

A tribute in honor of Professor Pepeta

I think in this faculty we all agree that Prof Pepeta was a leader with a difference. Not only was he intelligent, but also passionate, enthusiastic, humble, kind and had a sense of humor. His nature made him stand out because as much as he was all the above, he was assertive and spoke truth to power. He passionately advocated for both his staff and students alike. He never assumed anything, was an exceptional listener and had a memory like no other. He could meet you or say something to you once and then would never forget the tiniest detail about that encounter. I have to say though, he did not appreciate one who would always come to him with problems and not offer what they think are possible solutions to that problem. He led by example - always at the forefront because he was confident and comfortable in his skin, never threatened by others but always aspired to empower and advocate for others irrespective of race, gender, beliefs, background or preferences.

Despite all of this he also was a family man to the core. To Dr Vuyo Pepeta, his “prayer warrior” as he would so fondly call her, and his bosses as we would tease him about (his two children he so adored and for whom he dropped everything when called by or for them), I cannot even begin to imagine what you are going through. Remember that God is still on the throne, He is a covenant-keeping God and everything that comes from Him is good. May you always know and remember that you have a family at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The Department of Pharmacy (and I am sure the faculty and the whole medical fraternity share this sentiment) is sincerely saddened by his untimely departure. Indeed the big tree has fallen. May his beautiful and kind soul rest in perfect peace. Rest easy family man (Phumla tatawekhaya), man of integrity (ndoda endilisekileyo, enomqolo, egqibeleleyo), gentle giant (Gorha elithobekileyo) and selfless leader (Nkokheli ezinikeleyo) leader of all times. You will be sorely missed.



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