

# NCC NEWSLETTER

MARCH EDITION



## 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**

## AUDIENCE WOWED WITH CAPTIVATING CULTURAL PERFORMANCE AT 66TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

The audience was left spellbound as the Troupe performed the famous "Abisa" (a dance performed during Kundum Festival), which is unique to the Achantas and Nzemas. Their energy and enthusiasm were contagious, as they infused the crowd with their infectious rhythms and beats.

The Cultural Troupe's performance was nothing short of marvelous, and it was evident that they had put in a lot of effort and dedication into their practice sessions. They were able to seamlessly blend and harmonize with other traditional performers and elements, resulting in a performance that was both entertaining and educational.

In an interview with one of the officials of Centre for National Culture, Western Region, Mr. James Boadu, he expressed his joy at being able to showcase the cultural heritage of Atɔ̃yɔ̃mantem to a wider audience. He stated that the group had been working hard to perfect their performance, and it was gratifying to see their efforts paying off.

Overall, the Western Region's Cultural Troupe's performance was a highlight of Ghana's 66th Independence anniversary celebration. Their skillful and captivating performance was a testament to Ghana's rich cultural heritage, and it left a lasting impression on all who witnessed it. No wonder a sizeable number of people followed them around the event arena, with some of them trying to imitate the dance moves along with the group.

The Centre for National Culture, under the auspices of the Western Regional Coordinating Council led an 18-member Gye Nyame Cultural Troupe, an affiliate group of the Centre, consisting of talented drummers, dancers, choreographers and musicians to showcase the unique traditional dance moves of the Western Region; accompanied by musical instruments such as Drums, "Dondo," Metal Bells; alongside vibrant costumes such as Rafia Skirts, Dry Plantain Leaves, "Bodua" and Shakers. Some items depicting the rich resources of the region like Gold, Cocoa and Rubber were also displayed in baked pots made by the Centre







The Ghanaian dances put together in the Choreography piece includes; BAWA , GOME, KETE, ADZOBO and BORBORBOR DANCES. The Choreopoet added solo performances in ZIGI, and GBOLO dances.



## CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE “STEALS” SHOW AT GHANA’S 66TH INDEPENDENCE PARADE

The Centre for National Culture, Ho with a well-rehearsed and meaningfully performed choreography ‘stole’ the show at the Ghana’s 66th Independence parade.

Ho, the Volta Regional capital co-hosted the National Independence Anniversary with Adaklu District at the newly built Volta Regional Youth Resource Centre at Adaklu. This year’s Anniversary theme; “Our Unity, Our Strength, Our Purpose” saw more than 5,000 people from across the country.

One of the highlights on the day was the beautiful choreography presentation put together by the Centre for National Culture, Volta Region and the coordination of the march-past of cultural groups.

The meaningfully performed choreography was titled “United Ghana” inspired by the national theme of the celebration. Performers were made up of five affiliate groups of the Centre, namely, Dodovi Dance Group, Mizorblewu Dance Group, Volta Heritage Ensemble, African Lineage Ensemble and Kekeli Dance Ensemble.



The Choreography commenced with movements from Bawa dance depicting the unification of Ghanaians, despite our diverse cultures followed with movements from Gome Dance showcasing the strength in the unity that binds us as Ghanaians, then comes the movements from Kete Dance emphasizing our common purpose as one people with a common destiny, Adzobo Dance moves highlights the combative nature of our people as we face our daily struggles to achieve our desired purpose as one nation.

The climax was an arch shaped formation with performers displaying ewe Dzesiwo symbols and making space for the choreopeot; who combines talking drum appellations extolling the virtues of Ghana and the leader of the nation, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo; interlaced with Zigi and Gbolo traditional dance moves from the host Region to bring to fruition, the full meaning of the entire choreography.

## CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE ORGANISES TRAINING IN BEADING FOR TAILORS AND DRESSMAKERS IN NEW JUABEN



He added that, once they get the fundamentals, they can make their beading catalogue and exhibit to their customers to get more contracts on beading.

He urged the participants to continue to be more creative and learn from new trends as creativity leads to success in the fashion industry.



As part of efforts to resource people with artistic skills, the Office of the New Juaben South Municipal Centre for National Culture in the Eastern Region has organised training in Beading, for Ghana National Tailors and Dressmakers Association in the New Juaben Zone.

The Acting Regional Director of the Centre for National Culture, Mr. Peter K. Marfo in a statement advised the Association members to participate fully in all activities that the Centre has planned to develop their skills.



The Municipal Cultural Officer, Madam Agnes Nyarko in her speech implored the participants to add the beading to their trade and do it well to make a difference.

She admonished they wear the blouses they made as a form of advert to attract more customers for themselves and generate wealth and income from the work they do.





## CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE RECEIVES COSTUMES AND DRUMS TO REVAMP ITS PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Centre for National Culture in the East Gonja Municipal Assembly has revamped its performing arts department to meet standard requirement toward the promotion and preservation of National Culture in the Region.

The Gonja traditional local drums especially the Timpani, is used for entertainment after a successful harvest, for healing rites of passage, during the rituals of ancestral worship and other social dance performances.

They are also used for communication purposes, like calling emergency meetings, announcing the death of an important people in the societies such as kings and chiefs. The Chagla or the ankle bell which serves as the musical props is also a tool of communication and only those who are privileged to interpret and understand drum language can appreciate and enjoy performance to the maximum.



The Municipal Chief Executive Officer in the Eastern Gonja Municipal Assembly, Hon. Mohammed Tamimu, in a speech during the handing over of the sets of costumes and drums used the opportunity to thank the staff of the Centre for National Culture and East Gonja Municipal Cultural Advisers Committee members for their role in promoting the culture of the people of East Gonja administrative area.

He further advised not to misuse or release the items presented to them to any group except for its intended purpose of youth training and during national programmes.

The Acting Regional Director of Centre for National Culture, Chief Ibrahim Azuma expressed his gratitude to the East Gonja Municipal Assembly, Chiefs and the people of Salaga for their efforts towards revamping the performing arts industry and Salaga Slave Museum.

He noted with appreciation and unflinching support of the people of the area and wished that will always promote, preserve and disseminate the rich cultural values of the people of the East Gonja and the Savannah Region at large.

## HERITAGE MONTH DURBAR MARKED IN AKATSI SOUTH MUNICIPALITY



Speaking on the theme, “wear Ghana for jobs in Ghana”, the Acting Regional Director of the Centre for National Culture, Madam Patience Amexo made an appeal to Ghanaians to patronise more of our locally made goods and services which are largely inspired by our heritage and culture.

She appealed to local producers, especially those in fashion industry to inject more creativity into their works to remain competitive and attractive in marketing their products for more patronage.

The Municipal Chief Executive of Akatsi South Municipality, Mr. Martin Kofitsey Nyahe, used the opportunity to emphasise the importance of culture in our lives as it remained the ‘holy pot’ of our collective identity.

He further encouraged the Centre for National Culture to do more in terms of cultural initiatives for the development of the sector.

The Chairman on the occasion, Mr. Francis Gotah stressed on the need to inculcate positive cultural values in our quest for national development thus, can bring considerable transformation into our society. He added that, the transfer of positive cultural life to the people will lead to innovation and implementation of better ways to learn, therefore having a positive influence on their future.



The month of March has been dedicated to acknowledge the Cultural diversities of our nation Ghana. As part of the activities marking the month, all stakeholders are encouraged to significantly commemorate the month with activities of Arts, Culture and Tradition thus “Cultural Heritage Month”. The Ambassador for Culture, Mr. Samuel Adjetey, and the Municipal Cultural Officer, Rev. Christopher Vigbedor, has organised an event with the aim of highlighting culture and tradition in an effort to bring about cultural awareness.





## CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE- WESTERN REGION ADVOCATES FOR THE PATRONAGE OF MADE IN GHANA GOODS.

As part of Ghana month celebration activities, the staff of Western Regional Centre for National Culture has educated the region on the need to patronise made in Ghanaian products and also launched a campaign on “Wear Ghana” for some selected Senior High/Vocational Technical Schools within Sekondi – Takoradi Metropolis. This education and campaign were made on GBC Radio in Sekondi.

Mr. Frederick Taylor, the Head of Visual Arts Department said parents should allow and encourage their wards who wish to pursue their studies in the field of Craft and Arts to do so because it pays a lot as compared to those who work in the Civil and Public Services in Ghana. He further reiterated that, those who study crafts and arts are not losers, in the sense that

it involves calculations, science, critical thinking, and history among others. They should not be looked down on, for their work is lucrative and money fetching if taken seriously.

The P.R.O, Mr. Mac-Ben Eghan on his part said Heritage Month, is an opportunity for job creation for the people in the creatives. He went on to talk about the establishment and mandate as Centre for National Culture. He highlighted on the upcoming “Wear Ghana Campaign” in the various Senior High/Vocational Technical Schools in the Western Region especially those studying fashion. The Akan proverb “Yɛwo wo to esie so a, wonnye tenten yɛ” was what motivated the Centre to send the campaign to the youth in the various Senior High/Vocational Technical Schools in the Sekondi – Takoradi Metropolis to instill in them the need to patronize, and the benefits of wearing our locally made fabrics.



Head of Fashion Unit of the Visual Arts Department, Ms. Linda Otibu elaborated on Wear Ghana, Eat Ghana, and Grow Ghana by explaining that the initiative launched by the Government of Ghana is to help promote the consumption and production of locally made goods and services in Ghana. These initiatives have significant economic benefits for the country by creating jobs, boosting domestic production, and reducing reliance on imports.

Wear Ghana a concept of the National Commission on Culture is aimed at promoting the consumption of locally made clothing and textiles. By increasing demand for locally made clothes, the initiative supports the growth of the local textile industry, creating employment opportunities and contributing to the country's economic development.

Eat Ghana seeks to promote the consumption of locally grown and processed foods. By encouraging people to buy locally grown foods, the initiative supports the growth of the agricultural sector, creating jobs for farmers and food processors, and reducing the country's reliance on food imports.

Grow Ghana is a broader initiative aimed at promoting the consumption of all locally made goods and services. By encouraging people to buy local products, the initiative supports the growth of various industries, creates employment opportunities, and contributes to the country's economic growth.

Wearing Ghanaian fabric, also known as "Ghanaian textiles" or "African prints", is important for several reasons like the unique designs in the fabric gives us a special identity and also support the local industry.

She further stated that, in the olden days people were not getting more health issues because the food they ate were natural and contained all the minerals and the strength they need to boost their immune system. Now both men and women take a lot of drugs to boost their system, especially our men who take Aphrodisiac to be strong in bed which sometimes result in sickness or death.

It will be good if we go back to our old system of food preparation with organic ingredients like Bokoboko, Dawadawa, Hwentsia, Alafo, Ayoyo leaves and others that give us more blood, build the mind and the body to stay longer in life, she said. Also, it's important to modify, preserve and protect our made in Ghana products. It goes with our Akan proverb which says “Sɛ wo werɛ fi na wo Sankofa a, yɛnkyi”.

She ended by saying that the Wear Ghana, Eat Ghana, and Grow Ghana initiatives are significant for the Ghanaian economy as they contribute to the growth of various sectors, create employment opportunities, and reduce the country's reliance on imports. By promoting local consumption and production, these initiatives also help to build a more self-sufficient and resilient Ghanaian economy.





## GREATER ACCRA: CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE ORGANISES 2023 EDITION OF PAPPOE THOMPSON CHORAL FESTIVAL

The Centre for National Culture, Greater Accra, in collaboration with the Pappoe Thompson’s family has organised the 2023 edition of PAPPOE THOMPSON CHORAL FESTIVAL.

In 1988, the Greater Accra Arts Council now Centre for National Culture, in an attempt to revive the choral music industry, instituted a patriotic singsong programme for industrial choirs, dubbed PAPPOE THOMPSON CHORAL FESTIVAL with the aim of encouraging young choral musicians to write more situational and patriotic choral arts, promote Ga choral works in the country especially within the Ga catchment areas and encourage the formation of more industrial choir.

The 2023 edition of the event witnessed the participation of several choirs notably GBC choir, NADMO choir, Bank of Ghana Choir, Freeman Methodist Choir, and Fire Service Choir.

Deputy Director of Centre for National Culture, Mr. Eric Ohene-Larbi in his welcome address urged participants to take advantage of the event, and preach the patriotism nature of Ghanaian choral music and appreciate its moral values that depict us as Ghanaians.

According to the Director, foreign cultures through social media have overtaken our rich Ghanaian culture and that have caused most of our youth to depart from the societal values and norms.

He reiterated that, music and singing improve our sense of happiness and wellbeing, and that is why on a special day like this, our grandpa is being remembered. He therefore used the opportunity to urge Ghanaians to patronize more of such programmes to imbibe in the youth the lost societal values to put Ghana on the international platform.



The Executive Director of the National Commission on Culture, Mad. Janet Edna Nyame in her speech acknowledged that music is an indispensable aspect of the performing arts, which through its lyrics and percussions communicates to our thoughts, behavior and trace our cultural identity.

“Our culture as embedded in our songs carries a great magnitude of discipline and character formation but frowns on social misfits. The Ghanaian choral compositions usually address issues on sanitation, patriotism, contentment, hard work and other cultural values that contribute to our national development”, she said.



She continued by acknowledging the fact that Ghanaian choral music is progressing through the annual organization of choral festivals in Ghana.

The Public Relation Officer of the Centre, Mr. Michael Abubakar, expressed his appreciation to the family of Pappoe Thompson, the participating choirs, and the teeming audience.

According to him, it was important to be abreast of our choral music because it identifies us as Ghanaians and promote unity.







## GHANA BROADCASTING CORPORATION LAUNCHES 2023 HERITAGE MONTH IN ACCRA

The Ghana Broadcasting Corporation in collaboration with the Greater Accra Center for National Culture has launched the 2023 edition of the Heritage month.

March is a month where Ghanaians are encouraged to project and promote the culture, traditions and the Ghanaians legacy through music, dance, fashion among others.

The event further aims at celebrating and bringing remembrance to Ghanaians of the need to uphold and cherish our rich and diverse cultures.

The 2023 Heritage Month was dubbed "Our Heritage, Values and Identity". The launch was witnessed by the Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, the Executive Director of the National Commission on Culture, Traditional leaders from the Greater Accra Region and other special delegates.



This year's theme was chosen based on the need to inculcate and reinforce the youth, especially the heritage won for the nation, and appreciate the values that identify us, as Ghanaians with diverse ethnic backgrounds and culture. It's a fact that Ghana is losing most of her cultural values in terms of clothes, our foods and some folklore that used to be told back in the days.

Based on that, most social entities and organisations have taken upon themselves to organise certain events in commemoration of the Heritage Month. Among these events are the Gobe Festival, Waakye Festival, Kenkey Festival, Aayalolo Festival among others.

The 2023 edition of the Heritage Month was graced with cultural performances, exhibition of arts works, and sales of various artifacts from the Centre.

## KIMBU SENIOR HIGH TECHNICAL SCHOOL WINS THE 26TH EDITION OF THE SANKOFA DRAMA COMPETITION IN GREATER ACCRA



The Greater Accra Centre for National Culture in collaboration with the Sankofa Drama Unit, North Legon has organised the 26th edition of the Sankofa Drama Competition for some selected Senior High Schools in the Region.

Sankofa, which is a collaborative programme, is an annual competition which is organised for selected Senior High Schools and serves as one of the flagship programmes of the Arts Centre as it has been in existence for the past 26 years.

The drama competition offers Senior High Schools the opportunity to present a play written by an African to unearth and promote African playwrights, young actors and actresses, boost student confidence and instill the habit of reading among students.



The Director of the Centre, Alice Alima Kala (Mrs.), in her opening address urged educational institutions to help pupils and students develop creative skills for national growth and development.

According to her, Arts and Culture has shaped the country's national lives and reiterated that any event committed to promoting African playwrights, Arts and drama should be commended.

She advised that, music, dance, drama and poetry must be carefully utilized to promote unity in diversity and the harmonious co-existence that Ghanaians are enjoying.

The Head of Performing Arts Department of Centre Mr. Daniel Clerk commended the bravery of the young cast on stage.

According to him, plans are far advanced to add more schools in other to make the competition more effective and attractive.

"Drama activities like this help to teach moral lessons and imbibe in the young ones sense of responsibility to develop themselves and the country at large" he added.

The event witnessed the participation of seven schools namely; Achimota SHS, Kimbu SHS, St. John's Grammar SHS, St. Thomas Aquinas SHS, Nungua SHS, Osu Presbyterian SHS, and La Presby SHS for the grand finale.

KIMBU SHS won the ultimate prize with a play titled "PEACE AT LAST" while ST. JOHN'S GRAMMAR and NUNGUA SHS emerged 1st and 2nd runner up with a play titled "THE WORRIOR" and "WEDLOCK OF THE GOD" respectively.

Participants were awarded marks in areas like acting, stage setting, grammar and special effects.





## GA NORTH MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY ORGANISES A ONE DAY WORKSHOP FOR HILLY HILLS COLLEGE OF CREATIVE ARTS

The Municipal Culture and Art Department of the Ga North Assembly, has engaged the underprivileged and unemployed youth, undergoing a vocational skills training, at the Hilly Hills College of Creative Arts, for a one day workshop to celebrate Wear Ghana Festival.

The Municipal Cultural Officer Dodzi Foli Mensah, who put the event together said, the training programme which was designed for the underprivileged and unemployed youth in the Assembly is a productive course, to equip members in the Assembly with an artistic skill for job creation. Art and craft have become integral part of the society as it nurtures creativity and spurs innovative abilities in children. It inspires them to think out of the box and seek out new ways of achieving their goals instead of following directions.

He said last year, the Municipal Culture and Art Department collaborated with the Hilly Hills College of Creative Arts, located at Pokuase to seek for sponsorship from the Sinapi Aba Savings and Loans to help enroll underprivileged and unemployed youth from the Ga North Municipal Assembly through vocational training skills.

The programme was targeted to help reduce unemployment, and help people from poor family background, orphans and single parents by giving them skills in hairdressing, fashion designing and bead making. The objective of this year's Wear Ghana Festival was aimed at "giving opportunities to the youth who are into the fashion and accessories industry, create market opportunities for local designers to make outfits that will draw international appeal, promote and encourage patronage of our traditional wear, and boost local businesses for wealth creation.



It was stated that, the Department of Art and Culture will go further to seek more sponsorship to organize such programmes in the Assembly, such as Foreign Exchange Programmes and Workshops for citizens in the Art and Craft business. At the end of the training workshop participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity given to learn and create job for themselves.





## NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CULTURE LAUNCHES WEAR GHANA 2023

The National Commission on Culture and its Regional Centres, under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the CeeJay Multimedia and Aayalolo Festival on March 1, launched the 2023 edition of the Wear Ghana Festival under the theme 'Wear Ghana, for Jobs in Ghana'.

The festival, which aims to showcase and promote Ghana's cultural heritage and local textile industry, seeks to recognise creativity in the fashion industry and promote the growth and development of Ghanaian culture, thereby making it more relevant to human development.

The festival further aimed to promote national identity and encourage institutions to support local fabrics and accessories.

The National Commission on Culture, since the inception of Wear Ghana Festival in 2017, has used the month of March to increase advocacy and campaign on made-in-Ghana clothing, fashion and accessories and fabrics. "As the world becomes increasingly globalised, it is now important more than ever to celebrate and preserve our cultural traditions and uphold the integrity and memory of cultures, particularly the Ghanaian culture".

The Commission in a press release stated that, the Wear Ghana Festival is used to promote all locally made products and services, from food to herbal medicine, as it has the potential to create jobs and boost the Ghanaian economy as well as increase awareness and confidence in what we have as a people.



The commission stressed that, one way to do this is by making conscious efforts in promoting our Ghanaian clothing and their accessories. As socio-cultural and economic researchers and scholars have indicated that, clothing and fashion are key elements of people's culture that reflect on their history, customs, belief systems, knowledge systems, communication and their general way of life as well as their natural resources. This year's edition features several activities such as theme week, Aayalolo Festival, exhibition with CeeJay Multimedia, outreach programmes in basic schools, NCC Fashion Flash, Wear Ghana on Campus, Fugu Hub Exhibit and Traditional Exhibition with the aim of creating employment opportunities for Ghanaian youth in the fashion and creative industry.

The Commission through its statement urged Ghanaians to participate in this year's Wear Ghana Festival by wearing our colorful local fabrics such as Smock, Kente, GTP and Woodin at all state and international functions to help promote and project our unique cultural identity.



# EVENTS IN PICTURES





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