



Samir had a Higher Purpose for Africa

My first encounter with Samir Amin was through the *CODESRIA Bulletin* about ten years before I met him in person in 1998. Like many intellectual giants in his League, Samir Amin awed me as an individual that just seemed to know so much about Africa and the world. I loved the *CODESRIA Bulletin* so much because in it I read ideas of Samir Amin and his African intellectual colleagues who were head and shoulders above anything I had ever experienced as an upcoming scholar. I was mesmerized at how accomplished they were. Their intellectual arguments were as inspiring as they were refreshingly illuminating. I wished and desired at some point to be found at their feet. I am glad the desires of my heart were fulfilled courtesy of CODESRIA.

Since 1998, I was privileged to meet Samir Amin very frequently, as a laureate at CODESRIA Institutes and as a Member of the Executive Committee of the Council. Throughout those interactions, I found food for my academic soul and strength for my intellectual journey. I listened to him, learnt from him and just enjoyed being in his presence. I believe Samir

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Amin achieved his goals in life because he had something that millions live their entire lives and never discover...setting and getting one's priorities right. Throughout his intellectual life, Samir demonstrated a great concern for and interest in Africa in particular and humanity at large.

It was seeing and hearing Samir talk and reading him that I came to understand that he had a higher purpose for Africa. His arguments about Africa increased my faith and helped me to trust more fully in the continent. By establishing CODESRIA and bequeathing it to the continent freely and asking nothing in return, Samir Amin made a bold statement about Africa and its futures. He devoted time and displayed love for CODESRIA, whose success was his pride and joy.

The firm foundation laid by Samir Amin, together with other committed Pan-Africanists, has greatly contrib-

uted to CODESRIA's impact across the continent and beyond. As a specialized institution for research and training in the Social Science and Humanities, CODESRIA has the responsibility to continue contributing to the diagnosis and analysis of the challenges of sustainable development of Africa. As it maintains the momentum of its achievements over the last 45 years, CODESRIA should strive to evolve into an institution that is adaptable to identifying challenges of development, conducting relevant research, training in relevant methods and theories, and providing evidence-based policy advice for African development. CODESRIA's research capacity must be strengthened so as to facilitate effective and deep penetration into the development question in Africa.

CODESRIA should remain alive to the changing needs and perspectives in the global research system. This would be in line with what Samir Amin preached and practiced: being Afrocentric with a global perspective. CODESRIA's service to Africa and humanity should be our honour to the legacy of Samir Amin.