



### **NCC NEWSLETTER**

**September 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

### NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CULTURE LAUNCHES '22 EDITION OF NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURE

The National Commission on Culture under the auspices of Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture has launched the '2022 edition of the National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFAC) in Accra.



NAFAC, one of the flagship event of the National Commission on Culture was institutionalized in 1961 by the late Dr. Alexander Atta Yaw Kyeremanten, the founder and the first Director of the Ghana Cultural Centre now the Centre for National Culture Kumasi.

The festival serves as a platform where diverse
Ghanaian cultures converge to showcase their
ethnic and regional cultural prowess, our diversities
merge into a single driving force which has the potential to unite us around common beliefs and ideals
which we all cherish as a people.

The week-long celebration will this year be held at Cape Coast and will involve several activities including choral and indigenous music, a night of highlife, a day for young people and the youth, a colloquium, football games and a day to revive our story telling and traditions with the intentions of creating awareness and enthusiasm among the general public about our culture and the values that portray our Ghanaianess'.

The Executive Director of National Commission on Culture Madam Janet Edna Nyame speaking at the launch expressed her profound gratitude and warm appreciation to the initiators of this festival and all those who have contributed in any diverse ways to sustain the festival as it has been one of the flagship programme of the Commission for six decades.

"We are confident that, NAFAC over the past years has contributed to artistic development, peaceful coexistence, unity in diversity, creativity, and socio-economic development of our country", the Director stated.



# NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CULTURE LAUNCHES '22 EDITION OF NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURE

According to the Executive Director, the theme for this year's festival "Reviving Patriotism, Peace and Unity through cultural diversity for sustainability development" generally enjoins us to situate our Ghanaian culture, norms, values, and practices at the Centre of our development agenda.

"In all aspects of a nation's development, there is the need to pay a critical attention to how culture impacts our strategies and I am much optimistic that when the theme is critically discussed at the festival, we shall derive a guide that will inform policy formulation in the country".

Madam Edna concluded by appealing to all well-meaning Ghanaians, groups and organizations to come and support this year's festival to make it a success as our culture has the potential of rekindling our patriotic spirit and reinforcing peace and unity towards national development.

The Deputy Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture Hon. Mark Okraku Mantey in a speech expressed his sincere appreciation to the National Commission on Culture for spearheading this flagship programme for the past six decades as from its inception has aimed at promoting unity, peaceful coexistence and nation building through Ghana's rich culture and arts.

He asserted that, the theme for NAFAC this year was strategically chosen to awaken our consciousness about the moral duties we have towards our country within the context of the global development agenda currently in force.

He added that, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are goals set by comity of nations, sees the need to adopt an all-hands-on-deck approach towards the realization of the peculiar needs and aspirations of member countries.

"I strongly believe that through the effective implementation of the SDGs and our act of patriotism, we will help curb prevalent issues on poor sanitation, environmental degradation, nepotism, corruption and dishonesty which demean our cultural and moral values as Ghanaians".

He stressed that; concerted efforts will be required of all stakeholders to lend their supports to help drive such a laudable initiative through to a success.

"As a nation, we can only make progress and be recognized amongst our peers as trekking on a sound development trajectory when we take what belongs to us seriously, package it well, and present it to others".

"Thankfully, from intangible through to tangible aspects of culture, Ghana is endowed with fascinating repository of many cultural elements that show prospects for investment. We therefore have good reasons to believe that when NAFAC is raised to an international status, it will lead to a substantial improvement in its celebrations thereby creating opportunities for Ghana to generate revenue".



### INTERNATIONAL THEATRE INSTITUTE GHANA, LAUNCHES EMERGING ARTS SCENES IN AFRICA CONFERENCE AT ACCRA

The National Commission on Culture in collaboration with the African Regional Council of the International Theatre Institute (CRAIIT) and the ITI Ghana Centre in a colorful event has launched the second edition of the emerging arts scenes in Africa conference at the Accra Tourist Information Centre.



The 'Emerging Arts Scenes Conference', slated from September 25 to 30, 2022, at the Alliance Francaise, Ghana Academy of Arts and Science and the premises of the Community Education Youth Development (CEYD) is an educational event which aims at strengthening the artistic and technical capacities of performing artistes in Africa, thus facilitating their access to the world stage.

To this end, a total of 75 young practitioners from all Regions of Africa are selected to take part in the various workshops, with high-level trainers of artistic, technical and administrative fields related to performing arts from Africa, Europe, Asia and America.

Addressing the media launch, the Director of CEYD Dr. Akosua Abdallah stated that, the ITI was created by the first UNESCO Director General Sir Huxley and playwright JB Priestly in 1948 with the objective of creating an organization that was aligned with the UNESCO goals on Culture, Education, Arts, Peace, and Harmony and improve the status of performing artists to Create a platform for international exchange for both beginners and professionals.

She added that, the ITI has now metamorphosed to one of the world's largest performing arts Organization with more than 90 centers across the globe with each center mandated to promote the performing arts in their various countries through research, publication, workshops, conferences, and festivals.

According to Dr. Abdallah, the emerging arts scenes conference is expected to bring together various theatrical experiences and individuals to network and share knowledge in the fields of artistic practices to boost the bragging rights of the hosting country,

### INTERNATIONAL THEATRE INSTITUTE GHANA, LAUNCHES EMERGING ARTS SCENES IN AFRICA CONFERENCE AT ACCRA

promote transcultural exchange, enhances arts and craft development, create network avenues for the up-and-coming artistes and ensure the Destination Ghana Agenda.

The Executive Director of the National Commission on Culture in address expressed her gratitude to the organizers of the conference as a lover of arts and culture for organizing such event as its role in the society cannot be downplayed.

She asserted that, the International Theatre Institute has over the years evolved to become one of the recognized world's performing arts organizations which strive for a society in which performing arts and their artists thrive and flourish.

"Coincidentally, the upcoming conference is taking place at a time the Commission is feverishly preparing itself to hold its biannual and most cherished flagship event of Arts and Culture, NAFAC 2022 which will take place in the historic town of Cape Coast in December this year".

She used the occasion to welcome all dignitaries and other participating African countries to Ghana and invited them to this year's edition of NAFAC.



# CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE KUMASI INAUGURATES FOLKLORIC DANCE GROUP

The Centre for National Culture, Ashanti Region has inaugurated their version of folk-loric dance group of the Centre's performing arts department.



Folkloric dance, like the English term "folk dance", means dances of the people. This is a type of dance which reflects the traditions, cultures and beliefs of people in a particular region.

It expresses the life and spirit of people through its movement and music.

Folkloric dance has both historical and current style which preserves traditions yet has shifted with the current times.

Folk dance generally is vernacular, usually recreational, expression of a past or present culture as the term was accepted until the mid-20th century. But notwithstanding, other dances of the same categories were questioned as their distinctions became subject to debate.

Amamereso Agofomma is a recognized residence folkloric dance group at the Centre for National Culture Kumasi, under the dance section of the performing arts department. The group was established to serve as the repository of traditional Akan dances.

As culture is dynamic (that is changes from time to time and never static), the group has expanses to perform traditional dances from various ethnic groups in Ghana as well as Africa.

Members of the group are professionals who have been trained and performed on several international platforms.

The group can be engaged to perform at funerals, weddings, durbars, conferences and many other platforms. The group is opened for booking as they undertake the teaching of various dance forms to schools, individuals and institutions.



# INTERNATIONAL THEATRE INSTITUTE HOLDS SECOND EDITION OF EMERGING ARTS SCENES IN AFRICA CONFERENCE AT ACCRA

The National Commission on Culture under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture in collaboration with the African Regional Council on the International Theatre Institute and the ITI Ghana Centre has held the second edition of the 'Emerging Arts Scenes in Africa' Conference in Ghana, under the theme 'Promoting Innovations for Economic Development".



The ITI, the world's largest performing arts organization was created on the initiative of the first UNESCO Director General, Sir Julian Huxley, and the playwright and novelist, JB Priestly in 1948 with the aim of building an organization that aligns with UNESCO's goals on culture, education and the arts, and which would focus its endeavors on improving the status of all nembers of the performing arts professions.

The President of ITI Ghana Centre and the Director of CEYD, Dr. Akosua Abdallah speaking at the opening ceremony of the conference said, it is of ultimate interest to acknowledge that, the Emerging Arts Scenes project is an itinerant, live and visual training platform which was borne out of the 70th anniversary, of the International Institute in Segovia to celebrate the institution and provide Africa with a framework reflection, exchange, training and creation for young artistic practitioners to highlights the cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue of Africans to the rest of the world. According to her, the educational conference has brought 75 young practitioners from 25 African countries, with high-level trainers from Africa, Europe, Asia and America, as selected experts will lead a round table discussion on theatre experience from their various countries.



# INTERNATIONAL THEATRE INSTITUTE HOLDS SECOND EDITION OF EMERGING ARTS SCENES IN AFRICA CONFERENCE AT ACCRA

"The emerging arts conference gives a beautiful opportunity to promote Pan African Heritage and innovation whilst connecting with the global African family and artists to strengthen their artistic capacities in physical theatre staging, choreography creation techniques, sound and light creation".

It is worthy to state that, all the artists will participate in a round table discussion under the theme "the theatrical experience of different regions of the world" to provide better knowledge of the various theatrical experiences and practices around the world.

The Director General of ITI Mr. Tobias Biancone in his opening speech said, the history of civilizations on Earth have always been imposed by those in power to build a hegemony that allows a given country to impose to other countries his civilization which he considers to be superior to other civilizations.

He stated that, there is no civilization, nor any culture existing in this world that can be regarded as to other civilizations or cultures, and working in multinational and multicultural environment has proven that people are different, act differently, have different values and above all, they represent one or more specific cultural roots.

"While exploring Africa and researching Africa, I found information amazing. Africa was the first continent on Earth to be inhabited by human beings and also have the largest populations in the world. But what is most Importantly, Africa is extremely rich in cultural heritage and cultural diversity. In Africa you find more than three thousand cultures – and these indicate that the continent is rich in cultural diversity. Every living culture in Africa varies not only from country to country, but from one region to another in the same country, from one ethnic to another ethnic group, and from one tribe to another".

According to the Director General, the roots of dramatic expres-

"Nevertheless, there are roots that are still accessible. Looking for these roots in Africa will require different approach. We have to find the roots in the unique dynamics that can be found in the daily life of the continent, and we must look at artistic expressions that have their roots in popular celebrations, in rituals and in myths", the Director urged.

sions in Africa have been lost in the prehistory, and they may

also have disappeared because of colonization.



#### **MESENEOK LIMITED LAUNCHES GHANA TO THE WORLD FESTIVAL**

Meseneok Limited under the auspices of the National Commission on Culture has in a special event launched the first edition of Ghana to the World Festival in Accra under the theme "telling the real Ghanaian story our own way".



Ghana to the World is a yearly festival and one of Ghana's biggest and most entertaining arts, cultural and musical festival in the diaspora, which is focused on highlighting the rich cultural heritages and tourism potentials of Ghana to the outside world, with the objective of fostering economic growth through tourism. subject to debate.

Ghana is one of the countries in the world which is known of its rich and vibrant customs, traditions, and unique tourism heritages which one cannot reject but to accept and love, and these have made Ghana one of the countries in the world that attracts the attention of people when it comes to culture and tourism heritage.

The Chief Executive Officer of Meseneok Ltd Ms. Senorita Meseneo Kukubor speaking at the event outlined that, the first edition of the Ghana to the World festival is scheduled to take place in the summer of 2023 in the United Kingdom.

She added that, the three-day festival will come with lineups of intriguing activities that will seek to showcase the various aspects of the Ghanaian culture, customs, and traditions as well as the tourism potentials of the country in the most entertaining way to the world.

According to Ms. Kukubor, it is their priority as organizers for the festival to grow to become internationally recognized to attract thousands of foreigners to visit and explore the rich cultural heritage, customs and traditions.

"Cultural festival as we all appreciate, provide a platform for showcasing, promoting and preserving our cultural heritage. For me, culture is not just about the economic values of our creative industries; it is what defines us as people. It helps us understand the world around us, its people and how they live their lives. Ghana to the world festival aims to promote and sell the Ghanaian culture to the world by telling a story in our way devoid of prejudice". She added.

#### **MESENEOK LIMITED LAUNCHES GHANA TO THE WORLD FESTIVAL**

"As we launch this festival, it is important to emphasized, that the founding principles of cultural festival still remain; that is, bridging the gap between cultures as a prerequisite for peace, stability and development, and this festival has been created to consolidate the efforts of the government, in promoting Ghana on the international world, to attract people to visit Ghana and experience Ghana". Ms. Kukubor reiterated.

The Executive Director of National Commission on Culture, Madam Janet Edna Nyame in her speech acknowledged the organizers for such an auspicious event and a well-thought-out initiative that seeks to showcase and promote our rich cultural heritage, traditions, customs and above all our tourism potentials.

"Indeed, Ghana happens to be one of the best in the world that can be classified as a culturally conscious nation, as our culture, arts and traditions are so huge and has gained the attention of the global world".

"It enlightens our heart as the National Commission on Culture, an institution established by the Provision National Defense Council (PNDC) law 238, mandated to promote and ensure the growth and development of Ghanaian culture, and make them more relevant to our development, to be associated with such an event that seeks to promote all aspect of our culture from every tribe in this country", the Executive Director said.

Madam Nyame urged Ghanaians to remind themselves of the importance of cultural property to our nation and work together to preserve and pass on our culture safely to their children and the unborn generations as we celebrate Ghana's culture and cultural diversity.

"In many developing countries, tourism promotes inclusive economic growth, creating jobs, attracting foreign investor, develop the human resource and drive the development of critical infrastructure, like air and seaports, roads and hotels, which connect economies to a global value chains and increase trade
In order for Ghana to attract its share of the growing market and
the global value chain, it must position itself to tap into the
huge economic potential and this event "GHANA TO THE
WORLD" is a strategic event to help realize this objective"

Madam Edna revealed.

The Executive Director called on all Ghanaians both home and in the diaspora and corporate Ghana to support this yearly initiative through partnerships to make the festival a success.



### SIXTH BATCH OF CARL OPEREBEA MARKETABLE SKILLS TRAINEES PASSES OUT

The 6th batch of Carl Oparebea Marketable
Skills Trainees has passed out successfully at a
colorful graduation ceremony held at the Cape
Coast Centre for National Culture.



The annual marketable skills training has been a major flagship Programme instituted by the Centre in the year 2017, as a measure to equip the youth with creative and employable proficiency skills training as a means to curb the growing rate of unemployment amongst the Youth especially.

In all, 79 participants including two differently abled persons, individuals and other participants who were sponsored by the Restore Hope Foundation, the Oguaaman Focus Group and The Cape Coast Youth Development Association Graduated from this year's training.

The colourful event was chaired by Rev. Dr. Ebo
Kesse, the Western Regional Director of Centre for
National Culture who represented the Executive
Director of the National Commission on Culture.
The grandaunts during the ceremony exhibited
some beautiful items which they made during the
training processes and assured the sponsors of
propagating their good works and making the skills
received useful.

Gracing the occasion were the Director of the Department of Social Welfare, Madam Monica Siaw, who represented the Central Regional Minister Madam Justina Marigold Assan, the Acting Regional Director of Centre for National Culture, Madam Dorcas Salamatu Alhassan, Prof. Anamoah Mensah, former Vice Chancellor of University of Education Winneba and some delegates from the Oguaaman Focus Group.

Also in attendance were representatives from the Ghana Police Service, the Ghana Prisons Service, the media and other stakeholders.



### TERTIARY STUDENTS ON ATTACHMENT MOUNT EXHIBITION OF THEIR HANDIWORKS

The tertiary students who were on attachment at the Kumasi Centre for National Culture have mounted a one day exhibition to display their beautiful handiworks.



The students, who are on a three month intensive practical attachment with the Centre for National Culture, are from the Accra Technical University and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi.

This follows a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Centre and the two tertiary institutions where students are brought to the Centre to every year to experience hands on practical training in the visual arts department as part of their academic requirement.

The in house exhibition saw the students showing beautiful and unique designs of fabrics in batik, tie, dye, broadloom weave (Nwomo) hand embroidery and kente weaves.

The Centre's Management led by the Director, Mr. Emmanuel Ansu, sampled and inspected the works of the students with utmost admiration and commendation.

According to Mr. Ansu, the relevance of the Centre as a major stakeholder in the socio-economic development of the nation must be paid attention to, as it serves as a catalyst to unemployment reduction in the country and increase revenue generation for both the nation and the individual in the sector.

"Culture holds the key to our development in the future, that is, the business potential of culture is enormous as it has a huge market globally". He therefore, encouraged the youth to take advantage of the initiative and embrace it for their livelihood.

He commended the Head of the Visual Art Department, Mr. David Anokye, for his exemplary leadership and skills that has culminated in equipping the students practical skills in the various arts and crafts.



### PROFILE OF DR. ALEX ATTA YAW KYEREMATEN, FOUNDER AND FIRST DI-RECTOR OF THE GHANA NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE



Dr. Alex Atta Yaw Kyerematen (Father of Alan John Kyerematen, Minister of Trade and Industry, Ghana) was born on the 29th April, 1916. Is the Founder/Curator and First Director of the Ghana National Cultural Centre (now Centre for National Culture) and the Kumasi Zoo.

It is said that whilst studying anthropology in the United Kingdom in the 1940s, he realized after an encounter with a British professor how ignorant he was about his own Asante traditions. Embarrassed, Dr. Kyerematen decided that after his studies, he would do something more concrete to promote Asante culture.

After his certain high profile education, he returned to Asante where he found a beautiful collaborator – the Asantehene, Otumfuo Sir Osei Agyeman Prempeh II. In a passionate appeal in a meeting of the Asanteman Council, arranged by the Otumfuo, Sr. Kyerematen collected that month's allowances of all the chiefs to start the centre.

Stage by stage, it finally got completed with the aid of some Israelis and individuals including the late Quarshie Idun. The Centre became unique in Ghana. The pride of Asante Culture eventually found its sanctuary. Short of money, Dr. Kyerematen had to borrow or forcibly take the kente cloth of his wife Victoria, as one of the exhibition pieced at the museum. The Centre grew out of Asante nationalism and the moral trust invested in the originator. It soon had two big theatre houses, the Chapel of Charity, the Prempeh II Museum, the Ashanti library, a canteen, Textile and Weaving Factory, a big Zoo, a model eighteenth century Asante architectural building.

### PROFILE OF DR. ALEX ATTA YAW KYEREMATEN, FOUNDER AND FIRST DI-

But ever nationalistic, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, passing through Kumasi to Tamale became fascinated with Dr. Kyerematen and his Centre, he asked Dr. Kyerematen to expand his idea to embrace the whole country. Hence, the Asante Cultural Centre now became Ghana National Cultural Centre in 1963. By the time Dr. Kyerematen died on the 4th November, 1976, he had grown in ideas about cultural preservation. He published significant books and articles: Adaekesie Festival (1952); Regalia for an Ashanti Durbar (1961); Panoply of Ghana (1964); the Royal Stools of Ashanti (1969); Daasebre Osei Agyemang Prempeh II (1970) and others. He also instituted the Annual National Festival of Arts in 1956 in Kumasi. Again with the aid of the British Council, he was able to get the renowned Queens' College Choir, Cambridge, to visit Ghana.

With humility, he was rewarded immensely by both the State and Asanteman. He became the Asanteman Council secretary, Town Clerk of the Kumasi City Council, Minister of State for Local Government, Chairman of the council of the University of Science and Technology, now Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST).

Dr. Kyerematen was undoubtedly one of the greatest sons that Ghana has ever produced. He was a man of foresight. Long before others thought of it, he realized the importance of the preservation of the rich culture of Ghana. This culminated in the establishment of the Centre for National Culture and the Kumasi Zoo which today stand as a fitting monument to his life and work.

The Centre for National Culture stands as everlasting memorial to his name. Conceived and built under his untiring leadership and supervision, the Centre will remain a perpetual testimony to the strength of his will and the tenacity with which he pursued his convictions.

# VOLTA REGIONAL CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE GIFTS AGBOGBOMEFIA A MEMORABLE PORTRAIT

The Volta Regional Centre for National Culture has paid a courtesy call and presented a portrait to Togbe Afede XIV, the Agbogbomefia of the Asogli State. .



The Centre, as well as all corporate organizations located within Asogli Traditional Area visited and paid homage to the Paramountcy as part of the activities for the 2022 Yam Festival celebrations of the people of Asogli.

As part of the 2022 Yam Festival celebration by the chiefs and people of the Asogli Traditional Area, Togbe Afede XIV and sub-divisional Chiefs sat in-state with the purpose of allowing institutions and organisations located within the traditional area to pay homage with best of wishes and gifts to the Agbogbomefia.

In that regard, the Regional Office of the Centre for National Culture presented to Togbe, a 33" X 44" inch framed painted Portrait of Togbe responding to cheers from his people in a beautifully draped Kente.

Speaking to the gathering during the presentation, the Acting Regional Director of the Centre, Madam Patience Amexo expressed her appreciation to the Asogli Traditional Council and specifically to Togbe Afede XIV for their support for the Centre in administering and preserving culture within the Region.

She added that, being a Cultural Institution, it was necessary to present to him a gift that captures the essence of the cultural institution hence the handpainted portrait.

She also expressed her hopes that, the Centre would very soon complete a Regional Theatre which will bring about a holistic development for the people of the traditional area and the Region as a whole.



#### **MILES APART PLAY PRODUCTION THRILLS AUDIENCE IN HO**

The Centre for National Culture, Ho in collaboration with Mavericks Productions has staged a play titled 'Miles Apart' to thrill audience in Ho.



This production is a timely sensitisation and a reminder on the fact that inter-tribal discrimination still exists in our societies thus the need to deploy effective cultural tools to curb it.

The play which was staged at the Regional auditorium of the Centre on was reflectively entertaining and educative.

The audience literally defied the rainy weather to be present at the auditorium for the show with absolutely no regrets.

The Performance was packed with thrilling moments throughout and had Guest Dance Crew (NIGERZ WITH PURPOSE) who serenaded the audience even more.

In modern times, where civilization and formal education has rendered inter-cultural interactions very common, it is worth mentioning that issues of inter-tribal discrimination still persist; this discrimination largely interrupts the progress that has been made over the years to promote tolerance, unity and peace among cultures thus, the aim for this production.

The message of the play was targeted particularly at inter-tribal marriages. Ewurama and Sefadzi in their fight to get marriage against many odds had to contend with Ewurama's father who is against the marriage because of his hatred for Frank's tribe.

In the playwright's post production comments he recounts the many experiences of tribal discriminations he has witnessed in recent times; and these accounts inspired the play. It's believed that, drama still has a major role to play in effecting change in our societies for total development of our country.





**National commission on Culture** 

### Contact Us



infonccgh@gmail.com



@GhanaCultureHub



@gov.ncc



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