

**NO WORDS CAN DESCRIBE OUR SADNESS
WE WILL MISS YOU DEARLY**





r0g_#MMN COMMEMORATION

August 18th / 6pm

open culture office berlin / Germany

Knobelsdorffstrasse 22

14059 Berlin



BENNIE, WE MISS YOU!

It is with great sadness and shock that we announce the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Benedictus Agbelom, following a vehicle accident in Ghana. Benedictus helped craft our #MMN - Migrant Media Network project, which aimed to deliver information about safe alternatives to irregular migration to people in his home country of Ghana.

Benedictus, who loved playing badminton, listening to music, and cooking, grew up in Akosombo (Dam City) in the Eastern Region of Ghana and studied at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi. His work and studies inspired him to further his education in project management. He came to Germany to study and received his master's degree in Project Management from Arden University in Berlin. Benedictus's work with us at the rOg_agency also complemented his love of entrepreneurship and his desire to empower fellow youth in Ghana through his website studentjobs.gh.

A deep passion for helping others, combined with his humble, caring, and kind character fueled a dedication to see people excel. This led Benedictus to always improve the lives of his community and help make his country and the world we live in, a much better place. He will be sorely missed by all of us.

The rOg_agency team



Media Network Workshop 2021

Migrant Media Network

Information and training on migration
decisions and be aware of
WN promotes youth entrepreneurship
and social resilience, encouraging youth
work within their communities.



:/migrat

Migrant Media Network

In the loving memory of
Benedictus Agbelom
Rest In Peace...

funder:
Federal Foreign Office

partners:
you-apt

It is with great sadness, shock, and disbelief that we acknowledge – although our hearts still do not understand – that our friend and colleague Benedictus Agbelom passed away today. We loved him dearly and he will be missed so much. We wish his family and friends all the strength possible – he was such a gentle, caring, and kind person.

Benedictus helped craft our #MMN – Migrant Media Network project in Ghana and the Gambia. He was a great connector for the whole team. With his passion he helped make his country, and in that way the world, a better place. He will be sorely missed by all of us.

The #MMN team



Dearest Benedictus, today is the day of your funeral, something so unimaginable..... I am still in denial. I am good at trying to believe this is not true. I am not so good with words, but at least one cannot see me cry when writing. Someone lately said she hasn't cried all her tears and true, also my tears seem to be endless. I feel so sad, your life was just at the beginning of something new and exciting. We had plans together, founding an NGO in Ghana with the local team to run #MMN – which we will continue with you in thought.

We worked together on #MMN which you were so passionate about. Often I would have wished for you to speak your mind more openly, be more critical with us, the team, the work we do. That said I admired your gentle, respectful and all accepting character. You were the most reliable person, always there when needed and so non-judgmental. You are dearly missed already.

That you left for Ghana so suddenly, without the time to come by the office to take the traditional Open Culture office picture was a bit of a surprise. Little did we know then, that it would be the last time we see each other. I don't like good byes – not now, not later and for sure not forever.

As you know I have no religion that would make me pray but I do strongly believe in spirits and I know you are with us in spirit. Therefore I do not say that I will see you later – we will continue what we started and have you by our side always.

In loving memory
Susi



Steve's Ode to Benedictus

Dear Benedictus ... where have you gone?
Great, gentle giant of our team;
Your bright light always shining on!

The impulse of your smile;
Bringing delight to all our days;
If only we could chat another while.

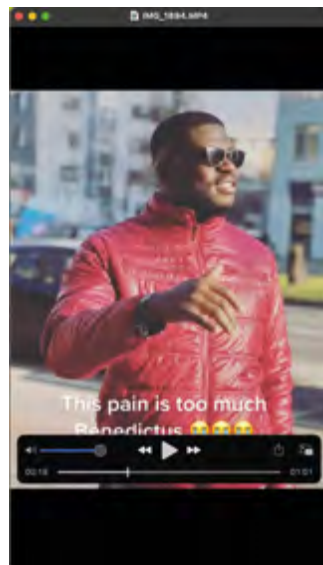
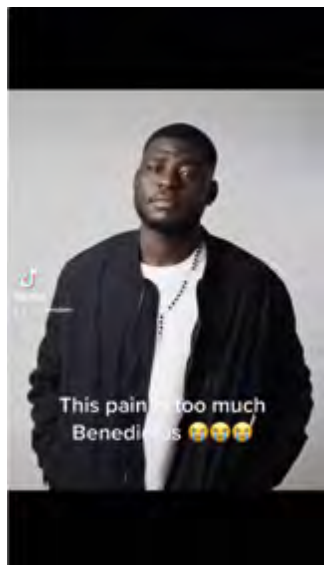
You'd come up with yet another great idea;
Wonderful ways to think out loud;
And we'd be off again from Ghana to Tanzania!

With projects you touched more life was brought to bear;
Every challenge you faced, every twist of fate;
New networks of friends and colleagues to share.

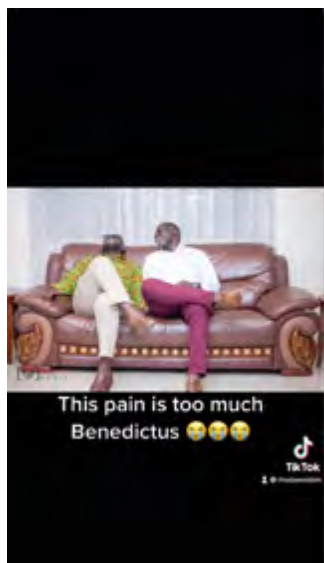
And again, more smiles, smiles, smiles;
This was your greeting, your signature,
Unique Bennie's way to overcome all your trials.

Those and your soft, humourful voice,
Ring on with us, with me, your family and friends;
Will always echo, never disappearing, only rejoice.

You left us behind Benedictus, but you will always be
A wonderful memory of a great guy, now off in some eternal sea!



TIK TOK Video by Rhoda Wedam -
THE PAIN IS TOO MUCH



Indeed we had many plans together. Plans to promote the students jobs in Ghana. You are one of those who applaud me in what am doing. You always want to hear that my organization is growing. When I received the news that the US ambassador to the United Nations was visiting my project, I was so excited that I picked my phone to call you and share the good news with you, only to remember that,you are resting with your maker.I will keep making you proud buddy...

I will never forget your words of encouragement...

Fare de well Bene as I affectionately call you...

Fare de well Buddy...

Fare de well my #MMN best friend and brother.

Rhoda



We did not have many interfaces in our work at r0g. A few financial issues and tasks. However, I always looked forward to meeting Bennie in the office in the morning. He was such a nice, smart, friendly and accommodating guy. It was nice to have a latte macchiato together before getting to work.

As a mother of two sons of the same age, I hardly dare to think of the huge pain this death causes. I am so sad. It remains his mission - to support people who desperately need it - we should continue it.

A coffee always waiting of you,
Bennie, a big hug,

Barbara





Dear Benedictus,

It's rather sad with a heavy heart to write a condolence to your family. How unbelievable to never would have the chance to work and brainstorm with you on projects and personal growth, just less than 3 days to your death on phone we celebrate the success of a project coming to reality before end of summer and agreed to work on another- a different one for next year!

In my mind I plan to call you few days after our telephone conversation (On Friday to be precise) to update and ask you a few questions mainly from our discussion but unfortunately I wake up to your sudden demise just before my promised call to you from an accident in Ghana!

Although I wish I were written for your birthday party or celebrating some sort of project/ success instead of your demise, writing this tribute is one of the hardest thing I've ever done in my life but God has given me grace as I struggle through my thoughts and ideas and try to articulate what an amazing Colleague you were.

we all know that life isn't fair sometimes. It's not fair that Bennie was taken from his family after only 29 years together. It's not fair that Bennie wasn't able to live long enough to see the joy of life and reap what he sows. And it's not fair that our office at rOg-agency especially the #MMN Team will be without Bennie's booming but very calm voice and contagious smiles. Things won't ever be the same.

No one worked harder than Bennie. He worked his way up to do others work, Bennie has contributed to the Gambia project without hesitation, love and passion. My encounter with you at the Migrant Media Network - MMN as both project coordinators for Ghana and Gambia since last year May have never been as solid and respectful than any colleague I ever worked / cross path with.

Here is a soul of peace, respect, kind, humble with a great sense of humour- Auntie as you fondly called me is going to miss you a lot, my condolences to your family in Ghana. In my culture we believe Good souls don't leave long- however, may you leave in long peace in the hereafter! You will forever be in my thoughts and prayers. Sleep well my dear colleague and great brother Benedictus Agbelom!

Nyima Jadama



Bennie;

I now have a playlist of songs that evokes memories of you. I listen to it often and I hate it because you are a memory now; grabbing lunch from the Turkish ladies around the corner from the office, eating ice cream just because the sun has peaked and it's 12 degrees Celsius and I'm still freezing, figuring out what coconut cream is called in German.

You are part of the eyes with which I experienced Berlin. Half of the time I spent in Schollsgatern I dragged you with me, because at my BIG age I didn't know how to cycle. You never complained you just came along. You had a million things to do but you sat there and watched me embarrass myself while cheering me, till I learned, I have watched the video of the 1st time I could cycle more than 10 times in the last 2 weeks. Your presence was so welcoming, warm and kind.

Since you left I only cycled on the day you were laid to rest ... a lot of things now remind me of you. Rest in perfect peace Bennie. Eventually it'll be less painful just not now because you left too soon. I'll keep you in my heart always.

Kendi



My dear Bennie,

last time in Berlin we said 'goodbye' to each other and 'see you in Ghana!' Not knowing that it would be our last goodbye.

I miss our conversations about the social and cultural differences between our countries and ourselves our special 'Aunty and Bennie' jokes no one else would understand, the fantasy-world we created by sharing our wishes and thoughts about another world.

You were busy finding your spiritual path and we had many exciting conversations. Not knowing that you found your path in a totally different way than we thought. I hope you can do all the good things you were up to here on earth up there. I am sure we will meet again.

I will always keep you in my heart.

Heike



In 2019 You came with #MMN project from rOg_agency which we both enjoy its success together at end of 2021, Looking forward to move in to the future with expectation to make a better life for others back home but you left us half way at last.

I remembered how you tried all your possible best to build Rhoda and I for the work at #MMN_ rOg in Ghana some where in june 2020 for the success of the entire team. We can't forget you Bennie, Babanawo!

I am sick of you passing away without saying good bye. The vaccum you left behind is so deep that i can't stop crying. May your soul rest in peace.

Hedenuiee Kwame.

James Javerence Oboade



Dear Uncle,

I am in disbelief and great discomfort of writing this condolence letter to you, to be honest, I am still in denial ..

My close friend, just weeks ago we were planning my visit to Ghana, and I was looking forward to it, and now just the thought of going there scares me, as it will be such a sad and heavy burden on my heart that you won't be there, but at the same time, I want to visit and give you a proper farewell, I promised I will visit you and I will someday. You have helped me throughout my stay in Berlin, day in and day out, and every corner of Berlin reminds me of a specific situation we had together. I will miss those walks nagging about my life and you nagging about yours, you gave me so much comfort mentally and always assured me that everything will be alright and that I'm not alone, I will always cherish that. It was fun working with you Bennie, I loved every moment of it, your smile, your enthusiasm, your genuine care towards me and your honest, fun vibe. Your memories and smile will never be forgotten and will forever hold them close to my heart. Rest in peace my brother.

Your Auntie,

Nour



It was a warm summer afternoon as Bennie and I strolled down the streets of Berlin, heading to our office summer gathering. We talked about Bennie's plans to return to Ghana and of all of the things he was planning to do before turning 30. He had big plans - plans about businesses he wanted to start, plans about how to stay fit, plans about self-betterment.

We talked about the podcasts we love listening to and about how we structure our days to find balance. It was the sort of conversation that just flowed and it made me marvel and smile at the plans of the young, at Bennie's optimistic view of the future, at his ambition.

It was the sort of conversation you have with young people who are on the cusp of life: full of energy and enthusiasm. It was lovely - and it was never meant to be our last.

That is of course the nature of life; we have no way of knowing whether something will be the last of its kind until much later. And I can't help but think about that conversation, about what we would have talked about if we did have the insight into the future, knowing that Bennie's time here on earth was coming to an end. Would we have had a different conversation? Of course. But at the same time, I also love that my last memories of Bennie are of him as I want to remember him: so alive, so ready for what the future would bring.

Bennie, it is not fair that your life was cut short. But my deep hope is that when the time came, you were also ready for the next life and could go, knowing that you did your part to better this world. Rest in peace, dear colleague.

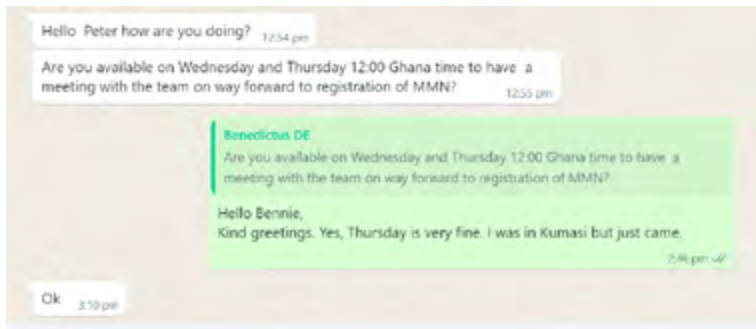
Sara



Chairman Bennie was and still a hero to many of us here in the Diaspora. He lived a full life and shared a lot with me and our Ghanaian community here in Berlin. Always smiling and cheering up everyone he met. He gave a lot to us in such a short period of time. For some he died very young. For me as a friend and patriot. I feel he lived his full life and left a lot of good legacies to remember. The love for others and sharing the little you have with the community. Hard work and discipline. Respect for all people and love to all people. We will keep remembering his life here on earth and although painful to think Bennie is Gone for Ever to His Maker. I believe his love for all people he met and the rich experiences we shared together in both good and bad times lives on. His death reminds all change makers in the Diaspora to keep sharing the love and respect to community and beyond. Chairman Bennie Rest in Peace till we meet again.
Love and Respect Bro.

Cosmas Kombat Lambini





Alas! Bennie, our proposed meeting fizzled out with the wind. Alas! Alas!! you said in your text above that you were 'available anytime', but you are not ALWAYS available now; I cannot ever reach you anymore! 'Wednesday or Thursday 12.00 Ghana time' never came by, or rather they did, but alas! you were already gone! As is usual of you, you led the process, the initiative, the ideas, most of the time that made #MMN an innovative project.

Fare well, Bennie.

Peter Narh

TRIBUTE BY

MIGRANT MEDIA NETWORK OF R0G_AGENCY

Thank you for this slot to highlight a few of what makes us keep a permanent memory of our gentle friend and colleague Benedictus Agbelom.

It is with great sadness, shock, and disbelief that we, the #MMN team acknowledge – although our hearts still do not understand – that Benedictus has passed away in such tragic circumstances.

Benedictus helped craft our #MMN – Migrant Media Network project, which aims to deliver information systems and safe alternatives to migration for people from Ghana and other African countries. In 2020, he

started work within the #MMN project team in the r0g_agency office in Berlin as a Diaspora Coordinator.

Our colleague was instrumental in the first #MMN Diaspora workshop in 2019 in Germany at the r0g_agency office in Berlin. Shortly afterwards he was one of the first #MMN Diaspora mentors that went from Germany to Ghana to conduct trainings on safe migration and dangers of irregular migration and human trafficking.

He was a great connector for the teams in Germany, Ghana and beyond. He inspired many people in

pursuing their dreams and complemented his love of entrepreneurship with his sense of service in helping empower fellow youth in Ghana, where he also co-founded studentjobs.gh.

On the side of informal conversations, he would politely request many of us to share the student jobs idea and platform in our universities. It is such passion that #MMN and student jobs projects indeed manifest a dedication to work beyond his personal economic gain, but for a true cultural and social change in the circumstances of the lives of young people, particularly migrants and tertiary students. In his trail are lots of lives motivated to lead their own transformation and livelihoods.

This deep passion for helping others, combined with his humble, caring, and kind character fueled a dedication to see people excel. This led Benedictus to improve the lives of his community and help make his country, indeed the world we share and live in, a much better place. It was a great pleasure to work with him as his gentle and always respectful way of dealing with people were real contributions to the whole #MMN team. We love him dearly and he will be missed so much. We wish his family and friends all the strength possible – he was such a gentle, caring, and kind person! He will be sorely missed by all of us.

Benedictus, may your gentle soul rest in perfect peace! Thank you for all your legacies for the world!



Yahya Moro Yapha is with Nyima Jadama and 2 others.

23 July at 13:23 · 🌐

Paying special tribute to our late and beloved brother [Benedictus Agbelom](#)!
Continue to rest in Eternal Peace bro, until we meet again!



Wearebornfree Humanity Matters was live.

23 July at 13:22 · 🌐

LIVE: Wearebornfree! Paying special tribute to our late brother, colleague, friend and fighter Benedictus Agbelom who died recently in Accra Ghana, coming to you live and direct from Wearebornfree! Empowerment Radio, on the frequency of 88.4mhz in Berlin and 90.7mhz in Potsdam.

Also on the link at <http://ice.rosebud-media.de:8000/88vier>

Rest In Eternal Peace Brother!

We will always remember you!



Yahya Moro Yapha is 🥹 feeling sad.

22 July at 19:47 · 🌐

I'm deeply sad 🥹 and shocked about this news throughout the day. So cold, to lose such a creature with a heart for his people and the entire humanity

[Benedictus Agbelom](#)

You are gone forever!



You, Karamo Conteh, Cosmas Kombat and 24 others

14 comments

I still can't believe that you are gone, and won't be seen nor talked to you anymore in this life.

Benedictus, you were such a great, kind, and cool person. You were a role model who has supported and empowered migrants and refugees in your lifetime here in Germany and Ghana through addressing irregular migration and finding positive alternatives for those who wanted to leave Ghana for Europe, ever since I know you to your demise.

We will forever miss you bro here in life!

But your legacy, role and effort will be always remembered.

May your Soul Rest in Peace Benedict!

Moro Yapha





Dear Ben,

On Thursday i was sitting opposite your desk exactly as we used to sit during our time at rOg Open Culture. This time it was different, instead of you sitting opposite, there was rather a photo of yours and a fading rose flower with an inscription 'We miss you Ben, rest in Peace'. It was a Thursday evening, the strange day you and I always ate at my place and then ended up at the Afrobeat party in 'Flowers Bar'. But this time it was just a Thursday of a thousand thoughts, of a thousand reflections.a time to ponder over life. Truly life is a candle in the wind, yours suddenly faded away like the rose flower now lying on your table at the office.

Ben, I still remember how on May 6th you suddenly surprised me when I was in Cameroon by telling me you were also away in Ghana and will be staying for a little while. We were on the course of organising another boat party when you made your decision to move to Ghana for a while. I wish there was any pre-knowledge that you were never going to return any more. To even imagine that your death occurred on the morning of the famous boat party you would have been part of had you been in Berlin is still a mystery to me. On Tuesday we had our last phone call and on Friday you died. What a world!

Its many days now and we have come to the reality of your demise.

But from your death I have learned a few lessons: That nothing is guaranteed. Not even this life that we treasure so much. It never matters how much air or energy you possess. We can be gone at any time. Imagine all your magic dance steps during parties, all your flamboyant and beau outfits at every outing and all of these will just be memories now.

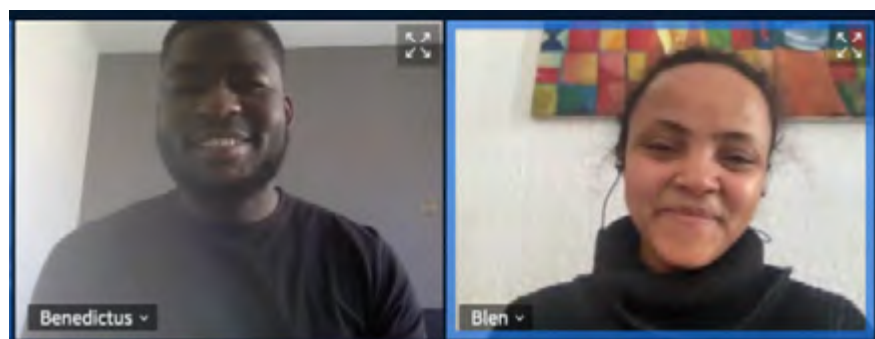
As a colleague you outperformed your self: always very cordial, polite and willing to lend a hand. You took the MMN very close to your heart, the testimony of those who have reached out since your death was announced has been a testimony. They all miss you.

You loved life and knew how to live it. Haha!! Ben I have learned to take having fun serious as you did. I have learned to celebrate each day as though it were the last. Let me not forget that I have learned to step out in elegant outfit when I can cuz I wont wear these as a dead dude. You laughed with every body, had a gentle spirit and were good company always. This of course I want to keep of you.

And of course as you will like to say 'Uncle Ben', Cornelius and me learned the craziest slangs in the two language from you. How do we recite these now when no other person from Ghana understands the context under which we learned them. You opened up your Ghana world to us selflessly and we fell in love with it. From learning about banku to eating kontumeri. I still didn't like Ghanian jollof though. Not even the one you made me eat on Ghana's independent day but I am sure that I will learn to cook red red.

There are so many memories of you but I don't know how much of them to share. I will just let them stay in my mind and treasure them as long as I remember you. Rest in peace colleague, friend and impact maker! You lived right! Go well!!!!

Valerie Viban



Dear Bennie,

It's so painfully sad to say goodbye to you this way. I kept going back to the last conversation that we had about your decision of going back to Ghana and me trying to convince you to stay in Berlin. I am sorry that I didn't have the chance to say goodbye when you left Berlin.

In writing this, I went down memory lane and thought about the first time I met you back in 2019 for the MMN project. Upon learning about the "studentjobsgh.com" initiative that you were trying to set up with your friend, I remember it impressed me how much you had accomplished at such a young age. You had a bright future ahead of you, and it is not fair that your life has been cut too short.

I also remember how highly you spoke about your family and of how family meant everything to you that very first day. Despite coming from a similar culture, I admired all the love and care you put into telling stories about your family. Looking back now, I'm very grateful for the time I spent with you, and for the kindness, care, and compassion that you showed us all. Bennie, I will be missing you greatly and I will hold on to the many fond and funny memories I have of you.

My heart goes out to Bennie's family, and I'm keeping you in my thoughts. Rest in Peace, gentle and humble Bennie.

Blen



Tribute to Ben

A true friend is never truly gone.
Their spirit lives on in the memories of those who loved them.

I know you are still celebrating in heaven

Rest In Peace my friend, your impact as a true friend will always be
remember.

God be with you UNCLE

Steve Wepia



Bennie you were calm in speech but full of wisdom, integrity and humility, each time you spoke. Your patience and determination to make things work, was out of the ordinary. You gave me so much ideas and made my job less difficult. You will take blames for things you had no responsibilities for and will always respond to tensions with calmness. News of your departure, still hunts me; for both work related and personal reasons and I don't even know how to go about mourning you. Please show me a sign. We promised each other a lot but didn't realized these. Why didn't you tell me you were going Bennie?

Kinang Derick Fai



Bennie, where do I even start? I remember it was a normal morning, I woke up and like usual, I was looking through my social media notifications and in one particular office chat group, there it was, a message that you was involved in a car accident and had passed on. I took a deep breath and hoped it was not true. Except, it was.

Bennie's death is so painful to fathom because I remember the person he is, we met a few years ago when I was invited by r0g_ to facilitate a workshop for the MMN project. In-between sessions, we all got to know each other, shared personal stories and aspirations, and laughed over silly jokes shared in the workshop. After I left back to Uganda, I was so inspired to see Bennie take the Migrant Media Network to Ghana and launch activities to engage and support Ghanaian youth like himself.

Just two months ago, I was in the Netherlands when, in the middle of a random conversation, someone mentioned that Benne had returned to Ghana. I was hanging out with people from the office at the time, and everyone immediately started telling their stories about how kind, hardworking, and respectful Bennie was. Everyone adored him, and that is his legacy: service and love. It's difficult to accept that he's gone. What seems logically now is to mourn his death and the manner in which he was untimely taken from us, but what seems even more logically is to celebrate the things that Benedictus did and it's impact on other people.

Farewell thee, my friend

Jaiksana



Dear Bennie,

Sorrow fills my heart at this sad moment, a sorrow that is deep and personal. Bennie, you silently closed the door of life and departed from us. My life is empty in the areas that you had brightened. It's still hard to believe...

Rest in Peace, Bennie. Your memories and impact will never be forgotten! Those will always remain with me forever.

Sabina Abuga



Bennie & Jude 2021

An open letter to Ben k. Agbelom

Dear kwame Agbelom,
Death had not come so close to me in a long while.
This morning I have been shaking after hearing about what has happened to you Benedictus.
You were a good person with a good heart.
I remember how you got me connected to Migrant Media Network- for this your kind act, someone's dream of owning expensive podcast equipment came to light.
For this same kind act a lot of undocumented immigrants in Germany got help and are happy now.
Many people who didn't know you personally even share their experiences of how you connect them virtually to opportunities that opened bigger doors for them.
The whole Berlin family
With MMN Teams-Ghana and Gambia will miss you.
I don't know how Susanne our boss will feel hearing this.
I just can't imagine how Steve Wepia, Gideon, Selekem, Rhoda Wedam and the MMN squad are feeling right now.
I wish you could come back.
I wish I could press a ctrl Z to undo this day so u will still be alive.

All In all God knows best
May God keep you in His bosom
Rest in power
Till we meet again.

Your distant brother, friend and MMN colleague.

J.A Asamoah



Bennie was a brother, a friend an amazing boss to me and very dedicated and genuinely humble person I've met so far. His words of impact keeps you going. He guides, lead and always put up successful outcomes. Am really going to miss him. I remember the last time we spoke when he returned to Ghana. Thinking was going to meet him but it's rather unfortunate it didn't happen. Regardless of who you are Bennie treats u gently. Bennie May your soul rest in perfect peace. He inspired me through our MMN project boosting my confidence to reach out to so many youths. I can't stop sharing tears and there's a whole lot to express right now but what I will say Bennie will forever remain in my heart.

Emmanuel Korsah



" Make you no fear, we go do am !" This was his favorite phrase each time he needed to encourage people around him.

A selfless leader, a brother and a friend to all. You will forever be missed. Thou you may not be on this earth, you are still in our hearts.

Nuel Bans



"Even though I did not know Ben for long, I had the opportunity to work with him and he was very accommodating and progressive. He made my work pretty easy and he was open to varying opinions. He was gentle and kind; that is why his beautiful soul will rest in a perfect peace".

Ebenezer Dwomoh August 2022



Welcome to **rig_community**!

For help on using BigBlueButton see these (short) tutorial videos:

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To invite someone to the meeting, send them this link:
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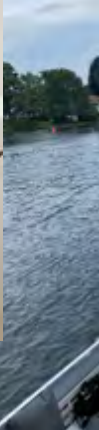
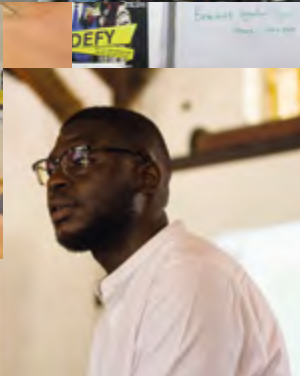
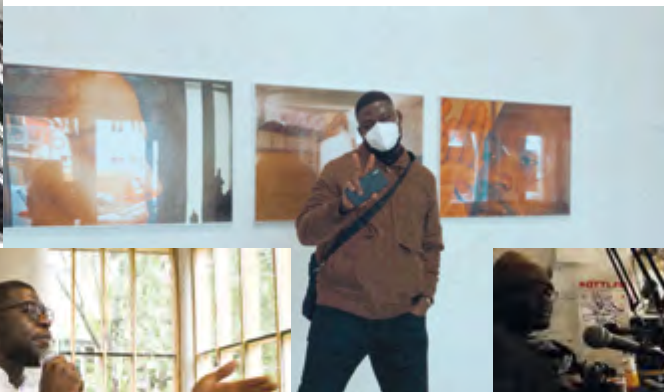
Public Chat

Welcome to **rig_communication**!

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Notes to our dear friend Bennie, from your
r0g_agency team and friends in Berlin:



from Cornilius