



GA-DANGBE NATIVE'S AND
TRADITIONAL CHIEFTAINCY
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS



Our Ref:.....

Date: July 5, 2021

Your Ref:.....

His Excellency, Nana Addo Danquah Akufo Addo,
The President of the Republic of Ghana,
Jubilee House,
Kanda, Accra.

Your Excellency,

PETITION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE GA-DANGME PEOPLE REGARDING THEIR LANDS

It is our greatest pleasure to write to you, Your Excellency, this petition, and pray that it reaches you in good health.

The Ga-Dangme People of the Republic of Ghana, in exercise of our Sovereignty as a people under Article 1(1) of the 1992 Constitution, and exercising further our natural and inalienable Human Rights under the same constitution;

TO DEMAND RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE, that secures for us and our generations yet unborn the blessings of Freedom and Justice, Fairness, Equality of Opportunities, Development and Prosperity;

AND IN SOLEMN declaration and affirmation of our commitment to:

Freedom, Justice, Probity, Transparency and Accountability in a democratic culture, being the principles that all powers of Government emanate from the Sovereign Will of the People; the Rule of Law; the protection and the preservation of Fundamental Human Rights; National Harmony and Stability for our Nation;

DO HUMBLY petition your High Office as follows:

THE ORGANIZATION GDLA

Your humble Petitioners are from the **GA-DANGME LANDS ADMINISTRATION (GDLA)**, acting on our mandate, the authority of the Ga Mantse, the Four Overlords of the Ga State and all of Ga-Dangme, with the Chief of Defense of the Ga State, King Ayi Tunmma II, as the CEO of the **GA-DANGME LANDS ADMINISTRATION (GDLA)**.

The GDLA office has been established among other objectives to bring to an end all wrongful chieftaincy claims and conflicts, land ownership and acquisition disputes and litigations in the whole of the Greater Accra Region of the Ga-Dangme people.





The Ga-Dangme Lands Administration (GDLA) is an autonomous and a self-governing organization. The Tunmma Royal Dynasty, being the indigenous founder of the Greater Accra (Akra) Region and King Ayi Tunmma II, the Chief of Defense of the Ga State, are to ensure that the right and legitimate Ga Mantse (The Ga King) is installed through the authority vested in the GDLA.

The Chief of Defense of the Ga-State, King Ayi Tunmma II, has spearheaded the setting up of the Ga-Dangme Land Administration (GDLA) and has the consent of the Four Overlords of the Ga State, viz.:

- The Ga-Tse of the Tunmma Royal Dynasty – the Crown King of Akra and the General Overseer,
- The Shi-Tse Gborbu Wulomo, Numoo Borketey Laweh, the High-Priest of the Nungua Clan of the Ga State,
- The Nai-Wulomo, Numoo Larkotey Aduawushie, the High-Priest of the Ga State, and
- Numoo Nikoi Lai of the Asere Clan of the Ga State.

GDLA is also positioned to advocate and fight for the Rights of all Ga-Dangme people, and to ensure the protection of our rights as far as land issues are concerned and work towards a holistic development of the Ga-Dangme people.

Furthermore, the objective is to carry out a bold and an ambitious vision and an aggressive agenda to bring development and prosperity to the Ga-Dangme people.

It is also to come out with lasting and sustainable innovative initiatives to mitigate the hardships of the Ga-Dangme people; to eliminate the potential risk of future agitations and confrontations arising out of anxiety, frustration and despondency from the people of the Ga-Dangme Traditional areas.

Your Excellency, it is a known fact that the Greater Accra Region by virtue of its cosmopolitan nature, with the city of Accra being the capital of the country, is fraught with numerous protracted land issues and litigations, due to improper documentation of lands, arising also out of wrongful and dubious claimants to ownership of lands, not to talk of the situations of multiple sale of one land to more than one person or entity.



The new **LAND ACT, 2020**, that was passed by the Parliament of Ghana, Section 14-18 (Land Administration and Land Management, Customary Land Management) mandates all Traditional Authorities to establish and manage a Customary Land Administration Secretariat (CLAS). The Act further provides for all matters relating to land acquisitions, conflicts and disputes to be handled by the CLAS before any action can be instituted at the law courts, if any.

It is for the above stated objectives that we decided to establish the GDLA for the Ga-Dangme people, long before the passage of the **LAND ACT 2020**; see **APPENDIX I** hereunder for excerpts of the objectives of the GDLA, page 7.

GDLA will be forging ahead with efforts to unite all Ga-Dangme people and her Chiefs so that we can implement the vision of the GDLA Project that we have conceived, planned and documented for the development and progress of our land and our people. We will be sharing with you, Your Excellency, in due course the policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and projects we have outlined for the attainment of our vision.

OUR LANDS

This Petition, Your Excellency, is to once again and probably finally bring to your attention the protracted issues of the lands of the Ga-Dangme people, being the whole of the Greater Accra Region, and specifically the lands that have been acquired by the State and some of which have not been used for the purposes of acquisition. By the provisions of the 1992 Constitution, these said STATE LANDS are to return back to the ALLODIAL OWNERS but this has not been complied with by successive governments till this day that we are presenting this petition to you, Your Excellency.

There are Court judgments in favour of the Ga-Dangme people regarding our lands, but unfortunately we are being humiliated, “insulted”, marginalized, deprived of our rights and privileges, and some of the times intimidated, harassed and brutalized, and the state bodies that are supposed to enforce the judgments are not doing what it is expected of them, in blatant and gross violation of the 1992 Constitution.

Your Excellency, there have been some clashes between the Military in recent times, the latest being the attack of some Military officers on some La people on the 14th April 2021. These



incidents are of grave concern to the whole of the Ga-Dangme people, being a clear demonstration of how some high ranking servicemen are abusing their offices to suppress the will of our people to fight for their land. We believe the right channels of engagement are not explored in many of such decision making processes, assuming that these lands have been acquired by the state, hence the agitations from our people.

UNLAWFUL SALE OF STATE LANDS

To add insult to injury to this unsavory acts of lawlessness by no mean institutions of state, Your Excellency, the Lands Commission has arrogated to itself unlawful powers by engaging in the unlawful sale of STATE LANDS with the brazen connivance of some unscrupulous politicians and their friends and cronies, thereby grabbing these lands and depriving we the ALLODIAL OWNERS lawful access to and possession of our lands.

Article 20 (5) (6) state that:

(5) Any property compulsorily taken possession of or acquired in the public interest or for a public purpose shall be used only in the public interest or for the public purpose for which it was acquired.

(6) Where the property is not used in the public interest or for the purpose for which it was acquired, the owner of the property immediately before the compulsory acquisition, shall be given the first option for acquiring the property and shall, on such reacquisition refund the whole or part of the compensation paid to him as provided for by law or such other amount as is commensurate with the value of the property at the time of the reacquisition.

Clearly we can see that the rights of the Ga-Dangme people have been and are still being trampled upon with impunity, in total violation of the 1992 Constitution and in the full glare of past governments and unfortunately yours too, Your Excellency, who have sworn an oath to protect the good people of our country; we will not belabour any point in recounting the many promises made by past presidents and yourself, Your Excellency, to look into this unending nagging issue of the unlawful sale of PUBLIC LANDS and resolving it once and for all.

Your Excellency, it is now your turn to prove the skeptics wrong by upholding the Rule of Law in this State Lands matter that we are once again raising, so that the posterity of the Ga-Dangme will extol your name as one of Ghana's Presidents who helped in bring a stop to the unlawful looting of State Lands and returning same to the RIGHTFUL ALLODIAL TRADITIONAL OWNERS.



ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS the 1992 Constitution stipulates at Article 36 (8) that:

The State shall recognise that ownership and possession of land carry a social obligation to serve the larger community and, in particular, **the State shall recognise that the managers of public, stool, skin and family lands are fiduciaries charged with the obligation to discharge their functions for the benefit respectively of the people of Ghana, of the stool, skin, or family concerned and are accountable as fiduciaries in this regard.**

Your Excellency, we do not know what royalties and compensations have been paid and that are being paid, and to whom the royalties and compensations have been paid or are being paid!

DISPLACEMENT OF WOMENFOLK FROM THE MARKETS

This is another serious issue that we want to bring to the fore, Your Excellency, which we are sure you very much aware of already. Gradually, the womenfolk in the Accra Central Business District have been displaced and are still being displaced from the markets with the rapid massive redevelopment of the existing ones, especially in the Accra Central Business District area, like the **MAKOLA No.1** and **MAKOLA No.2**.

The AMA and the developers do not factor in the source of livelihood of our womenfolk, thus do not incorporate any plans of letting our womenfolk have access to the new spaces that are created because they cannot afford the amounts being demanded. This is having its own negative social and economic impact on the larger community looking at the immense financial contributions of our womenfolk to the maintenance of the families.

THE INFLUX OF NEW MIGRANTS FROM THE SUB REGION

Your Excellency, the influx of some new migrants from our sub-region, particularly Nigeria, Niger, etc., many of who are physically challenged, women and children, is becoming a serious concern to us, and we are not sure whether this has been brought to your notice or not. It looks as if the agencies charged with responsibilities to control our borders are sleeping on their jobs.

What is most worrying is the bad spectacle created by these migrants of their presence on the major roads in Accra, going about begging in almost every part of the city, with their children left by their parents to move carelessly about on the major roads, posing a serious threat to their lives.



Your Excellency, we know your commitment toward finding solutions to the myriad problems facing the country, and we commend you for all the policies, efforts, initiatives and measures you have taken so far. One that seems to have defied past governments and we believe is posing a great challenge to your government too – in spite of the policies and measures you have taken so far – is the sanitation problem. These new migrants will certainly be contributing to the terrible sanitation situation we are already grappling with as they do not have places of abode and are sleeping along the streets, in the open. One just has to take a stroll around in Accra in the night, for example in Nima, and Sabon Zongo, to see the gravity of the problem.

Your Excellency, it is a real serious existential and generational problem that is staring us in the face because of the many women and the children these migrants have moved into the country with – the children will grow up in the streets, with no education, no home-setting to provide the parental care needed for their upbringing into responsible adults. The security situation in the country, especially in the cities of Accra and Kumasi, is already becoming very worrying.

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE LAND ACT 2020

Your Excellency, we were jolted to our feet on the evening of Wednesday, June 23, 2021, when we heard and read in the news that a NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE LAND ACT 2020 was organized by your government. We received this news with a lot of misgivings, mixed reactions and suspicion due to the fact that our office had written a letter of introduction of the GDLA to the IGP which your high office was duly copied, and other offices of your government, including the **Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources** under whose aegis the symposium was organized. But to our utter surprise and probably our premonition we were not invited to such an all important function the theme of which is the very reason for the establishment of our office. We thus wish to register our disappointment and displeasure at this single act of commission or omission.

OUR DEMANDS

We at the Ga-Dangme Lands Administration humbly put forward the following demands:

1. A FULL REPORT PROFILING ALL PUBLIC AND VESTED LANDS AND ACCOUNTING FOR ALL SUCH LANDS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN USED FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THEY WERE ACQUIRED BY THE STATE BUT HAVE BEEN DEMISED TO INDIVIDUALS AND PRIVATE ENTITIES,



2. A FULL REPORT AND ACCOUNTING OF ALL COMPENSATIONS AND ROYALTIES, PAID OR NOT PAID, THAT HAVE BEEN DUE THE ALLODIAL AND RIGHTFUL STOOLS, CLANS AND FAMILIES OF THE GA-DANGME,
3. ON THE ISSUE OF THE MARKET WOMEN, WE WANT TO SECURE THE RAWLINGS PARK (OLD MAKOLA NO.1) IN THE HEART OF ACCRA CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT FOR REDEVELOPMENT INTO A MODERN MULTI-STOREY (ABOUT 15) MARKET AND BUSINESS HUB BY THE GDLA. WE WILL GIVE PRIORITY SPACE (FIRST THREE FLOORS) TO THE WOMEN. TO THIS EFFECT, WE WANT ANY CONSIDERATIONS, PLANS OR NEGOTIATIONS, IF ANY, THAT ARE ONGOING FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF RAWLINGS PARK (OLD MAKOLA NO.1) TO BE PUT ON HOLD, PENDING GDLA'S INTERVENTION WITH ITS PLANS,
4. H. E. THE PRESIDENT ISSUING AN EXECUTIVE ORDER GIVING THE GDLA UNENCUMBERED ACCESS TO SOME STATE LANDS THE LIST OF WHICH THE GDLA WILL PRESENT TO THE PRESIDENT. THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE IS THE 6 ACRE LAND AT RIDGE OPPOSITE THE RIDGE HOSPITAL THAT WE ARE TOLD IS BEING TAKEN OVER BY THE BANK OF GHANA. WE HAD EARMARKED THE LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF GDLA'S MAGNIFICENT OFFICE COMPLEX, (SEE APPENDIX II),
5. H. E. THE PRESIDENT ISSUING AN EXECUTIVE ORDER, DIRECTING THE LANDS COMMISSION TO PLOT ALL OUR JUDGEMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE COURTS AGAINST THE STATE REGARDING OUR LANDS (SEE APPENDIX III) – HOW CAN A LANDLORD BE REDUCED TO A TENANT, AND NOT RECEIVE THE CONSIDERATIONS AND ENJOY SOME PRIVILEGES AS THE ALLODIAL OWNER WHO HAD ORIGINALLY GIVEN THE LANDS GRACIOUSLY TO THE STATE,
6. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND THE GHANA IMMIGRATION SERVICE (GIS) MUST AS A MATTER OF URGENCY LIAISE WITH THE FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE COUNTRIES WHERE THESE MIGRANTS HAVE COME FROM, AND WITH ALL THE SERIOUSNESS LOOK AT HOW TO GET THEM BACK TO THEIR COUNTRIES,
7. IN THE MEANTIME, THE MIGRANTS MUST IMMEDIATELY BE WARNED TO STOP BRINGING THEIR CHILDREN INTO THE STREETS. THE MINISTER FOR INNER CITY AND ZONGO DEVELOPMENT MUST UP HIS WORK IN THIS DIRECTION,
8. THE GDLA WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AUDIENCE WITH YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY, TO DISCUSS THIS STATE LANDS ISSUE AND OTHER PERTINENT ISSUES WITH A VIEW TO AVERT IMMINENT AGITATIONS AND A CRISIS SITUATION FROM THE GA-DANGME COMMUNITIES, SOME OF WHICH WE ALL HAVE WITNESSED IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT PAST,
9. LASTLY BUT NOT THE LEAST, WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND THE GOVT FOR THE WAIVER GRANTED FOR THE FEE FOR THE STAMP DUTY WHEN REGISTERING OUR INTEREST IN OUR LANDS. WE WOULD HOWEVER NOT HESITATE TO ASK FOR MORE, LIKE OLIVER TWIST. WE WOULD LIKE TO



ASK FOR A NEW PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT FOR THE COST OF SURVEYING WORK FOR OUR LAND TO BE CONSIDERED FOR TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES.

Finally, Your Excellency, we would like to take this opportunity to give a reminder of the Letter of Introduction of the GDLA we wrote to the IGP we alluded to early on which your high office, the office of H. E. the Vice President, and other government offices and agencies were copied. Attach herewith is a copy of the said letter to the IGP.

Your Excellency, we strongly believe that this PETITION will receive the most urgent attention and consideration it deserves because we trust that your government will this time around walk the talk of a listening government.

Accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Thank you, Your Excellency.

Yours Sincerely,

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KING AYI TUNNMAA II
CEO OF GDLA &
CHIEF OF DEFENSE OF THE GA STATE
Tel: +233 (0) 24 972 6338

cc:

1. The Vice President,
2. The Speaker of Parliament,
3. The Chief Justice,
4. The Council of State,
5. The Ga Mantse (King of the Ga State),
6. The Attorney General,
7. The Chief of Staff, Jubilee House,
8. The Chief of Defense Staff,
9. The Inspector General of Police (IGP),
10. The Minister of National Security,
11. The Minister of the Interior,
12. The Military Police,



13. The Minister of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs,
14. The Greater Accra Regional Minister,
15. Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs,
16. Ga Traditional Council,
17. Nungua Traditional Council,
18. Osu Traditional Council,
19. La Traditional Council,
20. Tema Traditional Council,
21. Ngleshie Traditional Council,
22. Asere Traditional Council,
23. Ga-Dangme Muslim Council,
24. The Christian Council of Ghana (CGG),
25. The Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference (GCBC),
26. The Office of the National Chief Imam (ONCI),
27. The Mayor of Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA),
28. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources,
29. The National Chairman of Lands Commission,
30. The Regional Chairman of Lands Commission,
31. The United Nations (UN),
32. The African Union (AU),
33. The European Union (EU),
34. The Ghana Bar Association (GBA),
35. Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC),
36. Ghana News Agency (GNA),
37. OBONU FM, GBC,
38. AMANIE FM (Ga-Dangme programme).
39. ASEMPA FM,
40. JOY FM,
41. PEACE FM.



APPENDIX I

Article 1

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES (among others):

- a) The Ga-Dangme Lands Administration, under the aegis and authority of the Tunma Royal Dynasty, shall have the mandate to handle and resolve all land conflicts, disputes and litigations in the Ga-Dangme Traditional Area, in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders of the Ga-Dangme people,
- b) The Administration shall concern itself in Collaboration with the Indigenous traditional rulers in the Ga State and other relevant stakeholders to put in place a purposeful and well-coordinated customary land tenure system and uniform procedures for land acquisition and documentation,
- c) Formulate policies and institute mechanisms for effective and efficient revenue generation from leases of Ga-Dangme lands for the cultural, social and economic development of the Ga-Dangme people and their land, to complement central government's developmental agenda,
- d) To confirm by endorsement all lands given out to leaseholders to avoid future land litigations. The Lands Commission shall therefore seek consent from the Ga-Dangme Lands Administration for properly processed, approved and certified document by the GDLA,
- e) To keep proper land records and management,
- f) To help prevent uncontrolled development of lands in the Greater Accra Region,
- g) To exist and function within the framework of the laws of Ghana, and ensure compliance with state policies and directives,
- h) To coordinate its activities with other government agencies and stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources, Lands Commission, Town & Country Planning, Accra Metropolitan Assembly, etc., in order to achieve the above objectives,
- i) Perform other functions as shall become necessary in the future and approved by the Board.



GA-DANGBE NATIVES AND
TRADITIONAL CHIEFTAINCY
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS



APPENDIX II



**PROPOSED OFFICE COMPLEX FOR
THE GA-DANGBE LANDS
ADMINISTRATION IN GREATER
ACCRA.**

MARWELL M. NYAMADI
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS
NIP 9459-
OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS
ACCRA





APPENDIX III

No.	NAME OF COURT	SUIT NO.	DATE OF JUDGMENT
1.	State Land Tribunal	SLT 57/73	24 th Februry, 1976
2.	Appeal court (1)	CA 49/80	15 th December, 1982
3.	High Court (1)	L. 323/83	27 th January, 1999
4.	Appeal Court (2)	H1/190/2004	12 th November, 2004
5.	Supreme Court	J4/14/2005	21 st June, 2006
6.	High Court (2)	BL.519/2006	8 th March, 2011
7.	Order of Mandamus High Court {1 & 2}	SOLM/2/12	24 th Nov., 2011 16 th Feb., 2012 & 19 th July, 2012
8.	Appeal Court (3)	H1/119/2013	26 th November, 2015
9.	Appeal Court (4)	H1/32/2017	9 th March, 2017
10.	SUPREME COURT	STC 16/15, STC2/6/15	11 TH Feb., 1931