

Mr. Ekow De-graft Duncan lived a life of conviction, service, and principled leadership that touched his family, his community, and the nation of Ghana. His journey from a teacher and civil servant to entrepreneur, political thinker, and party leader reflected a consistent commitment to justice, dignity, and opportunity for ordinary Ghanaians.

Early life and education

Ekow De-graft Duncan was the first born of Mr. David De-graft Duncan of the Adwenadze Idun family of Cape Coast and Madam Abena Nyameye, affectionately known as Aunty Deus, of Nkawie in the Atwima Nwabiagya District of the Ashanti Region, both of blessed memory. He was named **Ekow** Sika Ye Na after his paternal grandfather, David De-graft Duncan Snr., a name lovingly used by his mother and close family.

He began his early education at the Nkawie Anglican Mission School, where his father, “Uncle DD,” served as a teacher before a series of transfers eventually brought the family to Accra. In Accra, he attended Penworth...After Penworth, he sat for the Common Entrance Examination and gained admission to Adisadel College in 1962, completing his secondary education in 1967, after which he pursued sixth form at Apam Secondary School and later a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Philosophy at the University of Ghana, graduating in 1973.

Professional and entrepreneurial life

After University, Ekow served his country by undertaking his National Service as a Secondary School teacher in Zuarungu in the Upper East Region, pouring his time and energy into young people far from his coastal roots. On completion, he relocated to Accra to work as an Assistant Commercial Officer at the Ministry of Trade and Tourism (later Trade and Industry), a position he held from October 1974 to May 1979, gaining first-hand insight into Ghana’s commercial and industrial landscape.

With courage and a strong entrepreneurial spirit, he later resigned from the civil service to start his own businesses. He established Fingerlickin, vibrant restaurant in Osu, a vision of his and his wife Wilhelmina’s, a self trained caterer and later professionally trained chef; ventured into the foreign exchange business with Unitrust Forex Bureau; and together with his beloved wife, founded Echoduck Agencies Ltd in July 1982. Together they grew the Company into an import-export firm dealing in pharmaceuticals, spices, beverages, automotive parts and other goods that contributed to Ghana’s growing private sector.

Political Life and National Service

An ardent social democrat and committed Nkrumahist, Mr. Duncan devoted a significant part of his life to the Convention People's Party (CPP), whose principles of social justice, self-determination, and people-centered development he embraced wholeheartedly. Over the years he served the party in several leadership roles, including Director of Operations, Shadow Cabinet Member for Political Affairs, member of the Central Committee, and from March 2011 until his passing, Chairman of the Political Committee.

As Director of Operations, he coordinated campaign activities for the 2008 elections, working to build a clear chain of command and energize regional and constituency branches as instruments of engagement with the electorate. He consistently argued that Ghana's economic policy must go beyond narrow stabilization to harmonize growth, industrialization, food production, and trade, insisting that a CPP government would strengthen the real sectors of the economy and ensure Ghana "would not be a beggar nation."¹

Mr. Duncan also invested deeply in the party's youth, encouraging young Nkrumahists to study the history and principles of the CPP and to see politics not as a path to personal gain but as a vocation of service and national production. In his public addresses and internal party work, he urged the younger generation to carry forward Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's unfinished project of building an industrial, self-reliant Ghana—organising, campaigning, and working in their own professions so that the wealth of the country would be created and shared by its own citizens.

Literary Works and Vision for Ghana

Beyond speeches and organizational work, Mr. Duncan wrote articles and opinion pieces on national politics, the economy, and governance that appeared in Ghanaian media. In these writings he articulated a clear vision: a productive, self-reliant Ghana that rejected dependency, protected national resources, and used state power to promote broad-based industrial and agricultural development rather than speculative wealth.

He argued that the failures of revolving stabilization programmes, rising unemployment, and currency depreciation were symptoms of deeper structural problems, and he called for a return to Nkrumahist principles—strategic public investment, support for local industry, and a fair balance between stabilization and growth. He believed **firmly** that the CPP should serve as an arbiter of peace in Ghana's

¹ "Ghana Will Not be a Beggar Nation Under CPP" - <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/politics/ghana-will-not-be-beggar-nation-under-cpp.html>

polarized politics, respecting independent state institutions, reducing violent partisan competition, and building a democratic order rooted in social justice, dignity, and **genuine national independence**.

Faith, Personality and Community life

In his young adulthood, Mr. Duncan accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and was baptized by immersion at the Church of Pentecost, a decision that shaped his outlook, humility, and compassion. With the continued support of his faith by his Wife, he rededicated his life to Christ at the International Central Gospel Church (ICGC), Adenta. He drew strength from Scripture and prayer, finding in his faith a moral compass for both private life and public engagement.

Those who knew him remember a man of generosity, humour, and quiet firmness, who gave his time, talent, and resources to support family, friends, colleagues, and political comrades. He loved football and healthy living, joining a keep-fit club known as the Scrap Rangers and playing regularly on weekends, and he supported the arts by being a patron of local musicians such as The Roots Anabo Band and The Pan African Orchestra in the 1980s.

Despite a naturally stoic and serious exterior, to his family and closest friends he was a warm, playful, and deeply generous presence, quick with a joke and an infectious laugh. He loved a good party and was never shy to show off his delightfully awful dance moves whenever a favourite song came on, to the endless amusement of his children and loved ones. His children remember him as loving and affectionate, a father whose empathy moved him to lend a helping hand whenever he could, and who, even while aware of his own imperfections, devoted himself to living each day with greater goodness, integrity, and moral courage. He taught his children, nephews, and nieces whenever he could that a life is truly well lived only when it is devoted to serving others.

Family and Personal Legacy

Family stood at the center of Mr. Duncan's world; as the first child, he felt a deep responsibility for both his immediate and extended family and worked tirelessly to support them. He met his wife, Wilhelmina Duncan—whom he affectionately called Naana or Mummy—in 1972; they married in 1976 and welcomed their first child, Kojo Gyekye, in 1980, followed by Nana Afriyie in 1981, Kobina Sikayena in 1987, and Kweku Amoago in 1988, building a close-knit family grounded in love, discipline, and mutual respect.

Wilhelmina and Ekow shared 49 years of marriage, weathering the joys and storms of life together, including his illness, with courage, faith, and unwavering devotion until his passing in 2025. He is survived by his cherished wife, their children, his grandchildren, siblings, and relatives who carry forward his values of integrity, courage, and service, as well as by comrades in the CPP and across Ghanaian society

who were inspired by his steadfast commitment to principle. Though his passing brings profound sorrow, his life remains a powerful testimony to the possibilities of a citizen who uses intellect, conviction, and hard work in the service of God, family, and country, and his dream of a just, confident, and self-reliant Ghana continues to light the path for those who follow especially his three granddaughters whom he doted on without reservation Zoe, Will and Joy.