Resilience is defined as “the ability of groups or communities to cope with external stresses and disturbances as a result of **social**, political, and environmental change” (Adger 2000:347)

This is the perfect description of Kodjo Barnor, who strives to achieve a goal no matter the obstacles. I demonstrated this last year during the height of the COVID pandemic when I decided to go ahead and enrol in a fulltime MS Applied Economics program at NDSU even though it meant I will be taking the class remotely from Ghana and forfeiting my assistantship stipends. This implied I had to keep my full-time job as a Food and Agribusiness consultant with Farrelly & Mitchell, a global Food and Agribusiness Firm which came with lots of workloads and travels within and out of country, engage in other side hustles due to loss of income from my spouse and be a family man with a “terrible two”-year-old daughter. At a point I got struck by the COVID-19 and had to deal with the medical and mental health challenges associated. Even during summer 2021 vacation, I pursued an online course in Linear Algebra from the University of Texas, Austin via Edx to boost my mathematical background. I still managed to obtain a GPA of 4.00 in the academic year and excel professionally.

I had to endure this tough period to be able to obtain the necessary quantitative background needed to make me a competitive candidate and pursue a PHD in applied economics from a top department. I am still ready to fulfil more requirements if the need be. In all, I have obtained a good background in ………………

I have been acquainted with the struggles and challenges of poverty in rural and urban Africa. Africa does not only face the challenge of development and poverty eradication, it also has to do so in a sustainable manner in the face of the global pandemic.