**BEST MAN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**RONALD ACKUAYI**

Hello everybody. This is a great evening to spend celebrating a wonderful couple that means so much to each one of us!!! Tonight we witness and honor Francis and Nana, two words that I cannot even imagine saying in separate sentences!! Francis and Nana... they go together like (**Name 3 great pairs that the couple will find cute/funny**) peaches and cream!!! Batman and Robin! Barack and Michelle!!! (**Or choose some other couples and wait for the laugh**). The two of you are our “dynamic duo” (**Do you want to say**) and now you’re finally “**official**!!” You two put in so much love, time and energy to make “Our day” as you call it, a special one. On behalf of all of your friends and family, I want to say a collective “Thank you.” This reception reflects the love you have for each other and for us, and it is an honor to stand by you as best man and dance at your wedding. I also have to say, you’ve done an excellent job in choosing the most beautiful attendants, especially **THIS ONE**... (**Point to your wife**)... maybe if I’m **REALLY** lucky, I’ll get to take her home... oh wait... **THAT** dream has **ALREADY** come true!!! This **BEAUTIFUL** bridesmaid is **ALREADY** my wife!!! I’m a lucky man!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

 It’s a real blessing to be at a dear friend’s wedding, and what makes this even more significant has to do with all of the friends and family that have travelled from far and near to share this time with both of you tonight. Francis and Nana, I know how much you and your family appreciate all of this love good wishes.

Francis, I want you to know that it’s an honor to be your best man and it’s been a privilege to be your friend. For those of you that may not know, I’ve  know Francis for over 20 years. We have traveled similar paths in our journeys of life, and for much of it, we have been side by side, learning together, laughing together, and hopefully becoming respected members of our community together! . From the land of the great baobab tree (Odadee) Presec Legon, through the corridors of the University of Science and technology (UST) , to the Northern Virginia/DC metropolis, pre-pharmacy and pharmacy school, we have been each other’s sounding board, study partner, and “wingman.”

We originally met in our first class at the UST. Francis usually sat in the front row with all the ladies around him so he was easily noticed as soon as you entered the lecture auditorium. Frankly, I thought he must have been some kind of a **SUPER STAR**!! (**Wait for the laugh**). It’s been said that “laughter is the best medicine,” but I learned very early on that Francis already held the “secret formula” to success... and that was just being himself! He was smart, attentive, friendly, devoted to his studies, God fearing.... who **WOULDN’T** want to be his friend? Most of our fellow students... especially the ladies... fell for his “charms.” ... and while some of the guys may have teased and joked and called him a ladies’ man.... it was because he set such a good example... and trust me, the ladies loved him for all the right reasons. Agape Kind of love.

Over the years our friendship matured as did the two of us... we did our pre-pharmacy studies together, which was lucky for me, as I have always been in awe of his intelligence, compassion, and work ethic. Fortunately, our paths crossed again in the DM area. Our friendship even became stronger because we had to overcome several hurdles together.

Francis, I remember when you introduced me to your fiancée, Nana. I can vividly recall that moment as you two were so happy together. Ladies and gentlemen, I had never seen Francis so excited as when he was with Nana or spoke of her... it was clear that she was **THE ONE**. Nana brought joy into his life and Francis had become a completely different person.... welll.... not **COMPLETELY** different.... remember he was already pretty great to begin with (**Wait for the laugh**), but true love really does change people... love heals... it nurtures... it inspires... it blooms, and Nana and Francis do all that for each other. Nana is loving, caring and supportive, and it has been wonderful to witness these two grow together. I’ve been inspired watching as Nana supports Francis’ dreams.... as if they are her own.... especially the dream of becoming a pharmacist.

So many memories of the two of you and the three of us come back to me... Oh!! How we studied all those nights in that little basement with Nana providing all the support and encouragement .... and some **FOOD**!!! ... especially my favorite porridge (housa koko) I remember when Francis decided to pursue a 6-year pharmacy program in Florida while Nana and the boys remained here in VA.... that was a bold decision, but it was done for the good of the family and the future. Francis took a risk but the faith he shares with Nana is unwavering. The traveling, caring for the kids, keeping the family together in spirit... it was difficult, but through the unflinching love and support of Nana you managed to succeed, and you **ALL** triumphed!!

Francis,  you continue to inspire...you ARE one of my guideposts in life. When we decided to go back to school after many years, although at times I became discouraged, you quickly jumped in to remind me:

You’ve shown us how God is love

You’ve  shown us how friendship is love

You’ve  shown us how patience and perseverance is love

You’ve shown us how supporting one another is love

Ladies and gentlemen, please raise your glasses as I propose a toast:

To Nana and Francis, You’ve taught us all that laughter, love, faith and respect, when combined, really is the **best medicine** in life. May you continue to learn and grow, together as a family and as caring, compassionate people. Here’s to a life filled with laughter and health, prosperity and inspiration, and may you both have more than you might ever wish for. Congratulations! We love you!