

INTRODUCTION

The National Commission on Culture is mandated to manage from a holistic perspective the Cultural life of Ghana. The Commission has 16 Regional Centres for National Culture with offices in all district and Municipal Assemblies. The introduction of this newsletter is to continue to inform and educate the masses on our mandate, programmes and activities of both the Centres and the Commission.

This newsletter is designed by the PR unit of the Commission, headed by Mrs Ama Amponsah Painstil

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CULTURE (NCC) LAUNCHES 2022 PRESTIGIOUS KENTEFEST IN ACCRA

The National Commission on Culture, in collaboration with Ghana Society-UK, Location Accra and Ako GH has launched the prestigious annual kente festival dubbed KENTEFEST "22 in Accra under the theme "Harnessing the heritage and evolving nature of Kente in both Trade and Tourism".



KENTEFEST, an annual event seeks to promote the rich Ghanaian cultural heritage and made in Ghana products by way of creating economic opportunities for Ghanaians, African artists and producers in the creative industry whilst promoting patriotism and national pride in harnessing the kente heritage which is global and weaves the world as a symbol of black culture and unity.

The festival scheduled from 20th to 30th October, Luton-UK, further aims to promote and showcase the rich royal kente fabric of Ghana to the world to avert the importation of fake kente clothes into the country.

Speaking at the launch, the Chief of Bonwire Nana Bobie Ansah II expressed his gratitude to the National Commission on Culture for organizing such a wonderful event to promote and showcase the royal kente fabric to the outside world.

According to the Chief, the kente weaving business used to employ most youth but the neglect of the industry by government has caused most to collapse which has rendered the youth unemployed.

He urged that, government must pay attention to the kente industry and invest much into the production of yarn locally to avoid its importation as the high cost of import has crippled most of the businesses.



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CULTURE (NCC) LAUNCHES 2022 PRESTIGIOUS KENTEFEST IN ACCRA

The Executive Director of the National Commission on Madam Edna asserted that, our magnificent kente Culture, Madam Janet Edna Nyame in a speech expressed her profound joy to the partners for coming on board to promote the celebration of the most recognisable and traditional fabric in Ghana, our unique kente which is a source of great pride as it usefulness cuts across all spheres of events.

According to her, the Ghanaian culture is embedded in music, dance, food, language, and beautiful costumes as the imprints of the rhythmic patterns in the fabric serve as a tool for communication.

"The motifs are symbolical as it presents ideas about our historical background as people, to a great extent; it brings to the fore the Ghanaian cultural values which instill moral uprightness in the individual so as to live above reproach".

The Executive Director stressed that, fabrics such as Gye Nyame, sankofa, afa among others constitute the Adinkra symbols and other symbolic patterns from which the various Regions add more aesthetics to portray our cultural identity in the production of kente fabric such as afafanto. Fathia fata Nkrumah. and the likes.



must hold its authenticity and avoid piracy, and our ability as people to transform our indigenous craft to the world market in a unique style requires tactical branding and advertisement.

"We must endeavour to use our digital platforms to showcase to the world what we are made of, to commercialise the kente business to generate more revenue for our Ghanaian handmade kente".

She urged that, there must be improvement in our packaging techniques to suit the global standards in other to promote trade as she was on a strong conviction that such will sit down into our generation through education and training.

She appealed that, the nitty gritty of kente weaving must be taught at various Regions to help sustain our traditional heritage which varies from all others to be able to host and drive tourists from all over the world to patronise our rich original kente cloth as a tourism in trade commodity to improve our financial stability as a country.



CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE – KUMASI LAUNCHES 2022 ANNUAL ARTS AND CRAFT BAZAAR

The Centre for National Culture, Kumasi in a colorful event has launched the 2022 edition of the Crafts and Arts Exhibition which was established to provide a place for the thriving crafts and art artisans and dealers in the Region and beyond to showcase their creations for sale to the general public.



The attendance this year was an unmistakable proof of how the event has grown over the years, as a significant number of artisans and craftsmen throughout the occasion kept swarming in the Centre in search of stands to display their wares for customers from both domestic and foreign markets to buy.

The Administrator of Bantama Sub-Metro, Mr. Oliver Opoku-Yeboah who represented the Mayor of Kumasi, Mr. Sam Pyne assured the Centre of government's support for the arts and cultural sector as it

has always been crucial to

the expansion of our economy.

"The government continues to support the cultural industry, as evidenced by its efforts to include arts and culture in the One District, One Factory initiative, whereas 1.1% of our economy's growth has been attributed to culture and the arts", he asserted.

He further emphasized that, there is the need to discuss for more government spending on the arts and cultural sector and commended the administration and the employees for their cooperative efforts to put the programme together for the artisans and craftsmen to showcase their beautiful works and eke out a living.

The Otumfuo Assinhene, Nana Yaw Akuoko who doubled as the Chairperson of the ceremony expressed his gratitude and admiration for the organizers and advised the craftsmen to take advantage of this opportunity to create a strong market relationship for the future.

The Director of the Centre, Mr. Emmanuel Ansu in a short but succinct speech extended his warm welcome and support for the exhibition, as it would boost our foreign exchange while promoting our culture.

He assur ed that, the exhibition come the successive years will encompass other Ghanaian products which will attract exhibitors from across the country.

CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE, EASTERN REGION PRESENTS A RADIO TALK SHOW ON GHANAIAN CULTURE

The Centre For National Culture – Eastern
Region in collaboration with Emak 97.7 Fm
has instituted a Radio Talk Show dubbed
"W'amammere Ne Sen" to educate the general
public on our Ghanaian Cultural Values and
Norms.



The programme further aims at promoting, presenting and preserving the Ghanaian Arts and Culture among the people of Koforidua and Ghana at large. "W'amammere ne Sen" is a year-round programme which began airing from February 2022 at 3:00pm on every Saturdays.

The objective of the programme is to educate the society on the misconception about Ghanaian Arts and Culture some selected topics which are discussed on air to the public.

The Centre began its maiden airing with the topic; Amammere and Amanne, Ghanaian Greeting and Response, and Ghanaian Foods and their Origin.

The Head of Performing Arts, Mr. Emmanuel Nyarko educated the general public about the confused distinction between the two traditional names "Amammere and AmanneM".

He explained that, the two words "Amammere and Amanne" are used interchangeably when being talked about or discussed.

He asserted that, Amammere and Amanne\(\) are two separate words in terms of literal significance but can be likened to the chicken and the egg situation. "Amammere translated in English means Culture whiles Amanne\(\) is said to be Rituals and Customs or the activities being done in the culture".

He added that, "Amammere" is the mother of "Amanne\mathbb{\mathbb{T}}" whiles the "Amanne\mathbb{\mathbb{T}}" acts like a father that protects with his natural protective spirit as it believed to be in the "Akan Nt\mathbb{\mathbb{T}}n and Ntro". It is during the Amamere like the Homowo festival or funeral that "Amanne\mathbb{T}" like the pouring of libation is performed and also appeasing the gods with food are done.

He further enlightened the public on Ghanaian greetings and responses.

CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE, EASTERN REGION PRESENTS A RADIO TALK SHOW ON GHANAIAN CULTURE

Enlightening the public on Ghanaian greetings and responses, Mr. Nyarko stated that, as Ghanaians, our Culture places great emphasis on politeness, hospitality and formality as we are expected to greet and ask about the health and families once we meet our acquaintances.

He reiterated that, our culture frowns on one's failure to greet as it is considered as a sign of disrespect which one must not overlooked.

"Our culture, history and identity is the most beautiful thing God has blessed us with, we must on that account appreciate, protect and celebrate at every given opportunity". He appealed to the public.



WEST GONJA CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE TRAINS 45 WOMEN ON LOCAL DISH PREPARATION AND PROMOTION

The West Gonja Centre for National Culture with support from Feed the Future, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has organized a training seminar for 45 women from 25 women groups in the Municipality on how to Prepare and promote local dishes.

With regard to the low sales concern raised by the participants, the cultural officer advised that, food venders must improve healthy environment and ensure personal hygiene as people may consider these before patronizing what they sell.





Local foods are irresistible and it is of no doubt that most tourists visit because they yearn for a specific meal and cannot forget about it after one visit, yet most Ghanaians prefer the foreign foods to the local ones.

The participants, in the course of the training vehemently raised concerns about how the public does not show interest in the local dish due to their preference of foreign ones, a situation which contribute to low sales.

The municipal cultural officer addressing the participants encouraged them not to give up on the good works they are doing in the municipality.

CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE, KUMASI HOST TERTIARY STUDENTS FOR INTERNSHIP

The Kumasi Centre for National Culture has hosted some tertiary students in the Region for internship as part of the Centre's numerous initiatives to provide students with practical knowledge and experience in their corresponding academic fields.



The programme which has existed for the past 20 years, has seen a constant influx of students from various higher institutions across the nation to participate in the yearly students' training programme held at the Centre's visual arts department.

Several tertiary schools and the Centre signed a Memorandum of Agreement in 2003 to serve as the foundation for this programme. Signing the memorandum of agreement were the Takoradi Technical University, Kumasi Technical University, Ho Technical

University, and Wa Technical University.

The maiden edition of the programme saw only two students of the training with one being the current deputy director of the Centre's visual arts department.

Students in the progress of the programme received instructions in traditional weaving techniques, broadloom weaving techniques, dying techniques, exposure to nwomuu, and activities involving dance forms as the activities were carefully planned to instill in them the necessary abilities to put them ahead of the competition in the current epoch.

The training this year saw 35 students, a significant increase in participation which clearly demonstrates the programme's enormous impact.

11 out of the number were students from Accra
Technical University, whiles the remaining twenty 24
were students from the Kwame Nkrumah University of
Science and Technology (KNUST).



EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE, KWAHU EAST DISTRICT ORGANISES READING AND SPELLING COMPETITION

The Centre for National Culture of the Eastern Region, Kwahu East District has organised a reading and spelling competition for Upper Primary Schools in the Abetifi Circuit on Thursday.



The event which took place at the District Assembly Hall was organised in collaboration with the Ghana Library Authority, Abetifi, which brought together Seven (7) Schools for the competition.

The competing schools comprised of five (5) public schools and two (2) private schools

Abetifi Anglican Primary School

Abetifi Ridge Basic School

Abetifi Presbyterian Basic School

Aunty Jane Preparatory School

Abetifi D.A Basic School

Abetifi Roman Catholic Basic School

Abetifi Victory Christian Academy

The District Chief Executive Officer of Kwahu East District Hon. Isaac Agyapong, who doubled as Chairman of the occasion welcomed all individuals to the event and wished all the participating schools the best of luck.

The District Cultural Officer, Madam Grace Dakura reiterated the importance of the contest to all the participating schools.

She mentioned that, it is undoubtable that school children struggle with word reading which is fundamental for developing their imagination and creativity. Hence the programme was to help students improve upon their vocabulary, confidence in public speaking as well as communicate fluently. The contest which took form in two sessions begun with the reading session where schools took turns to read a passage with a maximum time of five (5) minutes.

The reading was done in English and Akwapim Twi so as to promote our Ghanaian Language.

The Judges scored them in areas of

- Fluency
- Pronunciation/phonics
- Clarity/punctuations



EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE, KWAHU EAST DISTRICT ORGANISES READING AND SPELLING COMPETITION

The second session was for word spelling.

Contestants picked words from a basket and spelt. In all, each school spelt a total of five (5) words.

The last part of the competition was the word formation.

Schools were given one long word from which they formed sub words from.

Although the competition was tight, some schools performed exceptionally and emerged winners.

Aunty Jane Preparatory School Emerged-1st

Abetifi Ridge Basic School- 2nd

Abetifi D.A Basic School- 3rd

All schools received Certificates and deserving Prizes including Dozens of Exercise Books, Story Books, Mathematical Sets, Pens/Pencils, First Aid, Wall Clock and Some Cash Amount for the 1st school.

The Guest of Honor for the Occasion Nana Yeboah Bomodu III who represented the Abetifihene was very pleased to be part of the event. Whilst congratulating the organizers for such a laudable initiative, he edged students to take such Programmes seriously as they are all grounds for learning and building of self-confidence.



Representing the District Education Director was the Circuit Supervisor for Nkwatia, Mr. Teckie who gave a word of encouragement to the students. He further mentioned that since Ghana Education Service cannot do it all alone, such initiatives by other departments/ agencies are always gladly welcome and wished for many more of such. The Chairman in a closing remark lauded the Centre for National Culture for organising the programme and pledged his support for any such educational programme as he is the Chairperson for the District Education oversight committee.



INDIA HIGH COMMISION – GHANA MARKS 75TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY WITH CULTURAL DANCE EXPO AT KUMASI CULTURAL CENTER

The Indian High Commission to Ghana has organised a scintillating and captivating cultural dance expo led by a renowned Indian dance company called Dance Era at the Kumasi Centre for National Culture to commemorate the 75th independence anniversary of India.



The cultural dance expo dubbed "Indian Bollywood Night" also saw some Ghanaian cultural troops namely Amamereso Agofomma, CSF Dance Group, and Morale Dot Com beautifully complimenting the occasion with an equally fascinating Ghanaian traditional dance forms and music.

Indeed, it was a night to behold as the auditorium was filled to capacity comprising a large Indian community in Kumasi, chiefs and queen mothers and the general public who spontaneously joined the ecstasy of the rich cultural display from the far East and the West Coast of Africa.

The Indian High Commissioner, H.E Mr. Sugandh Rajaram in a short address acknowledged the ties existing between India and Ghana which dates back into history as the two countries have benefited from each other in economic, educational, and cultural front.

He added that India is a nation with diverse people and they have been able to harmonize the rich diversity which is their pillar of focus.

The Commissioner disclosed that, plans are far afoot to establish friendship between Kumasi and two sister cities of his country which will allow the Asantehene, Otumfour Osei Tutu II to be hosted in India to showcase the rich Asante culture in that regard.

The Ashanti Regional Minister, Hon. Simon Osei Mensa in a statement praised the Indian government for the remarkable strides that they have made over the years making them the 5th largest economy in the world.



INDIA HIGH COMMISION – GHANA MARKS 75TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY WITH CULTURAL DANCE EXPO AT KUMASI CULTURAL

Mr. Osei Mensa stated that, in the field of science, technology, agriculture, among others, the Indian people are placed at the top as he opined that the government of Ghana is ready to tap into the rich experience so as to uplift the fortunes of Ghana. The Director of the Centre of National Culture, Mr. Emmanuel Ansu in a welcome address appealed to the Indian High Commissioner to help build a modern state of the art theatre in the city of Kumasi.

Mr. Ansu lamented that even though Kumasi is the cultural heartbeat of Ghana, it lacks such a facility where such activities would be showcased. This he said, has resulted in most people in the creative arts industry in the Ashanti Region migrating to Accra.



KUMASI- CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE JOINS EJURAHENE TO CELEBRATE AKWASIDAE

The Management of the Kumasi Centre for National Culture together with some selected staff had joined the chiefs and people of the Ejura Traditional Area to celebrate the Akwasidae festival of Asante.



The Centre's participation in the festival was due to the strong ties existing between the Chief of Ejuraman, Barima Osei Hwedie and also introduces Mr. Emmanuel Ansu, the Director of the Centre and his new management team to the dynamic chief and elders of Ejuraman.

Barima Osei Hwedie, prior to the durbar hosted the Centre's delegation at his residence where pleasantries were shared in a friendly atmosphere and also lauded the uniqueness of the Centre considering its historical antecedent.

The Ejurahene in a statement expressed his gratitude for the presence of the Centre in the area and acknowledged the cordial relationship existing between the Traditional Area and the Centre and encouraged the current Director to continue the legacy of his predecessor.

He added that, as the Centre is very dear to the overlord of Asanteman and his chiefs, the Centre should endeavor to work diligently such that it can impact positively as enshrined in the legislative instrument establishing it.

Barima Osei Hwedie disclosed that, "as a result of the spiritual attachment of the Centre to the Manhyia Palace and Asanteman, they are always closely monitoring with eagle's eye the programmes and activities of the Centre".

He admonished Mr. Emmanuel Ansu, the Director of the Centre, to be a team leader and team player. "Any attempt to side-step the vision establishing the Centre and your management team will definitely cause your downfall".



KUMASI- CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE JOINS EJURAHENE TO CELEBRATE AKWASIDAE

"You must open your doors to divergent views and always endeavor to work tacitly with your Management so as to succeed".

The Director of the Centre, Mr. Emmanuel Ansu, at the durbar grounds, in a short statement said, whatever sentiments the Ejurahene has expressed have been taken into good faith.

According to Mr. Ansu, it is his esteemed commitment to carry on with the leadership mantle to a greater and enviable height.

He added that, with the tacit support of his able management team, he is sure to leave a lasting legacy in both infrastructure and programmes by the end of his tenure and pledged to work closely with Nananom of Asanteman so to protect and preserve the time tested rich and cultural heritage of Asanteman.

KWAEBIBIREM MUNICIPAL CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE ORGANISES "FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURE FOR KINDERGARTEN PUPILS" AT AKYEM TAKYIMAN

The Kwaebibirem Municipal Centre for National Culture, in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service and Basic School's Coordinator has organised a Festival of Arts and Culture for Kindergarten pupils at Akyem Takyiman with the aim of promoting inclusive education through Arts and Culture at the Kindergarten level. .



The programme was to further serve as a way of accessing the impact of educational intervention programme such as the Ghana Accountability for learning outcomes (GALOP), Non-Galop and Twi to English (T&E) project introduced by the Ghana Education Service.

The officer in charge of culture at the Ghana Education Service, Mr. Samuel Obeng introduced the programme by talking on the need to promote inclusive education, that is involving all students in Arts,

Culture and their related activities to bring out the best in them.

The schools which took part in the programme are; Methodist Basic School (KG), Roman Catholic Basic School (KG) and Presbyterian Basic School (KG). The pupils were made to exhibit their talents in the following Discipline; Poetry Recitals, Choral (Patriotic Songs), Traditional Dance, Quiz (word formation and letter identification both in Ghanaian Languages and English Language) and how to Dress properly to School

The pupils during the activities section could not hide their excitement as they were given the opportunity to showcase their talent as a way to release stress and boredom from the classroom and also put their classroom activities into practice.

In the course of the programme, it was observed that, pupils in the Non-Ghana Accountability for learning outcomes project and Twi to English project were good in the letter identification and word formation both in Ghanaian language and English language given a positive indication that the educational intervention programme has had a positive impact on the students.

The Municipal Cultural officer, Mr. Frank Antwi congratulated all the pupils and members present for showcasing such talents and encouraged them to keep it up. He further encouraged the teachers and heads to help the pupils to realise their abilities and

talents

KWAEBIBIREM MUNICIPAL CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE ORGANISES "FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURE FOR KINDERGARTEN PUPILS" AT AKYEM TAKYIMAN

through Arts and Culture not all pupils are good academically.

The Ghana Education Service through their Cultural Officer, Mr. Samuel Obeng appealed to the schools to intensify the use of Ghanaian Language (mother tongue) as mode of teaching at the kindergarten level more than the English Language to ensure deeper understanding of lessons.





SEFWI WIAWSO CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE HOST COMMANDER OF THE GHANA CENTRAL ARMY COMMAND

The Centre for National Culture in collaboration with the Western North Regional Coordinating Council has hosted the commander of the Central Command in an effort to provide an enhanced security in all the Regions of our Country as the Ghana Army has decided to establish Battalions in all Regions for the purpose.



Commander of the Central Command, Brigadier General J.A Aphour and his entourage paid a courtesy call on Western North Assembly and liaised with the Traditional Authorities to acquire a parcel of land for the stated purpose.

The Omanhene of the Sefwi Wiawso Traditional Area, katakyie Kwesi Bumagamah II, welcomed the team and promised his full support for the project as he believes the establishment of the battalion will provided peace in the area.

"We need peace as all positive activities can take place only in a peaceful atmosphere, and this will enable normal relations between people to be established, makes it possible for feelings of love and friendship to prevail and ensure a positive bent of mind which will help develop academic and intellectual advancement", the Omanhene stated. He reiterated that, constructive activities flourish in a favourable atmosphere and the existing limited resources can be used for societal development or creative other activities in the absence of civil wars and conflicts which cause destruction of properties.

Brigadier General J A Aphour expressed his gratitude to the Traditional Authorities and the Regional Coordinating Council for their support and assured that, by end of December 2022, the 29 Motorised Mechanised Battalion will be established in the Western North Region.



UPPER WEST REGIONAL CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE HOST THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISIONER TO GHANA

The Upper West Regional Centre for National Culture has hosted the British High Commissioner to Ghana Her Excellency Harriet Thompson as part of her efforts of touring the Region.



The visit which lasted for an hour saw the High Commissioner thrilled with Bawa dance, exhibition of crafts and Woori fabrics, tour and engagement with weaving department, eating of our special local cuisines and a formal interaction with staff of the Centre and other invited heads of department including Tourism and Bible Society of Ghana.

The Regional Director for the Upper West Centre for National Culture Mr. Yahaya Jamal-Deen, in an address to the British High Commissioner stated that, the Upper West Centre for National culture is an agency under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture and Creative Arts and has been mandated to promote,

sustain and develop cultural/artistic excellence while vigorously making the Upper West Region and its peculiarities a priority and affect government art/cultural policies for sustainable development.

The Director added that, the Centre has the arts/craft and weaving department and for the past two decades, the Centre has been providing free skills training to women and teenage mothers in weaving so as to empower them and reduce their vulnerability.

Mr. Jamal-Deen reiterated that, the Centre has been proactive in promoting cultural development but is faced with myriad of problems among which included a befitting office space, lack of a theatre for cultural practices, difficulty in sustaining the free skills training for women, inability to re-

source women with startup capital to set their busi nesses, low staff among others.



UPPER WEST REGIONAL CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE HOST THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISIONER TO GHANA

Mr. Jamal-Deen pleaded with the High Commissioner to assist opening up network of market base for the Centre's Weaving Department so that the sales of our Woori Fabrics and Smocks can be increased to sustain the many activities of the Centre especially considering the fact that they provide free training in economic skills for women.

The High Commissioner in response to the activities could not hide her joy with the welcome Bawa Performance, Our delicious local cuisines, exhibition of our designs, smocks, fabrics and the warm reception by all officers present. She was sincerely pleased with the treatment she received from the Centre and expressed interest in our activities.

Among other things, H.E Harriet Thompson was bestowed as a goodwill ambassador for the Centre with a titled ''SONG - YUOSORI'' which literally means 'Help Open Doors'.

The Centre as a means of showing gratitude to the High Commissioner equally presented to her a customised befitting Woori dress to honour her acceptance as their goodwill ambassador as she will use her outfit to bring development to the Region.





WRONG ROAD TO ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION

With thunderous and pain-enduring voice She screams haa! haa!! haa!!! With instructive but deceitful voices They scream push! push!! push!!! With confidence and positive-mindedness to what The Doctors say She honestly complies With enduring pains, yet in a prolonged labour condition She continuously remains **Unbelievable!** This pregnancy far exceeded the normal gestation! Why is the baby never seem to be born? Is it a stillbirth?

Is it a miscarriage? Or simply The Doctors' prescriptions aren't working for her condition? Voices inquisitively quiz But I can see on her prescription form a list of expired drugs: **ERPtamol, SAPtamol, SAPRIta**mol, HIPCtamol, ... Carefully explained in an often-confused jargons:

GDP, GNP, BOP, ...
Alas! Is it not time for Alkebulan – The mother of mankind
To look for home-grown solutions to get herself out
Of her externally-induced economic quagmire?

By: Asheikh M. B. Ibn Hassan



National commission on Culture

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NAFAC COMING SOON...