



NCC NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCTION

Ghana has over 50 ethnic groups whose common values and institutions represent our collective National heritage. In the era of globalisation and contemporary technological challenges, the people of Ghana recognise that their culture is the basis of, and the most important factor in the Nation's human and material development.

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

CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE, ASANTE AKIM NORTH MUNICIPAL ORGANISES TRADITIONAL GAMES COMPETITION

The office of the Centre for National Culture in the Asante Akim North Municipality in collaboration with the “Cultural Games Association Ashanti” has organised Traditional Games Competition with ten selected Basic Schools within the Municipality.



The exercise was to re-introduce the hither to lost games which served as a platform for socialization into the Municipality and also form a team for the Municipality to promote our culture through games.

Among the schools that participated in the well-attended and exciting games of Ampe and Chaskele were; Hwidiem M/A and Presbyterian ‘C’ basic schools, Hwidiem Methodist Primary School, Ramseyer and Savior ‘B’ Junior High Schools. The others were, Presby ‘A’ and Presby ‘B’, APCE ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘C’ Junior High Schools.

The Ashanti Regional Director of Centre for National Culture Mr. Emmanuel Ansu and the chairman of the Cultural Games Association Mr. Mustapha Issah, who is also the deputy director in charge of performing arts in a separate speech commended the educational unit of the municipality for embracing and fully participating in the Traditional games.

They emphasized that, such events deepen the spirit of communalism which is the hallmark of our culture aside their entertainment values.

They pledged to make the necessary effort to replicate it in the other metropolitan, municipal, and district assemblies in the Ashanti Region. At the end of the competition Presbyterian ‘A’ came first in the Ampe whilst Presbyterian ‘B’ emerged champions in the Chaskele games.



CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE, KUMASI ORGANISES IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR TWENTY FRONTLINE STAFF

The Centre for National Culture, Kumasi has organised a one-day in-service training programme in Customer Care and Service for twenty (20) of its frontline staff.



The participants, which also saw the full participation of the Management of the Centre were drawn from the Prempeh II Jubilee Museum site guides, general tour guides of the Centre and the front desk personnel/Reception of the Research & Publicity Department.

Others were also from the Gye Nyame and Gambra Arts & Craft shops, the Cash Office, and the general Accounts Office of the Accounts department. The rest were drawn from the Amammereso Agofomma (the Centre's Resident Dance Company), the Broadloom Weaving, Pottery and Batik Tie & Dye section of the Performing and Visual Arts Departments.

Ts.Mr. Emmanuel Ansu, the Director in a welcome address for the one-day training programme noted that, the Centre as a Cultural institution and major tourist's destination mainly deals with people who constitute different publics and who are also our main clients or customers.

Mr. Ansu stressed that, the Centre as a social-entity or discipline, there was the need to equip the frontline staffs who are the interface of the Centre and the general public with the nuances of the necessary tools of communication in Customer Care and Service.

He added that this novelty is just the first phase of other training programmes to be rolled out for other critical staffs of the Centre so the Centre can always catch the eyes of the public.

According to the Director, the Centre will not condone any ineptitude conducts that will bring the programme and the Centre's image into disrepute.



He therefore urged the participants to take the training programme very serious as maximum output will be expected from them.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CULTURE PAYS A COURTESY CALL ON THE CENTRAL REGIONAL MINISTER

The Executive Director of the National Commission on Culture, Madam Janet Edna Nyame and a Team from the Commission have paid a courtesy call on the Hon. Central Regional Minister Madam Justina Marigold Assan and the Oguamahan Osabarima Kwesi Atta II to formally announce the Commission's preparedness towards hosting this year's National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFAC 2022) in the Central Regional Capital, Cape Coast, from November 18 - November 27, 2022.



NAFAC is a biennial event that offers a common platform for all sixteen (16) Regions of Ghana to display their rich culture and traditions and further promote arts and tourism as different people get to display their cultures and crafts.

The team received a very warm welcome and engaged in fruitful interactions with both the Minister and the Oguamahanhene concerning the various activities that would be taken place during the celebration of NAFAC.

The Executive Director and her entourage also visited the Regional Directorate of the Centre for National Culture to Familiarize and interact with newly recruited Staffs.

Madam Edna Nyame in a statement advised the newly recruits to work acidulously as the commission is mandated to maintain the unique cultural identity and values for the promotion of an integrated national culture, as well as contribute to the overall economic development of the nation.



MAKE THE CENTRE VIBRANT AND RELEVANT – ASANTEHENE TO CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE, KUMASI

The Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, has urged the Director of the Centre for National Culture, Kumasi, to restore the fortunes of the Centre so as to make it more vibrant and relevant as they harness the diverse artistic resources of the Region and promote integrated Regional culture.



Nana Kantankrankyi a senior linguist to the Asantehene, noted that the Centre which is the heartbeat of cultural activities seems to have lost its past glory.

He however, commended the Management of the Centre for maintaining a beautiful landscape coupled with its serene ambiance.

This, the senior linguist said, when the Director, Management and selected staff of the Centre called on the Asantehene during the Awukudae festival held at Manhyia



The Director on his part acknowledged the sentiments expressed by the over lord of Asante, saying, he has been briefed about the shortfalls of the Centre and assured that with painstaking effort with his Management team and with the support of Manhyia Palace he will turn things around. Mr. Ansu, noted that the Centre has enormous potential, "I am here to harness the rich potential of the Centre for public good and ensure that I leave lasting legacy both in infrastructure and programme content" he stated.

NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE ORGANISES A CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILLS TRAINING ON BATIK TIE & DYE

The Northern Regional Centre for National Culture has organised a two-week capacity building and skills training on Batik Tie & Dye production as the Centre's effort to train and equip people with employable skills.



The trainees in the course of the programme were taken through theories and practical demonstration of Batik Tie & Dye and the rudiments and procedures of colour mixing and combination, motif making, wax processing, selection of good fabric for both Batik & Tie and Dye and mixing appropriate chemicals and dyes in order to meet the taste of all categories of fashion enthusiasts.

Senior Cultural Assistant attached to the Tamale Metropolis, Madam Georgina Amenah took the participants through the various processes of Batik Tie & Dye production and emphasized that the use of vat dyes give good colour combination and results.

She further cautioned that, trainees must at all times wear appropriate protective gear such as goggles, nose masks, boots, apron and hand gloves among others as a means to safeguard them from any form of accident during production.

Madam Amenah entreated the trainees to always produce quality products that will meet the taste of potential clients and fashion enthusiasts to attract more people to patronize their products.

The trainees expressed their enthusiasm for the capacity building and skills sharpening session they had with the instructors during the two weeks training session.

The trainees additionally assured the instructors that, they will share the skills they have acquired during the training to their colleagues and also train others who will be interested in Batik Tie & Dye production in the Region to avert the rate of unemployment.



RESTORING KWAME NKRUMAH MEMORIAL PARK, TOURISM MINISTER CUTS SOD FOR REHABILITATION AND MODERNISATION TO BEGIN

The Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed Awal has cut sod to kick-start the rehabilitation and modernisation of the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park which is expected to be completed in March 2023..



Constructed in 1992 and inaugurated in 1993, the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park (KNMP) is one of Ghana's foremost heritage sites and a home to the mortal remains of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first President and his wife Fathia has not been renovated since its construction as the current status of the Park is not attractive to visitors and also do not generate sufficient revenue for its sustenance and maintenance. The rehabilitation and modernisation project, supported under the World Bank Tourism Development Project at the cost of USD 3 million, will entail the total renovation of the Mausoleum and Museum, the building of a new Presidential library, a new training centre,

a new restaurant, a VVIP Lounge, an Artistic Freedom wall and a Music and Light Fountain to boost night tourism at the Park.



The Minister addressing the gathering said, the general solemnity of the Park will not be compromised and when completed, would create over 50 additional direct and many indirect jobs.

According to Dr. Mohammed, the rehabilitation of the Park will benefit the status of Ghana's first President Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and also give befitting recognition to the country's other founding fathers: Edward Akuffo-Addo, Arko Adjei, Obetsebi Lamprey, William Ofori-Atta and J.B Danquah.

This, the Minister said would further concretise the Pan-African Triangular Centre: George Padmore Library, WEB Du Bois Centre for Pan-Africanism and the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park; thereby consolidating Ghana's position as the foremost Centre of Pan Africanism and diaspora research.

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The Minister admonished that, Ghana's reliance on the export of cocoa and gold alone to support national development is not feasible and that there is an urgent need to diversify the country's export earnings and "tourism and the creative arts come in handy.



Speaking at sod-cutting ceremony, the Minister of Information Hon. Kwadwo Opong Nkrumah said, arts, culture and heritage must not be viewed as a limitation of expression and display of customs, practices and values passed on but as a powerful tool of creativity, skills and talents that has the potential to create wealth and prosperity for the citizens.

According to the Minister, "rehabilitation and the modernisation of the Park will be done expeditiously, and when the project is completed, managements or directors should not compromise with its maintenance to always keep the edifice beautiful at all times," he cautioned.

He further used the occasion to charge the media to employ innovative programmes that would promote and market the newly refurbished tourist centres in the country to attract a lot more Ghanaians and people from around the world.

"To our colleagues in the media, our charge to you is for you to develop innovative programmes that will attract thousands of people, not just to this site, but the National Museum that was just refurbished and opened for example, and the many other tourists sites that we are investing in to bring a lot of Ghanaians and people from all over the world to visit these sites and together, we will be able to bring the Ghanaian economy back to where we want it to be," he said.



TWIFO-ATTI MORKWA DISTRICT ORGANISES INTER-SCHOOL CULTURAL FESTIVAL FOR SOME SELECTED SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT

The Centre for National Culture in the Twifo-Atti Morkwa District in the Central Region has organised an inter-school cultural festival for some selected schools in the District in the Centre's quest to promote, preserve, sustain and project the rich cultural heritage of the District.



The event, which was organised under the theme "Revitalizing the Ghanaian Culture in Today's Youth", was largely centered on Drama competition as the main meal and dessert of Music and Dance presentation and Visual Arts to celebrate Arts and Culture.

The Basic schools engaged in a fiercely contested drama competition with scripts based on our cultural heritage, social and moral issues in Ghana, but not religiously or politically bias.

Adjudication of the competition was strictly focused on three areas, i.e storyline/message (Cultural relevance, Originality of piece, Use of language),



acting (Characterization, Use of voice, energy levels, Movement, Teamwork use of stage) and finally stage presentation (Costume, Props, and Appeal to audience)

Morkwa Senior High School thrilled the entire audience with spectacular indigenous cultural dances which blew all minds but that notwithstanding, Ansaarudeen D/A Basic School emerged winners of the drama competition.



THE ORAL HISTORY OF SEKONDI

In Ghana (then, Gold Coast) various cities emerged throughout the pre-colonial period and also during the encounter with the Europeans. Townships like Elmina emerged around the late 12th century, likewise Sekondi, which was also believed to have existed as early as the 13th Century (Lawler, 2002). Sekondi became popularly known for its Dutch Fort, Fort Orange built in 1642 and an English Fort built in 1682..



Sekondi, being part of the administrative capital of Western Region of Ghana – known as Sekondi-Takoradi (Twin-City) is strategically located, due to availability of transportation facilities such as the sea, railway and efficient road networks linking to major cities in Ghana and La Cote d'Ivoire and blessed with a Fishing Harbour, landing beaches, Regional Administration and some historic monuments.



According to oral history, the founders of Sekondi originally came from Techiman, led by a woman named Ewue Luku and first settled at Esipon, where they cultivated pepper whilst others engaged in animal hunting.

As they cultivated on the land for some time, the land became less fertile for cultivation, and this caused the people to migrate to Akuberem (occupied by the Naval Quarters in Sekondi).

From Akuberem, the people moved to Anafo, where the present 'Ahenfie' (State Palace) is built. It is said that, their pepper plantation flourished and their neighbours from nearby communities patronized the pepper produced by Ewue Luku and her people. As people from neighbouring Ahanta communities found the pepper produced by Ewue Luku and her people to be very hot, they directed people from other communities to also patronize the product.

THE ORAL HISTORY OF SEKONDI

Hot pepper (EZEKUME), which originated from two Ahanta words, 'EZE' (pepper) and 'KUME' (hot). With time, the word EZEKUME was adulterated to 'SEKUNDE' due to the difficulty people had in pronouncing 'EZE-KUME.' It is believed that, on one of his hunting expeditions, the husband of Ewue Luku did not return from the hunting trip. Following this development, Ewue Luku mounted a search for her lost husband and later found him dead along the coast..

Initially, the Sekunde stool used to swear allegiance to the Great Nana Badu Bonsu of Busua, the Ahantahen. In 1872, the Sekunde stool weaned itself from the authority of Nana Badu Bonsu of Busua with the aid of the Dutch. This came after the Dutch had settled in Sekunde and built their fort, Fort Orange in 1640. The seat of Sekunde ruled over Poase, Nkotompo, Esaman, Ekuase, Esipon, Sofokrom, Manpong, Nkroful, Fijai, Diabene, Kansaworado, Anaji, Efirikrom, Butuma-gyebu, Efia, Ahenkofikrom and Ketan. Sekundi adopted and celebrated the Kundum Festival since it held allegiance to the Ahantahen of Busua.



The woman became inconsolable and cried out loudly. It is said that, in the course of crying, a Stool with the "Abradze Family" symbol of a bird in its nest woven in between the horns of the buffalo came out of the sea. Ewue Luku took hold of the Stool, brought it home and sat on it to rule Sekunde and seventeen other communities.

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THE ROOT AND HISTORY OF ASOGLI PEOPLE

Asogli, located in the Volta Region of Ghana is one amongst the dominant group in the Ho Municipality with Togbe Afede XIV as the current Paramount Chief. The state consists of four Traditional Set up namely Akoefe, Ho, Kpenoe and the Takla.



The people of Asogli, like most Ewe speaking people, trace their origin from a place called Abyssinia in what is now Ethiopia. History has it that, the Asogli's migrated with other Ewes groups from Abyssinia to Oyo in Yorubaland, Western Nigeria. From Oyo, they went to Ketu in Dahomey (now Benin) before settling at Notse in present day Republic of Togo somewhere in the 12th century.

Oral history has it that, in their settlements at Ketu and Notse, the Ewes lived in walled cities called Agbome, literally means within the fence wall, where they were ruled by a tyrant, King Agorkorli whose sadistic rule is reported in the historical records of all Ewes.



The Asoglis naturally detested without hesitation the dictatorial rule of the King due to the wicked treatment he took the people through. In an attempt of the subjects to liberate themselves, they decided to soften a portion of the fortified wall through a planned and persistent splashing of water. Eventually, under the leadership of Togbe Kakla, they managed to break portions of the wall to escape. The escape of the subjects included a conspiracy and a deceptive plan under which the escaping subjects were believed to have walked backwards out of the walled city with the objective of creating the impression that the footprints they left were those of people who had entered the city. This they say confused the King's soldiers and by the time they realised what had happened, most of the subjects had escaped to freedom.

THE ROOT AND HISTORY OF ASOGLI PEOPLE



Togbe Kakla and his people then sundered from the large number of Ewes to settle at Komedzrale where they engaged in farming and hunting. After the demise of Togbe Kakla, Togbe Asor, a descendant of Togbe Kakla led the people to migrate from Komedzrale to the present day Ho, the capital of Volta Region due to infertility of the land and poor economic state.

The Asogli practice the patrilineal system of inheritance, literally, inheritance from the father's lineage with Yam, Banku and Fufu (prepared from boiled yam) as their favorite traditional meals.

The people celebrate Yam festival which came into existence by a great Hunter who discovered the crop in the forest during the famine time of the Asoglis. According to history, the farmer upon discovering the crop decided to hide it beneath the soil in the forest. Instead of sending it home, and when he later came back, the crop had grown into a big plant beneath the soil.

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NAFAC COMING SOON...