thank you."



Legacy OF ACHIEVEMENT AND COMPASSION

TO MADAM NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS,
JERRY RAWLINGS' ALTER EGO

MARTIN A. B. K. AMIDU

The passing of Madam Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings (Madam or Madam Rawlings) on 23 October was as unexpected, and heart wrenching as it was most shocking. There was no indication of illness or medical distress. Ghana lost her first and only true heroine of the 4 June and 31st December Revolutions, and under the Fourth Republican Constitution. Many a First Lady has come and gone since 31st December 1981, but none will measure up to her legacy of achievement and compassion for the ordinary Ghanaian, and in particular women and children with emphasis on the deprived rural communities.

Madam was truly a woman's woman who married the love of her life, Flt Lt Jerry John Rawlings, stood by him in thick and thin, in happiness and distress. Madam Agyeman-Rawlings made her husband's cause her cause and paid the price of anguish and distress anytime he got into trouble or was attacked by enemies, adversaries, or traitors within his circle of friends. She had the woman's knack for ferreting out hypocrites and insincere opportunists. She protected her husband like no woman I have ever known in my life. Her commitment to her husband and her family irked many cadres and friends of her husband who thought she stood in their way. She was a rare species of total commitment to family and her country.

Madam Rawlings supplemented her dear husband's government's policies with active advocacy for women and children's rights, and the practical provision of facilities to cushion the poverty of ordinary women and children. It was her passion to mobilize and ensure social

justice for the woman and man in the street to complement the revolutionary agenda of equality and social justice that led to the establishment of the 31st December Movement of which so much has been chronicled even by those who were not participants in or witnesses to the events. I saw her passion to empower women in rural communities to generate income and feed their families particularly malnourished children from my vantage position as a cadre from February 1982, and later a minister of state in her husband's regimes from February 1983 to 7 January 2001. She ensured that women cadres of the revolution were offered training and skills to serve their communities and the nation to supplement the efforts of their families.

Madam Rawlings' role in the transition to Constitutional rule has gone untold and underestimated. Without her the participation of women in the political process would not have increased in the leaps and bound we saw in this country for the first time during



that era. When the transition to Constitutional rule brought internal divisions as to whether operatives and supporters of the 31st December Revolution were going to participate in the unfolding constitutional process after the writing of the 1992 Constitution or hand over to an established political party or parties, she had the knack to smell internal conspiracy to denude her husband's place in the transition to constitutional rule.

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) needs to remain forever indebted to her for mobilizing the late Mr. Justice D. F. Annan, the late Mr. J. H. Owusu Acheampong, and Alhaji Iddrisu Mahama, now the Chairman of the Council of Elders of the NDC, for the meetings at the Blue Gate (National Security Secretariat) between March and May 1992 where eventually there was an agreement to establish a political party for those cadres and supporters of the PNDC who could not join the CPP inclined National Convention Party which the late Captain Kojo Tsikata was gestating as a PNDC Member and National Security Advisor. Madam suggested the name National Democratic Party (NDP) for the new political party which was modified by substituting the word "Congress" for "Party" which was registered as the National Democratic Congress (NDC). The Umbrella as a symbol and the colours of the NDC were designed or commissioned and approved by her before they were adopted by the NDC with little modifications. Nobody can deny her the place of the Mother of the NDC. I was the Chairman of the House Committee of the Consultative Assembly, 1991 and Deputy Attorney-General leading the PNDC cadres in the Consultative Assembly who participated in these events and bear witness to her role and commitment to the founding of the NDC.

Madam's tireless mobilization of citizens for continuity was a critical factor in the success of the NDC in the 1992, 1996, and 2008 elections.

Madam was misunderstood by the regular members of the NDC when true to character she insisted that the undertaking given by the late Professor Mills that he was doing only one term as President due to ill health must be kept and contested the NDC primaries on 11 July 2011 in Sunyani in the then Brong Ahafo Region. When the visibly sick President Mills changed his mind, to my knowledge as a result of pressure from his puppet masters, Madam would not give way.

Madam Rawlings' ideology has always been National Democracy; so, she formed the National Democratic Party (NDP) which she had suggested in 1992. Other founding members of the NDC formed political parties such as the Democratic Freedom Party, lost elections, and were enticed back to the NDC. The Paradox was and is still that her dear husband who remains the founder of the NDC stayed with the NDC without any attempt being made by the NDC to reconcile with her during his lifetime and thereafter.

On the first anniversary of the remembrance of our dear late Chairman and President Rawlings, on 12 November 2021, I pleaded, inter alia, that:

"May [it] "touch the hearts of those who have inherited his mantle to reach out to every cadre and member who had associated with him during his lifetime and to bring unity amongst all his accolades. This cannot materialize without seeking to reconcile with his dear wife without whom the social democratic tradition he epitomizes would have died in 1992 in the transition to Constitutional governance. His dear wife, needs to be engaged notwithstanding the needless fall outs from Sunyani in July 2011 and after, whatever the cost."

After Madam's demise I heard attempts had been afoot to reconcile with her this year.



I hope to God this is true and not the usual Ghanaian opportunism of wanting to cash in on the everlasting silence of the dead. I also hope that this is not the politics of using the name of the dead we once hated for convenient political mobilization towards electoral ends. That Madam Rawlings departed to meet her husband without witnessing the rehabilitation of her husband as the founder and leader of the NDC after his almost two decades of leading Ghana to enable her bear witness to him when they meet in the home of the ancestors, is an indictment on the NDC.

I have borne the passing of former President Jerry Rawlings on 12 November 2020 and that of Group Captain Richard Forjoe on January 2022 traumatically and depressingly. I had not visited or spoken to Madam Rawlings for quite sometime even though I still defended her place in the NDC. When I received Madam Rawlings' message a few months ago from her first daughter asking me why I was sending her messages about how to handle the memory of her dear husband instead of coming to discuss them with her, I did not understand that I was being summoned to see her before it was too late, as it did on 23 October 2025.

Madam Rawlings, the heroic First Lady of Ghana and President of the 31st December Women's Movement in her lifetime always put Ghana First in actions and deeds. Her passing has elicited an outpouring of praises from least expected sources with a decision to honour her with a state funeral. May Madam Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings' passing be the beginning of real reconciliation and remorse for the mistreatments of the past.

Ghana's heroine First Lady, the Mother of the 4th June, and 31st December Revolutions, NDC, and NDP has fought a good fight and finished the race both as a Roman Catholic and a patriotic Ghanaian.

May Madam Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings Rest in Peace!

She was a rare species of total commitment to family and her country.



Ghana's WOMEN'S RIGHTS PIONEER

EKWOW SPIO-GARBRAH
PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ENVOY FOR REPARATIONS (PSER)
GHANA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE
RAWLINGS ADMINISTRATION



It was with profound shock and deep sadness that I, and most Ghanaians learned of the passing of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, who departed this life on 23 October 2025. Her death marks the closing of a remarkable chapter in Ghana's history, that of a fearless trail-blazer for women and a tireless champion of social justice.

Nana Konadu's boldness and courage redefined what it meant to be a First Lady in Ghana. Serving from 31st December 1981 to January 2001 (in addition to a brief spell in 1979), she was the longest-serving First Lady in the nation's history, and she used that platform not for ceremony, but for transformative action.

In 1982, she founded the 31st December Women's Movement (31st DWM), a grassroots organisation that grew under her leadership into one of Ghana's most powerful vehicles for women's empowerment.



When I became an advisor to the Movement in 2001, I discovered that under Nana Konadu's stewardship, the Movement touched every village in Ghana, ultimately mobilising more than two million women. It established over 870 pre-schools and child-development centres, helping working mothers and laying the foundation for early childhood education.

Her vision was never limited to education. She believed in economic agency. The Movement supported income-generating cooperatives in gari production, palm-oil extraction, soap-making, weaving, farming, and other enterprises, many of which continue to operate today.

She also led a powerful legal and social reform campaign. Through sustained advocacy, she was instrumental in the passage of the Intestate Succession Law (PNDCL 111), which secured inheritance rights for widows and children, a vital protection for many women who otherwise stood to lose everything upon the demise of their loved ones. Under her influence, Ghana became the first country to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1991.

Beyond economic and legal reforms, Nana Konadu placed great emphasis on civic and political education. She believed that women should not only benefit from development but also shape it: she encouraged women to participate in village committees, local governance, and national decision-making. By the early 1990s, this ground-level mobilisation had produced tangible change. Women were increasingly represented in local leadership, and in 1992, 19 women were elected to Parliament.

Her influence extended beyond Ghana's borders. Through her frequent appearances on international platforms, she raised awareness of gender inequality in Africa and pressed for global reforms. She was honoured internationally. Among her many recognitions was the Honorary Doctorate from Lincoln University (USA), which I had the honour to arrange for her, for her work in women's empowerment.

After her tenure as First Lady, she remained politically active. She served as First Vice-Chairperson of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), and later went on to found the National Democratic Party (NDP). In 2016, she made history as Ghana's first female presidential candidate. Her memoir, *It Takes a Woman*, reflects powerfully on her journey and the principles that drove her life.

A sad and low point in her political career cannot be glossed over. This was when she and the DWM were investigated and pilloried by eleven separate national institutions with the intent to kill the DWM. Between 2001 and 2008, the DWM was investigated, audited, bullied and terrorised by the Police Service, the CID, BNI, CHRAJ, District Assemblies, Auditor-General, Accountant-General, Attorney-General, with the obvious intent to weaken it and to kill it. If today, there are no more proud red-beret-wearing members of the DWM in Ghana, that is the reason. The political opponents of the NDC identified a major pillar behind President Rawlings' NDC, and went after it to destroy it. The DWM may have been intentionally wounded, but the strong spirit of Nana Konadu was never broken or subdued.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings leaves behind a legacy of service, courage, and empowerment that has reshaped Ghanaian society. Her foresight in building social infrastructure, her unrelenting advocacy for women's rights, and her political audacity have inspired generations.

To her children, Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina, and Kimathi, and her extended family, I extend my deepest condolences. May you find solace in the knowledge that her life of service and sacrifice deeply enriched our nation, and that her legacy lives on through the millions of women she empowered.

Rest in peace, Nana Konadu. Your work lives on, and your vision will continue to guide us.



A LIFE OF SERVICE, ADVOCACY, AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE

LARRY GBEVLO-LARTEY, ESQ.

It is with profound sadness and deep reflection that I pay tribute to H.E Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, an outstanding woman whose life was dedicated to uplifting the ordinary Ghanaian and championing the cause of women and the marginalized internationally.

My acquaintance with the Rawlings family predates their political prominence. As a young officer, I lived along the same street as the couple. This early connection laid the foundation for a relationship that would span decades. When the Office of the Chairman PNDC, H.E. Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, was established in Gondar Barracks, I served as one of the first officers in the Operations Room of his Headquarters, working in close proximity to the Chairman and witnessing first-hand the extraordinary partnership between him and his beloved wife.

Mrs. Rawlings was an officer's wife through and through. She stood by her husband through thick and thin, embodying the finest traditions of loyalty, resilience, and unwavering support that define military families. During our time at Gondar Barracks, she would accompany her husband to wake keeping services for fallen soldiers in the Junior Ranks Mess, taking the time to personally comfort and console the grieving families. I remember how at the end of the wake-keeping, she would sit with the widow, holding her hands, speaking softly in her ears, while her husband, the Head of State waited. But she was far more than that. Mrs. Rawlings was

not simply a First Lady by title; she was a force of nature, a woman of conviction and action whose commitment to social transformation matched her husband's revolutionary zeal. She provided the steadfast support every military officer needs from a spouse, while simultaneously carving her own path of service and building her own legacy of impact on the Ghanaian nation.

A First Lady Like No Other

Mrs. Rawlings redefined what it meant to be Ghana's First Lady. She did not view her position as ceremonial or passive. Instead, she saw it as a platform for change, a responsibility to reach into every corner of the nation and touch the lives of those who had been forgotten. She was constantly on the move, visiting rural communities, engaging with the women, sitting with the elderly and listening to the concerns of the youth. Her presence brought hope, and her projects brought tangible change in the livelihood of countless families.

A Woman of Strong Conviction

Mrs. Rawlings possessed a strong character of conviction that defined her approach to leadership and service. This strength was sometimes misunderstood by those who did



not appreciate that her firmness was rooted in an unwavering commitment to mutual trust and shared purpose for the common good. She was not obstinate for obstinacy's sake; rather, she held fast to principles she believed would uplift the marginalized and transform society.

I witnessed this strength of conviction firsthand when she decided to leave the National Democratic Congress—the very party she had been instrumental in founding, forming and shaping. Despite my earnest efforts and those of others to convince her to remain, she stood firm in her decision. I regrettably failed to persuade her, but such was the depth of her conviction. Even in my disappointment, I respected her courage to follow her conscience, and our relationship continued without rancor. This speaks to both her integrity and her capacity to maintain bonds of mutual respect even across political differences.

To work with Mrs. Rawlings effectively, one needed to understand that her convictions were built on a foundation of integrity and a genuine desire to serve. Once mutual trust was established and a shared vision for Ghana's development was clear, she became an invaluable ally and collaborator. Her strength of character was not a barrier but a guarantee that she would never waver in her commitment to any cause or partnership built on sincere dedication to the welfare of ordinary Ghanaians.

The Gift of Genuine Discourse

I deeply enjoyed our many discourses over the years, even when we had disagreements—and there were a few. What stood out above all was the mutual respect that characterized our exchanges. Mrs. Rawlings had a disarming way of engaging in debate. She would often ask, with genuine curiosity, “You really think so?” This simple question could be quite disarming, sometimes throwing me into a momentary recalibration as I would respond with the like of like, “Ma’am, I think that works or?”

This was the beauty of conversing with her—she challenged you to defend your positions not through confrontation, but through sincere inquiry. She made you think more

deeply, question your own assumptions, and articulate your reasoning more clearly. Even in disagreement, there was intellectual generosity and a genuine desire to understand different perspectives. These conversations were never about winning arguments; they were about arriving at better understanding and better solutions for the people we all sought to serve.

Champion of Women's Rights and Legal Reform

Among Mrs. Rawlings' most significant contributions to Ghana's social and legal landscape was her instrumental role in the passage of the Intestate Succession Law (PNDC Law 111). This legislation was truly her baby—a cause she championed with fierce determination and moral clarity. She understood that countless Ghanaian women and children were being left destitute upon the death of a spouse or father, under prevailing customary practices.

The Intestate Succession Law represented a revolutionary shift in protecting the rights and dignity of widows and their children. This was not just legislative reform; It was the very manifestation of Mrs. Rawlings conviction of what social justice entails.

Master Mobilizer for the Common People

What set Mrs. Rawlings apart was her exceptional ability to mobilize and organize for the common good. Through the 31st December Women's Movement, she created a powerful vehicle for women's empowerment long before such concepts became fashionable. She understood that true development begins at the grassroots, and she worked tirelessly to provide skills training facilities, microfinance opportunities, and other support systems for women across Ghana.

Under her leadership, the Movement facilitated the building of day nurseries and day care centers across the country, recognizing that women's economic participation depended on having safe, reliable care for their children. This practical approach to women's empowerment demonstrated her understanding that real



change required addressing the actual barriers women faced in their daily lives.

Her work was not about charity but about human dignity. She believed in empowering people to help themselves, in building capacity within communities, and in ensuring that development reached beyond the cities into the villages and towns where most Ghanaians lived their daily lives.

Tireless Advocate and Voice for the Voiceless

Mrs. Rawlings was a fearless advocate who never shied away from difficult conversations or unpopular positions when she believed they served the interests of ordinary Ghanaians. Whether addressing issues of maternal health, child welfare, education, or economic empowerment, she brought passion, intelligence, and an unwavering commitment to social justice.

She spoke her truth as she saw necessary and worked with vision and practical action, both of which she possessed in abundance.

A Conversation Cut Short

In recent months, I had the privilege of engaging Mrs. Rawlings in a number of thoughtful conversations at her office in Ridge. We discussed the future of Ghana's politics and the National Democratic Congress - a party she was instrumental in forming and building into a formidable political force. I encouraged her to consider returning to the NDC, believing that her experience, wisdom and ideas were needed for the forward march.

These conversations were marked by her characteristic candour, her deep love for Ghana, and her concern for the direction of our nation's democracy. Sadly and suddenly, her passing has cut short these exchanges. I am left to wonder what contributions she might yet have made, what bridges she might have built, what wisdom she might have shared. Her loss leaves a void not just in my personal life, but in Ghana's political landscape and in the heart of the party she helped to create.

A Legacy That Endures

As we mourn the loss of this extraordinary woman, we must also celebrate the legacy she leaves behind. Thousands of Ghanaian women benefited from her programs. Countless widows and children enjoy security and dignity because of the Intestate Succession Law she championed. Communities that received her attention continue to thrive. The principles of grassroots mobilization and people-centred development that she championed remain relevant and vital to our nation's progress today.

Mrs. Rawlings showed us that the essence of leadership is seen in one's commitment to service. She demonstrated that true power lies not in dominating others but in empowering them. Her legacy lives not in monuments, but in the many lives she touched, the system she helped build, and the example she set of what committed citizenship looks like.

Personal Reflections

Having known the couple since before their days of political prominence, and having served as one of the first officers in the Operations Room at Gondar Barracks during the PNDC era, I saw the partnership between them as a model of shared purpose. While the Chairman, and later President, led the nation, Mrs. Rawlings with a focus on women and children, ensured that no Ghanaian was left behind in the quest to improve livelihoods. Her hard work was legendary, her dedication unquestionable, and her impact immeasurable.

Ghana has lost a daughter of unparalleled distinction. We have lost a champion of the people, a mobilizer of dreams, and an architect of social transformation. But while we grieve, let us also commit ourselves to carrying forward her legacy of service, advocacy, and unwavering dedication to the welfare of all Ghanaians.

May her soul rest in perfect peace, and may her memory continue to inspire generations of Ghanaians to serve with the same passion, purpose, and love for country that defined her remarkable life.

May she rest peacefully in the bosom of our maker, and may perpetual light shine upon her.



She WAS STRONG AND FEARLESS

NANA ATO DADZIE
SECRETARY TO THE PNDC SECRETARIAT
SPECIAL ASSISTANT/ CHIEF OF STAFF/ NDC
AND ON BEHALF OF THE PNDC GOVERNMENT (1982- 2001)
CASTLE OSU.

From June 1983 to 22 October 2025, our lives were destined to run from the high of the Revolution to the uncertain period of the interregnum from quasi-military rule to Constitutional rule in Jan 1993 (NDC 1 to NDC 2 from 1993 to 2001). In the nineteen years, we were a family, joined in the formation of a political party NDC and part of a subsequent ruling government. Importantly, we worked closely all this period with the late former President of the Republic of Ghana, President J.J Rawlings.

But this is where the difference ends. Nana Agyeman-Rawlings was the wife, spouse and the first lady of the Republic of Ghana, mother of four wonderful children to the union with President Rawlings, and a great home maker. I served as Special Assistant to President Rawlings, PNDC Secretary in charge of PNDC Secretariat and later served as cabinet member and eventually Chief of Staff. Nana Agyeman-Rawlings took charge of the President's private and family life and I had the privilege of setting up the President's public life spanning nineteen years.

This close and peculiar relationship with the great leader and President (J.J Rawlings) gave me priceless insights into the life and personality of our dear first Lady whom we are mourning today. In nineteen years, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings and I had both a personal and an official relationship. Some pleasant, some exciting, entertaining, and intellectually stimulating. Others tough, challenging and

occasional stand offs. Nevertheless, we always found a way thereafter to amicably forge on. Even as I assisted as part-time legal Adviser to 31st December Women Movement (DWM) in its formative years, and represented her at the High Court during the 31st DWM trials.

In the early days of the PNDC Government, Chairman Rawlings and his personal security team together with subsequent Daily Graphic Editor Elvis Aryeh and myself lived an almost reclusive life. His was to show leadership and inspire hope to a then impoverished country, and thus could not afford a family life. In consequence, Nana Agyeman-Rawlings and the children's social life was almost forfeit.

Nana Agyeman-Rawlings, as wife and mother, single-handedly carried the full load of the family, deeply protecting and shielding her children and home. She stood on principled ground and literally challenged colleagues, friends and government officials once she felt they were



trampling on and showing gross disregard for the rights of women. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was strong and combative. She undoubtedly attracted a slew of objectionists and opposition.

In a male-dominated political field, Nana Agyeman-Rawlings was an exceptional woman. With a revolutionary, open-minded leader for a husband, Nana Konadu shattered the glass ceiling, but not without a fight. She, along with leading executives of her Movement, fought against policies that were inimical to the advancement of women empowerment. As a result of her sustained struggle for women empowerment and the welfare of children, many political appointees of the male gender became converts to her cause.

Her battle and struggle provoked the promulgation of several monumental Social legislations under PNDC Government with its flagship PNDCL 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, Article 28(1) of the 1992 Constitution, also reflected in Children's Act 650.

Nana Konadu and her foundational struggle stand tall in today's greater awareness and institutional gender assertiveness, in public space. The current rise in women's public empowerment is reflected in all 3 Organs of State including Parliament, Judiciary and Executive producing 1 former Lady Speaker of Parliament, 3 former Chief Justices and Her Excellency the current Vice-President Prof. Naana Jane Opoku Agyemang; all within one generation.

Nana Agyeman-Rawlings was an exemplary leader and a team player. She espoused the idea that the women whose husbands were working for the advancement of the revolution, had a duty to fight side by side with their men in order to champion the goals and ideals of the revolution, as well as to complement the efforts of the men. Hence, the logo of the 31st December Women Movement.

I had the privilege to assist in the establishment and drafting of the Movement's Constitution and setting up of their administrative structures. On the 25th Anniversary of the formation 31st DWM, I was surprised with a certificate of appreciation for meritorious services rendered.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, leading executives of her women's group and several others constituted a strong group of women who toured the entire country several times, in spite of Nana Konadu's known medical challenge at the time, to awaken and empower our women folk. They shall remain, in history, the leaders of the women's empowerment movement in our dear country.

Nana Konadu's political leadership struggles, undoubtedly had its ups and downs. At times, it drew a lot of backlash and animosity, but that is the path of great men and women.

It is gratifying that at death, the entire country has poured out to eulogise Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Her works - even as the country unanimously hail her as one of the greatest women leaders who affected, influenced and empowered both women and children, not only in her immediate life, but have defined a more progressive life for our women and children and indeed the whole country for years to come.

Jerry John Rawlings and Nana Konadu have, in one generation, changed the Ghanaian narrative from a spiritually broken and struggling country during the time of June 4th 1979, to a stable Constitutional Democratic State today. Standing side by side her husband, their struggles continue unabated. History will judge her and her revolutionary husband and government even better.

Nana Konadu certainly stands high in the pantheon of women in our Ghanaian history such as Yaa Asantewaa, Ama Atta Aidoo, Efua Sutherland and many others.

Yet, like the greats, she left the world without notice.

She has completed her assignment honourably and with distinction.

Fare thee well, NAR.

And regards to our Maximum Leader Ft. Lt Jerry John Rawlings.



The FIRST TO STEP INTO BATTLE WHEN OTHERS WATCHED FROM THE SIDE

HON. KOFI IDDIE ADAMS

It is not easy to speak when your heart is full, and even harder when the person you must speak about is someone who shaped not only your journey but your convictions, your discipline, and your courage.

Today, I do not stand here as a Member of Parliament, nor as a former spokesperson, nor as a comrade. I stand here simply as Kofi. A product of her example. A witness to her strength. A beneficiary of her fierce belief in loyalty, in purpose, and in Ghana.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was not just the First Lady of a Republic. She was the first to step into battle when others watched from the side. The first to speak hard truths. The first to remind you that being passionate about the country was not enough, you had to work for it. You had to Organise. Mobilise. Sacrifice.

I was young when I found myself close to the Rawlings family. I had no entitlement, no inheritance, no special claim. What I had was a deep belief in the values they represented: truth, discipline, justice, and service. Nana Konadu did not give compliments easily, but when she gave you her trust, she expected integrity in return. I learned early that with her, there was

no pretending. She respected substance, not performance. She watched more than she spoke. But when she did speak, you listened.

As someone who was welcomed into the deeper space of the family's political journey, I saw the kind of pressure she carried. The burdens she bore silently. She was not only building a women's movement or fighting for inclusion. She was defending a vision. One that required her to sometimes stand alone, to be misunderstood, to be labelled as difficult; when in truth, she was simply ahead of her time.

She held up standards that even some in power found uncomfortable. But she never wavered. She knew her strength. And quietly, so did we.

She was not a soft shoulder. She was a steady spine. And when times got hard, she did not retreat. She stood. And I saw that. I felt that. And I carry it with me still.



She stood for women before it was fashionable to do so. The 31st December Women's Movement was not just an organisation. It was a movement that built communities, equipped women and laid the groundwork for many of the political rights and developmental interventions we take for granted today.

Even in my own constituency, I have met women who joined the NDC not through campaign slogans but because of what the 31st December Women's Movement meant to their lives, water systems, community centres, literacy, healthcare, economic inclusion. That was her work.

In 2012, when things got difficult, I was made to step aside as the Deputy General Secretary and suspended from the very party she had helped build. It was painful. I remember the silence, the uncertainty, and the headlines. But she did not throw me away. She reminded me that trials are not to break us, but to confirm who we are. I came out of that storm more anchored, more determined, and even more grateful for the political home she helped create.

It was President Rawlings who said, "You must be truthful to yourself, even when the world doubts you." It was Nana Konadu who lived it every single day.

She never claimed perfection. But what she did claim and rightly so was her right to be heard. Her right to shape policy. Her right to represent not just women, but Ghana. And she did that with tenacity and purpose.

Mother, saying goodbye to you feels like closing a chapter I was never ready to finish. There are things I still wanted to tell you. There are moments I still replay, wondering if I could have done more to honour you while you were here. But what brings me peace is knowing that I never took your presence for granted.

You gave me the opportunity to serve, grow, fail and stand again. And for that, I owe you more than I can ever repay.

Your reunion is now complete, as you join eternally with my boss, your one and only true love. Together, you walked through politics, through power, and through history. You built a family, nurtured a vision, and led a movement that shaped this nation. And now, we pray, you rest side by side, still watching over us, still reminding us of what it means to lead with truth, to serve with courage, and to live with purpose.

To Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina and Kimathi I say thank you. Thank you for sharing your mother with a country that demanded so much of her. We saw her strength because you gave her space to serve.

Rest peacefully, my mother, my mentor, my guide. You did not just pass through this world. You shook it. You shaped it. And you left it better.

REST IN POWER



*She*CARRIED EVERYONE ALONG

THE INDEFATIGABLE CHAMPION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

AMB. EDITH HAZEL
FORMER DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY OF
31ST DECEMBER WOMEN'S MOVEMENT



Unbelievable, but just like a flash, she was gone! I am still trying to process the news of the passing of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, President of the 31st December Women's Movement (DWM), whom I worked with for fifteen solid years.

I first encountered Nana Konadu in 1984 when I returned from Cuba where I accompanied the 600 Ghanaian students who had been awarded scholarships to study in Cuba, under a joint co-operation programme, as an English teacher.

It was at a meeting with Parents of Students in Cuba Association (POSICA). My vocal interventions and responses to concerns and questions posed by apprehensive parents attracted the attention of Her Excellency to inquire who I was after the meeting. She was told that I was the wife of Comrade Kodjo Hazel of blessed memory, who was the coordinator of the Isle of Youth Programme. He had been working on the programme with Nana Konadu. She took a liking to me then, and later invited me to work with the 31st DWM to which I obliged and worked full time as Deputy General Secretary.



The 31st DWM was launched in 1982 after the 1981 Revolution with the aim of mobilising women as a conduit to effectively play their role in national reconstruction.

Nana Konadu as President of the Movement grew the organisation into a position of significance leveraging her influential status as First Lady and worked relentlessly with her colleagues to place 31st DWM on a high pedestal. The aim of the movement being the empowerment of women, economically, socially and politically, Konadu worked relentlessly.

To achieve the empowerment of women economically, she started by establishing a significant number of income-generating projects, from gari processing factories, bakeries, oil palm processing factories and agro-processing factories.

She instilled hope and confidence in the Ghanaian woman. She travelled far and wide with her lieutenants across the length and breadth and visited every nook and cranny of the country. She embodied leadership by example. Working with Konadu meant hard work.

The work of the Movement created enormous awareness and encouraged the otherwise timid women to be bold and to engage in political activities including contesting for positions at the local and national levels. Her belief in the fact that women who formed more than half of the population could not be left behind, they needed to earn an income to support the family budget so the Movement established Day Care Centres, where mothers could leave their children to be cared for whilst they undertook their economic activities.

Being asthmatic, she did not allow her condition to deter her from travelling around. There were times when she arrived at a location in a remote village, the euphoria of welcoming her by the enthusiastic women would produce dust triggering an attack of asthma. She would turn and use her inhaler after which she would be ready to meet the women with a dance and commission projects.

Nana Konadu was a strong character, rooted in her convictions and she ensured that she carried everyone along.

She played a significant role in the formation of the NDC party, along with Kwadwo Maama Adams; they designed the umbrella symbol of the NDC and presented it to the Party.

In the 2000 elections, when I stood for a parliamentary seat, she supported me and other female aspirants to win our seats.

I am sure Madam Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, Former President of Liberia would not forget your support to win the elections in Liberia, all in pursuit of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Unfortunately, after the NDC lost power in the 2000 elections, persistent and targeted persecution of DWM leaders and members by the administration contributed to the decline of the Movement's activities.

I wish to thank you very much for being there for me when my husband passed exactly a year ago. You visited with your children to commiserate with me and stayed for over an hour. I am grateful.

Rest well, Valiant Woman!



As A SHINING STAR WHO ILLUMINATED THE LIVES OF ALL

KWAKU OFOSU-ADARKWA (PH.D. IT)
A RETIRED CHIEF DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATION OF GHANA
& NOW PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT AND DIGITAL
ECONOMY REFORM SPECIALIST.

I respectfully pay a glowing tribute to the life and legacy of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, as the nation bids her farewell to eternity in my humble capacity as a former Director, assigned from the Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana to the Office of the First Lady, from 1990 to 2001, as Policy and Administrative Advisor.

For the period that I, as a career civil servant, served the First Lady on the scope of her role, as it impacted on public policy in Ghana and beyond, I can humbly say of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings that she dedicated and committed her entire life to public service aimed at improving the lives of the citizenry and in particular that of women and children.

The quote attributed to her *"Once women are empowered, the sky is the limit as far as development is concerned"* (source <https://nkarawlings.com>) clearly echoes the long-term vision of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, as an illustrious lady of Ghana, who dedicated her life to ensuring that beyond the performance of her ceremonial duties, in support of the then Head of State of Ghana, she innovatively served through the offering of impactful public policy advocacy to help shape government policy

decisions on the lives of many. It is indeed the performance of this public policy advocacy role that necessitated the creation of the Office of the First Lady as an adjunct office to her women empowerment Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) roles.

As a selfless servant who dedicated her life to the service of others, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, aside the performance of her ceremonial duties took an innovative path to offer her services to the society at large to impact on public policy decision-making pertaining to:

- a. The championing of women's rights locally and globally;
- b. Gender and equal opportunity social intervention programmes that related to the empowerment of women and the girl-child;



- c. Primary health care promotion to help reduce infant mortality rate;
- d. Socio-economic and political empowerment of women at all levels such that women could be active in policy decision making;
- e. Advocacy and promotion of preschool education concept especially in the far-flung areas; an initiative which impacted on government directives for all basic schools to have preschools set up as condition precedent for operating primary schools.

On the global platform, it is on record that in her pursuit to raise the image of Ghana and Africa as a whole, pertaining to women empowerment, during her tenure as First Lady, she pursued international advocacy, particularly for Africa's women's rights. Her tenure as First Lady therefore saw her sacrificing her quality time to travel widely, raising awareness on gender equity issues, and achieving concrete results.

One such remarkable impact was when Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, addressing the 23rd Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (Beijing +5), attended by over 2000 women's groups and NGOs worldwide, on June 5th, 2000, in New York, USA made the following declaration to affect the shaping of global policies: -

"Certainly, we cherish our cultural heritage and the centuries old traditions from which our society derives its identity and resilience. But we also acknowledge that practices that undermine human dignity, retard social progress and bring about unnecessary misery and suffering

must not be countenanced by a society that appreciates the worth of its people."

To her credit in policy advocacy, in Ghana's case, she had earlier championed the policy advocacy leading to the development of the Interstate Succession Law, PNDCL. 111 in 1985, which law guides how the estate of a person who dies without a WILL is distributed. This achievement, among others gave her the moral courage to make the declaration supra to impact the shaping global human right and equality policies.

As a shining star who illuminated the lives of all she touched with motherly love, she was apt with her public speeches delivery skills that always sought to appeal for inclusiveness of women, children and the downtrodden in nation building. This was a great asset that she possessed, making her attract great attention in her public service.

By and large, it can be said that Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, gifted as an effective grassroots and international communicator, served as a servant-leader ensuring that all who came her way, locally and in the international arena were aligned with her advocacy role as a passionate change agent for the poor, the voiceless and the under-served populace, thus setting the tone for African First Ladies to follow suit.

As the nation bids her farewell, our sincere condolences go to the family, and we are encouraged that her legacy of love and kindness will continue to inspire us all

May her soul rest in perfect peace.



A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO MY MENTOR

MRS PEACE ADJO ARYEE
NATIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR
31ST DECEMBER WOMEN'S MOVEMENT (DWM)

Her Excellency, Madam Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings has fulfilled her calling and divine assignment to Ghanaian children in Africa and globally. She served and gave her life as ransom for many, especially women and children. She dedicated her entire life to serving humanity and for that we give all thanks and glory to God.



"Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

- Proverbs 31:31



I met H.E. Madam Nana Konadu many, many years ago when the 31st December Women's Movement (DWM) was formed in the United Kingdom while I was the Chairwoman. Inspired by the development and progress of the Movement in Ghana, the UK & Ireland branch was founded to mobilise Ghanaian women, in the diaspora, to contribute their quota towards national development and promote the welfare of women in the region. The UK & Ireland branch supported the Movement by organising numerous fundraising events, making large donations of books, toys and clothing – just to mention a few, and volunteering our services to support the amazing work being done by the Movement in Ghana. I was very privileged to attend many of the programmes organised by the Movement in Ghana during my years as chair in the UK.

As destiny would have it, after years of supporting the Movement in the UK, my relationship with Mrs Rawlings grew stronger. Eventually, I relocated from the UK to Ghana and was able to offer her more local support from the year 2010. After consulting with the larger membership, I became the National Project Director, responsible for the Organisations' global projects, overseeing the progress of our ward at the Children's Hospital (Cecil Williams Ward) and multiple daycare schools that were in our care.



For many years, we worked professionally together; from international trips and functions, to regional meetings and engagements. I also accompanied her to events and private gatherings. We would laugh constantly and she would tease me about being her 'handbag' as result.

We walked together, ate together, laughed together, danced together and sometimes cried together and above all; we prayed together! It was always an honour to support her efforts and spend time together; time that I now cherish more than ever.

Her Excellency has left an indelible legacy for all of us. She sacrificed her life for everyone. She was servant-minded and selfless; her leadership was motivated solely by a desire to help women and children, not for personal gain but to constantly be of service to others.

She was often strict and firm but also very fair. Her yes was yes and her no, was no! In the office, we jokingly called her "Madam Receipts" as she always made sure that EVERYTHING purchased must have a receipt and everything done was documented. She kept the receipts and was a stickler for formal processes which we would always laugh about! We built so many memories during our times in the office - I have so many stories to tell!

Her Excellency was extremely generous, empathetic and very compassionate. She sacrificed her life ensuring that the vulnerable in society are protected by law. Her advice to me was always to do things right and never expect anything in return. She would repeatedly tell me 'do things as unto God, not man'.

My encounter with Her Excellency, has given me so much experience, knowledge and insight in many different aspects of life I never imagined I would have. She led by example, with integrity and honesty. She was bold, confident and resolute in all aspects of her work. Ready to accomplish anything she put her mind to do. Her passion for the nation of Ghana and its progress is beyond words.

I am so grateful to God for the divine connection he made with myself and Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Even in the final few

days of her life, I was blessed and privileged to stand with her and be within close proximity to her. Madam Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, personally was my Mentor, my President, my encourager, my mother, my big sister, my dear friend. I will miss her dearly.

To my sisters, Zanetor, Yaa Asantewaa, Princess Amina and brother Kimathi; I can only thank you so much for sharing your mother with us all - especially me. It will not be easy for any us especially for you and the family but we have a God whose promises are Yea and Amen.

As the bible says in Joshua 1:9; "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." I pray that even in these difficult times these words will lead us all.

Stay strong and united. Let us all keep her memory alive through our actions, being strong, bold, fearless and continuing with the fight for equality and fairness in whatever we do. Be assured that Her Excellency lived a fruitful, colourful and extremely productive life. She was loved by so many and will be remembered always for her immense contributions and the positive and immeasurable impact she made in Ghana, the continent of Africa and beyond.

May God help us all and grant us wisdom, knowledge and understanding in everything especially as we move forward in our developmental journey to continue to emulate her and continue the great work she began.

My Forever First Lady, My Mother, My Madam, My Mum, rest well from all your labour, until we meet again. Your Excellency, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, the works of your hands will continue to praise you!

Ayekoo!

Rest In Perfect Peace!

Da yei Damrifa dua!

Yaawor jogbaa!

Na de hwe!

With eternal love and endless gratitude;

Your dear Peace



In EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN

SYLVIA AHORLU
GENERAL SECRETARY
31ST DECEMBER WOMEN'S MOVEMENT (DWM)

I have been blessed with one of the greatest honours of my life, the privilege of serving an extraordinary woman whose vision, strength, and compassion touched countless hearts: **Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.**

My journey with her began in 1982, when I was a young student filled with hope and determination. I still remember the day she interviewed me personally for an international scholarship. In that moment, my life changed forever. She opened a door that widened my world, enriched my education, and taught me what true service and purpose really mean. When I returned to Ghana, I committed myself to serving her mission faithfully, loyally, wholeheartedly in gratitude for the opportunity she had given me.



“

*"I have fought a good fight,
I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith.
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of
righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous
Judge, shall give me on that day."
- 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

We travelled across the country together, designing and transforming preschool spaces with colour, dignity, and joy. We worked side by side with communities, empowering women through training, organization, and meaningful socio-economic participation. Under her leadership, women found their voices, their confidence, and their place at the centre because she believed deeply in their worth.

But it is the moments beyond work that I hold closest to my heart. On our local and international trips, she would invite me to her room to plan and strategize, and she would always share her sweets with me, smiling, "Work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Her laughter warm, teasing, full of life is something I will miss more than words can express.

I will miss climbing the stairs to her office and seeing her waiting at her door with that familiar look meant just for me. I will miss her welcome rituals, the small gestures that made each day



feel meaningful. I will miss our lunches, her humility that always surprised me, the way she insisted I sit while she stood, saying, "Allow me to spoil you." And oh, how I will miss our kenkey parties in the office, simple joys wrapped in her kindness.

Our Wednesday nights at +233 with the all-women's band, Kojo Antwi's concerts, and other events remain some of my dearest memories. She danced with a rhythm and confidence that lit up the entire space. She taught me to feel music; to move with it, to understand life through its beats and pauses.

There were nights we worked until midnight, moving from events right back to the office. She would drop me off to pick up my car, and when I sped ahead, she would call instantly, laughing, "Ei, wu ko hehn? Where are you going with that speed?" Those moments still warm my heart.

Our early-morning private conversations were sacred. I would arrive at the office at 6 a.m., and she would be waiting in her car, saying, "Sylvia, tinasi" (sit down). I would think it was work-related, only to receive deep personal guidance.

She cared deeply about my life my career, relationships, marriage. She was my counsellor, my coach, my mother in every sense of the word. When she called me "my confidant," I knew it meant, "Sit and listen." And when I whispered, she would say, "Mi nti? I can't hear you.

Why are you whispering?" I would say, "I don't want anyone to hear us," and she would reply, "Gyae me na me ka me asem - allow me to speak my mind." These moments are carved permanently in my heart.

Our bond was special intentional, protective, deeply cherished. Papa J once observed us and said, "This girl is a gift from God to you take good care of her. And you too, take good care of my wife." I carried those words with me always, and I did my best, with devotion and gratitude. Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings led an exemplary life.

She was more than a leader... a force: bold, compassionate, principled, and unwavering in her love for the people of Ghana. She shaped my journey in ways words can never fully capture. Walking beside her was one of the greatest honours of my life.

Her legacy is alive in the women she lifted, the children she nurtured, the communities she transformed, and in all of us whose lives she illuminated.

Thank you, Mum.

Thank you, Madam.

Thank you, my counsellor, my cheerleader, my lawyer, my friend, my boss, my mother.

I can almost hear your playful voice saying,

"Mi ko - I'm going." And I ask, "Where are you going?" Your laughter, your graceful walk, and your Ewe expressions

"Me ga way lo" (don't dare),

"Me dzo la" (I'm leaving) echoes gently in my ear.

I miss you, Your Excellency my heroine, my mentor, my partner in good works and good thoughts.

Da yie. Sleep peacefully in the bosom of the Lord.

I know you're in a good place, and you have your crown of glory, which no one can take from you. Your struggles, your pains, and the misconceptions of your calling are over. You have fulfilled your purpose beautifully.

"You are the light of the world; a city on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16.

Rest well in the bosom of the Lord.

Ayekoo ni agyu pa yie, agyu ma pa yie.

RIP Madam President, the world hails you.



A LETTER TO MY BOSS

RUBY DAGADU

Dear Madam,

It is with a very heavy heart that I write this letter. The news was sudden and sad. That notwithstanding "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more ---for the former things have passed away." Rev. 21: 4.

On our first interaction, you asked me to attend a programme at the British Council on your behalf, which was before we had the opportunity to discuss the terms of my engagement. We did not look back.

You willingly and kindly offered to assist the communities and women I was already engaged with, and that gave me strength and hope. So from Agomeda to Chuchuliga, different families and women received various types of training, equipment and other things that expanded their horizon and improved their visibility.

You sought my opinion sometimes, and that caused me to be heard and respected. I remember with nostalgia the many times you would ask me to represent you on programmes and events. They offered me a rare opportunity to work with many experts in various fields of endeavour. Amongst the many programmes you initiated and supported were the Africa First Ladies Conference and the Radiotherapy Centre in Korle – Bu. Feedback was very important and you would say it as it was.



I am reminded of the overwhelming impact on my life and the influence on my professional growth and development. You allowed me to learn, sometimes the hard way and your mentorship came in handy.

Lately, you sent messages to check up on me. I am very grateful.

I trust that your second book will find itself on the shelves in scheduled time despite your absence.

With deep gratitude and heartfelt sorrow, I wish you a peaceful rest.



Nana SHOWED ME THE WAY

MRS. AGNES MARTEYE

In 1990, when the late Ms. Angelina Zormelo, the first Greater Accra Regional Organiser introduced me to the 31st National Office through the region, I never knew I would gain much love, interest and compassion from the membership and the top executives.

I was fully accepted and was made the Project Officer. Everything went on smoothly and I was to join Mrs. Rawlings and all the other executives into the five districts for a Regional programme of activities.

Nana Konadu requested me to translate all speeches made by the National Executives for training projects into the Ga language for our women's understanding in the Greater Accra Region.

She was free and fair when correcting or giving advice. She freely shared her experiences with all of us to enlighten us. I would also like to mention few other experiences she encouraged me to have.

Mrs. Rawlings gave me the opportunity to be part of the team that travelled to Cyprus for

the 4th Women's Conference, and subsequently part of the team to America, part of the team to Beijing Plus 5 and thirdly, part of her own team to China for expansion of projects for the Movement.

I had Nana Konadu's support when I tragically lost my son and I found myself in a vulnerable position. Nana showed me the way to overcome some challenges that came with that situation and I was able to overcome my difficulties and bury my son.

There is a lot that I can talk about but time will not permit me. Nana loved the children, teachers and parents in all her schools and cared deeply about them. Whenever she visited me at the Teshie School, which she entrusted in my care from the year 2001, she would go from one class to the other to check on the children and teachers and helped us with anything that the school needed, from maintenance to whatever was needed. She was always cordial to me and very respectful. Although she was the head of the organisation she never looked down on anyone.

Nana, we did not expect you to leave us so soon but the Lord knows more. You have died a righteous death and we pray the Lord to grant you peaceful, eternal rest.

Nye Awo! Yaawo Jogbaŋ; Nuntsɔ ɛ abu ohe.





VISIONARY WHO BELIEVED IN THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

SWEDRU DWM

It is with a very heavy heart that the management, parents, teachers and pupils of the Swedru 31st December Women's Movement Preparatory School pay tribute to the memory of Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

The 31st December Women's Movement Preparatory School located at Agona Swedru was her initiative. She officially opened the school in 1991.

Mrs. Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was the rock on which the Movement and for that matter the school in Agona Swedru was established in particular and the country at large, since there were many of such schools all over the country. The Movement under her leadership played a pivotal role in championing gender equality, advocating for the rights of women, girls and children and thus helped many women to be employed across the country. She had a deep passion for the activities of the Movement with the sole aim of empowering them through job creation, skills training and the provision of creche, nursery and kindergarten facilities to ensure that working mothers got some care for their kids while they were at work.

Through her inspiration and relentless efforts, the school is now a fully-fledged basic school. Her deep love for the school made her donate a mini bus to address the transportation challenge facing the school.

A big vacuum has been created with your demise which cannot be filled. To whom do we turn with your sudden departure. Your last visit to the school was in 2015 when you graced the Open Day Ceremony as the Guest of Honour. You promised to attend this year's graduation for which the school was fully prepared to receive you. However, you could not make it due to circumstances beyond your control. You were more than a mother to the school and the Movement at large.

The Proprietress, Miss Felicia Adu-Gyamfi, wants to thank you most sincerely for your encouragement and generosity to the school. You will forever remain in our hearts.

Furthermore, I am very much in pain with your sudden demise. I owe you a huge debt of gratitude for your unwavering support and cordial relationship over the years.

Mum, da yie.

May your soul rest in perfect peace





A TREE WHICH STRETCHED ITS ROOTS TO THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF OUR DEAR NATION AND SPROUTED IN EVERY VILLAGE

THE 31ST DWM NORTHERN REGIONAL BRANCH

Emaa, monsoni, pagba, yigsinya, maata, kutaashi.

I stand here on behalf of members of the Northern Regional Branch of the 31st DWM to present a tribute to our dear mother and sister.

A mighty Boabab tree has fallen. A tree which stretched its roots to the length and breadth of our dear nation which sprouted in every village.

You were a beacon of hope and strength to the advancement and empowerment of women in Ghana irrespective of their political, religious or ethnic stance. Your relentless support and leadership opened sealed doors for women to thrive, and this has made a great impact on the economic and political development of our dear nation.

Maa, you never postponed an annual regional visit where you met with every member of the Movement to discuss their well-being, ongoing and prospective projects; even when you felt under the weather.

Your vision of setting up day care centres with feeding programmes throughout the country was a success story for government and private educational institutions to emulate.

You encouraged members of the Movement to participate in the district level elections, which resulted in having women elected to serve on our first district assemblies.

You encouraged us to pay our monthly dues, which would serve as our capital for implementing projects in the zones and districts. This was a success story.

On the part of environmental protection, with your support, we embarked on tree planting projects in communities and even Kamina Barracks where members of the DWM participated.

Maternal health education was one of key programmes where we collaborated with the Ministry of Health to provide pre- and post-natal care to rural women. Traditional birth attendants were trained to provide health and safety services to their clients.

Your leadership has instilled in us a sense of responsibility, and an understanding that we must always be accountable to the communities we serve and also maintain integrity. We are grateful for these values manifested over time.

Projects like shea butter/groundnut oil processing became prominent in the then three Northern Regions (Northern, Upper East



and Upper West Regions). The abundance of sheanut trees made many women engage in the processing individually. Groups of women not less than fifty were formed, and each contributed a certain quantity of processed nuts for group work.

Maa was invited to these communities, appreciated their efforts, and then provided the groups with the necessary processing machines to enhance their efforts. One of the beneficial Communities is Mbanayili in Kumbungu District. The centre has been in existence for over thirty years. Out of this project, the women built a Health Centre for the Community, which is being manned by the Ministry of Health.

All the Day Care Centres in the Northern Region have been upgraded to Basic Schools with some having Junior High Schools under Ghana Education Service. Nganwuni in Tamale is one of them.

Maa, women and children of Ghana will always remember your immense contribution in the enactment and implementation of the PNDC Law 111 (the Intestate Succession Law) and other legislative processes.

"Maa," as you were popularly called by members, your spirit lives on. You will always be remembered.

Maa, damirifa due, ko na kɔda prɛko koom. Obaa sɔre, oh Maa, sɔre. We shall meet again.



A TESTAMENT TO HER LEGACY

THE 31ST DECEMBER WOMEN'S MOVEMENT SCHOOLS IN GREATER ACCRA

We, the Management and Pupils of the 31st DWM Greater Accra schools, join the nation in honouring the cherished memory of our Former First Lady, whose foresight and compassion shaped the very foundation of our schools.

Her decision to site schools in vulnerable communities in Accra such as Chorkor, Nima, Teshie, Ashiaman, Kaneshie, Tema etc. was an act of deep understanding of education and her love for women and children living in vulnerable communities.

She recognised the daily struggles of our mothers and provided a safe, nurturing space for their children, allowing them the freedom to work, trade, and support their families with dignity.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings established the DWM Schools with a deep and genuine desire to ensure that the children of market women, vulnerable families, and the less privileged had access to quality education and a fair chance at a better future. What began as an initiative rooted in empathy and justice has over the years, transformed into a lifeline for countless children who may otherwise have been left behind.



“What began as an initiative rooted in empathy and justice has over the years, transformed into a lifeline for countless children”

Through her vision, our centers became more than schools; it became a sanctuary of opportunity, hope, and early childhood development for the children of various communities.

Today, every laughter, every lesson, and every milestone achieved by our pupils stands as a testament to her legacy.

Her unwavering advocacy for girl-child education and her commitment to women's empowerment continue to inspire us. The seeds she planted in these schools have grown into lives transformed and futures brightened.

As we bid her farewell, we extend our deepest gratitude for the light she brought to our communities and we remain dedicated to ensuring that her legacy lives on, not only in our institutions, but also in the hearts and future of the children she cared so deeply about.

Her impact lives on in every child who learns, every mother who works, and every hope restored.

May her gentle soul rest in perfect peace.





A WOMAN OF REMARKABLE STRENGTH

D.W.M SCHOOL NIMA

We, the teachers, pupils, and management of DWM School, Nima, bow our heads in deep sorrow as we bid farewell to our beloved founder, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Her passing has left a quiet ache in our corridors and a heaviness in our hearts that words can scarcely express.



"[She] reminded us that true leadership is measured by the lives one touches"

Through her vision and tireless work with the 31st December Women's Movement, DWM Schools were established across many communities in Ghana. DWM School, Nima, stands today because Her Excellency believed that every child, regardless of background, deserves dignity, opportunity, and a future filled with hope.

She did not simply establish schools; she opened doors. She made education possible for countless children, many from families with limited means. Her dream became their reality.

Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was a woman of remarkable strength, bold in her convictions, steadfast in her compassion, and deeply committed to uplifting the vulnerable. Supporting women and children was not an initiative for her; it was a calling. And we, who have benefited from that calling, feel her loss profoundly.

To us, she was more than a Founder. She was a pillar who inspired courage, embodied service, and reminded us that true leadership is measured by the lives one touches. Her

commitment was never distant or symbolic; she lived it every day until the moment of her passing.

We mourn her today, yet we also stand in gratitude, for the many lives she touched. The laughter in our classrooms, the confidence in our pupils, the hope that fills our school—these are living testimonies of her legacy. Though she is no longer with us, her spirit walks with every child who enters the gates of DWM School, Nima, and every learner in DWM institutions across the nation.

We are deeply thankful for her leadership, her courage, and the love she poured into our school and our community. Her absence leaves an undeniable void, but the foundation she laid remains strong. We will continue to build on it with the same spirit she instilled in us.

Rest well, Your Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Your light continues to shine in every lesson we teach and in every child who dares to dream because you once dared to believe in them.





An ENDURING FORCE OF NATURE

KLUTSE KUDOMOR

FORMER PROJECT OFFICER, 31ST DECEMBER WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

It is with deep respect, admiration, and profound gratitude that I present this tribute to a lady whose name has become synonymous with strength, purpose, and vision, **Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings (Madam, as we affectionately called her).**

Mrs. Rawlings was more than a historical figure. Madam was an enduring force of nature. Those of us who were privileged to have worked under her leadership have witnessed firsthand her unmatched attention to detail, discipline, and deep compassion for the underprivileged. She led with a fine balance of firmness, fairness and frankness, expecting excellence not merely as a goal but as a standard of life and service. Her strict, yet nurturing leadership style, brought out the best in everyone around her.

At the 31st December Women's Movement, her visionary leadership transformed ideas into tangible results. Under her guidance, countless women were empowered through education, skills training, and entrepreneurship. She believed, deeply and practically, that empowering a woman meant transforming a family and, ultimately, the nation, echoing Dr. Kwegyir Aggrey's philosophy, **'if you educate a man, you simply educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation'**. Her policies and initiatives laid the foundation for sustainable development long before the term became fashionable in global discourse.

Beyond her institutional achievements, those of us who shared close moments with His Excellency Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings often heard him speak fondly and proudly of his wife's steadfast support and wise counsel. He recognized, as we all did, that Mrs. Rawlings was not only his life partner but also his strategic partner in leadership. Behind the charisma and energy of the former President stood a woman of quiet strength, whose influence, integrity, and intellect contributed

significantly to Ghana's stability and progress during those transformative 19 years of national leadership. In fact, in front, *not behind*, of every successful man is a woman, and Madam was.

At the office those days in the early 1990's, we saw how her love extended beyond her public service to her beautiful children, Zenator, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina, and Kimathi, who continue to reflect her values of discipline, humility, and excellence. They stand today as living testaments to her nurturing spirit and unwavering commitment to family and country.

For some of us who worked closely under her direction, the lessons we carry from her are timeless: discipline, patriotism, and excellence in service. She taught us that leadership is about responsibility, compassion, and vision. She also made us realise that responsibility is better than duty.

As we celebrate Madam's life, we honour her not just for what she accomplished but for who she was: a pillar of strength, a mother of a movement, a symbol of Ghanaian womanhood, and a true partner in the story of our nation's progress.

Mrs. Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, your name will forever stand as a beacon of courage and devotion. You have inspired generations, and we Ghanaians and Africans have a responsibility to always carry your torch forward.

Rest well, Madam, knowing that your legacy lives on, in the women you empowered, the lives you changed, and the nation you helped build.

Madam, Nanti yie, Hede nyuie, Sai an juma, Kwaheri, Repose en paix, Fare thee well.



The PRIVILEGE OF PROTECTING THE PROTECTOR

THE FORMER PERSONAL SECURITY DETAIL TO THE FIRST FAMILY

It is with profound sorrow and a deep sense of loss that we, the former members of the personal security detail who served the First Family during their time in office, extend our heartfelt condolences to the Rawlings family and the entire nation on the passing of the former First Lady, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

For nearly two decades, we stood closest to her, and it is from this unique vantage point that we wish to share our appreciation for a truly remarkable leader and woman.

Discipline and Professionalism

Our primary mission was ensuring her safety, and she made that mission clear and manageable through her unwavering discipline. We can attest to her legendary punctuality and her meticulous attention to detail. Nana Konadu ran a highly organised schedule and expected the highest standards of professionalism from everyone around her. This strict adherence to protocol not only commanded our immediate respect but also simplified the complex logistics of protecting a national figure. She was a demanding, yet fair, presence who instilled in us the value of preparedness and precision—lessons that remain with us to this day.

The Tireless Commitment to Ghana

Behind the necessary layers of security, we observed first-hand the boundless energy and tireless dedication she poured into her work. Whether it was her commitment to the 31st December Women's Movement, attending official state duties, or championing causes across the country, her work ethic was astonishing. We recall accompanying her on

countless journeys, often working late into the night. Her focus on empowering the Ghanaian woman was not just a public cause; it was a core mission that she pursued with relentless determination, often pushing those around her—including us—to rise to her level of commitment.

The Human Touch

Beyond the protocol and the public persona, there were moments where her genuine human touch shone through. She respected our role and, importantly, treated us with dignity. She often took the time to inquire about our families, our welfare, and our personal challenges—a sign of a deep maternal concern that transcended the professional relationship. For us, she was not just the First Lady requiring protection; she was a leader whose concern extended to those who served her daily.

We stand proudly in remembrance of the discipline, duty, and dedication she demonstrated every single day. Protecting Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was an honour and a privilege.

We salute her service to Ghana and pray that the Almighty grants her eternal rest.

***Rest in perfect peace, Nana Konadu. Da yie!
You will be remembered.***



She STOOD FIRMLY BY WHAT UPHELD THE DIGNITY OF GHANA

NAVAL CAPT. HILARY AFEKU-AMENYO
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PRESIDENT RAWLINGS

My first encounter with Her Excellency Mrs Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings remains etched in my memory, although it happened many years ago—March 1998—during preparations for the State Visit of President Bill Clinton. I met her at Kotoka International Airport during the final rehearsal of the Guard of Honour. I had been appointed President Clinton's Aide-de-Camp, and when I approached her to greet her, she asked about the role I was playing. I explained, and she listened with that characteristic attentiveness and warmth. Even in that brief moment, I felt her presence—commanding yet gracious, firm yet deeply human. It was the kind of presence that stayed with you long after she walked away.

Eleven years passed before I met her again face-to-face, in November 2009, when I was introduced to her prior to assuming my role as Director of President Rawlings' Office. During our conversation, I mentioned, half playfully, that her tireless advocacy for the girl-child had become so successful that the boys were now lagging behind. She smiled and replied, "Then I will have to bring the boys on board." With that one remark, she showed the humour, depth, and vision that defined her life's work.

Throughout all my encounters with her, one truth remained constant: she was a woman of extraordinary strength of character. Her sense of discipline was unmatched. Her patriotism was unwavering. And her principles were immovable. She did not bend to pressure, regardless of who was involved. She stood firmly by what was right, what was just, and what upheld the dignity of Ghana.

One moment, in particular, revealed the depth of her integrity. When the current Ministry of Defence building was being constructed, traders and food vendors settled across the road to serve the workers. Once the project was completed, the Military instructed them to vacate the area, which had become a makeshift market. The traders protested and eventually sought the intervention of Her Excellency. They pleaded for her help to remain there. She listened to them carefully and then, with her characteristic honesty and courage, told them she could not support their request. She explained that the road was a ceremonial route, and it would be inappropriate and unsightly for them to stay there. She added, with clarity and conviction, "Even if my own mother, sister, or daughter were selling there, I would still say no." It was a difficult truth for them to hear, but it was spoken from a place of fairness and a deep sense of order. That was Nana Konadu—fearless, principled, and guided always by integrity.



Beyond her strength as a public figure, she was also a mentor of rare quality. Whenever I made a mistake, she corrected me—not with anger, but with patience and purpose. “Captain,” she would say softly, “what you did was wrong because of this and that. You should have done it this way, because...” She always took her time to explain the broader implications of one’s actions. She taught with clarity, empathy, and a genuine desire to build those around her. In those moments, she was more than a First Lady—she was a teacher, a moral compass, and, in many ways, a mother figure.

As you sail into the sunset, Ma, we do not only mourn. Your life leaves too much goodness behind for this moment to be one of sorrow alone. Instead, we celebrate you. We honour you. And we thank you. Your work, your courage, your devotion to Ghana, and the standards you set will continue to speak for you long into the future. Your legacy will stand the test of time.

Rest peacefully, Ma.

Farewell, and thank you—for your strength, your guidance, and your unwavering service.

You will live on in our hearts always.



LOST A SERVANT LEADER

MR KOBINA ANDOH
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY, OFFICE OF
PRESIDENT RAWLINGS



Penning a tribute to a woman who grew to become a part of my life in ways she was unaware of, is tough.

I first got to know Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings from afar when I used to watch her and her husband on television as they attended State events. J.J. was the consummate army man who always appeared smart obviously due to his military training. But Nana Konadu was something else.

Strutting the kaba in various colours and glamorous designs was such an admirable complement to her military husband. Her poise and confidence were infectious. I was young and starstruck!

Fast forward to 2009 when I first encountered the family, doing some part-time work for President Rawlings. Already awed by his presence and his household, I was invited to lunch. Awestruck, I was even more staggered when Madam (Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings) got up, asked me what I preferred and dished out my food for me. Till today, I still recall that moment like the light of the day. Her calm humility of dishing out my food cannot be erased from my memory. I had perhaps a couple more of these lunches, but found good excuses to avoid them subsequently till the invitations tapered off because I always had a reason not to join.



I must be frank, I felt more intimidated by Nana Konadu than her husband who was 'feared' by many because of his reputation as an astute Air Force officer. She had a way around her. That Headmistress persona that made you want to avoid her whenever possible. When you bumped into her accidentally, she would greet you with some calmness, but I was nevertheless nervous. Nervous because she had the uncanny ability to find fault that one had failed to notice earlier and box your ears for allowing her to come and point it out.

But she was also the mother who could sit you down sometimes for hours and regale you with stories of her youth, her political experiences, the betrayals and the one I relished, her courtship by that young and snooty Air Force officer.

In her mid-seventies, Nana Konadu still went to the office daily and stayed till usually after 6.30pm. She was not the one to play old lady and stay at home seeking to be pampered. She loved to work, had all her wits about her and looked not a day older than 40. But she was 75!

Over the last five years when she became officially my boss, I had the privilege of accompanying her to official functions. It was proud and humbling when she would politely ask me to hold her hands to climb a flight of stairs or walk on uneven grounds, still in her signature high heels. She will converse with you and calm you in her own characteristic way that would quiet all the nervousness as you assisted her.

I called her "Mum" because she was a mother to me. She would counsel me when I least expected and speak about the excesses of men, always admonishing me not to take women for granted. She loved to see her environment clean and tidy always, making sure we spoke to the relevant authorities to ensure that the Ridge environment where she lived and worked was not taken over by squatters, beggars and miscreants...and filth!

On Wednesday October 22nd, I received her at Christ the King Catholic Church on the Jawaharlal Nehru Road. She greeted me and asked if she was late, allowing me to walk her to her seat. She was strong, confident and full of poise as always. Sadly, that was my last interaction with her. The unfortunate happened 24 hours later.

Mum, I am a true orphan now but you impacted on me so positively and I can only learn from that, and try to be a wee bit of what you were by being impactful to those I meet.

Fare thee well, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. You came, you saw you conquered and persevered. Adieu!



Ghana's ENDEARING FORMER FIRST LADY

KWABENA BOADU ANAFO

It was my profound honour to serve as a permanent member of the personal staff for Her Excellency, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, an appointment entrusted to me by His Excellency President Jerry John Rawlings. My mandate was to support her and The Family; a professional relationship that built on deep trust and loyalty, evolved into one I regard as familial. This unique position provided me an intimate perspective on her life and work, and it was my firm belief in her enduring principles that guided my decision to remain within the National Democratic Congress (NDC), steadfast in the anticipation of her return.

My duties supporting “Madam,” as she was known in private, were dual-faceted. As a journalist, I wielded the pen as the Editor of *The Ghanaian Democrat*. The newspaper was renowned for its daring investigative journalism, serving as a vital platform to promote the NDC, champion the ideals of the 31st December Revolution, and document the Movement’s nationwide projects. It gained significant traction for its fearless exposés on corruption within state-owned institutions. Concurrently, as a trained security professional, my role involved protection, working alongside colleagues to safeguard Her Excellency and her children from physical threats.

Her status as a phenomenal woman was unequivocally earned. A repository of profound historical and political insight, as captured in her seminal work, “It Takes A Woman,” she was the

indispensable partner to a revolutionary leader, personifying the truth that behind every great man is an even greater woman. Her passing reminds us that a hero’s legacy is a story we are duty-bound to preserve and honour.

As President of the 31st December Women’s Movement, an organisation that, while non-governmental, formed a crucial support base for the PNDC and later the NDC; her strategic influence was indispensable. This was particularly vital during Ghana’s transition to multi-party democracy, where the Movement provided the essential foundation for the NDC’s electoral victories. She masterfully mobilised women, the nation’s demographic majority, delivering an unprecedented and decisive voting bloc that proved critical to the party’s success from the inception of the Fourth Republic.



The Movement's achievements were both substantive and transformative, setting a landmark for women's empowerment globally. It inspired organisations across Africa and beyond to challenge systemic inequality and demand a seat at the table. This momentum culminated in coordinated African women's movements, ensuring their voices struck a chord on the world stage. Notably, it was Nana Konadu who first championed the concept of the "Girl-Child" at the Fourth International Women's Conference in China, advocating globally for the protection and education of underprivileged girls.

Her vision for empowerment was fundamentally economic. Under her leadership, the Movement established small-scale industries, from palm oil and gari processing to shea butter production and fish smoking in coastal and lakeside communities, creating sustainable livelihoods. Furthermore, her pioneering establishment of daycare centres liberated countless working mothers, particularly single parents, enabling them earn a living while their children were cared for.

Her influence extended powerfully onto the international stage, imbued with a strong sense of Pan-African pride. Her distinctive style, particularly her African headgear, became an admired fashion statement emulated by high-profile women globally.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was a fountainhead, to borrow from Ayn Rand, *"Don't let your fire go out... Do not waste it in despair. Do not let the Hero in your soul perish, in any lonely struggle. The world you desire can be won, it exists, it is real, it is possible, it's yours."*

As a Fountainhead in the struggle for a better Ghana, fundamentally reshaping the role of women in national decision-making Nana Konadu stood unshakeable. Like Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, her legacy teaches us that the African revolutionary struggle was sustained by the courage, sacrifice, and fierce leadership of women.

Her passing is not an end, but a call to action. Let it rekindle our commitment to her ideals. Her life's work is a precious legacy, a guiding light in the vital pursuit of women's empowerment. We see the fruits of her vision today, not only in Ghana's historic choice by our Supreme Leader, His Excellency John Dramani of its first female Vice-President, but also in nations like Namibia, where women hold both the presidency and vice-presidency. Ghana is on the move, in no small part due to the path she forged.

To her children, I offer my deepest condolences. Stay strong.

Damirifa Dua. Da Yie.

Her status as a
phenomenal woman was
unequivocally earned.



Celebrating A REMARKABLE WOMAN

GEORGE ASHIAGBOR

ASH-GEO KENTE WEAVING TRAINING CENTRE, KETA

I recall my first encounter with the Rawlings family vividly. Torgbe Zewu III, Torgbe Tay Agbozo IV, and Torgbe Dzelu IV commissioned me to craft a majestic Kente cloth for the Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, the Head of State of Ghana in 1992, following his democratic election victory. I designed the esteemed “Kaleawofia” (The Warrior Chief) cloth, which the Anlo Chiefs presented to him in Accra.

H. E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, the late former First Lady, was captivated by the cloth and requested my designs for her personal use. Her patronage and appreciation for my craft were unwavering. In 1999, she was the Guest of Honour at the Keta Development Fair, DEFIA '99, organised by the Keta District. I was commissioned to create the bespoke “J.J. AYEKOO!” Kente design for she and her husband the President of the Republic. The designs, crafted in both male and female sizes, were presented to them at the opening ceremony. President Rawlings wrote a personal letter expressing his gratitude to me.

Subsequently, H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings appointed me as her personal weaver. She championed my creations, showcased them at the 31st December Women’s Movement meetings and at international conferences. Her passion for Kente and the arts were inspiring, and her support for creatives will be deeply missed.

We mourn the loss of this remarkable woman, an artist, and a patron of the arts. May her soul rest in peace, and may her legacy inspire future generations.

KALEOFIA DESIGN



J.J. AYEKOO





IF WE DO NOT LAY OUT OURSELVES IN THE SERVICE OF MANKIND WHOM SHOULD WE SERVE?

MADAM SOPHIA ACORLOR
RETIRED DIPLOMAT



While serving at the Embassy of the Republic of Ghana in Tokyo, Japan, the presidential trip in October 1998 headed by late President Jerry John Rawlings with his able, now late First Lady, brought out my culinary skills. I combined my official duties with ensuring that Ghana's High Level entourage were well fed with our Ghanaian dishes during that august trip.

It was at the end of that successful presidential visit that the late First Lady, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings mentioned how they felt at home even in a far away country like Japan. She at that point, requested a photo with me as a form of appreciation for the combined role I played during their trip.

Our paths crossed again on 9th of August, 2019, in Rome while I was on duty at the Ghana Embassy to the Vatican, Rome. I had the rare opportunity to be the First Lady's tour guide in the company of one of her granddaughters in the Vatican.

During that last interaction with her over a cup of coffee after the tour, she requested for a copy of the photograph we took together at the Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, on my return to Ghana.

As destiny would have it, I am overwhelmed and touched that I have honoured her wish. I have presented with this tribute, a plethora of images to her memory.

Rest well, Madam, until we all meet again.



She WAS MORE THAN A LEADER; SHE WAS AN INSPIRATION

BRIGADIER-GENERAL BENJAMIN KUSI, (RTD)

On Thursday, 23rd October 2025, Ghana lost one of her most illustrious daughters, Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings — former First Lady, President of the 31st December Women’s Movement (DWM) and Founder/Leader of the National Democratic Party (NDP).

Her passing is not only a great loss to Ghana but to Africa and the world as a whole, for she was one of the continent’s most passionate and dedicated advocates for women’s rights and empowerment.

I had the privilege of knowing Nana Konadu since December 1981, when her husband, Flt Lt Jerry John Rawlings, returned to power as Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC). I served as Aide-de-Camp and Head of Personal Security to the Chairman, and later, when the Office of the First Lady was established, I became its first and only Head of Administration.

This long and close association brought me into frequent contact with her and her family, especially her young, growing children with whom I developed a strong bond.

“

“When beggars die there are no comets seen;
The heavens themselves blaze
forth the death of princes.”

- William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar.

I had the privilege of travelling extensively with her across the world — to the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria — where I witnessed firsthand her poise, intellect, and influence on the global stage. Through these travels, I had the rare opportunity to meet and interact with many distinguished personalities, including President and Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Andrew Young, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Maya Angelou, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Congressman Kweisi Mfume, Mr. Kofi Annan (before he became UN Secretary-General), Mrs. Sankara, Mrs. Mainassara of Niger, and, not least, Mr. Arthur Schlesinger — author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book ***A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House***, a book I had read and admired since my secondary school days because there is a special section dedicated to how President Kennedy dealt with the controversies surrounding the funding of the Akosombo dam and finally gave his seal of approval for the sake of the people of Ghana.



Over the years, I came to appreciate not only her sharp intellect and unwavering dedication but also her warmth, compassion, and deep empathy. She carried herself with grace and dignity, yet she was approachable and kind. The number and variety of people who have come forward to testify about their relationships with her – from Heads of States, senior public servants, diplomats, artistes and ordinary citizens – testify to this.

What I will miss most is her genuine humanity – her ability to make everyone around her feel seen, heard, and valued. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was more than a leader; she was an inspiration. Her legacy will continue to live on in the countless lives she touched and the generations of women she empowered.

The manner of her death is a vindication of her close relationship with her Maker. **“Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His saints.”** God looks at the heart and not in outward appearances. God called her home in the manner of the Patriarchs. He did not want her to suffer any more pain than she had suffered on earth.

What we see here before us are her mortal remains but I don't see it as a funeral. I see it as a celebration. A celebration of a life well lived with a lot of legacies left behind. All across Ghana, Africa and the world, testimonies abound on her immense achievements and I feel proud and highly privileged to have been associated with her on this wonderful journey.

May her beautiful soul rest in perfect peace.

Madam, **da yie!** Sleep well. You fought a good fight. You leave behind enduring legacies. History is on your side.

Her legacy will continue to live on in the countless lives she touched and the generations of women she empowered.



Death BE NOT PROUD: THE LADY LIVES ON IN LEGACY

NAPOLEON ATO KITTOE

**(GBC) - PRESIDENTIAL REPORTER DURING THE RAWLINGS
ADMINISTRATION, GHANA TELEVISION**



I was hurt when I heard from sources that Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings had passed on. My last text message to her remains unanswered and this was 'Hello Mama' when I heard the bad news.

I will say, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was my mother, friend and mentor. The Rawlings family appreciate truth, and I presume it was the interesting thing about me to our late mother, Nana Konadu.

She came close to my biological mother, Mrs Grace Mansa Chrapah Kittoe, who died in 2018, with her consistency, concern and care. Often, she would ask me "How are you and your family?"

I must say she was very experienced - politically, socially, professionally, and historically. We must not forget that as a First Lady of Ghana for almost 20 years, she was very well-informed and exposed, and these qualities built her into the formidable woman she became. She was filled with a spirit of self-consciousness that would energise and lift up the female gender.

From our conversations, I got to know how deep her disciplined nature was. To her, a person cannot perform well in public office if in private life the person is unsettled. One day, I praised the disciplined nature of their children, to which I attributed to President Rawlings. She amusingly said that I had erased her big role player, as she tended to the children at home when their father was away on State duties.

Her Excellency, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings came across as a personality who towered over pettiness, as her relationship with others was based on her own findings or discoveries. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings stood out as a shoulder for me to lean on, especially from 2016 to 2025. Her death has opened a gap that is irreplaceable in my life. In Robert Frost's Selective Poems, John Donne said, 'Death Be Not Proud' - This was a witty statement to guide our thoughts to hope those proclaimed dead will rise. Indeed, death is not the opposite of life. It is a transition to a new phase of life where we bond spiritually.

Alas, the woman whom I prefer to call the grandmother of the nation is gone. Full of life and plans. Her death was most untimely and the suddenness of its occurrence represented an awkward intrusion on a life cherished by so many. I am sad indeed.







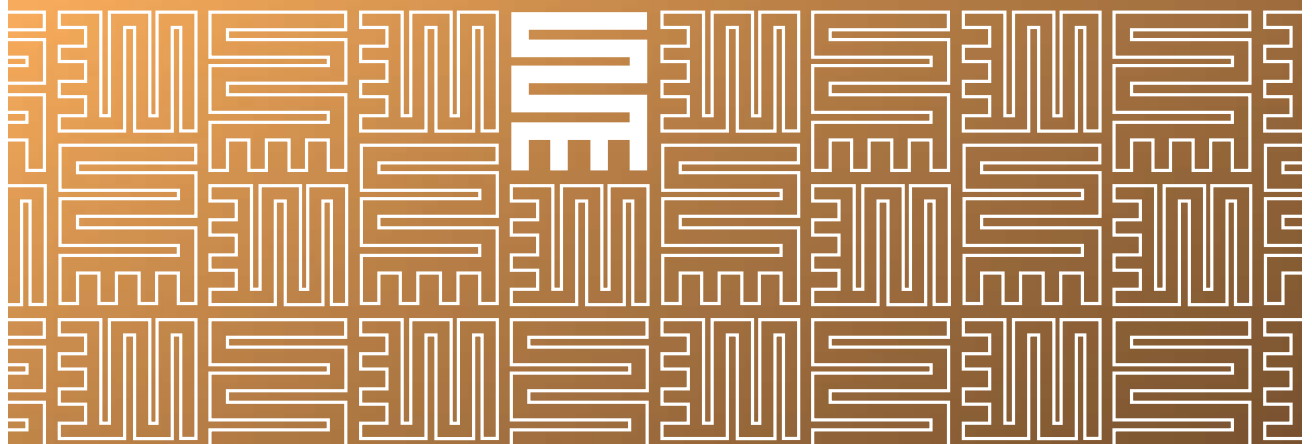


“Assemblymen must involve their wives in their work. They must discuss issues with them, and as much as possible involve them in their political activities. I would like to see the wife of each Assemblyman, a member of the 31st December Women’s Movement, and to see Assemblywomen, members of the Movement, so that together, we shall defend the revolution and liberate our less-privileged sisters.”

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, ‘The Role of Women in National Development;’ at the Orientation Course for Zone 2 Assemblymen and women, 1980s.



POLITICAL PARTIES





Founder, VISIONARY LEADER AND MOTHER OF MODERN GHANAIAN DEMOCRACY

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP)
PRINCE MENSAH, GENERAL SECRETARY



With deep sorrow, the National Democratic Party (NDP) mourns the passing of our beloved Founder and Leader, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, an exceptional woman whose life's journey was marked by courage, conviction, and an unyielding dedication to the service of Ghana and humanity.

Nana Konadu was not only a political icon but also a visionary whose legacy of empowerment, justice, and democratic reform continues to shape the conscience of our nation. Her life was a testament to resilience, discipline, and an unshakable belief in the potential of the Ghanaian people especially women and the youth to drive national development.

A Pioneer of Democratic Governance

As Ghana transitioned from military rule to constitutional democracy, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings stood at the forefront of that transformation. Her voice, wisdom, and resolve were instrumental in nurturing a new political culture rooted in accountability, inclusiveness, and participatory governance.

She was a woman ahead of her time; forthright, fearless, and unafraid to challenge systems that marginalised women or compromised national integrity. Her political activism and leadership philosophy helped redefine the role of women in public life and solidified her place as one of Ghana's most influential political figures.

In founding the National Democratic Party (NDP), she reaffirmed her lifelong belief that democracy must serve the people with transparency, equity, and truth. The NDP was born out of her conviction that leadership must always uphold moral values, protect the vulnerable, and ensure justice for all.



A Legacy of Women's Empowerment

Her Excellency Nana Konadu's contributions to women's empowerment are immeasurable. As founder and president of the 31st December Women's Movement, she built an enduring legacy of grassroots transformation. Under her leadership, thousands of women were empowered through vocational training, microfinance initiatives, and educational programs that enhanced self-sufficiency and dignity.

Her advocacy extended beyond Ghana's borders. She championed gender equality at global platforms, influencing policies that advanced women's rights and social protection across Africa. Her work gave rise to a new era of female participation in politics and governance – one that continues to inspire generations of Ghanaian women.

A True National Matriarch

To the NDP, she was not only our founder but our guiding light; a mother, mentor, and visionary who believed in service above self. Her moral strength, intellectual clarity, and compassion made her a unifying figure and a source of inspiration to all who served under her.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings carried herself with grace and purpose, embodying integrity in both public and private life. She taught us that leadership is not inherited but earned through sacrifice, courage, and the pursuit of justice.

Her patriotism, coupled with her unwavering advocacy for the underprivileged, reflected her lifelong commitment to national progress. She lived for Ghana, worked for Ghana, and left behind a legacy that will forever guide the path of the National Democratic Party and the nation at large.



A Life That Shaped a Nation

Her Excellency's vision extended far beyond politics; it was about building a fair, inclusive, and prosperous Ghana. Her life's work championed the idea that sustainable democracy can only thrive when every citizen, regardless of gender or status, has an equal opportunity to contribute to national development.

Her influence transcends generations, and her name will forever be inscribed in the history of our republic as a pioneer of women's liberation, a defender of truth, and a pillar of democracy.

Farewell Our Founder and Leader

As we mourn your passing, we also celebrate your extraordinary life — a life of meaning, sacrifice, and service. The National Democratic Party bows in solemn respect and gratitude for your leadership, wisdom, and love.

Your vision will continue to guide us as we uphold your values of justice, transparency, patriotism, and empowerment: the very principles upon which this party was founded.

To our dear founder, mother, and leader, we say: "Your legacy is eternal. Your ideals will continue to inspire. Your light will never fade."

Rest peacefully, Your Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, Mother of the Nation, Trailblazer of Democracy, and Everlasting Flame of the NDP.



Tribute TO A TRAILBLAZER

HON. FIFI FIAVI KWETEY,
GENERAL SECRETARY, NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS (NDC)



With hearts full of reverence, the National Democratic Congress bows today to honour a woman whose life changed the course of our nation — **Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings**. She was not only a First Lady. She was “boldness” personified. She was the very heartbeat of a movement that reshaped Ghana’s political, social, and democratic landscape.

From her early years at the Ghana Tourist Board and the Union Trading Company, she engaged directly with the struggles of ordinary women. These encounters ignited in her a fierce determination to fight for dignity, justice, and opportunity, especially for women whose voices had long been ignored.

In the restless Ghana of the 1980s, she did not stand at the margins. She stepped into the arena, not merely to support a revolution, but to define one. Her founding of the 31st December Women’s Movement was one of the boldest acts of leadership in our national history. What began as an idea became a nationwide transformation engine that empowered millions of women, nurtured community leadership, and restored confidence in those who had once been invisible.

Under her commanding and charismatic leadership, over 870 early childhood centres rose across the country. Today, thousands of adults in their 30s and 40s carry the gift of early education because Nana Konadu and her

movement walked into their communities and planted opportunities where none existed. Her work was practical, personal, and profoundly transformational.

Her advocacy went far beyond education. Through literacy drives, micro-enterprise programmes, and legal reform, she helped thousands of women become informed earners and confident citizens. Her boldness influenced the passage of the Intestate Succession Law (PNDCL 111), a watershed legislation many rightly call the “Nana Konadu Law.” She stood between widows and injustice, fighting to ensure that no woman would be left homeless or powerless in her darkest hour.

Her fearlessness also took Ghana to the world stage. At the 1995 Beijing Conference, she spoke for the African girl child with a clarity and authority that commanded global respect.

Above all, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was a foundational pillar of both the PNDC and the NDC.



She did not operate from the background. She was at the centre — organising women, building structures, shaping strategy, strengthening the grassroots, and helping give birth to a party that was not just political, but deeply connected to the people.

The history of the NDC cannot be told without her name spoken boldly and with honour.

She was not an observer of the struggle. She was an architect of its success. She was not a mere participant. She was a pillar, strong, unyielding, indispensable.

Her election in 2009 as First Vice Chairperson of the NDC was a recognition of her stature as a founding mother of the party, one whose influence could never be wished away, revised, or forgotten.

When the time came, she once again defied all limits and became the first woman to contest the presidency of the Republic of Ghana, a testament to her courage and her lifelong message that leadership is not a man's birthright.

Today, as we mourn, we also celebrate a woman who lived with intention, who spoke her truth without fear, and who served this country with unshakeable conviction.

Her legacy lives in:

- » every confident girl who walks into a classroom,
- » every widow protected by law and dignity,
- » every woman who now knows she can lead
- » every community where early education took root,
- » and every structure of our political tradition that she helped build with her own hands.

On behalf of the National Democratic **Congress, we say:**

Thank you, Nana Konadu.

Thank you for your service.

Thank you for your courage.

Thank you for the lives you uplifted.

Thank you for the foundations you laid — foundations that can never be erased from the history of the PNDC or the NDC.

Your race is run, but your legacy endures.

Your fire continues to burn in a new generation unafraid to be bold.

May your soul rest in perfect peace.

Rest well, Mother of the Movement.

Ghana is better because you lived.

The history of the NDC cannot be told without her name spoken boldly and with honour.



Strength, CLARITY OF PURPOSE AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO GHANA

ALHAJI MAHAMA IDDRISU
(CHAIRMAN OF NDC COUNCIL OF ELDERS)

I have known and worked closely with the Rawlings family for over 40 years, and from the moment I first met Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings in January 1982, I admired her strength, clarity of purpose, and unwavering dedication to Ghana.

Nana Konadu was a tireless force who ensured that the vision and sacrifices of her husband were carried forward. She mobilized the women of Ghana to support the grassroots agenda of the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) and championed their place in national governance in a way no leader had done before. Her commitment was instrumental in advancing women into mainstream political participation and in helping shape Ghana's difficult but determined path toward constitutional and multiparty democracy.

Her influence on the National Democratic Congress (NDC), the 31st December Women's Movement, and women's leadership across Ghana remains unmatched. Beyond her public achievements, I will always remember her sharp mind, her courage in difficult moments, and the deep personal warmth she extended to those of us who worked closely with her.

We will continue to stand beside her children, offering them the care, strength and support she so generously extended to others.

Thank you, Nana Konadu, for your steadfast service to Ghana and for the strength, dedication, and loyalty you demonstrated throughout the many years we worked together.

May you find eternal rest, and may your legacy continue to guide and inspire us.



Honouring A POWERFUL VOICE

FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

THE NEW PATRIOTIC PARTY (NPP)
JUSTIN KODUA FRIMPPONG (NPP, GENERAL SECRETARY)



“

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Even though, they say, death is inevitable and sometimes sudden, it nonetheless devastates when it strikes and leaves in its trail pain and grief, especially when it strikes people who lived a good life in service of humanity and society.

Today, we gather to honour and celebrate the remarkable legacy of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, the former First Lady of our dear country, a woman whose life and contributions resonate deeply within the fabric of our nation. As we reflect on her significant impact, we are reminded of her embodiment of strength, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the advancement of Ghanaian society.

Nana Konadu, a trailblazer in her own right, emerged as a powerful voice for women and children, advocating tirelessly for their rights and well-being. Her passion for social justice and equity ignited a movement (31st December Women’s Movement) that inspired countless individuals to stand up for their rights and pursue their dreams. Through her initiatives, she championed the empowerment of women, fostering a generation that believes in the power of their voices and actions.

Her Excellency’s dedication to education, health, and community development reflects her deep understanding of the challenges faced by many Ghanaians. She diligently worked to create opportunities for the marginalised, firmly believing that true progress can only occur when



every citizen has the opportunity to thrive. Her vision extended beyond political boundaries, as she embraced the cultural richness of Ghana, promoting our heritage and values both locally and internationally.

Nana Konadu's grace and poise, coupled with her fierce determination, have left an indelible mark on the hearts of many. She has shown us that leadership is not merely a position of power but a commitment to serve and uplift others. Her legacy continues to inspire new generations of leaders who aspire to build a more just and equitable society.

As we pay tribute to Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, let us remember her not just as a former First Lady but as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change. May her journey inspire us all to pursue our collective aspirations and honour the values of compassion, integrity, and service that she exemplified.

In celebrating her life, let us reaffirm our commitment to carry forward her vision of a united and progressive Ghana, where every individual has the opportunity to contribute to our shared future. Her memory will forever remain etched in the history of our beloved nation, guiding us as we strive to fulfil the dreams, she held dear.

Long live the legacy of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings!

Damirifa Due.

She has shown us that leadership is not merely a position of power but a commitment to serve and uplift others.



She WAS STRONG, RESILIENT, EMPATHETIC, AND THE BACKBONE OF SOCIETY

CONVENTION PEOPLE'S PARTY (CPP)



“The degree of a country’s revolutionary awareness, may be measured by the political maturity of its women.”

- Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah

Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, embodied the spirit of the Ghanaian Woman. Strong, resilient, empathetic, and the backbone of society.

Her activism for the rights of women and children, resulted in highly beneficial policies, laws, and even behavioural changes, that subsist, even today.

The intestate succession law, which made sure widows and their offspring were not left as paupers, on the death of the primary breadwinner, has contributed significantly to the progress of Ghanaian society, even as we celebrate its 40th anniversary this year.

This law, as well as her condemnation of harmful cultural practices, restored the dignity of the Ghanaian woman to a significant stage,

where they could contribute their quota to the nation astronomically.

Akin to Osagyefo’s creation of ten safe seats for women in Parliament, it can safely be said, that, together with the many other gender equality activists, Nana Konadu can be attributed with contributing to the appointment of Ghana’s first female Vice-President.

Your Excellency, CPP mourns you greatly, the Ghanaian children mourn you greatly, the Ghanaian women mourn you greatly, and men all over the world, cannot deny how your activism and foresight reduced the burden for all and sundry.

May you continue to rest in peace, and may your great works continue to bear fruit for generations yet unborn.



PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY ƐYE ABƐ

E-mail: pnpgghana@gmail.com

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Location: Kokomlemle, Adjacent Hubitel

31ST OCTOBER 2025

A TRIBUTE TO HER EXCELLENCY NANA KONADU AGYEMAN RAWLINGS

The mighty woman of valor has fallen. Ghana is in mourning as we bid farewell to a true daughter of the land, a woman whose strength, vision, and compassion changed the lives of many, especially women.

You were the main force behind the empowerment of Ghanaian women. Your tireless work led to the Affirmative Action Law, a law that has ensured that the voices of women will always be heard in the decision making rooms of our country. You comforted working mothers, and today, kindergartens across Ghana stand as a testimony of your love and foresight.

Your autobiography, *It Takes a Woman*, was well titled. After attending the launch and hearing the challenges you went through during the 1981 coup, and the role you played in bringing hope to the people of Ghana, I decided to contest for the position of General Secretary of the PNC. For the first time, a woman became a General Secretary of a political party in Ghana because you made me believe that women can lead, and lead well.

You may be gone, but your memory will not fade. Ghana moved into democracy because of your strong support for your husband and the wise advice you always gave. You are, and will always be, the mother of our nation. The impact you made on children, on women, and on our democracy cannot be forgotten.

It is painful that you are not here to see your daughter, Dr Zanetor Rawlings, rise to become the flagbearer of the NDC. But we are comforted because the strength, wisdom, and compassion you put in her will make her one of the finest leaders this country will ever have.

Damirifa due, Mama Konadu.

Your legacy lives on — in the Affirmative Action Law, in every woman who is empowered, and in every girl who now dreams freely. Today, political parties in Ghana have women serving as General Secretaries, Chairpersons, and even Presidential

MOTTO: My Family, My Community, My Motherland



Candidates because of your courage, your fight, and your belief in the words, It Takes a Woman.

Rest well, Mother of our Nation. You have finished your race, and you truly moved this country forward — because it took a woman.

SIGNED

Janet Asana Nabla

Chairperson and Leader, PNP

Mobile: 0244174074



MOTTO: My Family, My Community, My Motherland



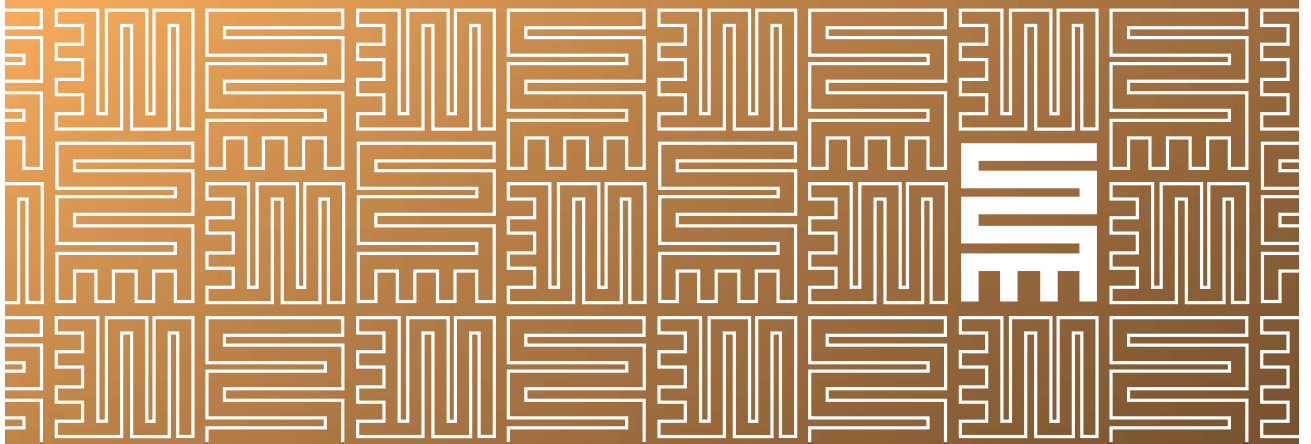


“Women of all walks of life, in different parts of the world, have amply demonstrated their capacity to contribute to removing the root causes of the problems which lead to conflict or to meet the humanitarian challenges, which emanate from conflict, in very creative ways.”

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, Welcome Speech at the First West African Sub-Regional Conference of Africa's First Ladies Peace Mission, Accra, July 1998.



EULOGIES ON NANA KONADU





Mother OF THE WAVE, WOMB OF THE REVOLUTION

FIFI KWETHEY
NDC GENERAL SECRETARY

I. Ashanti's Lullaby

O Nana, pink-gold river in woman-form,
your voice once hushed the storms of June 4,
carried Jerry's flame through Accra's night,
and birthed the 31st December dawn.

II. Womb of Lions

Four cubs you nursed beneath the Black Star,
four roars that still echo in Ghana's heart.
Your laughter — dolphin song on Volta's crest —
taught the nation how to stand, how to rest.

III. Keeper of the Flame

Hand in hand with the Captain,
you held the torch when shadows fell.
No crown of gold, but crown of fire —
you wore the revolution well.

IV. JJ's Flame

Hand in his, you walked the storm,
two waves that crashed into one tide.
Your song, his sword —
together, Ghana learned to ride.

V. The 31st Dawn

Women rose, markets bloomed,
children laughed where silence reigned.
You gave the voiceless a megaphone,
and broke the coloniser's chain.

VI. Bridge of Ghana's Golden Age

You slipped the veil before
the Captain's fifth bell,
left the body, kept the soul,
stepped into the manger's glow
to cradle the Child (Ghana's Golden Age)
who makes us whole.

VII. Promised Land Rain Mother

Now your tears fall pink and gold,
each drop a Gold Coin,
each breath a vow.
Ghana weeps, yet Ghana sings —
for you are not gone, you are the now.

VIII. Eternal Ashanti Queen

In Cape Coast dungeon, your spirit stands,
hands on the wall where chains once bled.
You whisper to the Golden Child:
"Rise Golden Child, my love — the wave is fed."

IX. Decree of the Ancestors

Nana Konadu,
you did not die —
you became the river, the roar, the sky.
Ghana is your womb,
Golden Ghana is your cry.

SING ETERNAL, MOTHER OF THE WAVE.



In ELIZABETHAN ELEGY FOR NANA KONADU AGYEMAN – RAWLINGS

Mother of a Nation, Matriarch of a Movement

Prologue: Ghana Weeps

O Ghana, cradle of gold and grace,
why droops thy flag so low?
The morning breaks, yet dawn is
dim; our tears like rivers flow.
The royal daughter of Cape Coast's
shore, Agyeman's noble seed,
Lies still beneath the ashen sky,
where valour bowed to need.
Her voice once stirred the silent hearts,
her gaze could storms appease,
Now silence reigns where thunder
spoke – the nation bends her knees.

Lament of the Nation

From Volta's breath to Western
hills, the market women cry,
From Northern plains to coastal
sands, the trader lifts her sigh.
The drumbeats mourn in muted
tones, the flutes of forest grieve,
For one who turned their humble
dreams to works they could believe.
She walked among the lowly huts,
she built with steady hand,
And gave to mothers faith and bread,
and voice throughout the land.

Lament of the Family

Behold her children – Zanetor,
noble healer of the poor,
Who bears her mother's tender strength
and wisdom's solemn store.
Yaa Asantewaa, her namesake bold,
of courage wrought anew,
Amina, gentle soul refined,
whose loyalty ever true,
And Kimathi, stalwart son of
flame, the father's noble heir,
Together now they lift their eyes
through veils of grief and prayer.
They mourn not loss alone, but
love – a matriarch now gone,
Whose laughter lit their earliest days
and kept their spirits strong.

Lament of Manhyia and the Asona Clan

From Manhyia's court, the drums reply
– "Our daughter has returned!"
The Asona wail in royal robes,
their torches slowly burned.
"She was our pride, our lineage
bright, our jewel of noble line,
A princess born with iron will,
whose heart was near divine.



Her voice was storm, her smile was balm, her presence command strong,
And though she rests, her spirit reigns, eternal, just, and long."

Lament of the 31st December Women's Movement

Then rose the women — two million souls
whose hands her dream had fed,
"Our mother led us through the dark,
her words our daily bread.
She taught us that to weave and till
was honour's sweetest art,
That woman's mind must know her
worth, her labour claim her part.
Through her we learnt to lift our
gaze beyond the narrow plain,
To build our schools, to teach our
girls, to free the silenced chain."
Their banners now are draped in black,
their voices chant her name,
"Konadu! Still we march, for thou
hast lit our endless flame."

Lament of Widows and the Intestate

Then came the widows, clothed in black, with orphans by their side,
"She was our voice when none would hear, our solace when we cried.
When death had robbed us of our homes, when custom bound us fast,
She broke the chains with pen and law, and justice came at last.
The law she birthed for those bereft still shields the weak today,
The widow's tears she turned to strength — her mercy lit their way."

Lament of the Political Houses

The houses of power, once divided,
now stand in shared remorse.
From NDC to NPP, CPP to all discourse,
They lay aside their colours bright,
for grief makes kindred all.
They praise her might, her restless heart,
her summons to recall
That woman's place in public life is not of shade or stay,
But centre-stage, where thought and will together light the way.
She, first among our mothers bold,
stood forth to take the field,
To seek the highest office's call —
her name became a shield.

Lament of Ghanaian Men

And men, who watched her tireless stride, now speak with reverent tone:
"She taught us strength has gentler form, that power need not moan.
She stood beside our fathers proud, yet never dimmed her flame,
She proved that love and leadership could wear the selfsame name."

Lament of Ghanaian Women

O daughters fair of every clan,
your mother's call resounds:
"Arise, take charge, define your fate — let justice know no bounds."
The market's hum, the classroom's song, the council's measured word
All echo now her steadfast creed — her faith in what she stirred.
She walked that others yet unborn might stand with equal right,
And thus her spirit marches still through every dawn and night.



Nation in Mourning

And now three suns shall dim their
light — the land in mourning bowed,
From Friday's dawn to Sabbath's
close, the nation veils her shroud.
The flags shall droop, the drums shall
hush, the choirs in requiem blend,
For Ghana weeps her noble queen, yet
knows such grace shall never end.

Consolation

Weep not, O Ghana, though the queenly
star is gone from mortal sight.
Her deeds endure — in every child
she taught to seek the light.
Her values — discipline, service,
truth — shall never fade away,
For legacies of noble souls
outlive the breath of clay.
Her love of home, her faith in work,
her grace in woman's art,
Shall blossom still in future fields,
immortal in each heart.

Reassurance

The pair once yoked by destiny
are joined again above:
The flight lieutenant waits no more
— he greets his steadfast love.
Together now they guard the land
they moulded, stone by stone,
Their spirits whisper through our storms
— "Ghana, thou art not alone."
So rise, O land of Konadu, thy
daughter sleeps, not slain;
Her will is woven through thy soul,
her light shall bloom again.

Prayer and Reveille

Eternal Lord of peace and power,
receive this royal dame,
Crown her with morning's endless
bloom, inscribe her golden name.
Let angels sound the reveille — let
heaven's trumpets peal,
Awake, thou faithful servant true,
to joys that never chill.
Rest now, O Nana Konadu,
till time itself is done;
Thy work complete, thy race well run,
thy nation and thy God are one.



She CAME, SHE SAW, SHE CONQUERED

EFO JERRY

She was bold, strong, fearless and loving
She broke hard grounds... "it is not about the size of the boat"
She came, she saw, she conquered and survived many battles
She was cheerful, bubbly and danced at the least opportunity
Yes! She loved music, she danced to every tune with precision

She came, she saw, she conquered
Now the dance floor is empty, the stage is quiet, she is gone!
She was not praised for her good dance by many
Now the stage is calm, the stage is quiet

She came, she saw, she conquered
Nana, thank you for sharing your life with us
Konadu... Indeed, you fought and you reached
Agyeman... 'wogye ye man ampa'!

She came, she saw, she conquered
The dance floor in heaven is yours
You danced before humanity with precision
But many did not praise you
It is now time to dance before your heavenly father in heaven
He will praise you for sure!

Your legacies will forever be remembered and cherished
Indeed, you came, you saw and you conquered
The queen is gone but long live the crown
Rest well Nana!



The MOTHER OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC

KAY CODJOE

There are some women history cannot bury. They rise again in the conscience of a nation that once misunderstood them. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was one such woman, a figure too immense for the comfort of her time, too resolute for the silence expected of a wife, too visionary to wait for permission. Her life was a paradox of grace and fire, a rare convergence of intellect and defiance that reshaped the very meaning of Ghanaian womanhood.

When Ghana's revolutionary tide first broke in 1979, she was barely forty, young, brilliant, and restless with purpose. The man beside her, Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, became the face of revolt. But the woman beside him became its conscience. She saw what power could forget, that a revolution without women is only half awake. And so, while others spoke of soldiers and decrees, Nana Konadu began a quieter revolution, one of mothers, traders, seamstresses, and daughters long forgotten by the republic that promised equality but delivered hierarchy.

The 31st December Women's Movement was not born of privilege. It was born of observation, of women who rose before dawn to feed markets and children, of widows

dispossessed by custom, of girls who could spell "freedom" but never touch it. Under her vision, the movement became a republic within a republic: thousands of women finding their voice, their dignity, and their collective power. They built schools where none existed, nurseries where mothers once prayed for time, and cooperatives where poverty lost its grip.

She had the rare gift of seeing politics as more than party, as moral architecture. In her, the Fourth Republic found not just a witness but a mother, one who labored to birth its ideals through pain, patience, and persistent struggle. The equality clauses in the 1992 Constitution were not accidents of modernity. They were footprints of her advocacy, her insistence that democracy without gender justice was an unfinished dream.

But greatness rarely arrives unopposed. Her courage made her enemies. Her intelligence unsettled courtiers of comfort. Her independence defied the quiet choreography of power where women are expected to smile, not speak. She was called ambitious, as if ambition were sin in a woman and virtue in a man. Yet she bore every wound with poise, and every insult with that imperious calm that made her both feared and admired.



When she stood before her party in 2011, challenging a sitting president for leadership, she did not merely contest an election; she tested the conscience of a nation. Her loss was political, but her defiance was historic. In that moment, she stood as Ghana's first woman to demand, in full daylight, the right to lead. Not as wife, not as symbol, but as citizen.

Her founding of the National Democratic Party a year later was not rebellion. It was rebirth, a final assertion that a woman's voice could build its own temple if the gatekeepers refused her entry. She walked that lonely road with dignity, and though her political returns were modest, her symbolic inheritance was vast. She proved that participation is not the same as permission, and that a woman's worth is not measured by her proximity to a man's power but by her courage to stand apart from it.

Now she is gone, and Ghana feels smaller. The silence she leaves is not the quiet of absence but the heavy stillness of a chapter closing before its full sentence was read. One cannot help but feel that her story deserved a gentler ending, a nation more grateful, and a world more honest about the cost of being a woman who dared too much.

But death, in its cold arithmetic, counts only years; history counts meaning. And by that measure, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings will outlive us all.

She mothered the vulnerable when the state was deaf. She confronted patriarchy when feminism had no microphone. She stood upright when history bent others into compliance. She was elegance that refused to be ornamental, intellect that refused to be muted, and loyalty that refused to be blind.

Yes, she was the Mother of the Fourth Republic not because she ruled it, but because she nurtured its conscience. She stitched equity into its constitutional fabric, sowed self-belief into its daughters, and dared its sons to respect the women who built the nation while they debated it.

And so, as her mortal body returns to the earth, Ghana must rise in mourning not as a gesture of formality, but as confession, that we too often crucify our prophets before canonizing them.

Sleep, Nana Konadu, in the light you lit for us. The seeds you planted are still germinating in the soil of a freer Ghana. History will not forget that when our democracy was in its infancy, you were its mother, demanding that it walk upright, speak truth, and see its women not as decoration but as destiny.

May your rest be full, and your name endure, as a testament that leadership is not inherited; it is earned, lived, and, in your case, immortalized.

Farewell, Mother of the Fourth Republic.

***Ghana bows her head, not in pity,
but in gratitude. Rest Well.***



So SHE GAVE IT HER ALL

RITA ABBAN, PHD.

Our mother our matriarch. Feelings of nostalgia and fleeting thoughts of times long gone. We remember yesteryears as today but who could have known? She was a woman who inspired and had driving energies as she mobilised and worked to improve the lives of the less fortunate. But did she have it all easy? It must have been dizzying – the touch and go of life, not knowing whether you would survive and live or what could happen to your family? It couldn't have been rosy, how much happiness could one secure in endurance and resilience?

Like a soldier ready for war, life is on the edge. She marched on with faith and faith led her destiny, a fruitful manifestation in the lives of many. Hers was not I wish, I could, or could I, but, we must and we shall, and didn't we? In all areas in all spheres there was something to share, something to show and something done. It wasn't that fleeting whisper of thought, but action driven by unbridled faith. For some, an alarming speed they could not catch up with but for what purpose? There she went heedless of dangers or risks, alarms or the red lights on the road, she strove to mould and nurture a new generation of believers in the faith that everyone needs care and support.

So she gave her all. Her life was an open book and oh how some vultures could make a feast, pecking away with venom but then there was always the bright light... an irresistible charm and energy which drove them away. But who is to complain? Is your worth not known and measured after you are long gone? There is something we can pride ourselves in, she came, she worked, she loved and she delivered. And now, even now we live to see she was Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings. Rest in power!



A MOTHER OF THE NATION HAS GONE HOME

REUBEN ATSU KUGBLENU
EDUCATIONIST

I cannot speak, but I can listen,
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard
So, as you stand upon a shore gazing at a beautiful sea,
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity,
REMEMBER ME. (Margaret Mead)

And so today, we have come to remember you, Nana. We remember you as a mother of the Nation. We remember you as a champion of women's liberty and loyalty to the nation. Your awareness and consciousness in the empowerment of Women through your vibrant 31st December Women's Movement cannot be forgotten. You were also politician in your own right a Warrior cast in the mould of the famous and fearless Yaa Asantewaa.

As a First Lady, you were bijou, bold and beautiful. You were an international cultural Ambassador by your unique fashion statements; not forgetting your crowns of headgear. You were a lover of the Arts, especially, the performing Arts. I recall in 1987 and 1988, You, as a Patron and a regular guest to the stage performances of the school of performing Arts, University of Ghana, Legon's Drama seasons, at the Arts Centre (CNC), Accra. I remember watching your reactions to the plays, and noted

that you lent yourself to characters and responded with excitement as the naivety of a teenage girl – honest and innocent.

During one of the shows, you had to leave midway to attend an emergency at home. Your husband, the late Head of State, His Excellency Jerry John Rawlings, had passed by the Arts Centre, possibly to see you. He was told you had left earlier. You could see the anxiety in his face yet; he waited patiently to shake hands with all those around before leaving. My conclusion then was, here, was an independent mother to run the affairs of the family with or without the privilege of asking the Commander in Chief, your husband Head of State to assign that responsibility.

We want to remember you for your compassion for others giving and forgiving. We want to remember you that in life and even death you had something no one can take away from you – your dignity.



A Mother of the Nation has gone home. Reminding us that Heaven is our Home; Earth a market place.

As we mourn your passing away, may the Lord grant you eternal rest. May your memory live long in hearts of the family, friends and the nation.

We remember to send greetings to “Papa J”. May you continue there to live as two hearts that beat as one. Heaven has received an expectant Guest!

May the Host of heaven welcome you.

Rest peacefully in the Lord.

Hede nyuie mia Dada ƆƆƆƆ.

Gbadegbe mia ga do go.

Fare thee well.

You ARE THE WORLD'S PURE LIGHT

KOFI DANSO

‘Mum, mummy, my Mother of Wisdom, my light,
my carrier, my shield and buckler, I love you.

You cradled me with your feathers, sheltering me under your wings, and I learned to fly. I keep flying, higher than the clouds, reaching glories upon glories, until light itself feels tangible.

Your love is my shield and buckler, banishing darkness and waking the path with a trillion suns.

You are the world’s pure light, burning on through eternity, and through you, life becomes life in its fullest sense.

You are a treasure I will bear in my soul forever.

You are me, and I am you.

Meda-Ase’



Dear MOTHER OF MOTHERS

PROF. AVEA NSOH
UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION & CADRE OF THE REVOLUTION

Dear Mother of Mothers
Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings
God conceived mother in you
You birthed not as a woman
But you birthed women
three of four children
All named women
and they came in an endless line
with man placed finally
To protect the woman
So, you be the mother
Ghana was blessed with!

19 years you worked Ghana
19 years you worked women
Reproducing yourself
You dressed for women
And trained Zanetor to Kimathi
to clothe, eat, drink, speak and behave
like Konadu and Jerry
Zanetor and siblings embody the ideal Ghanaian
Oh mom of moms we miss you.

Hello, the Peoples' Mom
The only mom Ghana ever birthed
You birthed a family
The family named Ghana
You cared them
You walked remotest villages in search
for every nation builder

and pioneered for them plantain chips
created soap factories
gari modernised overnight
red oil synonymous with women
So Ghana becomes great.

Mama oooo Mama
Mama Ghana Mama
You cared for a woman's most precious gem
the wailing innocent child

You pioneered daycare centres
littered across Mother Ghana
so, baby girl and boy play the day off
while mom cares for family business
Markets were 'clinic-ed'
so mother and child stay healthy.

Nana Ghana Mama Nana
Nana visited Beijing
not to holiday
so Ghana woman has rights
and power to fight poverty and disease
but you never say die
like Hearts of Oak slogan
to fight greedy men and your husband's government
to free Ghana widow from shackles
that's how intestate succession law
was born to Ghana



to give future to your children
All these to empower woman
Indeed, no woman lived in Ghana
but you, Nana!

Hello Your Excellency
the Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings
the one and only one woman born to Mother Ghana
there was never 31st December Revo-Rawlings
nor the National Democratic Party
without 31st December Women's Movement
cos women outnumber men in NDC
in Ghana they do
DWM lived in all Ghana villages
and transformed into NDC on June 10 1992
the day NDC was birthed
you birthed not only 31st DWM
but the 31st Revo and the NDC
Mother of NDC and 31st

The mother of all women
Women die
but you never know no death
You live in every woman
And every child born and unborn
Ghana never sleeps without speaking of you.
Your archest enemies eulogise you.

Nana ooo Nana
You were born to win
First lady for 19 eventful years
This record never breaks
You changed womanhood
No woman dare challenge you
First woman for President in Ghana
Not even the party you moulded
dared to stop you
as you sleep with Papa J
forever you're not first Lady
you.re first President!

Mama Nana Rawlings
You do ALL!

Stay, Mom, stay!
Pae suŋa

You live in every woman
And every child born
and unborn

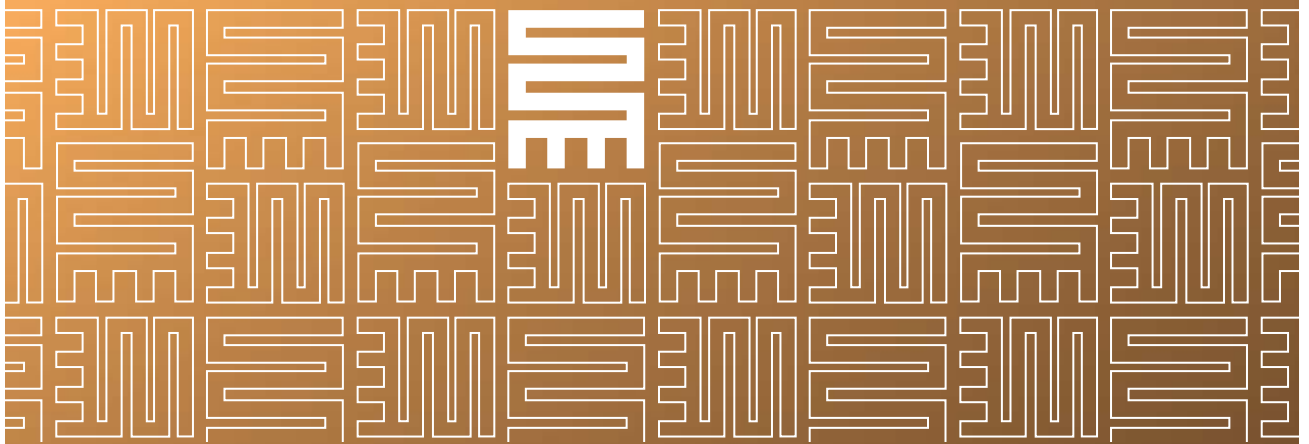


The interest of all of us in ensuring that our institutions are strongly developed becomes obvious if the country, Ghana, is seen as a family to which we all belong. In most families, everyone will agree that insufficiency, corruption, misdemeanour and weakness of one member weakens the family as a whole; and the uprightness, thoughtfulness, efficiency of one member benefits the whole group.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, 'Change, multi-party democracy and the role of institutions and individuals,' Address at University of Ghana, under the auspices of the Graduate Student's Association of Ghana, April 15, 2016



PEOPLE OF GHANA





A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

ABDUL-RASHID KARIMU
GUSHEGU, NORTHERN REGION

It is with deep appreciation that I reflect on the profound impact that the former First Lady, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, had on my life and the lives of many others in my community. Without her visionary efforts, I might not have had the opportunity to pursue my education.

In the 1990s, when our town of Gushegu lacked formal educational infrastructure for children, Nana Konadu stepped in to make a difference. She built a daycare centre that became a beacon of hope for families in the area. Before her initiative, children were left to learn under trees, often bringing kitchen stools to join makeshift classes. The daycare centre she established was not just a building; it was a fully furnished and vibrant environment equipped with modern learning and play facilities. This initiative captured the hearts of many parents and guardians. Thanks to her commitment to education, my father enrolled me in that new school, which marked the beginning of my educational journey.

Nana Konadu was indeed a voice for the voiceless and a fierce advocate for the empowerment of women and children. Her dedication to improving the lives of the less privileged is not just an admirable trait—it's a legacy that resonates deeply within me and countless others. I stand as a living testament to her positive influence on Ghana and its people.

May her memory inspire future generations to continue the work she championed, ensuring that all children are afforded the education and opportunities they deserve.

I extend my deepest condolences to the immediate family and the good people of Ghana.



In INTERGENERATIONAL ICON AND ROLE MODEL FOR MANY

PHILOMENA DANSO-MENSAH
CREATIVE DIRECTOR, KHOLIBEA DESIGNS

H.E Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was an inspiration to women in Ghana, Africa and the world at large. When I was a little girl in Kete-Krachi, my home town back in the mid 80's, she travelled from one town to the other encouraging women to work and not to be ordinary housewives.

She encouraged and supported the women in the community who were unemployed to learn soap making, dressmaking, the preparation of gari, palm oil, among other things. People became petty traders and more.

My mum was a teacher and through H.E Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings' confidence in grooming women, my mum, Mad. Catherine Gyinae, learnt other skills to support the family financially in addition to her teaching.

As my mum's role model, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings made my mother a very confident woman in the community and an advocate of women's empowerment. Her legacy will live on forever. We pray for H.E Zenator Agyeman-Rawlings to soar higher and the many women that H.E Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings has groomed from far and near. We are all beneficiaries of her good works.

As a Catholic, I will always pray for the repose of her soul and may God grant her merciful judgement. Keep Resting, Ena pa.



A LIFE SHE LIFTED FROM GRASS TO GRACE WITHOUT EVER KNOWING MY NAME

MRS. VICTORIA FIATI DEI-KUMAH
INTERNAL IT MANAGER – GIFEC

It is with a heart full of gratitude, love, and reverence that I pay tribute to a woman whose life, though she never met me in person, changed mine forever—Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. She was a First Lady, a national mother, a visionary, but to me, she became the bridge God used to carry me from uncertainty into my destiny.

I remember a particular season of my life when everything seemed impossible. It was after my WASSCE exams at the Keta Senior High School. After failing to secure admission into college of education, I had to move to Accra to join the hordes of street vendors in selling *abolo* and *yakayake* to support myself. Around that time, in early 1997, I joined the 31st December Youth Movement; an organisation founded and inspired by the remarkable woman whose memory we honour today. I became a very active member at both the local and national levels. In one of our Tuesday meetings in February 1998, an announcement was made requesting CVs from members with a Science background. Without even knowing what it was for, I submitted mine.

As weeks turned into months with no news about the scholarship opportunities, I began to lose hope. Meanwhile, I continued selling the *abolo* and *yakayake*; walking long distances daily and wondering how long that season of hardship would last. Then, one Tuesday night in July 1998, news came that *I had been selected as the sole recipient of the scholarship*. I was to study Information Technology in Malaysia, something beyond anything I had ever imagined, especially at a time when I had never even seen a computer.

The following month, in August 1998, I left Ghana for the first time in my life. The scholarship, jointly sponsored by Malaysia and Ghana Telecommunications Company, carried me through Multimedia University, where I graduated successfully. I returned home in 2002 and was employed by Ghana Telecom as an Assistant Manager. Everything I am professionally today began with that opportunity created by Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

Although I never had the privilege or courage of meeting her to say “thank you” in person, my heart has carried the gratitude every single day. She was more than a leader; she was a vessel through whom God opened doors for countless young people like me. Her passion for youth development, education, and empowerment transformed lives silently, deeply, and permanently.

To her children and family, I say: *Your mother’s legacy lives in me*. I stand today as one of her many seeds, someone she lifted from grass to grace without ever knowing my name. Her impact reached farther than her eyes could see, and I am honoured to be among the testimonies of her greatness.

May her soul rest in perfect peace, and may her legacy continue to inspire generations.



... *And* THERE I FOUND OUT ABOUT NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS

COLLIN CHARLES

These are my memories of when I first decided to go to Ghana.

I was a young man, it was the mid-80s and I was interested in a different kind of measurement than GDP, so I went to my local library and picked up the Economist Intelligence Report. It was a four-page pamphlet on each country and it was published quarterly. It cost £200 a year for each country. And I looked at the countries of West Africa and discovered that Ghana had the lowest GDP of all its neighbours.

But at the same time it had the highest life expectancy, the greatest number of girl children in school, the best infant mortality and maternal mortality statistics, more books per capita, more doctors per capita than all the surrounding countries.

I was also interested in the appropriate technology movement. I read a book by a man called E. F. Schumacher, called *Small Is Beautiful*. And I went along to the Appropriate Technology Centre in Russell Square. And there I found out about Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

She had taken an interest in appropriate technology and instituted projects to invent a one-man block-making machine. She was

working with Suame Magazine in Kumasi. Together with the inventors there they invented the one-man coal pot-making machine, the one-woman charcoal factory, the one-woman bakery factory, the one-woman soap factory, the homemade corn-grinding machine, the homemade groundnut-paste-making machine, one woman wax print factory. She was also building childcare centres all over Ghana so that women could have their children taken care of while they were doing economically productive work.

It's ideas like these that made me choose Ghana and not Kenya or South Africa (where I had already visited) to go and live in.



We OWE OUR PATHS TO THAT SINGLE ACT OF SERVICE

BY DORCAS ASSIBI AKAAGA
A FORMER STUDENT OF FUMBISI PREPARATORY
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

There are people whose actions touch our lives long before we ever meet them, and for me, Her excellency the former First Lady Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings is one of those people. As founder of the 31st December Women's Movement, she worked to uplift communities but in Fumbisi, her impact became deeply personal.

The building she put up for a grinding mill was never meant to be a classroom, yet it became a place that held our dreams together. When heavy rains tore the roof from our school, that simple structure became our refuge. It sheltered us when we had nowhere else to go, and because of it, we were able to continue our education instead of losing our future to circumstance.

I look back now and realise how many of us owe our paths to that single act of service. From that space, students rose to become nurses, administrators, teachers, engineers, and soldiers.

I am one of those lives shaped by her kindness - one of those children given a chance because she cared.

Nana Konadu may never know the full weight of what she built in Fumbisi, but I do. Her compassion protected my future, and for that, I carry deep gratitude. This tribute is from my heart to hers though she is no more, with thanks for the doors she opened and the lives she unknowingly transformed. Rest well your excellency.



She TAUGHT US THAT A WOMAN CAN BE FIRM AND KIND, BOLD AND HUMBLE — ALL AT ONCE

UMAR ABDUL FATAWU

As a child, I often heard stories about Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings — a woman whose name carried strength, grace, and determination. Even though I never met her, her voice and vision seemed to travel far, reaching even the corners of communities she had not visited yet.

My father was a great admirer of President J. J. Rawlings. His picture still hangs proudly in his room to this day. But for many of the women in my community, it was Nana Konadu who became their true symbol of inspiration. She gave women hope — hope that they, too, could dream, lead, and change their world.

I remember how people spoke about her tireless work to champion women's empowerment and girl-child education. Through the 31st December Women's Movement, she touched countless lives, including those in Northern Ghana, where she helped establish daycare centres, skills training programs, and clean water projects that lifted rural families and inspired lasting change.

There was even a school in our area (directly opposite the Tamale West Hospital's main

entrance) named after her — "J.J. Pag' Shikuru" in Dagbani, meaning "J.J.'s wife's school." That name carried pride and admiration, showing how deeply she had touched lives — even in places she didn't have the privilege to visit often.

Nana Konadu's legacy is one of compassion, strength, and vision. She taught us that a woman can be firm and kind, bold and humble — all at once. Her passing reminds us that true leaders never really leave us; they live on in the lives they've touched and the dreams they've awakened.

May time unveil and bring the world multiple Konadus — women of courage, compassion, and conviction, just like you.



She WAS A MOTHER TO ALL

AFRICANUS WONDER LOTSU
HO VOLTA REGION

Growing up in my childhood days around the late 1980s to 1990s, in Ho in the Volta region of Ghana, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was a well respected, hard working First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, sometimes appearing on television with a cervical collar (neck brace). She always sat with her late husband, Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings (of blessed memory).

She championed the interest of women strongly which culminated into the formation of the 31st December Women's Movement among many other achievements. She was a mother to all. My deepest condolences to us all for the loss of such a great pillar to the family.

Acts 24:15 says in part, there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.

Her INDEFATIGABLE CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITY

DR DANIEL ATO AIDOO
EVANS, GA, USA

I personally met Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings in 2001 when I was a student at Rutgers University in New Jersey, United States. Her infectious smile caught my attention when she met Ghanaian students on campus. That was to define my understanding of her indefatigable contribution to humanity. She epitomises all that there is in women empowerment, social equity, child development, and functional development policies. In her, indeed, Ghana has lost a pillar in democratic expression and rural development.

She will be missed and may her soul rest in peace.



You WERE A BLESSING TO ALL WHO KNEW YOU

DOROTHY DARKOA DANSO



Her Excellency Dr Nana Konadu was not just a first lady, but the incredible woman full of grace, wisdom, and unwavering love. You were a blessing to all who knew you. Thank you for being a guiding light, a source of strength, and a constant example of kindness and faith.

May your gentle soul rest in peace. Till we meet again. Nana da yie.



Nana KONADU, AN ASANTE ROYAL, YOU DID YOUR BEST

PRINCESS FELICIA ZAATO

The first time I saw Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings in person was in Jirapa, at Saint Francis of Assisi Senior High School, where she was the guest of honour. She was accompanied by her daughters, and this was in the late 1990s. As a young person at the time, I was eager to attend the programme when I heard she would be visiting Saint Francis Girls. On the day of the event, she arrived elegantly dressed, as usual, and delivered a speech in a calm and eloquent manner. Her topic was the importance of education for the girl child. Following the programme, she shook hands with attendees, and I mustered the courage to go for a handshake as well.

I was left speechless as she smiled and shook hands with everyone. After the event, I returned home and couldn't help but think about this woman, the wife of the then-president, who had taken the time to speak to the students of Saint Francis Girls. She had a lasting impact on me, and her influence remains to this day. As the wife of the charismatic President J.J. Rawlings, a man admired by many, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings demonstrated remarkable character. I witnessed the successful implementation of various projects for women under the 31st December Women's Movement.

The 31st December Day Care centre in Jirapa, for instance, provided educational opportunities for numerous children. When it comes to style and fashion, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings set a high standard for first ladies in Africa

to follow. Moreover, she was a first lady who traveled extensively to remote areas in Ghana to promote development. The history of the National Democratic Congress is incomplete without mentioning her name, as she played a significant role beyond being the wife of President J.J. Rawlings.

While she was human and imperfect, she did her best. Unfortunately, many people wait until someone passes away before celebrating their achievements. Nana Konadu, an Asante royal, you did your best, and your legacy will be remembered by many as a strong and courageous woman who empowered a lot of women. Please extend our greetings to our Papa J.

Nana Konadu, you lived well. Piawwww.



My ENCOUNTERS

WITH NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS

SAMUEL AWUNI

I had the privilege of briefly interviewing Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings at the National Theatre in 2011. It was one of those moments you don't easily forget - the atmosphere buzzing with energy, tight security everywhere, and a steady stream of people eager to catch her attention. Yet, in the midst of it all, she graciously agreed to grant me a few minutes of her time.

Her very first question to me was as direct as it was disarming: "What do you want to know?" That question alone sent a wave of tension and nervousness through me. I knew I had to think fast. In an effort to ease the atmosphere, I mentioned, rather nervously, that we shared the same birthday. She paused, looked at me with surprise, then broke into laughter. "Oh really? Then let's talk," she said with a playful grin. Just like that, the ice was broken.

Our conversation flowed easily, touching on social issues, youth employment, and the importance of social justice in nation-building. I was struck by her sharp intellect, her passion for equity, and her ability to connect personal experiences with national development. She spoke with conviction, the kind that comes from years of public service, advocacy, and leadership. Her insights were as thought-provoking as they were inspiring.

A few months later, I found myself once again in her presence this time as part of a small delegation visiting her office to invite her to an event. True to her vigilant nature, before we even entered the compound, I noticed her discreetly peeking through her window, carefully observing

as our car pulled up the driveway. That simple act spoke volumes about her awareness, alertness, and attention to detail qualities that had defined much of her public life.

When we were finally ushered in, she was sitting comfortably in her office, laughing and playing with her grandchildren. The warmth in her demeanour was unmistakable. She turned to us with a broad smile and said, "You're welcome! You know how children can be," followed by her familiar hearty laugh that instantly put everyone at ease.





The highlight of that visit came when we presented the invitation letter. Before opening it, she raised an eyebrow and said teasingly, “I hope my ‘Agyeman’ is spelt right, otherwise this invitation is dead on arrival.” The room erupted in laughter. Thankfully, we had got it right. That moment revealed a lot about her - her pride in her identity, her humour, and her insistence on precision and professionalism. Even in casual settings, she upheld high standards, reminding us that excellence and attention to detail matter in every sphere of life.

Our meeting extended into a rich conversation filled with reflections on Ghana’s political history, women’s empowerment, and the challenges of leadership. She spoke candidly about her experience - the sacrifices, the criticisms, and the resilience it took to stay true to her convictions. It was a masterclass in leadership and purpose, delivered not in a lecture hall, but in the comfort of her office, surrounded by family and warmth.

As our time came to an end, she smiled, stood up, and said with gentle affection, “Now that we are done, let me go back to my grandchildren.” Those words have stayed with me over the years. It was a simple statement, yet profoundly human; a reminder that beyond politics and public life, she was a mother, a grandmother, and a woman who cherished her family deeply.

Reflecting on those encounters, I came to appreciate the many sides of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, the bold reformer, the advocate for women’s rights, the meticulous professional, and the warm, family-loving matriarch. After decades of selfless service, advocacy, and sacrifice, she gracefully transitioned into a life of reflection and family, maintaining her characteristic strength and dignity even away from the public spotlight.

Those moments with her were more than just encounters; they were lessons in confidence, conviction, and humanity. She reminded me that true leadership is not only about commanding respect in public but also about nurturing authenticity in private.

Fare THEE WELL

MOTHER GHANA

FIAVE SOLOMON KWESI

Your memories of women's empowerment and shaping good governance in the history of Ghana would forever remain in the hearts of Ghanaians.



A TRUE FIRST LADY

JUDY NEWLOVE-MENSAH



I first met Dr Mrs Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlins during the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) conference. I was working at the hotel then, when she came by to see a President's wife who came for the meeting.

She came across to me as a true First Lady.

These pictures were taken years later at another Hotel where I worked.

Much later she was my Mummy as I called her.

Her birthday was on the 17th November 2025 and mine was just two days after hers.

May she find eternal rest in the Lord



She REMINDED US THAT WOMANHOOD IS POWERFUL

OFFEIBEA AGYEMANG

Today, my heart is heavy as I reflect on the life of a woman who defined courage, purpose, and grace - Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

She was more than a former First Lady; she was a symbol of strength and a voice for those who couldn't speak for themselves. Nana Konadu taught us that leadership is not about titles, but about service; leadership is about standing tall even when it's not easy, it is about fighting for what you believe in even when you stand alone.

Through the 31st December Women's Movement, she opened doors for countless women, empowering them to believe in their worth and potential. Her boldness challenged norms, her compassion changed lives, and her vision shaped generations.

I will always remember her poise, her confidence, and the deep passion she carried for Ghana and her people. She reminded us that womanhood is powerful that we can nurture, lead, and transform at the same time.

Nana Konadu's legacy is written not only in history books but in the hearts of those she inspired. Ghana has lost a mother, a mentor, and a light. But her spirit will live on in every woman who dares to dream and every leader who chooses service over self.

Rest well, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

Your impact will never fade, and your name will forever be spoken with love, pride, and gratitude.



A LEGACY OF COURAGE, CONVICTION AND EMPOWERING WOMEN TO BREAK BARRIERS

FAMILY OF CID LYDIA YAAKO DONKOR

Today, my mother, Commissioner of Police (COP) Jane Christie Donkor ret'd., and I visited the family of the late former First Lady, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, to offer our condolences and sign the book of condolence.

My mother's presence carried deep meaning. She holds the honour of being the first female police officer in Ghana to attain the rank of COP. Her story is deeply linked to that of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, who in 1992 championed her promotion from Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCOP).

During that period, Assistant Commissioner of Police was the last rank a senior female police officer could attain after which they can retire. My mother and her colleague, COP Gifty Anin Botwe ret'd., appealed to the then First Lady, whose lifelong advocacy for women's empowerment opened new doors for women in

the Ghana Police Service. Through her influence and support, my mother broke that barrier, becoming the first female DCOP, and later, the first female Commissioner of Police (COP).

Our visit today was not only to mourn a remarkable woman but also to honour a legacy that changed the course of history for women in policing and public service.

May the memory of Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings continue to inspire generations of women to lead, to serve, and to break barriers with courage and conviction; a legacy I am living on.



Her SELFLESS LIFE IMPACTED MANY GHANAIS

**EDWEY NSONA ROYAL FAMILY
(FIEKESSIM) MUMFORD, CENTRAL REGION.**

Our deepest condolences to the Agyeman-Rawlins Family on the passing of their beloved mother and our former First Lady H.E. Dr. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlins.

Her selfless life impacted many Ghanaians both home and abroad, not forgetting the leadership role she played in the 31st December Women's Movement.

Her empowerment of women gave courage to many Ghanaian women who stood up for gender equality in the 90's till date.

Indeed, Ghana has lost a great one and we pray that God Almighty will grant her soul a peaceful rest in the bosom of Abraham.

Amen.

Nana Yaw Mensah Nyamekye

Prince of Edwey Nsona Royal Family (Fiekessim) Mumford, Central Region - Ghana.



Thanks TO HER INSPIRATION, I PURSUED MY EDUCATION

GERTRUDE MAAME YAA OFOSUHEMAA, ESQ.
NORTH LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

I first met Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings at my grandfather's palace when I was about five or six years old. At the time, she was the First Lady of Ghana, stopping by on her way to Tano Dumasi to request land on which to build a 31st December Women's Movement School for young children.

I remember sitting quietly behind my grandfather's king's chair. Our area did not have a queen mother at the time, and among the dignitaries present, chiefs, elders, and community leaders, Nana Konadu was the only woman. She spoke with such clarity and conviction about why she wanted that land for the school. Her presence commanded attention: her voice carried strength and purpose. Curious, I stepped out from behind the chair to see who she was.

She wore a medical collar around her neck. I later learned she had been in an accident, yet she radiated warmth and composure. She noticed me, smiled, and asked someone to lift me onto her lap. In that moment, she paused her conversation with my grandfather, the chief. I remember him already in his late eighties or early nineties listening intently as Nana Konadu spoke. That day, she inspired him to make an extraordinary promise: to ensure that I received a sound education.

Years later, when my grandfather was on his deathbed, my grandmother reminded us of the promise he had made to Nana Konadu that we would never be left to struggle, that we should be educated and cared for.

Notably, Nana Konadu's advocacy helped shape the Intestate Succession Law (PNDCL 111, 1985),

which protected widows and children from property injustice. To this day, I consider myself among the many beneficiaries of her lifelong mission to educate and empower girls.

Thanks to her inspiration, I pursued my education in the United Kingdom, and today I am both a lawyer and a lecturer. At every critical ceremony I attend here in Europe, I wear kente cloth around my neck, a personal tribute to the woman whose actions and words changed my life.

I had planned to meet her this coming December; my friend and I had already made arrangements for the visit. It pains me deeply that I will no longer have the opportunity to meet the same woman who once held me as a child, the woman whose vision helped shape the lives of so many young women like me.

Although my father is a staunch NPP member, he always told my sister and me to model ourselves after Nana. Her influence transcended politics.

Her legacy lives on in the schools she built, the girls she inspired, and in the hearts of all who saw in her the true meaning of womanhood, leadership, and service.

***Take your bow, Nana Konadu.
Nana, Da Yie!***



Our TRIBUTE TO A 'FALLEN STAR'

JOEY EMMERSON DANSKY

We at ILLUMINED PUBLISHING LLC wish to extend our warm condolences to the family of Her Excellency, the Former First Lady Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, and her loved ones on the occasion of her departure.

A great star never falls, but shines through darkness even when all the others go to sleep. She led an exemplary life, without doubt whatsoever; a genius without precedent. May her departed soul rest in the abode of the Lord Jesus Christ, where the street is lit, and gold dwells on the coast of the illuminated eye; a Gold-Coast!

May her departed soul Rest-In-Peace (R.I.P)

A great star never falls, but
shines through darkness even
when all the others go to sleep.









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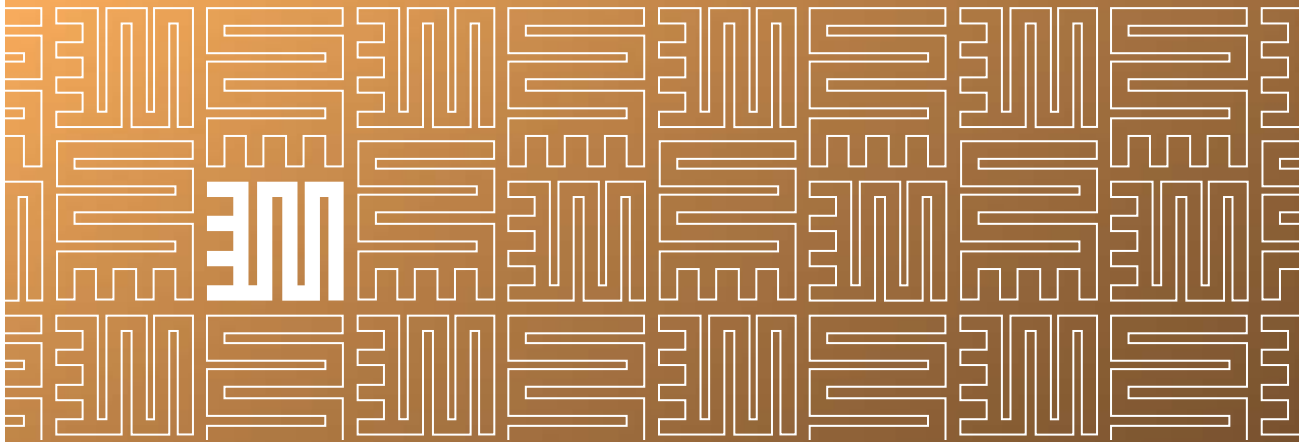
“You and I – all of us – are the stakeholders of Ghana and, therefore, it is our sole responsibility to ensure that our nation has in place the most effective constitution that guides our leadership, and the most effective policies and strategies that make us a prosperous nation.”

”

***Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, Speech at the IEA
Encounter at the IEA Gardens, July 27 2016***



CONDOLENCE MESSAGES





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To:

17 November 2025

Dr Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings, MP

1 Sekou Toure Lake,
Ridge,
Accra, Ghana

Dear Zanetor,

On behalf of the Africa Leadership Initiative – West Africa (ALIWA) community, I write to express our deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved mother, H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

Your mother was an extraordinary woman whose visionary leadership, courage, and lifelong commitment to empowering women left an indelible mark on Ghana, the African continent, and generations who drew strength from her example. Her fight for women's rights and economic empowerment expanded opportunity, dignity, and voice for countless women and communities. She stood firmly in her convictions and, in doing so, became a symbol of resilience and service.

Indeed, no tribute can truly capture the depth of a mother's impact, and we know how terribly difficult her loss must be for you. But we hope you find comfort in knowing that her legacy lives on in the institutions she strengthened, the lives she transformed, and in the values of dedication, integrity, and purpose that you yourself embody so profoundly.

During this difficult time, please know that your ALIWA family stands with you. We hold you, your siblings, and your entire family in our hearts and prayers.

May her soul rest in perfect peace, and may you find strength in the love you both shared, the example she set, and the nation and continent that honour her memory.

With heartfelt sympathy,

Ayo Maji

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALIWA



27 October 2025

Ref: M146/1

Her Excellency
Hon. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings
Member of Parliament
Republic of Ghana

Your Excellency,

It is with deep sorrow that I extend to you and your family our heartfelt condolences on the passing of your beloved mother, the late Mrs Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. On behalf of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace, and in my personal capacity, I would like to convey our most sincere sympathy during this time of great loss.

Mrs Agyeman-Rawlings will be remembered as a remarkable woman who devoted her life to public service, women's empowerment, and the advancement of her nation. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations in Ghana and beyond.

Please accept our prayers for strength and comfort to you and your loved ones. May her noble soul rest in eternal peace.

With deepest condolences,



Ahmed Bin Mohamed Aljarwan
President of the Global Council of Tolerance and Peace



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Digital Address: GA-7021

Email: info@garh.gov.gh

Quote this number and date on all correspondence

My Ref. No GHS/ GARH/MD/G-32 _____

Your Ref. No. _____

Date. 24/10/2025

DR. ZANETOR AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS
THE HONORABLE MEMBER OF PALIAMENT
KLOTTEY-KORLE CONSTITUENCY
ACCRA-GHANA.

CONDOLENCE TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF THE FORMER FIRST LADY NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS.

The Management and Staff of the Greater Accra Regional Hospital extends our deepest condolences to the family and children of our beloved mother, the former First Lady Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Her Excellency was not only a loving mother but also a remarkable role model who actively empowered women, gave them a voice, and helped uplift their aspirations.

Please know that you are not alone in your grief, we are always here for you. Our heart goes out to you and your loved ones during this difficult time. May Almighty continue to strengthen and comfort you.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the entire family. May her perfect soul rest in eternal serenity.

We are with you in this difficult time. If there's anything we can do to support you, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR
GREATER ACCRA REGIONAL HOSPITAL
RIDGE ACCRA

DR. LESLIE ISSA ADAM- ZAKARIAH
MEDICAL DIRECTOR



MEDICAL WOMEN ASSOCIATION OF GHANA



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24th Oct, 2025

Dear Honourable Zanetor Rawlings,

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE.

On behalf of the Medical Women Association of Ghana (MWAG), I write to extend our deepest condolences to you and your family on the passing of your beloved mother and former first lady of the Republic of Ghana; HE Nana Konadu Agyemang-Rawlings.

We received the news of her passing with great sadness. A mother's love is irreplaceable, and we can only imagine the pain this loss brings. However, we take solace in the remarkable life she lived and the legacy she leaves behind reflected in the values, strength and compassion that you continue to exemplify in your service to our nation.

She touched so many lives and fought for the rights of women, girls and the vulnerable across the country. We may have lost her but her work continues to live on.

At this difficult time, please accept our heartfelt sympathy and know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. It is MWAG's earnest prayer that the Almighty God will grant you comfort, strength and peace as you go through this period of mourning.

May her gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

MWAG: Healing with a Mother's Heart.

Yours faithfully,

Dr RNAT Dawson
(National President, MWAG)

Dr Oum-Kalsoum Z Adams
(National General Secretary, MWAG)



NATIONAL CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CENTENARY HOUSE, NEAR TUTTUEI QUARSHIE INTERCHANGE

Tel: +233-0302-800491/0302-976223

E-mail: president@cbggha.org
secretarygeneral@cbggha.org

P. O. Box KA 9712

Airport – Accra
Ghana/West Africa

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Dear Family and Children of the Late Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings,

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE FROM THE GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE TO THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF HER EXCELLENCY NANA KONADU AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS

On behalf of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference, we write with heavy hearts to extend our deepest condolences to you on the passing of your beloved mother, daughter, and matriarch, Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana.

We join the nation in mourning a remarkable woman whose life was marked by unwavering dedication to public service, advocacy for women's empowerment, and a passionate commitment to the development of our country. Her pioneering role in championing the rights of women and children through the 31st December Women's Movement remains a legacy that continues to inspire generations.

As a mother and wife, she stood with strength and grace beside her husband, the late President Jerry John Rawlings, and nurtured a family that has served and continues to serve Ghana with distinction. Her passing leaves a void not only in your hearts but in the hearts of many Ghanaians who admired her courage, resilience, and patriotism.

We pray that the Lord, who is our refuge and strength, will comfort you during this time of grief. May He grant you peace that surpasses understanding and surround you with love and support. We also pray for the peaceful repose of her soul and commend her to the mercy of God, trusting in the promise of eternal life.

Please be assured of our prayers and spiritual closeness during this difficult time. May the legacy of Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings continue to shine brightly in the history of our nation and in the hearts of all who strive for justice, dignity, and equality.

With deepest sympathy and prayerful support,

Yours sincerely,

Most Rev. Matthew Kwasi Gyamfi
Bishop of Sunyani and President,
Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference





DENGENG PALACE NIATOR

30th October 2025

Honourable Dr. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings
and the Rawlings Family
Accra, Ghana

Dear Hon. Zanetor and Siblings,

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE

It is with deep sorrow that I extend my heartfelt condolences to you and your entire family on the passing of your beloved mother, **Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings**.

Her Excellency's life was one of courage, distinction, and service — a shining example of visionary leadership and unwavering devotion to Ghana. As the nation mourns her passing, we also celebrate her remarkable legacy as a trailblazer for women, a champion for justice, and a pillar of strength beside your late father, **His Excellency Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings**, of blessed memory.

On behalf of the **Buwa (Zini) Traditional Council**, the people of **Niator Traditional Area**, and the **United Traditional Rulers Association (UTRA)**, I convey our collective sympathy and solidarity with your family during this moment of grief. Your mother's legacy will continue to inspire generations to come, not only in Ghana but across Africa.

May the Almighty comfort you, grant you strength, and keep the family united as you carry forward the noble vision of your distinguished parents.

Please accept my deepest respect and sincere condolences.

With The Highest Respect,



Kuoro Barecheh Nlowie Baninye II,
Leader of Niator-Buwa (Zini) Traditional Area (Buwa Kingdom),
President, United Traditional Rulers Association, Ghana.

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Kempinski Hotel
Gold Coast City
ACCRA, GHANA

5 November 2025

Family of the Late Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings
Accra, Ghana

Dear Family,

**LETTER OF CONDOLENCE ON THE PASSING OF FORMER FIRST LADY. MRS.
NANA KONADU AGYEMAN RAWLINGS**

It is with profound sorrow that the Management and Staff of Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City Accra extend our deepest condolences to you on the passing of the former First Lady, Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings.

Mrs. Agyeman-Rawlings was an extraordinary woman whose strength, leadership, and lifelong dedication to the empowerment of women and the progress of Ghana will be remembered for generations to come. Her legacy continues to inspire generations, and her contributions to the nation will remain a guiding light for many.

During this time of mourning, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. May her remarkable life and enduring legacy bring comfort to your hearts, and may you find strength in the love and support of family, friends, and the countless lives she touched.

Please accept our deepest condolence and heartfelt sympathy.

Respectfully,


Silvia Ramm

General Manager

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Kempinski
HOTELIERS SINCE 1837



**W. E. B. Du Bois
Museum Foundation**

GRANA

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✉ japhet@webdub.cob.org

The Rawlings Family
Acces, Ghana

October 24, 2025

Dear Rawlings Family,

Condolences to the Rawlings Family on the Loss of H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings

The W.E.B. Du Bois Museum Foundation extends its deepest condolences to you on the passing of your beloved mother. Her Excellency Nana Konadu Agyeman. Rawlings.

She was a woman of vision, conviction, and grace — one whose influence transformed lives and whose commitment to women's advancement and national progress will remain a shining example for generations to come. As the surviving widow of His Excellency President Jerry John Rawlings — who in 1985 honored Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois with the dedication of the Du Bois Centre — Mrs. Rawlings remained very supportive of the Foundation's ongoing efforts to redevelop the Centre into a world-class institution hefitting Dr. Du.Bois' legacy.

Her warmth, elegance, and dignified presence always added distinction to our events, and we will remember her fondly as a cherished friend of the Foundation.

We pray that you find comfort and strength in knowing that her legacy continues to live on — not only through her work but in the countiess lives she touched and inspired.

With heartfelt sympathy,



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Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the
United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in
Geneva

Note No.: 440/2025

The Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Republic of Ghana to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva and has the sad honour to acknowledge the passing of H.E. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana.

The Permanent Mission wishes to convey, on behalf of His Excellency President Irfaan Ali, the Government and people of Guyana, sincerest condolences to the bereaved Agyeman-Rawlings family and loved ones, her former colleagues, and the Government and people of the Ghana at this sad occasion.

The Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ghana to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.

**Geneva
October 27, 2025**

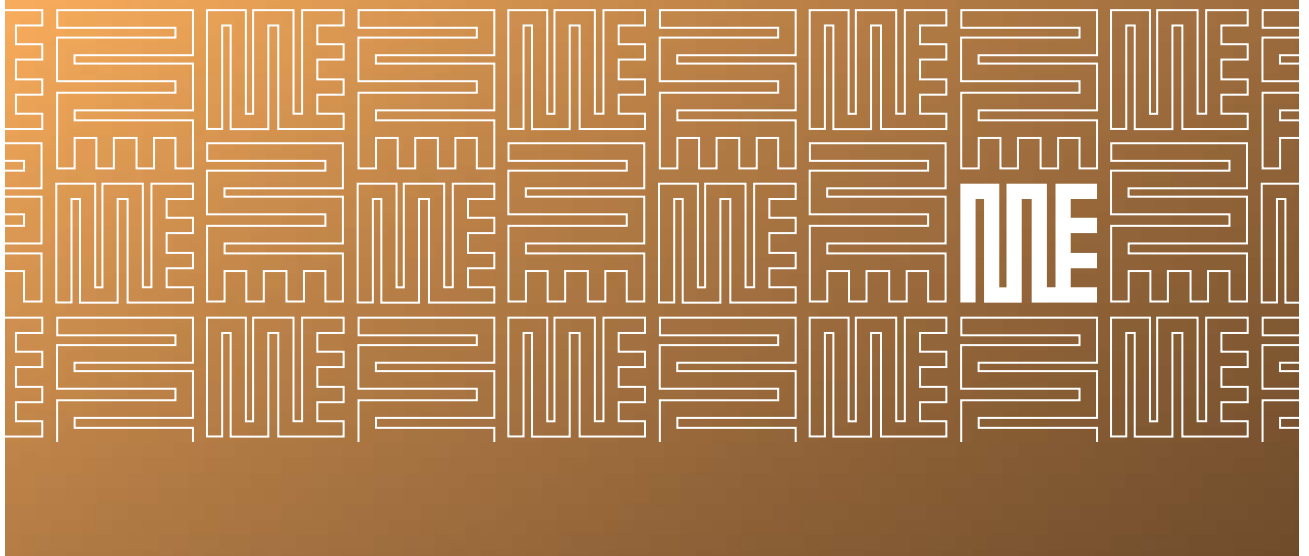


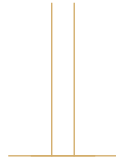
1 Rue du Pré-de-la-Bichette 1202 Genève-Switzerland
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SYMBOLISM

CENTRE PIECE, FLOWERS AND
ADINKRA SYMBOL





FLOWER SELECTION



WHITE CARNATION
Purity, Innocence
& Good Luck



WHITE LILIES
Renewal &
Remembrance



WHITE ROSES
Beauty & Finesse



WHITE GLADIOLUS
strength of character,
integrity, and moral
faithfulness



WHITE GERBERAS
Primocane & Positivity



GYPSOPHILA
Everlasting &
heartedness



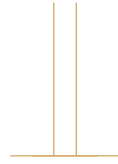
CHRYSANTHEMUM
Loyalty & honesty



LISIANTHUS
Affection &
Appreciation



WHITE PEACE LILY
Peace, Purity & Healing



ADINKRA SYMBOL



Nkyim-Nkyim (often written nkyimnkyim) is a powerful Adinkra symbol of the Akan people of Ghana. It is visually represented by a series of twisting, meandering lines. The name itself comes from the Akan word “kyim”, meaning to twist, turn, or wind.

1. Symbol of Life's Twists and Turns

At its most fundamental level, Nkyimnkyim symbolizes the complex, unpredictable, and nonlinear nature of life.

Just as the symbol bends, winds, and shifts direction, so does life:

- » sudden changes
- » unexpected challenges
- » shifting opportunities
- » detours from our plans

It reminds individuals that life is not a straight line.

2. Versatility and Adaptability

Nkyimnkyim embodies flexibility—the ability to adjust to changing circumstances.

It teaches that:

- » rigidity leads to failure
- » adaptability leads to survival

In contexts such as leadership, relationships, and personal growth, the symbol encourages resilience through change.

3. Initiative and Ingenuity

Among the Akan, Nkyimnkyim also represents creative resourcefulness—the capacity to find new solutions when paths seem blocked.

It highlights:

- » inventiveness
- » innovation
- » initiative
- » strategic thinking

This links the symbol to artistry, craftsmanship, and problem-solving.

4. The Journey of Personal Transformation

Nkyimnkyim is often interpreted as a symbol of the spiritual and personal journey of becoming.

The winding paths represent:

- » learning
- » growth
- » self-discovery
- » transformation through experience

It's a reminder that growth often comes through struggle and change, not stability.



5. Social and Cultural Complexity

The Akan also view Nkyimnkyim as a metaphor for the complexity of community life.

It reflects:

- » the need for negotiation
- » the twists of social relationships
- » the unpredictability of human behaviour

It reinforces that harmonious community life requires understanding, patience, and adaptability.

6. In Performance and Ritual

In traditional dance and ceremonial contexts—especially in Adowa and Kete dance forms—Nkyimnkyim represents the twisting, dynamic body movements used to communicate emotion and narrative.

This adds another layer:

flexibility of body = flexibility of spirit.

7. Philosophical Perspective

Within the larger Akan philosophical system, Nkyimnkyim relates to:

- » the tension between order and chaos
- » destiny (nkrabea) vs. human agency
- » the idea that wisdom is formed in navigating complexity

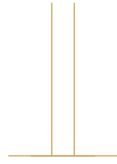
It encourages a mindset of pragmatic resilience, acknowledging life's uncertainties while cultivating the strength to navigate them.

SUMMARY OF THE SYMBOL'S CORE MEANINGS



Nkyimnkyim stands for:

- » Life's unpredictable paths
- » Adaptability and resilience
- » Creativity and initiative
- » Transformation and personal growth
- » Social complexity
- » Dynamic movement (in dance and expression)
- » Wisdom gained through navigating changing circumstances



TRIBUTE SONG FROM CHILDREN

LIKE AN EAGLE **BY DOLLY PARTON**

She's been there, God knows she's been there
She has seen and done it all
She's a woman, she knows how to dish it out or take it all
Her heart's as soft as feathers, still she weathers stormy skies
And she's a sparrow when she's broken
But she's an eagle when she flies

A kaleidoscope of colours, you can toss her round and round
You can keep her in your vision, but you never keep her down
She's a lover, she's a mother, she's a friend and she's a wife
And she's a sparrow when she's broken
But she's an eagle when she flies

Gentle as the sweet magnolia, strong as steel her faith and pride
She's an everlasting shoulder, she's a leading post of life
She hurts deep, and when she weeps, she's just as fragile as a child

And she's a sparrow when she's broken
But she's an eagle when she flies
She's a sparrow when she's broken
But she's an eagle when she flies
Oh, bless her, Lord
She's an eagle when she flies







SCAN FOR
BROCHURE

