
COMMEMORATIVE EDITION



Celebrating the Life of

Nana Atuobi
YIADOM IV

**NKWATIAHENE & SANAAHENE
OF KWAHU**

1958 - 2016



Nana Atuobi
YIADOM IV

Nkwatiahene and Sanaahene
of Kwahu Traditional Area
(1958-2016)

NKWATIAHENE AND SANAAHENE OF KWAHU TRADITIONAL AREA

Early Childhood Days

Nana Atuobi Yiadom IV, known in private life as Clement Ernest Danso Sasu Mensah, was the sixteenth (16th) known occupant of the Yiadom Stool of Nkwatia-Kwahu. He was born at Jasikan in the Buem District of the Volta Region, Ghana in 1928. He was born to the late Opanyin Kwasi Danso and the late Madam Christiana Afua Tawiah Adomaa, all of who hailed from Nkwatia. He was the third born but the first surviving child of his parents. He, therefore, naturally became the darling of the parents.

His survival paved way for four (4) other siblings, three of whom survived - Messrs. Maxwell Owiredu and Daniel Agyemang. The third, Kwaku Asante, who was next after Mr. Agyemang, passed away at the age of four. Sasu Mensah commenced schooling at the age of eight at the Nkwatia Presbyterian Junior School in 1936. In early 1939, however, he left Nkwatia for Accra (La) in the company of his parents, who were on a business sojourn. Sasu Mensah continued his education at Accra Royal Middle School, where he was appointed the senior prefect in his final year, and successfully completed in 1946 with distinction.

During Sasu Mensah's senior school days, he developed keen interest in horse racing and took to betting on popular horses. In one of his significant exploits, his uncle, Alfred Adu Nyankomago gave him one pound £1.00 for betting out of which he won £150.00. Enthused by this positive development, his father (Opanyin Kwasi Danso) also invested another one pound from which he also won £100.00. As these relatives ploughed their incomes in their respective businesses to made good returns, they christened Sasu Mensah (Kwadwo Boafo) for his knack for exuding luck at the pools.

Adult Life

After obtaining his Middle School Leaving Certificate, the then Clement Danso Sasu Mensah took to trading activities, and operated a drinking bar christened Premier Bar at Zongo Lane in the heart of the Accra city. In 1948, his parents, together with his maternal uncle Kofi Tannor and Opanyin Kwame Buabeng intimated to him the need to take on a partner. Little did he know that

they had spotted a beautiful daughter of the late Opanyin Kwadwo Twerefuor (a prosperous trader in Koforidua), who they wanted Nana to marry. The necessary customary rites were performed for the marriage and Obaapanyin Veronica Akosua Anwaa joined him in Accra (La), where Nana lived with one of his uncles. She was deceased on March 12, 2016.

In 1949, Clement Danso Mensah took on yet another wife. During the exploits of his hey days, Clement had followed with keen interest the industry of another young lady of the of the La George Lamptey family.



Nana Atuobi Yiadom IV

BIOGRAPHY OF NANA ATUOBI YIADOM IV

NKWATIAHENE AND SANAAHENE OF KWAHU TRADITIONAL AREA

After an initial protestation from the paternal family as to whether the lady was matured enough for her hand to be taken in marriage, Asafoatse Ababio (maternal uncle) from the Banfro family of Nii Nyanyo Abentia We facilitated the processes for performing the customary rites demanded by the Ga tradition for Madam Esther Lamiorakor Lamptey to get married to Mr. Danso Mensah. She expired on March 03, 2011.

Later on in life Nana successively married two more wives, namely Madam Janet Antwiwaa Yiadom of Nkwatia (deceased on February 17, 1995); and Madam Comfort Osei Gyemfa of Obo-Kwahu. As is customary with the practice of chieftaincy, Nana adopted all the children of his late uncle, namely Philomena, Samuel, Emelia and others and brought them under his parental care. Altogether, there are (38) surviving children of the four marriages and adopted children, one hundred and thirty-five (135) grandchildren, fifty-six (56) great grandchildren and a number of great grandchildren.

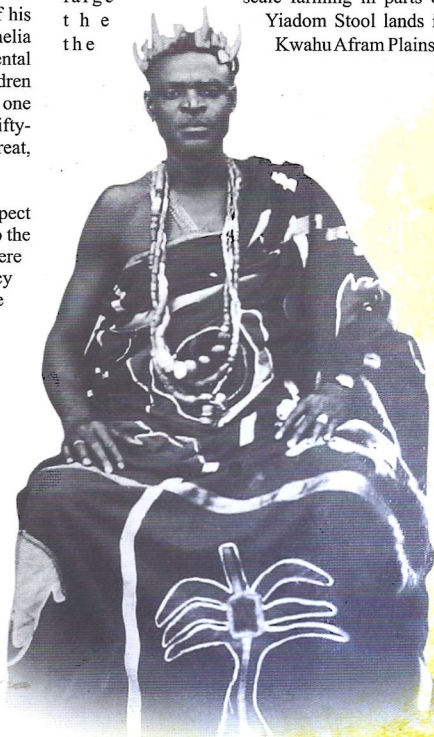
As a royal, ideas of service to the people, respect for people, seniority, obedience and royalty to the Yiadom stool and general good behavior were inculcated into his upbringing from his infancy by his late uncle Nana Asante Yiadom III. The usefulness of this training paid off at a ripe age of thirty when his uncle passed away in 1958.

Period of Reign

Following the untimely death of his uncle in 1958, the Royal Asona Clan of Nkwatia rightly nominated him to the kingmakers of the Yiadom Palace and he was unanimously accepted by Stool Elders and the people of Nkwatia to succeed Nana Asante Yiadom III. Nana therefore ascended the Yiadom Stool on 15th September 1958 as Nkwatiahene with the stool name Nana Atuobi Yiadom IV. In line with custom and tradition, the kingmakers led him to swear the oath of allegiance to Nana Yaw Ntim, the then Aduamoahene and Benkumhene of the Kwahu Traditional Area, who in turn led him to Abene to

swear the oath of allegiance to Okwawuhene, Nana Akuamoah Boateng II. He was later gazetted as Nkwatiahene, after his introduction to the Kwahu Traditional Council.

Nana faced a daunting task in his early days as a chief. With two (2) wives at the tender age of thirty and the herculean task of leading the Nkwatia community to prosperity, it dawned on the Asona clan to offer the necessary support for the young Nana to succeed. On the advice of his maternal uncle the late Nana Kofi Darko (the then Adehyehene), Nana initiated moves to take to large-scale farming in parts of the Yiadom Stool lands in the Kwahu Afram Plains.



**Nana Asante Yiadom III
(1948 - 1958)**

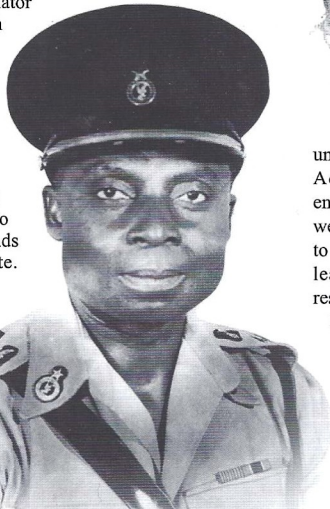
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NKWATIAHENE AND SANAAHENE OF KWAHU TRADITIONAL AREA

In his exact words, Nana Kofi Darko intimated: **Nana, se w'ahenie yi beye yie a, gye se wo de w'ani kyere Esrso; na eho na Nkwatia addi pekyie no wo.** Nana heeded wise counsel and took the necessary steps to make the administration of the Yiadom Stool lands in the Afram Plains a significant part of this routine activities during his reign.

As fate would have it, the construction of the Akosombo Dam, and the subsequent creation of the Volta Lake, brought in its trail untold havoc to many traditional lands and commercial farms in the catchment areas of the Afram and Volta rivers. Every misfortune, they say, is a blessing in disguise. As a vast area of the Yiadom Stool lands came under floods, appropriate compensations were paid. As an

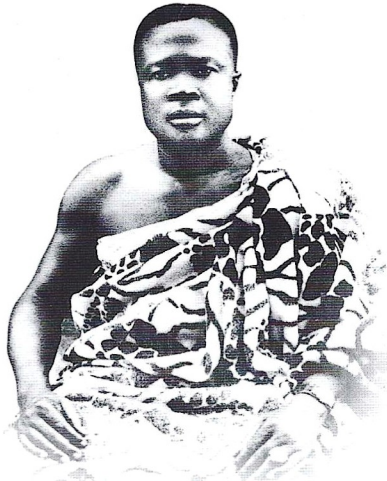
astute negotiator and through his tenacity, Nana was able to secure a fair share of overall compensations paid to affected lands by the state. This



ACP Edward Yaw Asante
1913 - 1968

marked the beginning of the success of the Atuobi Yiadom reign.

The significant role played by his maternal



Alfred Adu Nyankomago
1910 - 1969

uncles, ACP Edward Yaw Asante and Mr. Alfred Adu Nyankomago in particular, in his enstoolment as a chief is worthy of note. They were very instrumental in building his confidence to encourage him to be assertive in his community leadership. The latter, for example, was responsible for providing all the required finances for his installation. Indeed, he was such a pillar in his life that his sudden death in 1969 dealt a heavy blow to his traditional administration.

Contribution towards the development of Nkwatia/Kwahu

The 58-year reign of Nana Atuobi Yiadom IV saw many development projects at Nkwatia. Many were the innovations that he introduced in chieftaincy administration in the areas of education, physical development, judicial adjudication and harmonious co-habitation.

BIOGRAPHY OF NANA ATUOBI YIADOM IV

NKWATIAHENE AND SANAAHENE OF KWAHU TRADITIONAL AREA

Above all, peace and tranquility has reigned supreme for the people to go about their duties orderly.

Nana - A Man of many Parts

Despite being chief, Nana Atuobi Yiadom IV dedicated himself to the service of God. Though he responded to various calls of all churches in town to worship with them, he enrolled in the Ramseyer Presbyterian Church (Nkwatia), where he had a special and permanent seat. Such was his dedication to church matters that the Kwahu Presbytery Singing Band Union unanimously appointed him a Patron, a position he held until his demise.

Nana Atuobi Yiadom IV was initiated into the Benevolence Lodge No. 11,631, Nkawkaw in 1974. Though he was a chief, he submitted himself to the rules and regulations of the society and served in the White Regalia position till he was elevated to PNF the following year.

Elevation as Sanaahene: At the celebration of Okoyidom Festival on the occasion of his 40th anniversary as Nkwatiahene in 1998, he was elevated to the position of Sanaahene of the Kwahu Traditional Area by Okwahuhene Dasebere Akuamoah Boateng II. This new position was on the recommendation of Nana Onimi Afari II, Aduamoahene and the overload of the Benkum Division of the Kwahu traditional set up, which includes Nkwatia.

Overseas Trips: Nana made three (3) major trips overseas. First, he was among a group of Catholics who toured Rome (Italy) in 1978, where he had the privilege to call on Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. The trip also took Nana and others to Israel to visit some historical and religious places like Jerusalem, Bethlehem, River Jordan and the Dead Sea. secondly, in 1979, Nana was among members of the Grand Order of Odd Fellows in Ghana to visit Dallas, Texas, Los Angeles, and New York in the United States of America. Nana's last overseas trip was to the USA in January 2008.

This took him to Los Angeles, New Jersey, and New York, where he interacted with a cross section of Nkwatia citizens resident in the United States about the development and progress of

Nkwatia.

His long-term Vision and Aspirations

There were two major projects that Nana wished for his people and himself.

(a) Bridge on river Afram: In the last three (3) decades of his reign whenever he got the opportunity to address public officials, Nana Atuobi Yiadom IV appealed to successive governments to consider the idea of building a bridge across the Afram River from Adawso to Ekye-Amanfrom as has been done at Atimpoku with the Adomi Bridge across the Volta River.



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NKWATIAHENE AND SANAAHENE OF KWAHU TRADITIONAL AREA

As has been rightly noted by successive governments, the Afram Plains area holds a huge potential as a food basket of Ghana. It was Nana's dying wish to see this long-term dream come to fruition in his lifetime; but it is gratifying to note that as we bid him farewell to eternity, the NPP government has plans (at least in their Manifesto) to undertake this project in the future. What a befitting memorial that will be to Nana Atuobi Yiadom IV should this noble dream come true?

(b) Old Palace: After the refurbishing of the Yiadom Palace, the Old Palace building was pulled down in the year 2010 for a royal edifice to be erected in its place. Nana supervised the erection and roofing of the superstructure; and it was his wish to complete this project and dedicate it to the Royal Asona Clan and the people of Nkwatia on his 60th anniversary of a successful reign in 2018. However, the good Lord called him into eternal rest two years short of his expectation. Our prayer is that Nana's successor would fast-track the completion of the building project to the glory, honour and memory of Nana Atuobi Yiadom IV.

Twilights of his life

At a ripe age of eighty and beyond, Nana was still hale and hearty. The battle with old age appeared normal as he timeously undertook all his routine medical checks at Cocoa Clinic, Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital and other medical facilities in Accra. From the beginning of 2016, however, there were obvious signs of deterioration in his health. Indeed, but for his high stakes in the affairs of the Kwahu Afram Plains area, Nana would have excused himself from the Okwahuman official visit to the area in March 2016 on grounds of ill-health. It would be recalled that it was during this State visit that the information of the demise of Auntie Akosua Anwaa (March 12, 2016) was broken to him.

Since then Nana's condition worsened to the extent that he could not take active part in the planning of Auntie Akosua's funeral. As he fought to improve his health, he turned down all promptings to report his failing health to his doctors in Accra, with the excuse that he would do so after celebrating Akwasidae on June 5, 2016. As the saying goes: Man proposes and God disposes. In the early hours of Friday, June 3, however, he

was rushed to the Cocoa Clinic, where he was admitted for four (4) days. On the fifth day (June 8, 2016), he was referred to the 37 Military Hospital, from where he never returned. He passed peacefully to eternity at exactly 8:08pm.

Such was the life and stature of Nana Atuobi Yiadom IV, whose mortal remains lie in state now. As we bid him farewell today, the Asona Royal Clan mention with deep gratitude the peace and tranquility that have pervaded the length and breadth of Nkwatia and all Yiadom Stool lands during his reign. It is a matter of comfort, reflection and pride that in a period of turbulence in some parts of the Kwahu state, the ship of the Yiadom fraternity was kept on an even keel. We affirm that the peaceful atmosphere we are enjoying is, to a large measure, the result of his astute leadership; and we pledge to further harness this legacy as a monument to his memory.

**ASONA DEHYEE,
OBIRIFA AHUE NANA
ASONA BA, OTE AKOTOKUO NANA
DAMIRIFA DUE, DUE NE AMANEHUNU**

