

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 Culture and Creative Arts Directorate and Edited by the PR unit of the Commission, Headed by Mrs. Ama Amponsah Painstil

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NCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HONOURED AT AKWAABA FESTIVAL

The vibrant rhythms of African drums echoed through the air as the sun began its descent over the horizon, casting a golden hue over the bustling city. Amidst the jubilant atmosphere, distinguished guests and cultural enthusiasts gathered at the renowned Akwaaba Festival, celebrating the rich Ghanaian heritage and tradition.

preserving cultural heritage in an ever-changing world. "Our culture is not just our past; it is our present and our future," he proclaimed passionately.

The Akwaaba Festival, known for its vibrant displays of traditional music, exhibition, and fashion show provided the perfect backdrop for honoring Nana Acheampong's significant achievements. As the festivities continued into the night, attendees reveled in the spirit of unity and pride, reaffirming their commitment to celebrating and safeguarding Ghana's rich cultural heritage for generations to come.

The award bestowed upon the Executive Director serves as a testament to his tireless efforts in championing cultural diversity and fostering a deeper appreciation for Ghanaian traditions both at home and abroad. As the echoes of drums faded into the night, his legacy as a custodian of culture continued to inspire all who had the privilege of witnessing this historic moment at the 2024 Akwaaba Festival and the Black Star Awards held at the National Theatre, Ghana.



In a momentous ceremony, the spotlight shone on the esteemed Executive Director of the National Commission on Culture, Nana Otuo Owoahene Aceampong, as he was honored with a prestigious award by Ceejay Multimedia, the esteemed organizers of the Akwaaba Festival and the Black Star Awards. The award recognised the Director's unwavering dedication and exceptional contributions to the preservation and promotion of Ghanaian culture on both national and international platforms. Nana Otuo Owoahene Aceampong, addressing the gathered audience expressed his profound gratitude for the recognition, emphasising the importance of





NEW JUABEN NORTH, EASTERN REGION: CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE ORGANISES TRAINING ON AKAN MEN TRADITIONAL CLOTH FOR STUDENTS

The Centre for National Culture office in the New Juaben North Municipality of the Eastern Region in collaboration with authorities of Oyoko Methodist Senior High School has organised a training session on traditional Akan men's cloth wearing at the Oyoko Methodist Senior High School premises.



The primary objective was to acquaint students with the significance of traditional attire, commonly worn by esteemed individuals such as chiefs, dignitaries, and opinion leaders during cultural events like festivals and funerals. By imparting this knowledge, the Centre aimed to instill a sense of pride and preservation of Ghanaian culture among the students.

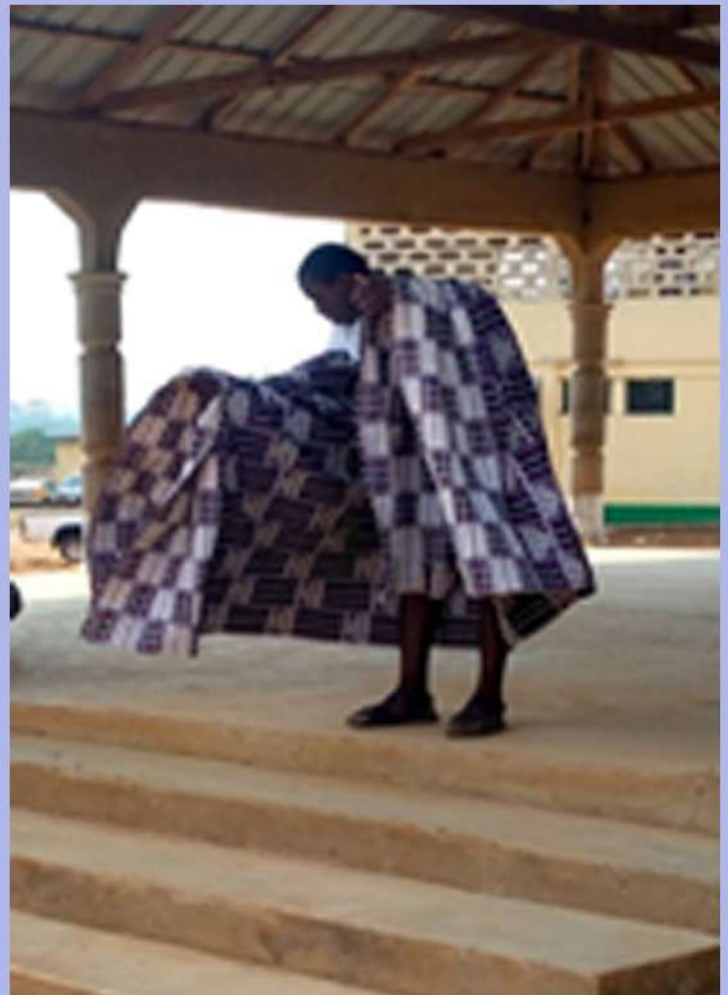
The Municipal Cultural Officer of New Juaben North, Ms. Agnes Nyarko addressing the gathering disclosed the importance of adhering to cultural norms and traditions in dressing. She urged students to dress decently and cover the body parts as per societal expectations and encouraged them to patronise locally made textiles as a means of promoting Ghanaian textile industries and projecting a positive image of their culture.

Ms. Nyarko reminded the students of their role as potential role models for the younger generation, highlighting the significance of presenting themselves respectfully to society.

Following the address, the resource person, Mr. Kingsley F. Obeng showcased various traditional Akan cloth-wearing styles, including Me Kɔ Serei, Me Yere Besi, Biribi Hy4 Ntoma Mu, Me Wɔ Me Biribi Di, and Akyemfoɔ.

However, he cautioned against the adoption of Me Kɔ Serei and Me Yere Besi styles. After the demonstration, students actively participated in practical sessions, where they learned firsthand how to wear the traditional cloth. Although the students' ceremonial cloth had not yet been received by the school, the exercise provided them with valuable insights into proper folding techniques. The organizers suggested that students could further improve their skills through rehearsals with the cloth once it became available.

The training exercise in conclusion was deemed successful in achieving its objectives of promoting cultural awareness and preserving traditional practices among the students of Oyoko Methodist Senior High School.



BE PROACTIVE TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO YOUR COMMUNITIES- EASTERN REGIONAL CNC DIRECTOR TO OFFICERS

The Acting Regional Director of the Centre for National Culture in the Eastern Region, Madam Dorcas Salamatu Alhassan has called on cultural officers under her jurisdiction to be proactive to contribute positively in the performance of their duties in their various communities.



The Director made the call when the Centre for National Culture organised a one-day seminar tailored for District and Municipal Officers, focusing on the comprehensive presentation of the 2023 End of Year Performance Review and Projections for 2024.

Madam Salamatu warmly acknowledged the officers' presence and commended the National Commission on Culture for spearheading such a commendable initiative to empower cultural officers in the execution of their duties.

The seminar commenced with each officer given the opportunity to present an overview of their respective programmes for the year 2023, employing the use of informative and engaging PowerPoint presentations. These sessions facilitated a thorough examination and assessment of their monthly activities of 2023 shedding light on the successes, challenges encountered, and strategic plans moving forward into the year 2024.

The presentations proved to be highly educational, as officers shared insights of organised projects and activities,

providing a detailed breakdown. The candid discussion on challenges confronted at the district level paved the way for collaborative problem-solving and the formulation of effective strategies to overcome hurdles, ensuring the realisation of their set targets for the upcoming year. Following the presentations, the Acting Director of the Centre Madam Dorcas Salamatu Alhassan, took the officers through a session on proposal writing, emphasising the importance of securing sponsorships for their programmes.

She encouraged them to delve into online resources to enhance their knowledge on various proposal writing techniques.



She urged the officers not to hesitate in seeking assistance from the Regional Office for guidance in writing proposals and any other technical assistance in the line of their duties.

The Director underscored the significance of officers being indispensable in their respective districts, highlighting the importance of their proactiveness in the assembly.





WESTERN NORTH REGION: CENTRE FOR NATIONAL CULTURE EMBARKS ON SOCIAL DRIVE TO END CHILD MARRIAGE.

The Centre for National Culture, Western North Region has embarked on a 5-day campaign against child marriage through theatre in the region.



The Director for the Centre for National Culture, Western North region Reverend Stephen Ebo Kessie encouraged the leaders and parents to invest in their children’s education and help fight child marriage. He admonished leaders of the community to speak up and report to the necessary authorities when migrants try to introduce practices that are not accepted into their cultures, such as child marriage. He continued to express his displeasure at the fact that some parents abandon their daughters who get pregnant to co-habit with the men who impregnate them. The Director pleaded with parents to bring their daughters who make such mistakes close to them and even encourage them to continue their education. At the end of the programme, all the communities pledged and signed a banner to protect children from any form of abuse no matter who is causing it or where it is coming from.

The event, Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols saw a The United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) initiative saw the Centre partner with Social Welfare, Ghana Education Service, Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) and other stakeholders to make the campaign a success. The Centre visited 11 communities in two municipalities (Sefwi Wiawso and Babiani Ahwiaso Bekwai Municipal) in the region.

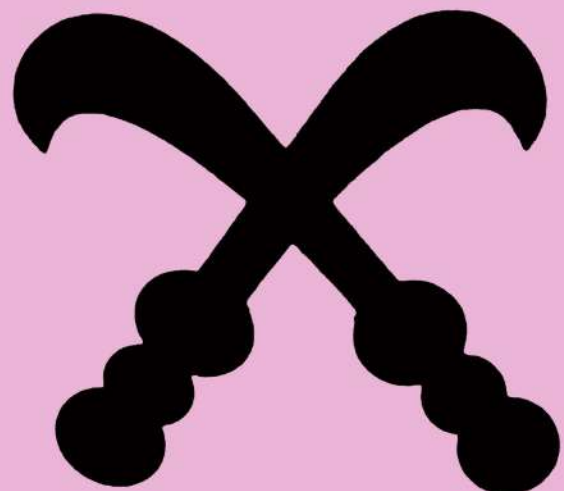
The drama group of the Centre edutained the audience with a play written by Madam Antionette Letse and directed by Mr. Mustapha Issah, the Deputy Director of Western North Centre for National Culture.

The drama focused on the plight of a 12-year-old girl who was forced to marry a 50-year-old Alhaji. At the age of 18 years, the girl had three children.

However, with the help of a social welfare officer, her brother, her mother, and her former teacher, the girl passed her BECE with flying colors continued her education, and became a mathematics teacher in her community. Her father was arrested and punished for forcing her daughter into an early marriage.

The story captured thematic areas like; Sexual abuse, child abuse, personal hygiene, HIV/AIDS, the use of mosquito nets, handwashing, and others.

Officials from DOVVSU and Social Welfare explained the nature of their jobs and how people are free to make complaints and even make inquiries about their outfits.





EMBRACING THE RESURGENCE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES; BRIDGING GENERATIONAL GAPS IN GHANA - EMMANUEL KWARTENG

In recent years, there has been a heartening resurgence of interest in indigenous languages across Ghana. This renaissance is not only a celebration of cultural heritage but also a vital step towards bridging generational gaps and fostering a stronger sense of identity and unity among Ghanaians.

Indigenous languages are the cornerstone of a nation's cultural identity. In Ghana, where over 250 languages are spoken, each tongue carries with it a rich tapestry of history, traditions, and values passed down through generations. However, in the face of globalization and the dominance of major languages like English, Twi, and Hausa, many indigenous languages have faced marginalization and decline. The consequences of this decline are far-reaching, especially concerning generational divides. Younger generations are often disconnected from their cultural roots, unable to communicate with elders in their native tongue.

This breakdown in communication can lead to a loss of traditional knowledge, values, and a weakened sense of belonging.

According to United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Why Indigenous Language Matters-2023), Languages are one of the most significant emblems of human diversity, revealing how we can perceive, relate to, and understand the world differently. They serve as vehicles of our cultures, collective memory and values and essential component of our identities. One out of the 6,700 languages spoken worldwide, 40 percent are in danger of disappearing. Fortunately, there is a growing movement to reclaim and revitalize indigenous languages across Ghana. Initiatives such as language preservation programs, community-based language schools, the commemoration of

International Mother Language Day (every February 21) and cultural events have emerged to promote the use and appreciation of native tongues.

Additionally, advancements in technology have provided new avenues for language revitalization, such as language-learning apps, online resources, and social media communities.

One notable example of this resurgence is the increasing integration of indigenous languages into formal education systems. Recognizing the importance of linguistic diversity, basic schools have begun offering courses in local languages alongside mainstream curriculum subjects. This not only helps preserve indigenous languages but also fosters a greater sense of pride and cultural identity among students. Moreover, the media has played a significant role in promoting indigenous languages. Radio stations, television programs, and newspapers are incorporating more content in native languages, making them more accessible and appealing to a wider audience. This inclusive approach not only preserves linguistic diversity but also empowers speakers to use their native tongue confidently in public spaces.

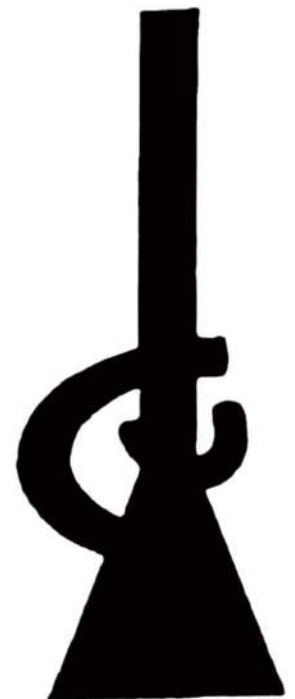
To further support the resurgence of indigenous languages, policymakers must prioritize the integration of multilingualism into national development agendas. This includes investing in language education, promoting bilingualism in public institutions, and supporting

community-led language initiatives.

By recognizing the intrinsic value of linguistic diversity, Ghana can harness the full potential of its cultural heritage to drive social cohesion, economic development, and sustainable growth.

In conclusion, the resurgence of indigenous languages in Ghana represents a significant step towards bridging generational gaps and fostering cultural continuity.

By embracing and promoting linguistic diversity, Ghanaians can preserve their heritage, strengthen community ties, and build a more inclusive society for future generations to thrive in.



PRESERVING OUR CULTURAL ROOTS: A NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CULTURE INITIATIVE (COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE)

To preserve Ghana's rich cultural heritage amidst the currents of globalization, the National Commission on Culture launched an ambitious initiative aimed at fostering a deeper connection to our Ghanaian cultural identity among the youth. This transformative journey involves engaging with schools across the nation, enhancing understanding and appreciation for our cultural roots.

As part of promoting cultural heritage education and appreciation among the youth and communities, representatives from the National Commission on Culture and other cultural practitioners will visit schools, from basic to senior high levels. This initiative is not a mere academic exercise but an interactive cultural exploration designed to immerse students in the diverse history, values, and traditions that make up Ghana's cultural identity.

Navigating the Waves of Globalization
 In the ever-changing landscape of globalization, it has become crucial for the younger generation to navigate these waves while firmly anchored in our cultural roots. Globalization waves symbolize the changes in interconnectedness across economies, cultures, and societies worldwide. From technological advancements to economic

integration and cultural exchange, these happenings exert profound impacts on various facets of society, including economics, politics, culture and identity.

Navigating globalization necessitates a holistic educational approach, aimed at equipping the youth with requisite knowledge, skills, and values, while preserving and protecting our cultural heritage. Fostering cultural awareness, critical thinking, cultural adaptability, cross-sectional dialogue, embracing diversity and many others, remain the wheels on which this navigation thrives.

The School Visits

The school visits focus on providing students with a cultural compass (values, traditions, identity markers, sense of direction, etc.), guiding them through the complexities of a globalized world while instilling a sense of pride and understanding of their roots. Within this context, a cultural compass emerges as a metaphorical guide, aiding students in traversing the complexities of globalization while remaining tethered to their cultural origins. It renders clarity and confidence, subsequently empowering individual students towards meaningful engagement with diverse cultures and perspectives.

That notwithstanding, students are encouraged not only to absorb

knowledge but also to wear their cultural identity with pride, becoming cultural ambassadors who carry the torch of Ghanaian heritage into their everyday lives.

Features of the Cultural Compass

- **Cultural Awareness:** Enabling students to appreciate their cultural heritage and that of others.
- **Resilience:** Equipping students with the needed strength to navigate cultural challenges.
- **Open-mindedness:** Fostering curiosity, empathy, and respect towards different cultures.
- **Cultural Identity Affirmation:** Reinforcing a strong sense of cultural identity and belonging.

Conclusion

The National Commission on Culture humbly invites schools across the length and breadth of our country Ghana, to join this cultural experience from February to October 2024. As we journey through classroom experiences, the programs seek to leave an indelible mark, building a generation that cherishes and celebrates the beauty of our Ghanaian culture in the highest definition of pride.

By the Community Education and Youth Development Directorate of the National Commission on Culture

TASTE OF AFRIKA LAUNCHES 2024 EDITION OF THE CULTURAL ONENESS FESTIVAL - EMMANUEL KWARTENG

Taste of Afrika in collaboration with the National Commission on Culture, Harlem Tourism Board, Africa Tourism Board, Ghana Tourism Authority, the Northern Development Authority and the Diaspora Affairs Unit has launched the second edition of the Cultural Oneness Festival in Accra under the theme ‘Leveraging on our Strength for Shared Growth and Prosperity as One People’.

The four-day event is scheduled to take place at Tamale in the Northern Region from November 13 to 16, 2024 to celebrate and showcase the rich cultures of our diverse communities to promote cultural awareness and unity, unique traditions, arts and music.

The Cultural Oneness Festival is expected to contribute to fostering mutual understanding and consolidating unity while developing and growing the tourism industry and attracting investment.

The Chief Executive Officer of The Taste of Afrika, organisers of the Cultural Oneness Festival, Tengol K. Kplemani, speaking at the launch stated that it is about time the country unites in its diversity while promoting its cultural heritage, adding that at large, the diverse cultural heritage of the African continent needs to be deliberately promoted.

He disclosed that the Oneness Cultural festival will contribute to the promotion of unity and inter-cultural cohesion that will present a platform for Northern Ghana to be showcased to the rest of

Ghana and the diaspora as one of the country’s interesting tourism destinations for lovers of unspoiled cultures and adventure.

The Executive Director of the National Commission on Culture, Nana Otuo Owoahene Acheampong in a speech revealed that the country can only make meaningful progress only when we embrace our culture and all its manifestations and at the same time welcome contemporary initiatives with caution.

“We are all aware that today, globalization has rendered a lot of cultures around the world susceptible to pressure from foreign cultures, forcing many cultures to be on the brink of extinction,” he said.

He added that, as the country gets ready for yet another election era, promoting cultural harmony and oneness among the citizenry is crucial as we are all aware that festivals bring peace and social cohesion among diverse ethnic groups within our nation.



His Royal Highness Jira Buipewura Adbulai Jinapor II, Paramount Chief of the Buipe Traditional Council in a remark urged the organisers and the country as a whole to remain resolute in its commitment to celebrating cultural

diversity, promoting dialogue and harnessing the profound potential of culture to effect positive change.

According to him, the launch of the cultural oneness festival shows the level of commitment in promoting, projecting and redefining the cultural landscape of our desired creative pursuits.

He expressed deepest appreciation to the sponsors and lauded the organisers for such an initiative, adding “your collective commitment and effective collaboration has propelled our shared vision for a more vibrant and inclusive cultural realm.

“Your voices possess the transformative power to ignite conversations, innovations, change and a prerequisite for pro-activeness in the course of the true vision of cultural oneness.

May your creativity and innovation continue to illuminate the world, inspiring generations yet unborn” he added.

The 2024 edition of the festival will feature a diverse range of activities, including tours of tourist sites, a cultural durbar, and an economic development business forum where investors and think tanks from different sectors will dialogue on issues of economic transformation, focusing on areas such as agriculture, tourism, arts and culture, youth development and entrepreneurship through digitalization.

The activities will also include an immersive street carnival, a fashion show and a musical concert.

WORLD CARNIVAL COMMISSION LAUNCHES 2024 INTERNATIONAL JUNKANOO FESTIVAL

- EMMANUEL KWARTENG



The World Carnival Commission in collaboration with the National Commission on Culture has launched the 2024 edition of the International Junkanoo Festival and exhibition of tourism and culture at the Accra Tourist Information Centre.

The festival slated from May 21-26, in Ontario, Canada aims at bridging diverse cultures and showcasing their various components as a way of fostering larger knowledge that will bring about unity and peaceful co-existence among nations.

The prestigious event further places special emphasis on allowing Ghana to display its rich cultural heritage on an international platform.

The Chief Director of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Madam Halima S. Yakubu speaking at the launch revealed the importance of the festival as a means of showcasing Ghana's vibrant culture to the global community and the African diaspora.

She urged the traditional leaders from Ghana who would be attending

this year's Junkanoo Festival to properly showcase Ghana to the rest of the world and encourage African diaspora to take a trip back home. She charged the local organisers to facilitate continuous engagement with relevant stakeholders to ensure Ghana is represented successfully and authentically at the festival.

The Executive Director of the National Commission on Culture, Nana Otuo Owoahene Acheampong highlighted the festival as an opportunity to underscore the importance of cultural identity, adding culture is diverse but unique which makes it easy for everyone to identify where s/he belongs.



According to him, preserving Ghana's heritage and maintaining a common identity among its people are imperative and would go a long way to strengthen and protect the country's culture for the nation's future.

The Executive Director encouraged parents to imbibe in children their native cultures and languages to prevent the erosion of cultural identity due to modernity and western influences.

WESTERN NORTH REGION: VALS DAY WAHALA; A MYTH SURROUNDING VALENTINE DAY

In a captivating drama performance at the Wiawso College of Education on the evening of February 16, 2024, students delved into the myths surrounding Valentine's Day.

The theatrical production which was collaboration between the college and the Centre for National Culture, Western North region aimed to debunk common misconceptions and shed light on the historical origins of this celebrated day.

The drama titled "Vals Day Wahala" was written and Directed by Mr. Mustapha Issah, the Deputy Director for the Centre.

The play which seeks to address the vices associated with the celebration of Valentine's Day touches on how individuals engage themselves in negative vices in the name of Celebrating Valentine's Day.

Three families who tried to define Valentine's Day to suit their own interests got themselves entangled in serious challenges after the valentine celebrations.

The women who suffered most in this situation took the opportunity to advise the community on how careless they have been during the Valentine's Day celebration.

Through engaging storytelling vibrant standup comedy, choreography and poetry performances, the audience was taken on a journey exploring the true essence of love and its evolution over time.

The drama encouraged reflection on the myths surrounding Valentine's Day, fostering a deeper understanding of the cultural significance behind this widely observed occasion.

As the curtains fell, the audience were left with a newfound understanding of the myths that have shaped the perception of Valentine's Day.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CULTURE TO TRAIN 400 EMERGING ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS



Ghana is party to the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the 1980 Recommendation Concerning the Status of the Artist. Consequently, this status of Ghana as a state party makes it possible for culture and creative professionals in Ghana to benefit from the UNESCO-Aschberg Programme for Artists and Cultural Professionals. It is against this backdrop that the National Commission on Culture has received funding from UNESCO to build the capacity of 400 selected emerging artists and cultural professionals across the country.

The creative industry is an essential component of the global economy. The contributions of the industry are therefore critical to the success of any country as this sector employs a large percentage of the working class, especially young people. However, many creatives in Ghana, especially emerging ones, lack knowledge and understanding of policies and legal frameworks that affect their work, leading to challenges in navigating through the industry successfully.



Other issues confronting artists include appropriate remunerations, freedom of expression, access to institutional support and guidance. For these reasons, there is the need for a comprehensive policy management training programmes that will equip creative artists in Ghana with relevant knowledge and skills to succeed in the industry.

The project which was launched in Accra on the 27th of November, 2023 is under the title, “Empowering Emerging Artists through policy formulation and robust legal framework: An engagement with artists on inputs into cultural policy, copyright and other relevant laws”. The training seeks to provide requisite knowledge for artists within the performing and visual arts domains across the country on existing relevant policies and legal frameworks



governing the culture and creative space in the country and beyond. It is to develop and implement comprehensive training

programme that empowers artists to cultivate cultural policy and legal understanding underlining their craft. It will also provide participants with the tools and knowledge needed to create high quality productions, with protection and freedom, that speaks to the times and reflect their cultural heritage while addressing contemporary socio-cultural issues.



Prior to the organisation of the training conferences, the Commission has organized a consultation meeting with key stakeholders in the industry and academia to solicit their views and inputs into the drafting of a training module by the National Expert. The training module was subsequently validated by a group of experts and scholars in the industry. So far, some of the institutions, groups and individuals who have been engaged



Ghana, Ghana Association of Writers, Ghana Actors Guild, the After receiving over thousand applications from artists and cultural professionals, four hundred have been selected to participate in the upcoming conference.

The dates for the conferences will be announced soon to the selected participants.



Musicians Union of Ghana, Copy Ghana, Ghana Culture Forum, Ghana Association of Visual Artists, Film Producers Association of Ghana, the National Theatre of



include, Office of the Copyright Administrator, UNESCO Country Office, Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, National Film Authority, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Creative Arts Agency, Ghana Tourism Authority, Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs,

