



Tribute to Prof. Stephen Opio Lawoko

1969-2021

Here at the Centre for Health and Social Economic Improvement (CHASE-i) we were very saddened to hear the news of the passing on of Prof. Stephen Opio Lawoko on 28th December 2021. We continue to find comfort and strength as time goes by, especially in knowing that Prof. Stephen Lawoko was much loved, respected and leaves a great legacy – as seen in the outpouring of love and tributes since the sad news hit us.

At CHASE-i, we are honoured to join in and pay tribute to this great and extraordinary man:

- Prof. Stephen Lawoko belongs to the outstanding and towering generation of scholars of African descent who have had an extremely admirable mission to scholarship. A lot is already known about his achievements in this area, which we continue to celebrate.
- He had this amazing ability to be the smartest person in the room but also the most humble, gentle and gracious – an extremely rare trait.
- Professor lived a sacrificial life, routinely putting his educational and work pursuits before his own personal interests. We had a number of projects running in 2020; and although he had a very large and capable team, he insisted on personally traveling to remote places to support the fieldwork towards the end of 2020. He oversaw field operations from start to finish and little did we know that this was our last time to spend with him, for he traveled to Sweden immediately after that, where he succumbed to pancreatic cancer. Even while on treatment, throughout 2021, Prof. Lawoko continued to lead and support us as we continued to deliver on our joint work – he led management, processing and writing up of data; supervising and supporting team members; meeting the requirement of funders, editors and publishers, etc - all without any complaints about his ill health. It looks like he never really took a break off work – because we were in touch with him, discussing work matters, just before we heard the sad news that he had passed on.
- There is a lot more to say... but in summary, it was an honour to know this great man.

Prof. Lawoko, you have taught us selflessness, professionalism, excellence, integrity and all things virtuous. You have left an indelible mark. We are grateful for your life. You are an extraordinary man who really belongs with the angels – **may you rest in peace and power, Prof.** You will forever live in our hearts and we shall continue working hard to sustain your great legacy.