



TRIBUTE

In loving memory of Dr. Paul Rompa

By

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21 February 2022



With a heavy heart and uncontrollable tears, I write this tribute on behalf of the many physically challenged vulnerable children of Ghana who have benefitted from the benevolence of Paul Rompa, all the Ghanaian Orthopedic surgeons supported and mentored by him (Drs. Prosper Moh, Joseph Korpisa, Abel Tunni, Ballu Sibiri, Samuel Afatsao and Robert Amesya), the management and staff of St. John of God Hospital, DuayawNkwanta and my family.

I met Dr. Rompa for the first time in Ghana in November 1994 when he accompanied his colleague, Dr. Heinz Raat of blessed memory on an orthopaedic mission to Ghana. As a young enthusiastic medical officer having the dream to specialise in orthopedics. I had a discussion with him about my dream.

After assisting him at surgery for a week and having shared my vision of specialising in orthopedics so I could help my people, this touched him and he immediately told me he was going to think about it.

He was instrumental in getting me a training place in 1998 at the Maastricht University Hospital (AZM).

He had become my mentor and friend since then and we have shared a lot of memories and operated many patients together.

He spent twenty-four (24) years visiting Ghana twice a year to provide Free orthopedic surgical services for the vulnerable children with orthopedic deformities.

He has mentored and supported people in diverse ways. He is the brain behind the establishment of orthopaedic departments at the St. John of God Hospital, Dwayaw/nkwanta and St. Anthony Hospital at Dzodze.

In 2006, Dr. Rompa and I formed an NGO called Foundation for the Northern Orthopaedic Concern (FONOC) registered in Ghana. Through FONOC we are able to bring orthopaedic services to the three deprived regions of Northern Ghana.

The name Dr. Rompa when mentioned brings smiles, joy and hope to many patients that are booked to see him. He was a very skilful surgeon who did his best always for the patients. He will never want to leave any patients out of his surgical list.

I have lost a great friend and a mentor. I will forever cherish our friendship that we shared.

His wish has been that there comes a moment when Ghanaian Orthopedic surgeons will be treating their own people and so his emphasis was teaching the local colleagues how to 'Fish'.

He was also particular about continuity and so my last communication with him he asked what happens to the department when I retire. When I assured him I will stay another two years to orientate the two surgeons being trained in Uganda, he said 'Prosper now I am happy to hear this'.

Paul I will miss you, the stories from Northern Ghana, our unending conversations whenever we had the opportunity to meet and above all the mentorship.

Paul rest well with your maker and be well assured that you trained us well and so we will in turn train the younger ones so your dream of quality orthopedic care by Ghanaian orthopedic surgeons will be realized.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank Marielle (The Widow) and the entire Rompa's family for the care and support given to my great friend in the last few months before his demise.

May God Almighty be your comforter as you mourn this great man.

Accept our condolences.

Paul, Rest in Perfect Peace.

Prosper Moh (MD)
February 21, 2022