

**STATEMENT BY THE HON. MAJORITY LEADER IN HONOUR OF
THE LATE HON. CLEMENT KUBINDIWOR TEDAM,
A FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT IN THE FIRST REPUBLIC AND
A FORMER MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF STATE OF STATE**

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, 26th April, 2019, Ghanaians received the sad news of the passing on to eternity of one of the eminent Statesman, illustrious and revered sons of the land, Mr. Clement Kubindiwor Tedam (Popularly known as C. K. Tedam).

Born in the year, 1926, C.K. Tedam was a revered teacher and an astute politician who hailed from Paga in the Upper East Region. His father was the Pagapio Tedam and therefore a royal. He was a devout catholic.

Mr. Tedam's began his illustrious political journey actively in 1954 when he contested and won an election to Parliament as an independent candidate. He was re-elected in 1956 as a Member of Parliament for the then Kassena-Nankani North Constituency in the First Parliament of the First Republic.

Mr. Tedam was a founding Member and Chairman of the Council of Elders of the New Patriotic Party. He later became a Member of the Council of State during the administration of Former President, John Agyekum Kufuor.

While in Parliament, he served on the Committees on Health, Education and Rural and Social Development. As can be inferred from records on parliamentary proceedings during the first Parliament, Mr. Tedam was an MP who asserted legislative oversight to ensure that the Executive was accountable to the people through questions and contributions to debates on motions before the house.

Mr. Tedam's questions to Ministers in Parliament were focused on development issues which included the construction of a northern railway line, expansion of electricity and communication networks, unemployment, trade and the industrialisation agenda of our country. His questions and contributions were often punctuated with constant allusions to development challenges confronting northern part of the country.

In the Hansard of Thursday, 7th June, 1962, Mr. Tedam asked the then Minister of Industries a question remains relevant today as it was at the time he posed the question. The question was:

to ask the Minister of Industries how many state-run and quasi state-run industries have been established in each region since March, 1957; and what factors determined location of each industry.

Undoubtedly, he was among those who saw the development of our nation tied to the industrialisation of our country. Succeeding in the implementation of the One-District-One-Factory Agenda of the current NPP Government, which he was part, would be a great honour to his memory.

Mr. Tedom's commitment to serve his nation was unparalleled. This was why even though he was as a democrat he readily accepted to serve the nation as the Minister of Local Government during the regime of the Supreme Military Council, a regime totally at par with his democratic principles.

He was an avid advocate of multi-party democracy who viewed multi-party democracy as the only effective instrument for the realisation of socio-economic aspirations of our people.

This, coupled with the believe in market economy spurred him on to be very instrumental in the formation and development of the United Party, the Progress Party, the Popular Front Party and the New Patriotic Party, all of the Danquah-Dombo-Busia political tradition.

Surely, history will honour his memory as among those who ensured that our multi-party democracy is entrenched and that this country develops in freedom and respect for the rule of law, individual liberties and human rights.

Mr. Tedom was a unifier and constant source of invaluable counsel to many people, particularly those in his political party, the NPP. He was always the first point of call whenever there was a disagreement, knowing well that he adjudicated on disputes before him with impartiality and firmness.

With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I convey our deepest sympathies to his children, family and to the New Patriotic Party. Parliament shares in their loss and prays with them in this difficult moment as they bid farewell to this Statesman.

May his gentle soul rest in the bosom of the Lord, our Maker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, for your attention.