

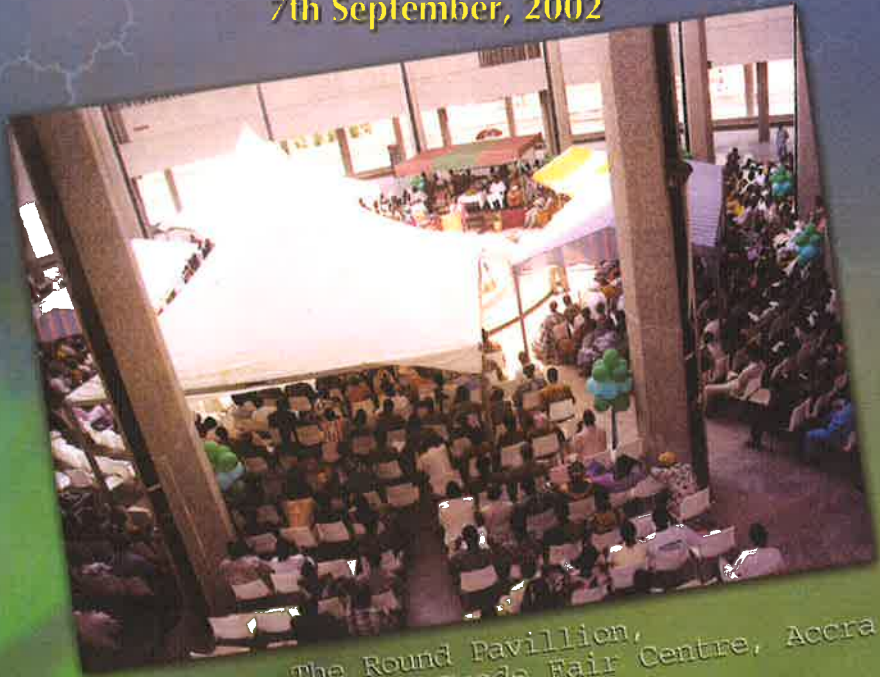


GADANGME

"WOBOLLE KUTUU WOKPE"

**PROCEEDINGS OF
THE OPENING SESSION OF
THE FIRST GADANGME CONGRESS**

7th September, 2002



The Round Pavillion,
Ghana International Trade Fair Centre, Accra



GADANGME

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GADANGME

FOREWORD



“Wɔ̀bɔ̀le Kutuu wɔ̀kpe” is published to provide a historical and pictorial record of the proceedings of the First GaDangme Congress held on Saturday, September, 7, 2002.

The proceedings is made up of the Addresses, statements and a special poem ‘GaDangme’ delivered at the Congress. The pictures from the Congress also add up to making the Congress truly a gathering of the Gadangme Family.

The aspirations of and goodwill for the Gadangme people mirrored in the proceedings make this publication a must-have document for Gadangme citizens, both resident and in the diaspora, and for all students of Ghanaian history and GaDangme affairs,

Gadangme Council is proud to be associated with this publication published by GaDangme Communications Limited

Dr K. B. Asante

PRESIDENT

October, 2002



GaDANGME

P R O G R A M M E

OPENING SESSION

10.00 a.m. (PROCESSION OF DIGNITARIES
TO HIGH TABLE)

PRAYER Rev. Martey Odonkor

LIBATION La Kpaa Wulomo

EXHORTATION Mr. Atukwei Okai

INTRODUCTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Oko Adjete
(Member of GaDangme Council)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Mr. J. S. Addo
*(Member of GaDangme Council &
Former Governor, Bank of Ghana)*

GOODWILL MESSAGES

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dr. K. B. Asante
(President of GaDangme Council)

STATEMENT

Nene Tetteh Djan III
*(President, Prampram Traditional
Council,*

*Vice-President, Greater Accra
Regional House of Chiefs)*

STATEMENT

Nii Tetteh Otu II
*(President, Kpone Traditional Council
President, Gt. Accra Regional
House of Chiefs)*



LAUNCHING OF MANYE ABA

STATEMENT

Mr. Atukwei Okai
*(Chairman, Board of Directors of
GaDangme Communications Ltd.)*

Launching Address

Prof. J. S. Djangmah
(Member of GaDangme Council)

Auction of First Copies of Newspaper

Mrs. Sarah Mansaray/
Mr. Prince Quarcoo

LAUNCHING ADDRESS

Hon. Sheikh I.C. Quaye
(Regional Minister, Gt. Accra)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY CONGRESS

Mr. Kofi Amoatey
*(Member of Council & Chairman,
Heritage Committee)*

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. J. S. Addo
*(Member of GaDangme Council &
Former Governor, Bank of Ghana)*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & VOTE OF THANKS

Mrs. Florence Sai
(Member of GaDangme Council)

END OF SESSION



GADANGME

Oshioo, oshiotse
Agbene oshi le, eba ekoye
Oshioo, oshiotse,
Agbene oshi le eba ekoye
Oshioo, oshionyè

Ba aba ni abashi ashi ashi
eba she wach nne,

Ni wochu meni wobaa shi
ye wasee!

Wama tsake wasu
Wama tsake wasihim
Ga see gbe ji gbe
GaDangme damo goye le no
GaDangme kee: kaketoo!

Haomoko ko be ni
wonyey wofene
Hiymoi gbelemo faa ko be
ni wonyey woko
Noyaa goye ko be ni wonyey
woko
Afabay foy ko be ni wonyey
woko kumo

Ba aba ni abashi ashi ashi
eba she wach nne
Ni wochu meni wochu shi
ye wasee!

Wama tsake wasu
Wama tsake wasihim
GaDangme damo goye le no

GaDangme kee: Kaketoo!

Anokwale le efiii bloko kue
duku (aloo boo tai)
Esane mli jo fe Abokobi
faa mli nu ye bei mli ni
hunu le mii kota esaa

Kedze Langma
Keya gbee Ada Swilao -
Atswa akpe, wach be mli

Anokwale le efiii bloko kue
duku
Ejey yoch futa futa tamò
Yilo Krokò ayilo wulomo
fai

Atswa akpe, wach be mli

Anokwale, tamò lumobi le,
ejofofi eya kwese
Kooloo yitsoke bie afi akpe,
no ni ji dzale le
ebaaba ebadamo shi shiyey
Mo hie tsoko, ejee moshi
mo

Kedze Langma
Keya gbee Ada Swilao

Atswa akpe, wach be mli
Moko moko nyey ni eke
amale tarpolin aloo
nkomenja
kentey abu hunu le komo

Kedze Langma
Keya gbee Ada Swilao
Atswa akpe, wɔɔɔ be mli

Oshishibrishii mii shash-
lashi
ye Ashaley Botswe

Onukpa sei nɔ talɔ
GaDangme fɔmɔbi le ebe
hegbe
Ni efɛɛ enii mɔɔɔ mɔɔɔ
Ni efɛɛ ehie kpɔlɔɔo tamɔ
okplongbo kpaakpo ni
ekpoo kpokpoi

Onukpa sei nɔ talɔ
Enɛɛ mei ji nibii ni mi
sumɔɔ le!

Kedze Langma
Keya gbee Ada Swilao
Atswa akpe, wɔɔɔ be mli

Ana ŋmɛ, anaaa tɛ
Ana tɛ, ana ŋmɛ
Wɔɔbaa na ŋmɛ, wɔɔbaa na tɛ
Wɔɔbaa na ŋmɛ kɛ tɛ

Odododio doo!
Odododio doo!
Odododio doo !
Odododio doo !
Ei, awomɛ, nyɛ mɔa mli
ni awa ei.

Odododio doo !
Ei, ataamɛ, nyɛ mɔa mli

ni awa ei

Manɔsuɔɔ, Manhefalo Nii
Sɔakɛy.
GaDangmɛbi Kakalo
Amoatey
Shiu shɔɔɔ, susuma tsalo
Ataa Kwatei
Oblantai atɛ Bortey Nii
Youth
Manyɛmɛi amanyɛ Awo
Slater
Jaalɔi Ataa Ahwa, Allotey
kɛ Nii Boi
Onukpa shika nɔ talɔ Ataa
Saka Mlaleloi anyemi
okplɛ shwane Oblitei
Nyɛmi kpakpa shɔɔɔɔnalo
Nii Soti Songor
Shikpɔɔ hefalo wɔnyemi
tabilɔ Ablade
GaDangme ta hiɛnyiele
wɔtɛ Nuumo K.B

Nyɛ ya faa duɔ mli ni nalɔi
ahiyɛi!
Nyɛ fea toi, nyɛ boa toi:

Mantɛ Ayi Kushi ta okplɛ-
mi
nɔ eeshɛle blɛ
Ekɛɛ kɛ GaDangme aa bole

Kutu ni ekpe le, enɛ bii sei
Kulo mɔ kɛ Aidan ŋɔɔ yaa!

Mantɛ Taki Tawia ta
etayaa akpakai le mli



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Eefo eetsɛ ekomefeemɔ, shi-
fimo kɛ hienoyaa

Nene Annorkwei mii fa ni,
ayi daadaa shikiplɛmi
obonu

Mantɛ Okaikoi damɔ ɔɔɔ
lɛ nɔ

Eefa ni akpa tetremantɛ lɛ
Nene Azu Marteykorley

mii fa ni
ayi Krɔɔ Odumase blema
bintim

Manyɛ Adɔde Akaibi kɛɛ
wɔ ji ɔɔ lɛ, wɔ ji ɔnti lɛ
GaDangme, nyɛ teashi!

Hunu lɛ mii kpe yue yɛ
anai

Hunu lɛ mii kpe tɛlɛ yɛ
boka

Mantɛ Okaikoi mii bi wɔ
nyɔmɔ lolo

Ena wɔ hɛ tsui ahuu,
agbɛnɛ

Mawu Agbo diɛɔtɛ mii bu
wɔ abɛ!

GaDangme, nyɛ teashi

Tswa, tswa, ni omanyɛ aba!

Tswa, tswa, ni omanyɛ aba!

Ani jee wɔ gbee kome? !

Tswa, ni omanyɛ aba!

Awomɛi kɛ ataamei, mɛni
eshwɛ wɔ dɔɔɔ?

Wɔbaa wole wɔhɛ nɔ
(Kɛkɛ lɛ aho atrashi ekonɔɔ)

DAABI, WɔTRAASI

Dɔɔɔ!

GADANGME, NYɛ

TEASHI!

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Okai



GaDaangme



Atukwei Okai (Ghana's Poet Laurette) reciting his new poem "GaDaangme" to exhort the gathering.



Mr. Oko Adjetey (Member of GaDaangme Council) introducing the Chairman for the function.



GOODWILL MESSAGES

BY THE MOST REVD. ROBERT GARSHONG ALLOTEY
OKINE (ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP & PRIMATE,
CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA AND
BISHOP OF KOFORIDUA-HO DIOCESE)

SALUTATION: *Distinguished Chairman, Distinguished Council Members, Mantsemei Manyemei, Wulomei, Asafoiatsemei and Asafoianyemei, Ministers of Religion, the Youth, Concerned Citizens and all manbii gathered here.*

I write, first of all, to bring you warm greetings in Christ's name!

MESSAGE

It is a real privilege and joy for me to send you a message of goodwill as you gather for this first Ga GaDangme Congress.

I regret, however, that I am unable to be with you in person as I am presently on Archbishopal duties in Cape Coast. You will, nevertheless, be in my thoughts and prayers throughout the gathering.

Your choice of theme – "Ga Dangme-Uniting for Progress and Development" – is commendable.

Development is about helping individuals and communities to identify their own priorities and goals and enabling them to attain those goals. It is as much about increasing awareness as about doing specific works. It is about empowering the disadvantaged to enable them to take responsibility for their own lives rather than doing things to help them.

So, in effect, development is about, and for, people. There can

be no progress and meaningful development where people are divided and at loggerheads with each other.

If we are to make any headway, therefore, as GaDangme people, then the need to unite is not an option but imperative, for, as the saying goes, "unity is strength"

I heartily congratulate the GaDangme Council for its effective leadership, particularly in its resolve to ensure that justice and fairplay are accorded GaDangme people. Of particular interest are the burning issues on GaDangme Lands. I urge Council not to relent in its resolve but keep it up, since for far too long matters relating to GaDangme people are taken for granted.

I know that there are weighty matters to be discussed at this relatively short period of one-day gathering. That notwithstanding, I pray that Congress will make room in your deliberations to reflect carefully on two other major problems, viz, the recent spate of indiscipline in our Ghanaian Society, and the HIV/AIDS menace. Let us work together to find solutions to these two cankers, with the resolve to ensure that future generations of Ghanaians will be born and live in a world free from indiscipline and AIDS.

In conclusion, Congress is assured of our prayers for a rewarding meeting. With this assurance comes God's blessing.



**GOODWILL MESSAGE
BY MOST REV. CHARLES G. PALMER-BUCKLE,
(CATHOLIC BISHOP OF KOFORIDUA).**

My dear brothers and sisters in GaDangme,

Peace be with you! My name is Nii Obuobisa (alias Bishop Charles G. PALMER BUCKLE, Catholic Bishop of Koforidua). My father, the late Mr. E. C. P. BUCKLE was a Ga born in Osu (surely, the surname tells). My mother is Nzema. So what am I? Well, I am writing this short note to say thank you for the invitation to the 1st GaDangme Congress. How sorry I am that I cannot be with you on the day of the first Great Celebration of GaDangme Council!

I have been following with great interest the birth and development of this council and I will like to be enrolled among your ranks, even if I can only claim Ga paternity. But does that matter? One thing I have always boasted about is GaDangme's traditional custom of welcoming strangers and adopting them as much as allowing them to become either clan members or even originators of new Ga clans.

This has been the strength of GaDangme and I am proud to be one of such hybrid Ga. I take this opportunity to wish the Council God's blessing and great success in your efforts to make us very proud of our heritage. It is what God has given us. We did not ask for it. He however wants us to cherish and improve upon whatever heritage he has bequeathed us in his own wisdom and magnanimity.

As a hybrid Ga, I would like to contribute my quota to your efforts and I hope the opportunity will come for me to do so.

Wishing you all the best at the celebrations.



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**STATEMENT FROM MR. J. K. TAWIAH -
CHAIRMAN OF GADANGME FOUNDATION UK
& IRELAND READ BY NAA AFORKOR OMAEDRORO II
KATAMANSO WARRIOR QUEEN MOTHER
(ASSISTANT SECRETARY GD UK)**

Mr. Chairman

The Rt. Hon. Mr. Peter Ala Adjetey, Speaker of Parliament

Hon. Sheikh I. C. Quaye, Greater Accra Regional Minister

Honourable Ministers of State Present

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps Present here

Honourable Members of Parliament

Chief Executives

Religious Leaders

Niimeɪ k_ Naamei (Traditional Leaders)

The Executive, Members and Youth of GaDangme

Distinguished Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

We bring you warm greetings and felicitations from our brothers and sisters of GaDangme in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

We, the members of GaDangme in the United Kingdom and Ireland are aware of the tremendous efforts put into the organisation of the GaDangme. We therefore congratulate all those who have so far contributed in diverse ways to make this possible.

We know that most of the work of GaDangme is done in your leisure hours. We appreciate your efforts.

One of the most important achievements so far is the unity you have brought to the Chiefs of GaDangme. We are also aware of your serious efforts to settle the numerous land disputes in the area and offer our sincere support and urge you to leave no stone unturned to achieve maximum results.

It should be our aim to help make Ghana advance on all fronts while maintaining the traditions and customs of the GaDangme people.

We know you have achieved a lot in a short space of two years but we urge you not to rest on your oars.

We in Europe have signed a memorandum of understanding with you, which will enable us participate and share our thoughts and aspirations with you.

Please keep the torch burning and may God bless GaDangme.

Thank you



*Naa Aforkor Omaedruru II reading the Goodwill
Message of the GaDangme Foundation of UK & Ireland.*



GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM GADANGME ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA, USA

I am writing this letter on behalf of GADANGME ASSOCIATION of Phila, Pa. U.S.A. to congratulate you on the first Congress of the organisation. It is our wish that, all discussions and decisions will be followed by practical solutions for GaDangmes in Accra and the Greater Accra Region.

I cannot be present this year but I will hope that my obligations and duties in Philadelphia will allow me to be present next year. A big task is ahead of us, but with the presence of God, our Ancestors and our beliefs, we shall succeed. We will also make it our business to send financial support to help in some of the work being undertaken.

Good Luck, and may God bless you and the Society

Sincerely Yours,

*DR. NII KWATE QUARTEY
GA MANTSE, PHILA.*



GADANGME

MESSAGE FROM AGORTIME AKPEGAME (GORTSOM WEGUAM)

Hon. Minister, Niime, Nenemei, Naamei, brothers and sisters.

We bring you greetings from our chief Nene. It gives us great pleasure to be here. We are the Dangmes who are located between Kpetoe in Ghana and Kpordzaho in Togo; we are one of you. When Nene got the invitation, he received it with great joy and pleasure.

It is joy and pleasure to be united with our brothers and sisters all over to seek our common good, well being and welfare.

Nene selected us, these few members to come and see what it was all about and to report back to him.

We are glad to be part of this Congress and we believe the next time it happens again, we will be here in our numbers.

We wish to urge you to continue with your good works and we are solidly behind you.



Elder Kofi Attiana of Gortson Weguam (Agortime) delivering his message of Goodwill.



WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR. K. B. ASANTE (PRESIDENT, GADANGME COUNCIL)

GaDangme was established in 1999 after about 4 years of preparatory work by a few individuals. These concerned citizens found that GaDangmes were falling behind as Ghana moves forward.

Many of our early professionals, such as lawyers, doctors and engineers were GaDangmes. Leading GaDangme entrepreneurs like A. J. Ocansey established popular newspaper like the African Morning Post and cinema houses. The concerned citizens were struck by the disillusionment of GaDangmes in today's Ghana. The quality of life was fast deteriorating and education was substandard and not a priority. The youth was seething with resentment against authority both indigenous and central. They believed that their land had been given to outsiders and they had no where to live or work.

The concerned citizens found that the situation was potentially explosive for both GaDangmes and Ghana. They decided to bring GaDangmes together to work within a carefully planned long term programme to enhance self-confidence, sense of identity and respect for customs and culture as the cornerstone for building a self-reliant society which will find fulfillment and dignity in its contribution to the well-being and progress of Ghana.

Following the dedicated work of the concerned citizens the GaDangme Council was inaugurated at Katamansu on Saturday November 13 1999.

After the inauguration the Council was faced with the challenge of securing a secretariat. It laboured over time to secure one and engage a skeletal staff.

Council was determined to create a body that would survive and not share the fate of earlier attempts to secure unity. It



therefore decided to maintain a policy of non-political partisanship. Naturally, many GaDangmes would belong to political parties. Membership of GaDangme is opened to all GaDangmes of any political party. But GaDangmes with high party political profile such as those who hold office in a political party were and are barred from serving on the Council GaDangme.

In June 2000, GaDangme was registered as a non-partisan, non-political, non-religious, non-profit and non-governmental organisation limited by guarantee.

GaDangme Council has set up several standing committees to deal with the many areas of concern. Sectional groups have also been established such as the Youth Group and the Women's Group. These two, among others, have been doing good work and have worked hard to make this Congress possible.

The major problem facing GaDangme is funds. A few public-spirited GaDangme have been financing the activities of GaDangme. We hope that many of you will pledge to support GaDangme with regular monthly contribution. Many have asked how they can become GaDangmes.

Our standard answer has been that all GaDangmes are automatically GaDangmes. But this has not satisfied many. They feel they do not belong. They want to be part and parcel of GaDangme to influence its actions and contribute to its finances.

I therefore believe that the time has come to establish identification for all GaDangmes who want to belong. Those who want to receive membership cards and to pay the prescribed fees yet to be determined may therefore indicate that on the pledge forms or apply to the secretariat.

But why establish GaDangme? GaDangme exists to foster



GaDangme

consciousness among the GaDangme people and forge GaDangme unity as an integral part of national unity. This consciousness is necessary because GaDangme has a unique contribution to make to the culture and heritage of Ghana.

There have been rumblings in recent days that GaDangme is a promoter of tribalism. Only the ignorant will entertain such a notion. The Gas for example has no word for tribe. You belong to an "akutso" or area and "akutsei" make a "man" or town.

Anyone outside the town is a stranger or an outsider but then strangers are welcome with open arms. Indeed the saying is "Ablekumah abakuma wo" meaning, may outsiders come to strengthen and enrich our common endeavours. Ghana is lucky to have the capital in Accra and GaDangmes are proud that they have been able to welcome their brothers and sisters from others parts and make them feel at home and at one with them in the capital.

But this does not mean that their identity should be submerged or that their customs and culture should be disregarded or treated with contempt.

GaDangme exists to articulate the legitimate concerns of GaDangmes and to help resolve grievances through appropriate channels so that peace reigns in the capital. It would be suicidal at this stage of national development to push genuine grievances under the carpet. That would be the surest way of promoting uncontrollable eruptions in the future.

A major concern of GaDangmes is that a large part of their land has been taken for national purposes. They understand this and are proud to make so much contribution to national development. But they ask that the law should be respected. If land is not used for the purpose for which it is taken it should revert to the original owners. GaDangmes would not compromise on this.



GaDangme

We hear so much about land guards who make building a hazardous occupation. This is prevalent in Accra and in Accra only because if you build on somebody's land up to lintel level in Accra the land becomes yours. The law on which this is based should be repealed forthwith. It encourages people to engage thugs to guard workers to build day and night to reach lintel level.

Our own elders and chiefs have not always sought the best interests of GaDangmes. This is often due to misunderstandings or to misleading influence of outsiders with money. GaDangme will work tirelessly as the foot soldiers of our chiefs and elders to achieve the larger freedom and prosperity of GaDangme.

GaDangme will not and cannot usurp the authority of our chiefs and elders. Those who suggest this and fan this notion are saboteurs of GaDangme unity who have something to gain for themselves in disunity. Chiefs and elders who believe in their mission and duty will find GaDangmes as their loyal servants. Those who see their position not as trustees but as opportunity for self-seeking are likely to earn the wrath of the people especially the youth.

We have to put our house in order. Many of our problems emanate from outside. But many are due to our own misunderstandings and actions. There are too many chieftancy disputes in GaDangme lands. GaDangme Council will work tirelessly to resolve these. But we cannot make much progress without the support of our chiefs and elders. Our future depends upon working together. If we fail, chieftainship will be marginalised in GaDangme lands and eventually become a relic of the past while the identity of GaDangmes would be seriously eroded.

So let us GaDangmes move forward as one people under the leadership of enlightened chiefs with the banner of GaDangme showing the way. Let us in unity make our unique contribution to the culture, heritage and progress of Ghana



GaDangme



Dr. K.B. Asante (President, GaDangme Council) giving his Welcome Address.



Mr. J.S. Addo (Member of GaDangme Council and former Governor, Bank of Ghana) giving the Chairman's acceptance speech.



**STATEMENT BY NENE TETTEH DJAN
(VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GREATER-ACCRA
REGIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS & PRESIDENT
OF THE PRAMPAM TRADITIONAL COUNCIL)**

*Mr. Chairman, Honourable Regional Minister for Greater-Accra,
Niime, Naame, Onukpai and Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:*

On this august occasion, it is a source of pride and honour for me to make this statement in my position as the Vice President of the Greater-Accra Regional House of Chiefs and also on behalf of the Dangme Mantseme.

On behalf of my colleagues - the Dangme Mantseme - I wish to record our deepest appreciation of the milestone achieved by GaDangme Council so far. For, I can bear witness to the fruitful exchanges that have taken place between the Prampram Traditional Council and Gadangme Council. In all these, the noble intentions and genuine efforts of GaDangme Council have been without question.

Mr. Chairman, particularly as GaDangme Mantseme are very worried over the wanton misuse of their lands, I can assure them that they can fall on the ready and reliable help of the Legal Committee of GaDangme Council at all times.

It was to tap this assistance that the Prampram Traditional Council has given a Power of Attorney to GaDangme Council to pursue our land cases on our behalf. I am presently active in assisting the GaDangme Legal Committee with appropriate documentation.

Mr. Chairman knowing how concerned we all are about the many disputes and strives that are tearing our traditional areas apart, I would advise that we all give GaDangme Council our support to find lasting solutions to our problems.

It is both ironic and unfortunate that although Neneme control

the majority of land in this Region, we do not have control, in fact, over our lands. Yet, as soon as negative issues about land come up, Neneme are the first to be judged and condemned. Well, as leaders, we cannot shirk our responsibilities.

It is in this connection that I wish to appeal to the "chieftaincy contractors" to put a stop to their nefarious activities that are undermining the dignity of chieftaincy. Thank you.



Nene Tetteh Djan III (Vice - President, Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs and President, Prampram Traditional Council) making a statement.



**STATEMENT BY NII TETTEH OTU II (PRESIDENT,
KPONE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL AND PRESIDENT,
GREATER ACCRA REGIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS)**

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Regional Minister for Greater Accra, His Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Honourable Ministers and Parliamentarians, The President & Members of Council, Niime/Nenemei, Manyemei, Distinguished Guests and Most Esteemed GaDangme Citizens.

On behalf of all GaDangme Chiefs particularly the Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs, I wish to express our deepest appreciation to GaDangme Council for making this historic meeting possible. This august assembly of GaDangme citizens is a source of pride to us – the GaDangme Chiefs who are the leaders of our people – and a great honour to all GaDangme citizens – resident and in the Diaspora, high and low, men, women and children.

I wish to place on record the frequent interactions between the GaDangme Council and GaDangme Chiefs both at the Regional House and the respective Traditional Council levels which have contributed in no small way to the achievements of GaDangme today. I wish to assure all of you that GaDangme Chiefs will continue to strengthen their relations with the GaDangme Council for the good of all GaDangme.

I say this without hiding the fact that some unfortunate mutual impressions are currently being shared by our Chiefs and Council about each other which have come about as a result of mutual misunderstanding. As the President of the Regional House of Chiefs, I pledge to do all in my power to work towards harmonizing the interests of the two bodies.

For, clearly, there is a lot GaDangme Chiefs stand to gain from cooperation with GaDangme Council: The proper system for the management of our stool lands is one area we stand in need of the advise of GaDangme Council, representations



GaDANGME

with various bodies, including government, is yet another; the mounting cases brought before the Traditional Councils is also another area where as can task GaDangme Council to make legal expertise available to us to help speed up our work. We also require that our protocol requirements are handled by GaDangme Council.

In all these, I would like GaDangme Council to recognise the leadership of GaDangme Chiefs in all matters concerning GaDangme. With this, I have no doubt that we can forge ahead with plans which will lead to the betterment of the lives of our people.

With these few words, I wish to end by stating how happy I am to be associated with this historic event. Thank you.



Nii Tetteh Ottu II (President Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs and President, Kpone Traditional Council delivering an address.



GaDangme

LAUNCHING OF MANYE ABA BY PROFESSOR J. S. DJANGMAH

*Mr. Chairman,
President of GaDangme Council,
Members of the Council of State,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Niimeɛ and Naameɛ,
Members of GaDangme Council,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen*

I would like to thank the President, and members of the GaDangme Council, for the honour and privilege to launch MANYE ABA, a publication to give the GaDangme people the voice they need to communicate among themselves and with the government and all the people of Ghana.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the GaDangme Congress, convenes in public, with all the glare of Television, and the full force of radio, to showcase GaDangme as an organisation that intends to conduct its business in the open.

Mr. Chairman launching a newspaper is additional evidence that GaDangme intends to engage in dialogue with the government and all the people of Ghana. Ga people express good wishes and felicitations when they utter the words HA MANYE. The expected response is OMANYE ABA. The Dangme version is Manye Ba!

Manye ABA will promote in its columns UNITY IN DIVERSITY. Our strengths as a people lie in our diversity. The diversity that is expressed in our different songs, foods, and celebrations add up to the totality of the Ghanaian culture. The variety of festivals in Ghana portray the multiethnic basis of the Ghanaian culture. Homowor, Odwira, Gmayem, Abuakyir, etc., depict the different worldviews of the people of Ghana. They enrich our culture. Unity in diversity is the message that is stressed in the Editorial of this first edition of MANYE ABA.

Mr. Chairman Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, by promoting the culture and seeking justice for the GaDangme people, Manye Aba will at the same time be promoting the culture and



seeking justice for all the people of Ghana. Browsing through this maiden edition of *Manye Aba*, the messages that are conveyed can be highlighted as follows:

- Rebuild Makola Market. Makola was the foremost market in Ghana where the famous Makola women first demonstrated the genius and enterprise of Gold Coast womanhood. The number of Ghanaian scholars, doctors, lawyers, dentists, and many other professional men and women whose mothers traded at Makola market must run in thousands! Makola was destroyed in a frenzy of madness so rebuild it. This is the message.
- "Nii Obonu", a coined accolade, to describe the former Director-General of GBC, is the title of the next article. Seth Ago Adjetey, is a Ga all right. His removal without reasons is a cause for concern for his relatives and friends. He promoted their voice and culture through OBONU FM. SO NATIONAL MEDIA COMMISSION IS BEING ASKED TO GIVE REASONS FOR HIS REMOVAL!
- THE THIRD ARTICLE, which caught my attention, is one by Mr. Vincent Okunor, which asked the question: SHOULD ENGLISH BE TAUGHT FROM PRIMARY ONE? It is a fine article, which addresses a very important issue: the recent decision of cabinet that English, should now be the medium of instruction from Primary One in Ghana. The new policy has very serious implications for teaching and learning in the entire nation which must be fully discussed.
- Mr. S. M. Akrong in an article titled "Time to Discontinue Chieftaincy, Family and Other Feuds" is urging all GaDangme people, particularly their elders and chiefs, to desist from wanton sale of lands which belong to all the people and not their bona fide property. He reminds all persons in positions of responsibility, as family heads, and elders, to understand that they are trustees, who must be accountable to their people. Obviously his

message has national appeal.

- "Legalities of Compulsory Acquisition of Land by the State". This article by Mr. Bright Akwetey, a lawyer by profession, has connotations, which apply, throughout the country. Our governments have been careless with regards to how they acquired lands and sometimes how they subsequently disposed of these lands. It raises the issue of compensation and the heritage of the countless Ghanaians yet to be born. The injustice in land sales, the disposal of publicly acquired land by government officials, etc., are played in our courts daily. This is a matter which concerns all Ghanaians. We are told that land belongs to the Dead, the Living and Those Yet to be born! This statement is attributed to the Late Nana Ofori Atta 1.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, MANYE ABA has an additional responsibility to inform and educate GaDangme people in particular about their culture. All the different ethnic groups in Ghana can promote Ghanaians best through sounder knowledge of their culture! MANYE ABA has the duty to ensure that the GaDangme people know who they are. We should know that the Dangme people are the Shai people, the Ningo people, the Osuduko people, the Krobo people, the Ada people and the Gbugblah people. The Ga people are Ga Mashie, Osu, La, Teshie, Nungua, Tema and Kpone. Together we are GaDangme people!

We celebrate Homowor, Gmayem, Asafotufiam. We celebrate the cult of twins, Otofo and Dipol! The Dangme Group have the Klama Cult, a secret, and a coded dialect together with dances which are fast disappearing. We have unique proverbs. We must know them before we teach them to others. GBOI HI GMEI KPLEKLPE SI EKE NAA MAN NII! THE STRANGER HAS GOT LARGE EYES BUT CAN'T SEE! Who is wiser than a people who can say such wise things!

We have had our great men and women whose deeds and exploits must be known by the young. So they know who they



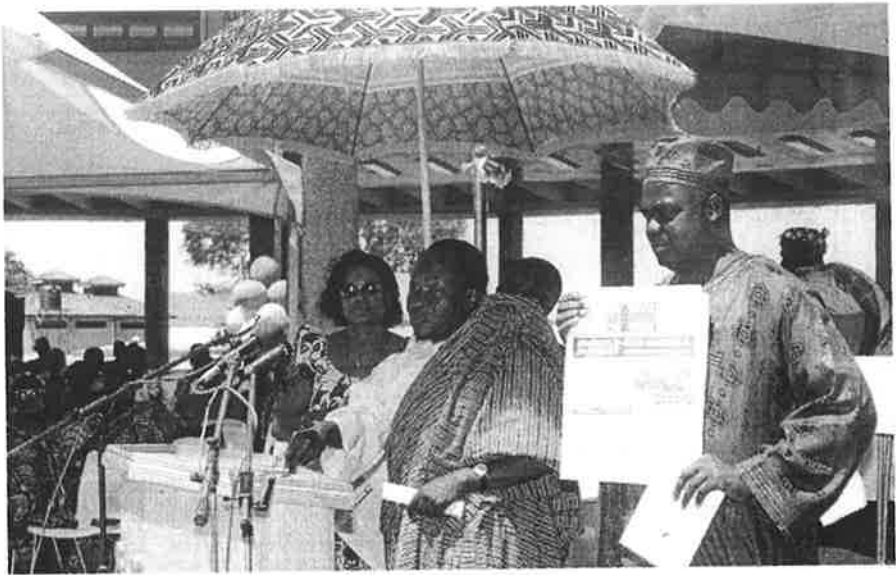
are and where they are coming from! All young people must have Role Models to guide their lives.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, about two months while watching a foreign film, I thought I heard a Dangme folksong. The lyrics were all in Dangme. It goes like this " Narkie Lee! Narkie Lee! Ibi Narkie Lee Dzedzuor; Narkie Lee! Narkie Lee! OBI NARKIE LEE Ba Wor Sior!" The song took me back over 50 years growing up in Ningo. The white man recently acquired it and in the year 2002 plays it to a worldwide audience. Of course they never understood the words but Music is Universal! After frantic Emails and search on the Internet, thanks to Network Computers Systems, a creation of Dr. Nii Narku Quaynor, I traced the film makers to the Netherlands, who asked me to pay them US \$100 before they would release a video of the film to me.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, all cultures, in Ghana and elsewhere, have enriched humanity. The concern of many in the world of science, culture, linguistics, etc., is the speed with which indigenous knowledge is fast disappearing. Many native languages are disappearing. We in Ghana should make every effort to preserve our languages and our cultures. Who have most responsibility to preserve them other than the natives. GaDangme culture must be promoted to enrich Ghana and Humanity? Those who feel threatened by GaDangme have no cause to feel that way. The GaDangme people should also not feel threatened when others celebrate their uniqueness!

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, on this note I HUMBLY ANNOUNCE MY life time subscription to MANYE ABA, and I am paying for the first 100 editions outright. MR. CHAIRMAN, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, IT IS NOW MY GREATEST PLEASURE AND PRIVILEGE TO DECLARE MANYE ABA DULY LAUNCHED!

MAY MANYE ABA PROMOTE THE UNIQUE CULTURE OF THE GADANGME PEOPLE IN A MULTIETHNIC AND DIVERSE GHANA.



Dr. K. B. Aseutte (President, GaDangme Council) outdooring "Manye Aba" newspaper at the gathering.



Prof. J.S. Djangmab (Member of the GaDangme Council) introducing "Manye Aba" newspaper.



**ADDRESS BY THE GREATER ACCRA
REGIONAL MINISTER, HON. SHIEKH I. C. QUAYE**

MR. CHAIRMAN,

*The President and Members of the GaDangme Council
Honourable Members of Parliament
Niimeɪ, Naa/Nenemeɪ, Neneme
Distinguished Guest
Ladies and Gentlemen;*

As I stand before you today, I'm filled with deep joy and satisfaction. Because at long last, we now have a respectable, vibrant organisation which will speak with one voice and try to address the major concerns of the indigenous people of GaDangme territory after several failed attempts in the past.

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to note that the GaDangme Congress will now be an annual meeting of representatives of all GaDangme both local and in the Diaspora, to review the activities of the past year and plan for the future. I am also informed that this year's Congress is being held under the theme "GADANGME - UNITING FOR PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT".

I consider this theme relevant and appropriate, especially at this time in our nation's history, when every effort is being made by Government to reconcile the whole nation for peace and Development. As we all know, Government alone cannot undertake all development programmes in this country. It is for this reason that I consider the union of all GaDangme people and people of GaDangme descent to promote development, a step in the right direction and worthy of our support and encouragement. I therefore urge all GaDangme citizens to take the Congress very seriously and also make positive contributions to the progress and development of GaDangme and Ghana.

As the Regional Minister for Greater Accra, where most of the indigenous people of GaDangme dwell alongside their numerous guests from other parts of Ghana and the world, I regard our GaDangme Council as a very valuable ally in the challenging business of developing the entire region - Accra, the seat of government particularly - into a shining showpiece on the west coast of Africa,



GaDangme

and I am happy to announce that so far, the sweet cooperation that I have enjoyed from the GaDangme Council cannot be adequately described. In brief, it has been superb!.

Just imagine, within the relatively short time of the Council's existence, it has successfully forged excellent working relations, with almost all the organisations that have relevance to the aspirations of the Council. Some of these organisations are my office, the Regional Coordinating Council, the Lands Commission, the Ministry of local Government, the Christian Council and the Council of Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches. These relationships have produced dramatic results of which all of us can be proud.

But, Mr. Chairman, it is pertinent to observe that chieftancy and land disputes are the major source of conflict and disunity in GaDangme. They are the bane of our effort at progress and development. I therefore wish to advise our traditional authorities to also give the GaDangme Council, all their support and co-operation through the Permanent Conflict Resolution and Management Committee which is tasked to resolve the numerous chieftancy and land conflicts in the region.

Apart from the numerous chieftancy and land disputes that tend to bedevil our life, as a people, we face other equally worrying pitfalls in our person to person relationships. These are mainly petty jealousies and envy.

Consequently on this august occasion, Mr. Chairman, I wish to touch on an issue that is of great concern to me. It is again chieftancy and land disputes and ethnic rivalry, which often breed JEALOUSY. But JEALOUSY itself is of three kinds:

FIRSTLY, that a man should desire to obtain for himself too knowledge, wealth or respect which another person has. This is a natural feeling, which is considered to be lawful.

SECONDLY, that a man desires what does not belong to him and this is covetousness and therefore unlawful.

THIRDLY, the kind of jealousy in which a man, knowing perfectly well that he cannot obtain for himself what belongs to another, bitterly wishes that the other person also, be deprived of his lot. This



GaDANGME

is the worst form of jealousy.

The last two forms of jealousy are very destructive and do not promote progress, of man and society. It also tends to eat up virtues just as fire eats up dry wood. Let me explain.

God created mankind in different predilections. He also created us in tribes and nations. He certainly did not intend to divide us, but rather to keep us united in our diversity. He would see us as one people with one destiny. As GaDangme State, we are blessed with many virtues, which we must preserve at costs. We should at the same time be prepared to emulate great virtues of other people. We can only do this if we keep our eyes open to the goings-on around us.

For example, we must get involved in governance at the grass root level, that is, at the unit level, which is non-partisan. Apathy will result in our being ruled by people not chosen by us and sometimes of doubtful competence and character; therefore, we need to guard against apathy and its twin brother indolence and decide, here and now, to show more interest in our district and unit level elections at all times.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen! I wish to observe that the peculiar location of GaDangme as (Greater Accra Region) the nation's capital and its status as industrial and commercial nerve centre, has over the years created very complex problems.

One such problem is the migration of people from other parts of the country to the region resulting in pressure on land for development. This gives rise to the alienation of land, by unauthorised people. The land guards are a case in point. Furthermore successive governments have acquired lands in the Greater Accra Region supposedly for the public good. The colonial administration was the first to annex Accra land for public use. The CPP government followed suit. The Acheampong administration also took some Accra lands and the PNDC/NDC under Rawlings acquired more Ga lands.

Where the lands are no longer required for stated public purposes, they are expected to be returned to the original owners who are



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given the first option to re-possess them.

Unfortunately past governments inadvertently or not ignored this vital provision .

Since the Government of President Agyekum Kuffour stands for Democracy and the rule of law, I want to assure you that as recently announced by the Minister of Lands and Forestry, the government is working out a programme to return all such lands to their original owners.

I would therefore urge you all to exercise maximum restraint and patience and allow Government to come out with its programme and workable policy on this matter. Meanwhile take a caution that lands will be returned only to chiefs and stools where there are no disputes. Where disputes exist, please settle them. This is very good news!

And on this hearty note, Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish once again to welcome you all to this year's GaDangme Congress. I wish you all very fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.



Sheikb I.C. Quaye Greater Accra Regional Minister delivering his address.



FIRST GADANGME CONGRESS

We the GaDangme people,

Meeting at the First GaDangme Congress at the Trade Fair Centre at La on this 7th day of September, 2002.

Having deliberated on various issues affecting our welfare, progress and development as a people.

Welcoming the establishment of GaDangme as an institution to embrace all GaDangmes and which is dedicated to the cause of strengthening the unity of the GaDangme people and to develop, promote, and preserve, GaDangme heritage.

Noting with grave concern the low level of education among the youth and the danger posed to the survival of GaDangme languages – Ga and Dangme.

Determined to take our destiny into our own hands and to improve the quality of life of our people within the context of national development.

Recognizing and appreciating the efforts of the GaDangme Council in the pursuit of GaDangme unity and the resolution of conflicts among the GaDangme people.

Do hereby Resolve to:

1. promote and sustain GaDangme as the embodiment of GaDangme unity and as the vanguard institution to foster consciousness among GaDangmes about our common ancestry within the context of a United Ghana.
2. undertake measures to revitalize the institution of chieftancy in the GaDangme area by loyally supporting our chiefs to perform the leadership roles devolving on them so that they may truly become the embodiment of the GaDangme personality and custodians of our heritage, tradition and culture.

3. promote education in all its aspects in GaDangme areas and towards this end establish an Education Fund to facilitate the full preparation of the youth for useful, satisfying lives.
4. preserve and enhance the quality of GaDangme languages and in this regard to organise and support the teaching of Ghanaian languages.
5. to institute a programme to empower our women to enable them regain their right and pivotal positions in the national development effort in recognition of the illustrious role they play in the national development effort, in education, culture, trade, finance and the upbringing of children.
6. defend the age-old principle that GaDangme lands are not for sale and to maintain that the land of the people is for the use of all the people and is held in trust by traditional office holders and family heads for the living, the dead, and generations yet unborn.
7. vigorously pursue the maintenance of tradition with regard to GaDangme lands and take appropriate action under the leadership of the chiefs and elders concerned to secure the payment of compensation for GaDangme lands taken for public purposes and insist on compliance with the law in respect of state-acquired lands which are no longer required for the original purposes of acquisition.
8. press for the repeal of all discriminatory laws and ensure that no laws are enacted against the interest of GaDangmes.
9. initiate action for the reconsideration of the policy to sell government bungalows to private land developers and to take steps to recover any lands illegally allocated for private development.

10. In furtherance of the above, we implore all GaDangme citizens, at home and abroad, to recognize their role in the development of their native land and to participate fully in the fulfilling task of improving the quality of life of the people.
11. Finally, we commend the GaDangme Council for its efforts so far, and urge the Council to break new grounds for the enhancement of the dignity and prosperity of GaDangme as an indispensable contribution to the worthy aspirations of the people of Ghana.
12. We request that copies of the Resolution be made available to all GaDangme Chiefs, Regional and Traditional Institutions and all GaDangmes, through the media.

Adopted in La, this 7th day of September, 2002.



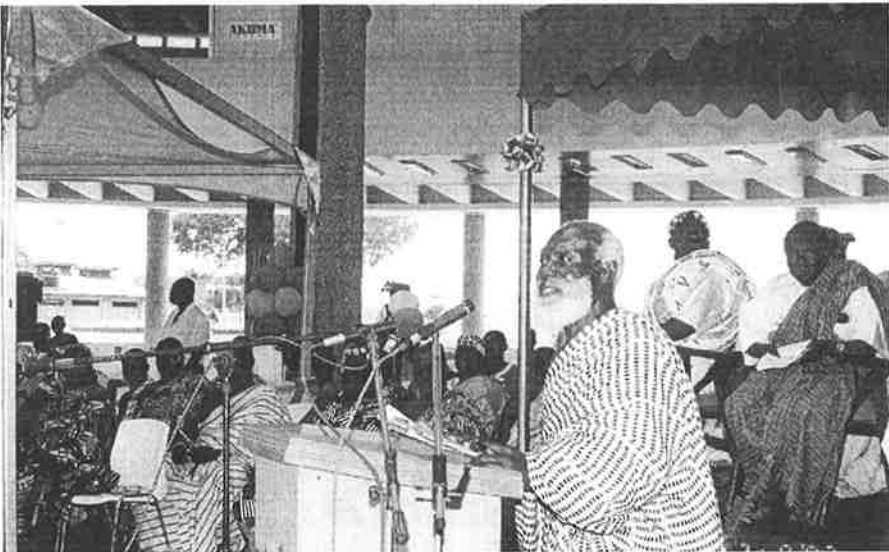
Mr. Kofi Amoatey (Member of GaDangme Council) reading the congress resolutions to the gathering.



GADAMGWE



Mr Oko Dagadu (of GBC fame) the Master of Ceremonies at the Congress.



Rev. Martey Odonkor delivering the opening prayer.



GADANGME



The High Table at the Congress.



• The Pokuase Mantse, Nii Oyu Kwame III and Acting Omblohum Mantse and his retinue entering the Congress grounds.



*The Congress provided an opportunity for the citizens from Ningo to hold a tête -à- tête
Prof. J.S. Djangnab (seated middle in "boubou") chairing the meeting*



*Appearing left to right: The delegation of chiefs and people from Tema and Sbai
Traditional Areas*



GaDANGME



A delegation of some traditional office holders and people from the Prampram Traditional Area



A section of GaDangme chiefs listening with rapt attention.



GaDANGME



Front row from right: Naa Aforkor Omaedruro II of GaDangme Foundation, UK. Mr P.C.N. Adumueab, Rev. Odonkor. Back row right: Mr. J.K. Tawiah, Chairman GaDangme, UK.



A section of the family in lively discussions.



GADANGME



A bevy of GaDangme beauties who acted as ushers.



• Attendants to the Congress registering at the reception.



The Lakpaa Wulomo (holding bottle) pouring the libation flanked by Wulomei present.



GaDangme citizens: They came, they heard, they were satisfied.



A section of the audience at the Congress.