



TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR GEOFFREY N. KAMAU (19xx-2017)

It is always a sad thing when society loses its member of any station. The sadness multiplies in leaps and bounds when the loss is of a most valued person (MVP) as is the case now with the passing of **Professor Geoffrey N. Kamau**.... a PanAfricanist scientist/chemist. My personal experience with the departed Professor at our African Network for the Chemical Analysis of Pesticides (ANCAP) and East and Southern Africa Laboratory Managers Association (E-

SALAMA) meetings convinced me he was a man who fervently desired that African scientists deploy their knowledge and skills to Africa's development at the individual country level, believing that this paradigm will translate to an Africa with less poverty and more prosperity. To pursue this he believed in **COMMUNICATION** as one tool African scientist needed to use often to share dreams, knowledge, ideas and experiences amongst themselves to foster African cooperation in science and technology. Little wonder he was a Founding pillar in ANCAP and E-SALAMA – two networks that are fostering cooperation amongst African scientists/engineers and Laboratory Managers through scientific meetings, symposia and conferences.

An amiable and easy-going personality, I liked the way he called my name, Rufus and that of my country, Nigeria, anytime he welcomed me to an ANCAP or E-SALAMA meeting. He'll say "Roofas, how is Na-ijeria?". During banter time, he took time to find out what research was ongoing in my institution that could be of interest to ANCAP and E-SALAMA and go on to encourage me on the need to continue mentoring young scientists for the benefit of the continent.

I believe the twain legacy associated with the departed great man, i.e. ANCAP and E-SALAMA, remain monuments to him. As we mourn him in these networks, we pray the Almighty to grant his immediate family and friends the fortitude to bear the pain of losing him to death, even as it is the way of all flesh! I, on a personal note, will miss his presence and charm at our next meeting. Good eternal night, my dear **Professor G. N. Kamau!!!!**