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Ministry of Chieftaincy
and Religious Affairs

PRESS STATEMENT

*Apam-Central Region, Ghana.
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By

Obaatanpa Ama Eduwa I, Paramount Queenmother of
Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Area and Vice President of
the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.

On behalf of Divisional Chiefs and Standing Committee
Members of the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.

Attention:

- The Chief Executive Officer, Medium Dwellings
Company Limited
- Criminal Investigation Division, Ghana Police Service
- The District Chief Executive, Gomoa East District
Assembly
- The Regional Minister, Central Region
- The Registrar, Central Regional House of Chiefs
- The Registrar, Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council
- All Media Houses

INDISCRIMINATE DISPOSITION OF 100 ACRES OF GOMOA DOMINASE/GOMOA KWEIKROM LAND TO EVICTED AGBOBLOSHIE ONION SELLERS BY OMANHENE OF GOMOA AKYEMPIM TRADITIONAL AREA.

The attention of the undersigned has been drawn to a recent press conference held on the 3rd July 2021 in Gomoa Dominase by Obrifo Ahunako Ahor Ankobia II, (the "Omanhene"), Paramount Chief of Gomoa Akyempim, and President of the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.

At the press conference, it is recounted that the Omanhene alleged the approval of the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council in the unlawful allocation of 100 acres of 115 acres of land at Gomoa Dominase/Gomoa Kweikrom owned by Medium Dwellings Company Limited (the "Developer"), a real estate company organized and existing under the laws of The Republic of Ghana, for the admission of some evicted Agbobloshie Onion Sellers by the Greater Accra Regional Minister, Henry Quartey.

We wish to state emphatically that the news is false and should be completely disregarded. The Traditional Council of Gomoa Akyempim has not tabled any meeting to:

1. Discuss the allocation of land to the said Agbobloshie Onion Sellers.
2. Resolve and allocate land owned by a private company.

It is also on record that the Omanhene dissolved the Standing Committee Traditional Council in an arbitrary decision on the 24th May 2021 and reconstituted the committee with new members without consultations with the Omanhema, Obaatanpa Ama Eduwa, who cross-functions as Vice President of Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council. This is a matter amongst a litany of destoolment charges against the Omanhene which is ongoing at the Central Regional House of Chiefs as petitioned by the Omanhema, Kingmakers, and Elders of the Royal Asona Family (Gomoa Buduatta), and Divisional Chiefs of the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Area, but cannot be a guise for arbitrary decisions that threaten the economic outlook of Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Area whilst he (the Omanhene) awaits interdiction to avoid conflict of interest as seen in his recent adventures before the final hearing on his destoolment.

The summary of destoolment charges against the Omanhene are as follows:

1. Carving a new black stool and failure to purify the Ancestral Black Stool since his ascension in 2001.
2. Abandonment of the Traditional Headquarters of Gomoa Akyempim from Assin to his private residence at Gomoa Buduatta where he performed sacred rites such as official meetings of Divisional Chiefs, and Swearing in of Oath for new Chiefs and Family Heads.
3. Creation of a new Sacred Pot (Akor) at Gomoa Buduatta to the neglect of the Ancestral Sacred Pot (Akor) of the Gomoa Akyempim Palace in Gomoa Assin.
4. Refusal to perform the Final Funeral Rites of his predecessors since his ascension.
5. Creation of intra family insecurity, conflicts, and divisions within and among the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Area.
6. Failure to account for stool royalties.
7. Indulgence in Fraudulent Acts.
8. Failure to facilitate the provision of basic social amenities.
9. Indiscriminate conferment of Chieftaincy
10. Arbitrary decision-making.

However, after analyzing the raging controversy between the Omanhene and Agbogloshie Onion Sellers, and upon review of documentary evidence presented by the Chief Executive Officer of Medium Dwellings Company Limited (The Developer), we are clear in our minds that the raging controversy, if unresolved immediately, will not only become a recipe for disaster but will also become a financial liability, post-lawsuit, on our Traditional Council, which is yet to recover from decades of impropriety under the leadership of the Omanhene, Obrifo Ahunako Ahor Ankobia II.

Therefore, we the undersigned, state emphatically that:

- 1.The unlawful allocation of the Developer's land which has become the subject of controversy in Gomoa Dominase/Gomoa Kweikrom was founded on an arbitrary decision by the Omanhene, Obrifo Ahunako Ahor Ankobia II without proper consultation with governing members of the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.
2. Medium Dwellings Company Limited, the Developer, purchased the 115 acres of land in 2005 through a leasehold between the company and Nana Buabeng VII, and Opanyin Kwaw Ahunaku (lessor) for a fixed term of 99 years from the Anona Oyoko family in Gomoa Dominase. After claims of ownership by the Oyoko family of Gomoa Kweikrom and upon resolution, the Developer again paid for 38 acres of the same land.
3. To ensure that the transaction was in accordance with the law, the Developer, sought a publication of the grant of the land from the Lands Commission in Cape Coast on April 15, 2007. Following that development, the Secretary of the Lands Commission officially served a copy of the publication in a letter on September 21, 2007, to the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council and Gomoa District Assembly, now Gomoa East District Assembly in accordance with the law in respect of the publication on the grant of the land for a 21-day notice period to be informed of any objections or otherwise.
4. In a response to the aforementioned publication and letter from the Lands Commission, the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council issued a letter dated October 30, 2007, with reference No. GATC.30/Vol.II/6/07, the Traditional Council stated that; "I refer to your letter No. G14 dated September 4, 2007, in respect of a leasehold interest for a term of ninety-nine (99) years between Obaatan of Gomoa Dominase, Nana Buabeng VII, and Chief Executive Officer of Medium Dwellings Company Limited, Mr. Arku-Korsah, and wish to inform you that no person or company or group has shown any interest of having portion in the said land in the publication from September 21, 2007.
5. Additionally, in a response letter from the Gomoa District Assembly, now the Gomoa East District Assembly, dated May 16, 2008, and signed by the District Chief Executive Officer (DCE), Madam Joyce Aidoo, the Assembly clarified that; "I wish to refer your letter No. FAM/DC.214/2007 dated April 2008, on the publication of the grant of land exceeding 50 acres at Gomoa Dominase deed of a lease agreement between Nana Buabeng VII and Mr. Arku-Korsah. I write to inform you that at the end of the statutory 21 day period of publication no objections in respect of the declarations were received by the Gomoa East District Assembly."

Given that the Developer has gone through all the regular legal procedures for the acquisition of the land and holds all the verifiable documentary evidence for the ownership of the 115 acres, there is no way that the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council will resolve to the indiscriminate disposition of land it does not own to any group or persons in contravention with the new Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036).

It is clear that the Omanhene, Obrifo Ahunako Ahor Ankobia II acted arbitrarily in defiance of the principles of regular organization and contravention with the Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036).

Per the new Act, "a chief, Tendana, head of clan or family in charge of the management of stool, clan or family land who fails to be transparent, fair, open and impartial in matters affecting land under the management of that person commits an offense and upon summary, the conviction shall be liable to a fine of not less than five thousand penalty units (GH¢60,000.00) and not more than ten thousand penalty units (GH¢120,000.00) or a term of imprisonment of not less than five years and not more than ten years or to both."

The undersigned cites "the new Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036)" as the anchor for their decision to disassociate from this act of fraudulent disposition of land and further, exonerates the malnourished integrity of the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council from the whims of impropriety.

We are not opposed in principle to the sustainable development of the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Area. However, we are conscious of the rule of law and oppose the abuse of power in our quest to recover the distinguished reputation of our Traditional Council through sustained and disciplined effort where the entirety of our institution imbibes to develop the ethics of leadership to construct reforms that have the vision and apparatus to lead us towards a future in which value, commitment, and principled service are not relinquished at the altar of impropriety.



**Obaatanpa Ama Eduwa I,
Paramount Queenmother,
Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.**

Divisional Chiefs:

1. Nana Obotantam Effrim X, Chief of Apam and Akwamuhene of Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.
2. Nana Kwaw Dofrakye V, Omankrado of Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.
3. Nana Osuan Asare VI, Chief of Gomoa Abonyin and Nguantuahene of Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.
4. Nana Okutwer Bekoe IV, Chief of Gomoa Adaa, Apagyahene, and Standing Committee Member of the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.
5. Nana Obokom Atta IX, Chief of Gomoa Dasum, Amankorahene, and Standing Committee Member of the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.
6. Osabarima Bondam Adu Entsenyi II, Chief of Gomoa Kyirene and Sahan of the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.
7. Nana Obuabeng Tawiah XVI, Chief of Gomoa Assin Mampong and Osehene of the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.
8. Nana Attekyi Fuaya Assan XIV, Chief of Gomoa Akropong and Benkumhene of Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.
9. Nana Opatampram Kumi Tabia I, Omankrado of Gomoa Dago and Mawerehene of the Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.
10. Nana Attah Kakra IX, Chief of Gomoa Ojobi and Kyidomhene of Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.
11. Nana Opoku Mensah Abobo Egyir V, Chief of Gomoa Nkoranza and Sanaahene of Gomoa Akyempim Traditional Council.
12. All other Chiefs and Divisional Chiefs protected under the Whistleblower Act (720).