

## BIOGRAPHY OF MIGUEL RIBEIRO FIIFI BRANDFUL

SUNRISE: FRIDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 1957

SUNSET: TUESDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2025

### **Roots and Early Life:**

Miguel Ribeiro Fiifi Brandful, affectionately known as “Fiifi” by family and friends was born in Cape Coast on Friday, 27th September 1957 to Rev. William George Mensah Brandful and Mrs Essie Essilfua Brandful, both of blessed memory. He was the fifth of six children, Sophia being the first and followed in order by William (Wig), Vesta (deceased), Jim (deceased) and Samuel, the last of the children, born five years after Fiifi.

His early days were spent on the campus of Mfantsipim at Cape Coast, where his father, Rev. Brandful was a teacher, Chaplain and eventually the headmaster. In his teenage years, whilst residing at Mission Street, Osu, the Brandful family included Charles Dadzie (our uncle) and Akosua Abaidoo (nee Godwyll) who have remained our siblings to this day.

Fiifi was named after a good friend of his parents, the late Miguel Augustus Ribeiro who also taught at Mfantsipim before embarking on an illustrious diplomatic career during which he served as Ambassador of Ghana to Ethiopia, Germany, USA, and Italy, respectively.

### **Education:**

Fiifi’s introduction to formal education begun at Methodist Primary “B” in Cape Coast. Following a move to Accra by his parents in 1965, he continued his first cycle education at the Presbyterian cluster of schools at Osu, close to where the family resided, and sat the Common Entrance Examination with a cohort of students from Salem Boarding Middle School to enter Form One at Mfantsipim in 1969. Fiifi pursued secondary school education at Mfantsipim and successfully obtained his GCE “O” levels in 1974. The adventurous streak in him led to his participation in a one-year American Field Service (AFS) exchange programme at Fallbrook Union High School in California, USA before returning to Mfantsipim for his GCE “A” levels from 1975-77.

In his final year at Mfantshipim (1976-77), he served as the “Head Boy” or School Prefect. It was a truly memorable appointment as it coincided with the 1976 centenary celebrations of “The School,” Mfantshipim, and of secondary school education in Ghana.

After attending Mfantshipim, he earned a B.Sc. in Agriculture, in 1981 from the University of Ghana, Legon. This was followed by an M.Sc. programme, also in Agriculture from the University of Reading, UK, from 1988 to 1990.

### **Professional Life:**

Fifi spent over 20 years in the banking sector, advancing from the branch management level in 1997 to board positions at Ecobank and OmniBSIC Bank, and with experience not only in Ghana, but in Sierra Leone, and Uganda as well.

He commenced his banking career as Credit Officer at the Adabraka branch of the Agricultural Development Bank (now ADB Bank), serving at various branches over a period of seven years before transitioning to Ecobank as a Branch Manager. At Ecobank, his responsibilities expanded substantially, including significant assignments in Sierra Leone and Uganda from 2006 to 2012. He subsequently returned to Ghana in 2015 to assume the role of Executive Head of Operations and Technology for the West Africa region, a position he held until his retirement in 2017.

In 2020, Fifi joined the board of OmniBSIC Bank and served as Chairman of the Board Credit Sub-committee, Member, Board Audit Sub-committee and Member, Board Finance, IT and Operations Sub-committee. He remained in these roles till his sudden demise.

In pursuit of his never-ending quest for excellence and to become the complete banking professional, Fifi became an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in 2003 and was recognised as a Fellow in 2019.

### **Family Life:**

During his sojourn in the UK, Fifi met Felicia Mansa Stephens and became completely smitten by her charm! After courtship, they got married in 1989 at the Sudbury Methodist Church and remained as husband and wife for thirty-six (36) years.

Fiifi doted on Felicia as well as his three (3) daughters, Araba, Nana and Ewuraefua, all married now. Their marriages brought three sons-in-law—Derrick Crentsil, Andrew Amegatcher, and Samuel Obuobisa-Darko; and four grandchildren: Paula, Timothy, Elora, and Jesse, with more expected, who would love to hear about their illustrious grandfather. Fiifi maintained a close bond with family, and his home was always a beehive of activity from the frequent goings-out and in of immediate family.

There was never a dull moment with Fiifi around and about a year or two ago, in keeping with his humorous self, Fiifi declared that he had acquired a title, namely *Oteterete Kofi Ribeiro the First*. The origin of “*Oteterete*” remains his secret!

His devotion to family however extended to wider spheres. He kept a special place in his heart for showing love and concern to his siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, in-laws and the extended family in Winneba, Sekondi, Chavene and around the world.

#### **Faith and Church Life:**

Fiifi took his relationship with God, and commitment to church groups and activities seriously. From the very early days of involvement with the Ridge Church Youth Fellowship through to his attendance and membership at Calvary Methodist Church, Neasden Methodist Church, UK, St. John’s Methodist Church, New Achimota and finally, Immanuel Methodist Church, East Airport, he made consistent efforts to belong and to participate meaningfully in church activities. He was an exemplary and dedicated organist and actively contributed to the Choir, Men’s Fellowship, and Bible Class at Immanuel Methodist Church, where he worshipped for over ten years. These activities added further strength and devotion to his faith and church life

As a Child of the Manse, Fiifi was conscious of his faith from early childhood, and he endeavoured to put his trust in God throughout his life.

#### **Character and Legacy:**

Fiifi impacted numerous lives through his diverse affiliations, including Ghana's banking sector, Immanuel Methodist Church, Celebrity Golf Club, District Grand Lodge of Ghana, the cricket community, Manchester United supporters, Tumpa

Anona Royal Family of Winneba, and Mfantsipim School / Mfanstipim Old Boys Association (MOBA).

He will be remembered for his humour, love of life, firm and principled posture on issues, and for his generosity.

Rest well, *Oteterete Kofi Ribeiro I*,

Rest well, Fiifi, in the bosom of our Lord.

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