

Efueitong Florence, born on 9 November 1968 in Tiko was the first of 5 children of Dr Atabong B.E

George of blessed memory and Mrs Atabong Tongwa Dorothy.

For her primary education, she studied at Catholic School Buea Town and later at Government Bilingual Primary School Yaounde from where she obtained the First School Leaving Certificate in 1980. She attended college both at Saker Baptist College Limbe and St Augustine's College Nso. Upon obtaining the General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level, she moved to the Government Bilingual High School Yaounde (Essos) in 1986. Following her success at the General Certificate of Education Advanced Level, she studied Law at the then University of Yaounde and graduated with a *Licence en Droit* in 1992.

Florence left Cameroon for the United States of America in 1995. In 1998, she was authorized to practice as a Licensed Practical Nurse by the Board of Nursing of Virginia. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Columbia Union College in 2006.

In March 2009, Florence suffered a stroke and fought for her life. Even though the prognosis was not very favourable to her ever standing on her feet again, she did and carried out her activities independently. She was a very funny and vibrant person, and even on her sickbed, she entertained all who came to visit her.

As concerns her professional life, Florence worked in a number of health establishments in Maryland, Washington DC and Virginia. Over the years, Florence visited Cameroon regularly, the last time being in November 2019 during which she celebrated her birthday together with her family and friends. During her stay, beautiful childhood memories were remembered. She was so full of life as usual and was excited about visiting Kenya in 2020.

She took particular care of her health, especially her diet. She gave a lot of medical advice to people around her and indulged in wide reading on medicinal plants. This earned her the name Dr Afirie as she was fondly called by her loved ones. In fact, on the day she fell sick, just one week after her return from Cameroon on 9 December, she called a family friend who was hospitalized to inform her that she was bringing some plant products for her in a few days. Little did she know that she would end up in the same hospital with the family friend on that same day.

Florence was kind-hearted. She was a straightforward person and it was common to hear her say "I don't like that your dirty politics, call a spade a spade". Described as very quiet and not assertive in the early years of her life, she significantly changed during her adulthood, especially after recovery from her illness in 2009. Thanks to her positive mind, assertiveness, remarkable courage and the love of her family and friends, she enjoyed life no matter the challenges. She believed in infinite possibilities and did not like the statement "you cannot".

Florence was baptized as a Catholic Christian. She received First Holy Communion on 18 April 1976 and confirmation on 19 June 1977. She received the last rites of the Catholic Church a few days before she exited from the world on 30 December 2019 in Maryland, USA.

*"The eternal God is your refuge and his everlasting arms are under you..." Deut. 33: 27*

