

*In case of reply the **number** and
date of this letter should be quoted*



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

P. O. BOX M 41

ACCRA

Tel No: +233-(0)30-2227201

Fax No: +233-(0)30-2229786

Republic of Ghana

EMAIL: info.moi@moi.gov.gh

My Ref. No: *MAIS/187/104*

Your Ref. No:

13th March, 2019

The Chairman,

National Media Commission,

Accra.

Dear Sir,

OFFENSIVE DOCUMENTARY BY JOY NEWS ENTITLED
“Militia in the heart of the Nation”

Respectfully, the Government of Ghana brings this complaint pursuant to article 167(b) of the Constitution as well as section 2(1) (b) of the National Media Commission Act, 1993 (Act 449) and invites you to investigate the publication, the subject matter of this complaint.

Specifically, the impugned publication is a twenty-two (22) minute Joy News documentary titled “**Militia in the heart of the Nation**”, which was aired in the evening of Thursday, 7th March, 2019. Subsequently, parts of the said documentary were aired on Joy FM, Adom FM, Asempa FM, and the various affiliates of Joy FM, Adom FM and Asempa FM at various times around the country. The documentary was prepared by Manasseh Awuni Azure, a journalist with Multimedia Broadcasting Company Limited (Multimedia). Attached herewith and marked **Exhibit MOI 1** is a copy of the impugned publication.

The narrative of the 22 minute documentary stated emphatically that a “militia” had been uncovered training and operating at a “Security Zone”, with the complicity of the Government of Ghana, and identified them as belonging to the New Patriotic Party. The alleged Security Zone was identified as the Christianborg Castle, Osu, Accra. The “militia” was also named as De-Eye Group (hereinafter referred to as the “company”).

Further, the documentary stated categorically that the young men and women shown in it had been used for security operations in and outside Accra, and that, members of the group provided security at an event held at the Accra International Conference Centre celebrating the life of Chief S.D. Dombo, an event which was attended by the President, Vice President, former President Kufuor, and key government functionaries.

A careful examination of the contents of the impugned publication discloses that the first six (6) minutes, twenty (20) seconds of the documentary are about matters totally unconnected to the advertised subject matter of the documentary. They largely, showed images from the violence witnessed at the recent Ayawaso West Wuogon by-election, which is the subject matter of an inquiry by a Commission of Inquiry set up pursuant to article 278 of the Constitution (the Emile Short Commission). Personnel from the Ghana Police Service and National Security Council Secretariat using a Ghana Police vehicle are seen engaged in a violent confrontation with some people in an area at the Ayawaso West Wuogon Constituency. The attempt by Manasseh Awuni and Multimedia to portray the company as being engaged in the perpetration of acts seen in the first 6 minutes and 20 seconds of the documentary, or similar thereto only exposes the mischief with which the documentary was laced and does little credit to the reputation of a media house that prides itself as independent and guided by the ethics of the media profession.

We bring this complaint because the substance of the story complained of, is in various material essentials, utterly false, a product of gross misrepresentation of facts, wild speculation by the producer of the documentary specified above, and same betrays a desperate attempt on the part of Multimedia and Manasseh Awuni to vilify the sincere effort by the President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to end the worrying phenomenon of political vigilantism in the country.

Attached herewith and marked **Exhibits MOI 2 and MOI 3** are copies of the JOYNEWS promotion and said BBC publication.

- iii. The documentary deliberately omitted to state the material fact that National Security Council Secretariat had closed down the purported office of the company since October 2018. Indeed, as of the date of publication of the documentary in March 2019, there was no activity of whatsoever nature by the company at the Castle. At the time of airing the documentary, multimedia played it to create the false impression to the public that such a false activity was ongoing at the premises of the Osu Castle. The mischief at the time of airing was to muddy the waters at the same time when the President was taking steps to sanitize the Political environment off all acts of “vigilantism”.
- iv. The assertion that the Castle, Osu, is an annex of the Presidency, being used as a “Security Zone”, to train militia and vigilantes is sensationalism of the highest order. The facts show that since March 2017, the Castle, Osu, **HAS NOT** been a “Security Zone”, neither has it been an annex to the Presidency.

It is a facility operated by the Museums and Monuments Board, after President Akufo-Addo, on 5th March 2017, tasked the Ministry for Tourism, Arts and Culture to spearhead its transformation into a museum.

Indeed, the castle gardens are also open to members of the public. Attached herewith and marked **Exhibit MOI 4** is a copy of news publication on www.myjoyonline.com, an affiliate of JOYNEWS, on 5th March, 2017, proving same.

Why JOYNEWS will be privy to this fact and proceed to publish in March 2019 that it is a security zone being now used for training militia is disingenuous.

Also attached is **EXHIBIT MOI 5**, a statement issued by the Museums and Monuments Board dated 11th March, 2019 reminding the public of same.

- ix. Sight cannot be lost of the disingenuous endeavour to cast aspersions on the integrity of the President of the Republic in the fight against vigilantism.

President Akufo-Addo made a passionate, sincere and well-received appeal to all political parties to disband their vigilante groups on 21st February, 2019, when he delivered to Parliament a Message on the State of the Nation. He reiterated this call on 6th March, 2019, at the 62nd Independence Day Celebration in Tamale. Mischievously, remarks by hosts of programmes on Joy News in promoting the documentary accused the President of preaching virtue and practicing vice, when, indeed, they knew that the impugned documentary established no vigilante or militia activity whatsoever and was based on civil activities captured in 2018.

The documentary deliberately omitted to admit that, by the time of the publication, Government had, as indicated above, taken steps to close down the office used by the owner of the company for the stated purpose of the company. This material omission leaves the unsuspecting public with the false impression that Government was secretly promoting the activity while the President sought by the public statements to portray himself as determined to root out the troubling phenomenon of political vigilantism.

We view the impugned documentary as part of the unbounded calumny by Manasseh Awuni Azure, Joynews and its affiliates aimed at distorting Government policy and work on serious matters of national concern like the fight against vigilantism. Much as the undeniable track record of the President shows a selfless dedication to the defence of press freedom and human rights, irresponsible and unethical journalism threaten the democracy and peace of the nation.

In accordance with section 15 of Act 449, we pray your outfit for the following reliefs:

- i. A declaration to the effect that the impugned documentary by Manasseh Awuni Azure and Joynews is misleading and constitutes a dishonest and deliberate misrepresentation of facts and calculated at causing undue public apprehension, alarm and panic;

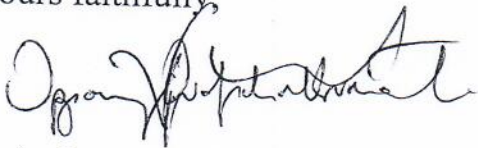
- ii. An order for the retraction of and apology to the Government of Ghana on the contents of the said documentary referred to above;
- iii. Further disciplinary measure(s) as your Commission may seem meet.

It is our sincerest hope that this complaint will be seriously investigated by the Commission in accordance with journalistic standards published by the Commission as well as the ethics of the media profession.

We are counting on your co-operation and stand ready to assist in your investigations into the publication complained of, including the issues raised above.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



Kojo Opong-Nkrumah (MP)
Minister

*'In case of reply the **number** and **date** of this letter should be **quoted***

Tel No: +233-(0)30-2909609
Fax No: +233-(0)30-2229786



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
P. O. BOX M 41
ACCRA

EMAIL: info.moi@moi.gov.gh

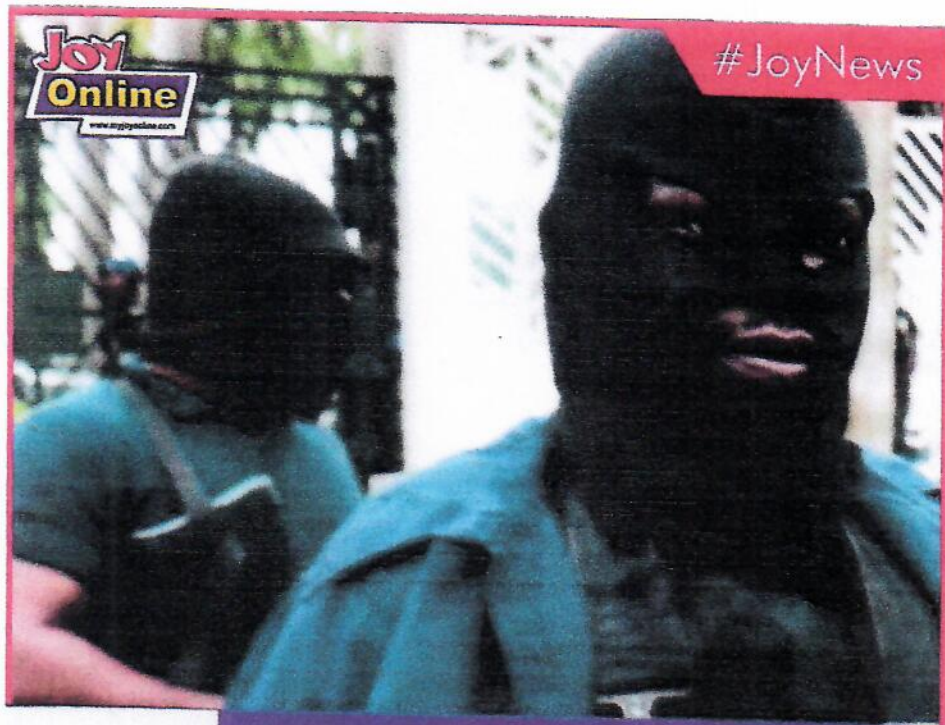
Republic of Ghana

My Ref. No:
Your Ref. No:

13th March, 2019.

NO.	LIST OF EXHIBITS	
1	MoI 1	Full Joynews Documentary
2	MoI 2	Joynews Promo
3	MoI 3	BBC Story
4	MoI 4	Myjoyonline Story
5	MoI 5	Museum Statement
6	MoI 6	TV3 Interview

MOI 2



Joy Online
www.joyonline.com

#JoyNews

TOP STORY | NPP MILITIA GROUP TRAINS AT A SECURITY FACILITY IN ACCRA

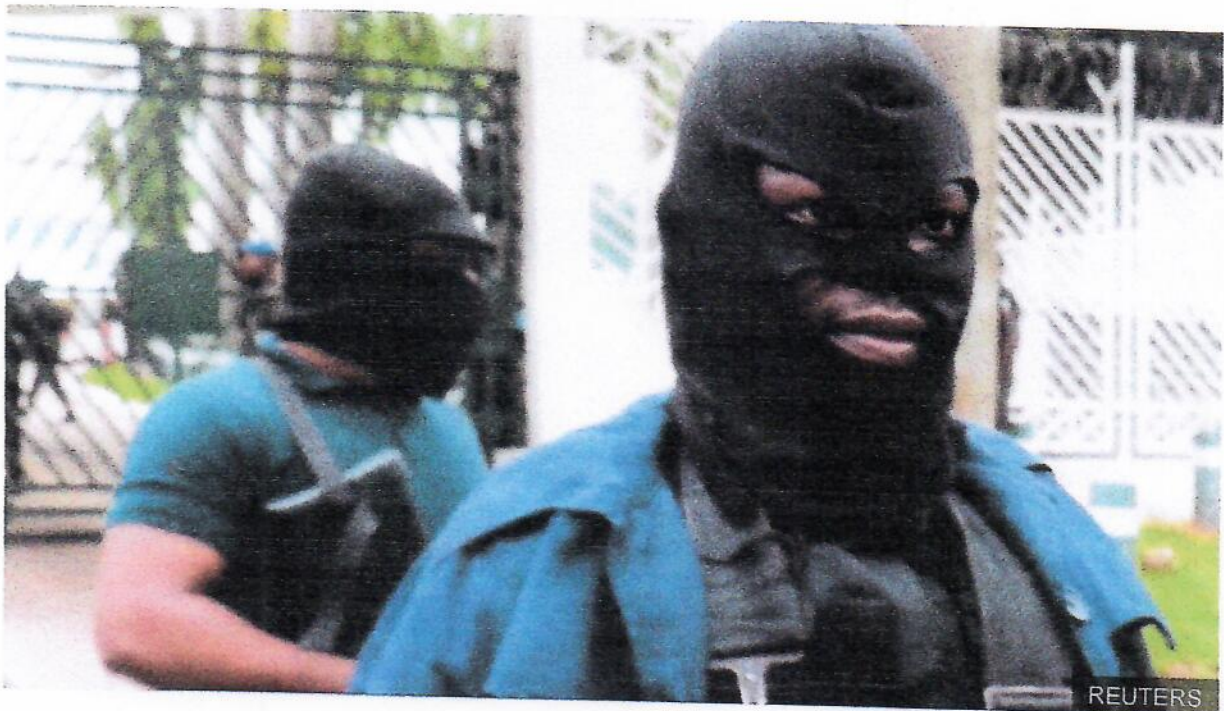
For more news visit www.myjoyonline.com



NEWS

Letter from Africa: Heroes and villains of Nigeria's parliament siege

13 August 2018



In our series of letters from Africa, Nigerian writer and novelist Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani says scenes resembling a coup in her country have left many scratching their heads.

Nigerians still can't say for sure why armed, masked men held our country's parliament under siege last week. But the alarming incident had a most joyous ending.

They blocked all entrances to the building, denying lawmakers, civil servants and journalists access.

It turned out they were operatives of the state's spy agency, the Department of State Security (DSS), headed by Lawal Daura.

The other man at the centre of the drama is Senate President Bukola Saraki, who recently defected from the ruling APC party to the main opposition PDP.



He had called a parliamentary meeting of national assembly leaders - and it was this group that the armed men were blocking.

One theory is that it was a strong-arm tactic to make Mr Saraki resign so that the APC can appoint a ruling party senate president in his place.

The other theory is that it was all staged to make it appear as if it was officially sanctioned to make the government look bad.

'Invitation to anarchy'

Neither theory stands up to logical scrutiny, but you should never let anything surprise when it comes to the antics of Nigerian politics.

In April, a disgruntled MP allegedly organised for intruders to storm the Senate and steal its mace.

Decisions in the upper chamber cannot be approved without the mace - a large ornamental staff that represents the legislature's authority.

But when news spread of the events last week, including videos of angry lawmakers in confrontation with the armed state operatives, even Nigerians expressed their condemnation.

President Muhammadu Buhari was away in the UK on vacation, leaving his deputy Yemi Osinbajo in charge.

Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani:



ADAOBI TRICIA NWAUBANI

"Nothing about Yemi Osinbajo excites the usual comedy that Nigerians have come to expect from our leaders"

"Nigeria is a democracy not a military dictatorship," said Atiku Abubakar, a former vice-president and PDP presidential hopeful.

"The acting president, being himself a professor of law, ought to know that setting such a precedent is an invitation to anarchy."

And indeed it was Mr Osinbajo who became the hero of the day.

Not only is Mr Osinbajo a professor of law and a former commissioner for justice, he is arguably one of the most distinguished leaders to have graced the Nigerian seat of power in the past few decades.



GETTY IMAGES

For starters, nothing about him excites the usual comedy that Nigerians have come to expect from our leaders.

His educational qualifications are without suspicion. His foot does not get jammed in his

contracts around the capital city, Abuja. He has no known cadavers stinking in his cupboard.

Mr Osinbajo has even been heard to apologise after arriving late at events. The typical Nigerian public office holder's self-importance can usually be measured by how long they can keep people waiting.

And the vice-president did not disappoint. While the siege was ongoing, he released a statement denouncing it as "condemnable and completely unacceptable".

Then he announced the immediate dismissal of Mr Daura - and the masked men were recalled to their lair.

You may also like:

- **Can Buhari survive after dramatic defections?**
- **Cutting Nigeria's 'big men' down to size**
- **Could ranches solve Nigeria's herder-farmer conflict?**

Again, Nigerians can't say for sure if Mr Daura was simply a scapegoat for a failed coup, or if he was indeed acting without presidential authority, motivated by his loyalty to Mr Buhari, his kinsman from the village of Daura in Katsina state, north-western Nigeria.

But, I promised you a happy ending, didn't I?

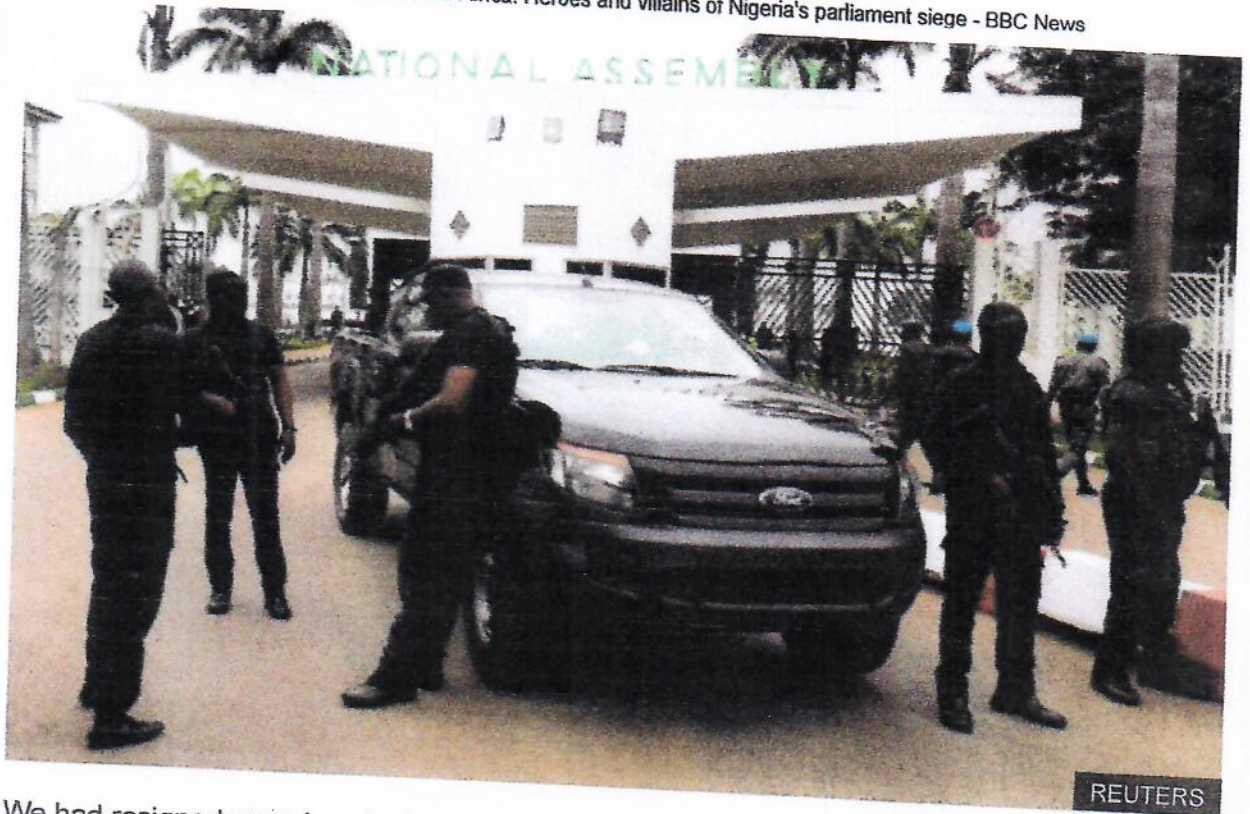
Midnight arrests

Many Nigerians feel that if it took the siege on parliament to be finally rid of the spy chief - then hurray.

In 2015, the sexagenarian was exhumed from retirement and appointed to head the DSS.

In the past three years of Mr Daura's leadership, the agency has been characterised by midnight arrests on those suspected of corruption, disdain for court orders, detention of a journalist without trial, and the harassing of lawmakers at a federal and state level.

Many Nigerians feared that as he came from Mr Buhari's hometown it had made him untouchable.



We had resigned ourselves to the ongoing nightmare.

But, as the saying goes: he whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad.

The madness that Mr Daura seemed to display by launching the siege has now led to his ignominious fall.

On the acting president's orders, Mr Daura was arrested and although released a few days later, his passport was seized.

Mr Osinbajo described his antics as "a gross violation of constitutional order, rule of law and all accepted notions of law and order". Mr Daura has yet to put his side of events.

But many Nigerians are now hoping that he will have that opportunity in court. What an even more joyous ending that would be - and one that follows the rule of law.

3/13/2019

Osu Castle to be converted into presidential museum - MyJoyOnline.com



Home

News

Politics

Business

Sports

Entertainment

Opinion

Lifestyle

World

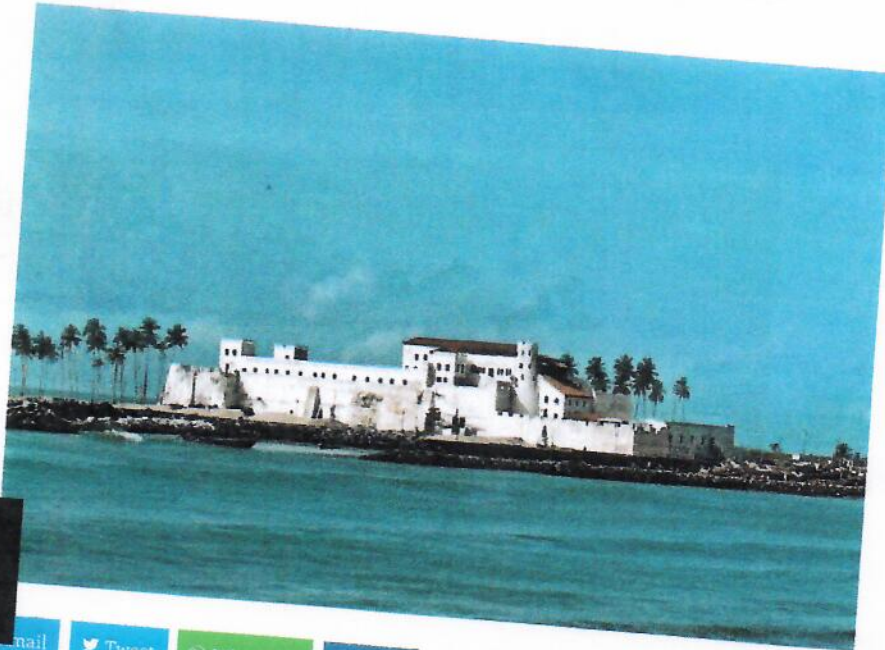


More



Osu Castle to be converted into presidential museum

Source: Ghana | Abubakar Ibrahim with additional files from Ghana Monuments & Museum's Board
Date: 05-03-2017 Time: 01:03:27:pm



Sponsored Articles

Mega discount online store Ghana expands product range & introduce new retail experience

mail Tweet WhatsApp Share 1.71K in Share

President Nana Akufo-Addo has tasked the Tourism Minister to transform the former seat of government, Osu Castle into a presidential museum as part of Ghana's 60th-anniversary legacy project.

He called on the public to patronize the edifice and make it a center of learning about the heroes who sacrificed for the country's independence.

Advertisement

FREE SPECTACLES FOR STUDENTS
Read More

New Glaucoma Treatment MIGS
No More Everyday Eyedrops
Read More

NO - INJECTION CATARACT SURGERY
No Painful Eye Injections
Read More

HOTLINE: 055 948 0853

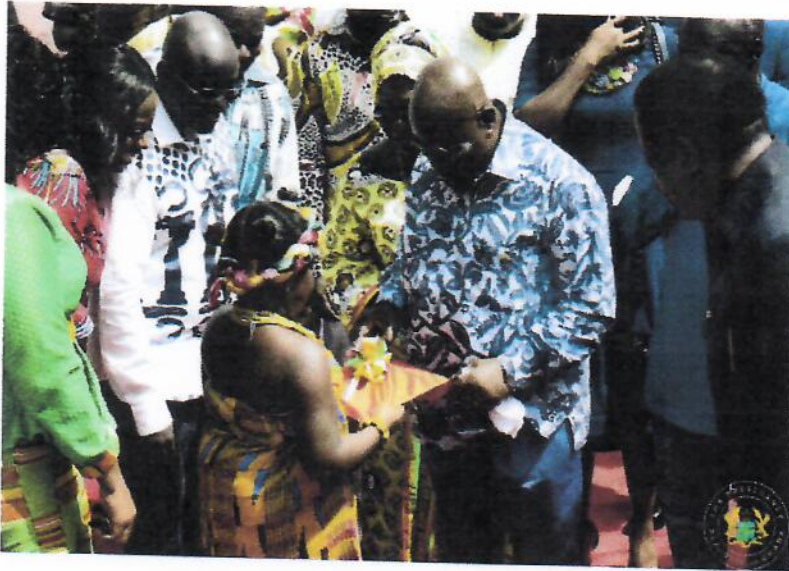
Latest Stories

Ethiopian Airlines commends Ghanaians for support

CID officer dragged to court after destroying 5-bedroom house

Chaos at UEW as students disrupt classes over sacked lecturers

Video: R2Bees makes it to the Billboard Charts with 'Site 15'



Ethiopian Airline crash: Air travel still safer than road – Experienced Ghanaian pilot



Joy 99.7 FM

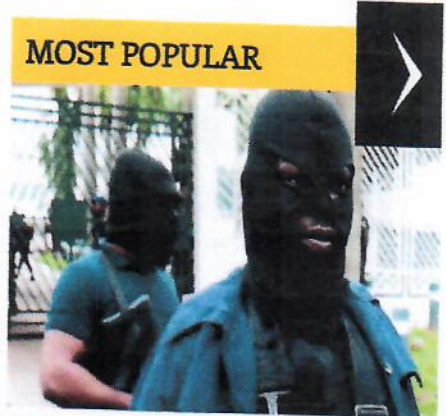
Like Page 1.1M likes



Speaking at a ceremony to commission the museum, the President said the castle is the perfect location to house a museum to celebrate the achievements and lives of Ghanaian Presidents who spent their time working in it.

Exactly 60 years today, Princess Marina of Kent, representing the British Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, formally opened the National Museum in Accra.

Sixty years on, the president said he is honoured to open an exhibition which pays homage to the nation's forebears, whose blood, sweat and toil won the country our independence.



NPP militia training centre uncovered in the capital

De-Eye Group cleared out over Joy News exposé

Joy News reveals: The pro-NPP militia which trains at Presidency Annex

Mahama watched the Joy News exposé. See his reaction

Re: Multimedia refused to invite the NPP/Gov't on newsfile in order to push their own agenda.

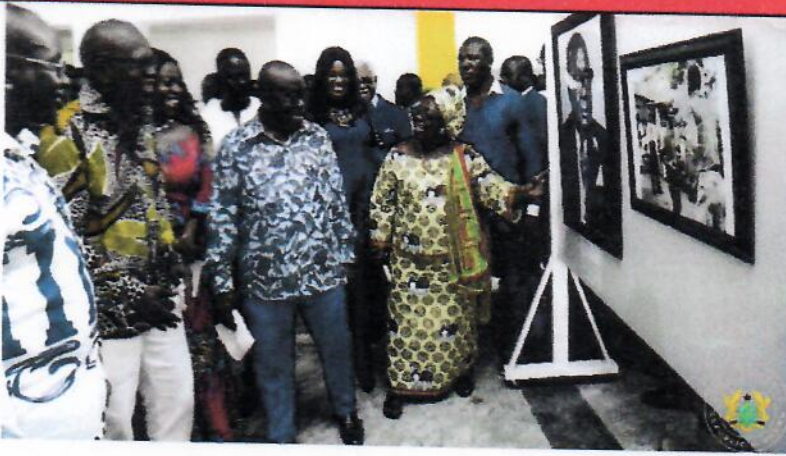
[Home](#)[News](#)[Politics](#)[Business](#)[Sports](#)[Entertainment](#)[Opinion](#)[Lifestyle](#)[World](#)

More ▾



Commemorating the 60-year old journey on the theme – Ghana: the Road to Independence, the exhibition also puts the spotlight on statesmen like Joseph Ephraim Casely-Hayford as well as accomplished playwright and lawyer, Kobina Sekyi.

Paa Grant, the financier and president of the United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC), the Gold Coast's first mass political party, is also featured. Also on exhibition are the Big Six - Obetsebi Lamptey, Kwame Nkrumah, Ako Adjei, Dr. J.B Danquah, William Ofori-Atta, the famous Pa Willie, and the President's father, Edward Akufo-Addo.



"The vision is to have a state of the art museum which would house presidential artifacts, presidential papers, wax works of our presidents and also on display are personal possessions of past leaders like books, artworks and items of clothing to allow us to honour appropriately their memories.

"One interesting exhibit at this museum will be the room the British Queen, Elizabeth II, slept in during her State Visit to Ghana in 1960, and there will also be bookshops, research rooms, well-manicured gardens and sculptures and artworks rendered by Ghana's finest craftsmen and artists for researchers," he added.

The ancient Christiansborg Castle is located just off the shores of the vibrant township of Osu was built by the Danes has been the seat of government since the capital was moved from Cape Coast to Accra.



Home

News

Politics

Business

Sports

Entertainment

Opinion

Lifestyle

World



More



1661, Jost Cramer, the Danish governor of the Cape Coast fort, Fort Christiansborg, obtained the site for 3,200 gold florins, from Paramount Chief Okaikoi of the Ga ethnic group.



At this site, the Danes built a stone fort in 1659, to replace the earthen lodge that had been erected by the Swedish African Company in the 17th century. They named it Christiansborg, meaning 'Christian's Fortress', after the King of Denmark, Christian IV, who passed away in 1648.



... ..

MOI 5

**GHANA MUSEUMS & MONUMENTS BOARD
(HEAD OFFICE)**

Tel: (233) – (0302) 22 16 33 / 35
Fac: (233) – (0302) 22 24 01
E-mail: gmmmb.aoc@gmail.com



BARNES ROAD
P.O. BOX GP 3343
ACCRA, GHANA

Our Ref: GMMB/0502/236

Your Ref:

11th MARCH, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

CHRISTIANBORG CASTLE IS A MUSEUM AND NOT A SECURITY INSTALLATION

The Museums and Monuments Board has taken notice of the ongoing public debate as to whether or not the Osu Castle is a Museum or a security installation.

For the avoidance of any doubt, the Board wishes to provide clarity on this issue as follows:-

1. On 5th March, 2017, the President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, publicly, declared and inaugurated the Osu Castle as a Presidential Museum of leadership, and governance.
2. The Osu Castle since this act, above stated, by the President of the Republic, has and to date remains a museum; and
3. The Osu Castle is not a security installation. The Military and security sensitivities associated with it have since been withdrawn. It now has a similar status as the Cape Coast and Elmina Castles.
4. Visitors, tourists and the general public are allowed to visit as and when they please.

**KINGSLEY OFOSU NTIAMOAH
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**