

SOME ALLEGATIONS LEVELLED AGAINST  
BAFFOUR BANTAMAHENE AT KUMASI  
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

1. I, Baffour Owusu Amankwatia VI, the current occupant of the Bantama Stool have been informed of some allegations made against me in my capacity as the Bantamahene to the Kumasi Traditional Council as well as the Asantehene, Otumfuor Osei Tutu 11

- O 2. The present statement to this Council is to respond to each and every allegation, though frivolous made against me, so as to assist this Council of which I usually preside over to make a fair determination of the allegations.
3. I must say from the onset, that it is a great honour to serve as the Bantamahene and a Warrior of the Asantehene and Asanteman as a whole, for which reason, I would do nothing to taint the dignity and integrity bestowed upon me by the O Asantehene which would ultimately bring his hard earned reputation, the Bantama Stool and the entire Asanteman into disrepute.
4. I shall now proceed to respond to the said allegations being made against my goodself.

## ● GHANA HEALTH SERVICE BUILDING FACILITY

Baffour Bantamahene is accused of using the above facility for affordable housing which allegations clearly unfounded and without any basis as affordable housing is within the sole purview of the government of Ghana

The Ghana Health Service building as most people within the Bantama vicinity would attest to, had been abandoned for many years for which reason it housed a lot of criminals, thugs,

O miscreants, among others, who usually harassed and assaulted the people of Bantama, his subjects who Baffour has a duty to protect.

My understanding is that due to the non-use of the property it became very difficult for the Health Service officials to get them out from the building. Baffour however managed to evict them with the help of his own people at Bantama, and cordoned off the area with roofing sheets, at the cost of Bantama Stool, and even hired security men to secure the property, so that no persons entered same again

After the eviction Baffour contacted Ghana Health Service through Dr Nsia Asare, the former Director, GHS, for the handing over of the building to them. This has not officially been done. However, we understand the Ghana Health Service has taken over the building, and put their security men at the site.

, BISMARK YEBOAH (LAND OPPOSITE METRO MASS  
TRANSIT - ABREPO JUNCTION)

The said land in issue had been occupied by traders for some of whom were resident of Bantama more than 35 years.

Baffour was at his palace when some traders about 30 in number came to him accusing him of selling the land to a private developer. Baffour and his elders went to the site and found out that someone

had cordoned off the area, and driven the traders out of the place.

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He informed K.M.A. about the situation, and they came with their guards to drive the trespassers away. The alleged Developer reported Baffour to the police and issued a writ, among others, for a recovery of possession and damages against Baffour. When Baffour was served with the said writ he found out that the land was sold to the said developer one Bismark Yeboah by State Housing Company.

Upon a search at the archives department, Baffour saw that State Housing Company through the Government entered into an agreement with the Asantehene purposely to build affordable houses for Asanteman to be repaid for a period of 30 years and thereafter same to revert to the Asantehene. They were not to sell bare lands or undeveloped lands to individuals, and this therefore made any purported sale to Bismark Yeboah null and void.

Baffour also saw that the State Housing Company was also renewing leases for those people whose leases have expired when in fact they were to go to the Asantehene Land Secretariat for the said renewal. The result being that State Housing Company was joined to the suit to stop the company from doing so.

However, we are informed by Asounwinhene and Adumhene that Otumfuo has instructed them to hand over the said land to Bismark Yeboah which they have done, and are also assisting the said Bismark to build on the land.

We understand Bismark is building on the land and has currently reached flow level. However, Asounwinhene and Adumhene have refused to tell him to discontinue his claim for damages against Baffour in the suit at the High Court in Kumasi which could ultimately lead to the stool being saddled with a judgment debt.

## ● ASARE FARMS (ADUWOMASE)

The land belongs to Asafohene but the Odikro is Baffour's Odikro. So, the Odikro is the caretaker of the land for Asafohene. We understand Asare Farm acquired 140 acres of land for citrus farm. He has stopped farming on the land and has started selling the lands to individuals without going through the right processes, and taking undue advantage of the fact that currently there is no Asafohene. The Odikro informed Baffour about the issue and Mr

Asare was invited to Bantama Palace during one of the Kontire sittings. Nananom Kontire and Baffour warned Mr Asare to stop selling the land, and wait pending the enstoolment of a new Asafohene.

In fact, the allegation is unfounded and merely contrived to disgrace Baffour and the stool as a whole.

## , ASARE BEDIAKO DEITY (ADAWOMASE)

It is a Deity dispute between two (2) families which matter was settled by Bantama Divisional Court about two (2) years ago in favour of Nana Akwasi Sarpong II, Odikro of Adawomase who has ruled for 37 years.

When Baffour was brought before the Asantehene during the Race Course issue, the opposing side (Wawase people) came and lodged a

complaint that Baffour has given their deity to Nana Akwasi Sarpong II. Otumfuo after listening to the losing party, came to the conclusion that the Deity should be given to them rather, and not

Nana Akwasi Sarpong II, and thus instructed Nananom Kontire and Akwamu to take the necessary steps to give the deity back to the people of Wawase. Pursuant to the Asantehene's decision a committee made up of Kontire and Akwamu went to Adawamase for the handing over. A day after the said handing over they came back to report that they could not find Nana Akwasi Sarpong II and the

deity, so an official report was made to the Abuakwa Police Station against the Odikro Akwasi Sarpong II for his arrest.

, MR OPOKU MENSAH (PENTECOSTAL ESTATE .  
ADAWOMASE)

Baffour explained that he met Opoku Mensah during the early days of his enstoolment as the Bantamahene.

Opoku Mensah actually came to pay homage to him as the newly enstooled Bantamahene, and presented a gift of GHS20,000.00, and said he has been a Asante Kotoko fan since Baffour's days as chairman of Asante Kotoko.

He' informed him that he purchased 57 acres of land from his predecessor, his brother, the late Baffour Asare Owusu at a purchase price of GHC4,000 per plot in the Adawomase area to be used for real estate, and made some advanced payment.

Baffour, after some investigation, saw that contrary to the purpose for which the land was acquired, he has rather been selling the bare lands to members of his church for a whooping sum of GHS15,000.00 to GHS18,000.00 per plot. Baffour was not happy with the situation as Mr Mensah was not only in breach of the agreement, but has also breached the trust imposed in him as a leader of a church.

Mr. Mensah was summoned to the palace, and was informed that He will only release the land he had paid for to his predecessor. Baffour then requested him to produce whatever documents he has to confirm the said purchase. Mr. Mensah failed to come to him.

- **OSONO PANCHO (ADUWOMASE)**

Osono Pancho claimed to be the Odikro of Aduwomase and not

Oheneba Sarkodie. Baffour told him he came to meet Oheneba Sarkodie as Odikro of Aduwomase. This was also confirmed to him by Asafohene. Baffour added that Oheneba Sarkodie has been the Odikro of Aduwomase for 17 years, and has no idea of Osono Pancho's claim.

- BANTAMA GYASEHENE'S MOTHER'S LAND ALLEGATION (ASENEMASO) ● GOIL FILLING STATION LAND ASENEMASO

The said land issue has gone to Otumfuo's Land Secretariat and the case is being resolved by Nana Apagrahene. The gentleman has not finished paying what he is supposed to pay.

- KOKOBEN ODIKRO ENSTOOLMENT ALLEGATION

There is an allegation of an enstoolment of the Odikro of Kokoben by the Nkoranza Odikro while there is an invocation of "Ntamkese" with regards to the Kokoben stool.

Baffour categorically denies this allegation and say that at all times material, he only enstooled Nsafoahene who happens to be a native of Kokoben when the stool became vacant. He has no knowledge of the enstoolment of the Kokoben Odikro.

- NKORANSA LAND ALLEGATION (NKORANSA DIKRO)

Nana Nkoransa Odikro, the caretaker for Asafohene, accused Baffour of selling portion of Nkoransa lands.

According to Baffour there is an existing boundary dispute between Bekwaime and Nkoransa Odikro which is yet to be resolved.

In spite of the ongoing dispute, the Nkoransa Odikro went ahead to destroy some of the buildings along the boundary which is in



contention. The owners planned to institute legal action against the Nkoransa Odikro for damages for trespass among others especially that expenses had been incurred in putting up the building.

Having regard to the vacancy of the Asafo Stool and to ensure that peace prevails especially that some of the parties affected had notified Baffour of the Nkoransa Odikro's conduct, he immediately intervened to stop the owners from destroying the properties and to have the matter settled amicably rather than taking Nkoransa Odikro to court.

Baffour wish to state emphatically that since he took over from his late brother as the occupant of the Bantama Stool he has neither sold a plot of land at Bekwaime, nor Nkoransa.

It is- rather the Nkoransa Odikro who should answer his indiscriminate sale of lands in the said area resulting in numerous court actions against him and the stool which is bringing Asanteman especially the orderly manner lands are sold in Ashanti which is envied by all into disdain.

, DUMAKWAI ODIKRO ALLEGATION OF SELLING LAND

Dumakwai is Baffour's Odikro and the caretaker of Dumakwai lands for Asafohene.

The Odikro denied the allegation levelled against him at the Bantama Palace.

, BEKWAIME AND MOSEASO TOWN ISSUE

Another allegation being made against Baffour is in respect of the ownership of Bekwaime and Mosease Township. This allegation is also without any merit.

Nana Asuowinhene is claiming that the said towns belong to him.

However, according to the inventory that was handed over to Baffour upon his assumption to the Bantama Stool, the said towns formed part of the Bantama Stool Lands.

Accordingly, the proper person to resolve this dispute would be Asantehene himself, who is the allodial owner of the said lands with either one of us being merely his caretaker chiefs so to speak.

**, RACE COURSE- S. AVOKA CO. LTD. VRS KMA & 20RS**

This is in respect of matters touching and concerning the development of a portion of the race course particularly a court action by one Avoka. Most of the issues surrounding this allegation have already been dealt with by the Asantehene for which reason I shall limit same to the court action which delves into the issues already dealt with.

There was an oral agreement between one Avoka and Bantama Stool acting for the Asantehene for the development of a portion of the race course for a lorry terminal as well as a market place to beautify the area and ensure smooth flow of trading among others.

Baffour provided the land, architectural and construction designs and the electrical, among others; whilst Avoka was to undertake the construction work by the hiring of machinery among others.

The project however got stalled as there was some lack of transparency on the part of the said Avoka. This was due to Avoka collecting monies from people for the market stalls without Baffour's knowledge, authority and or consent, which was in breach of the agreement, especially that the project was still underway.

subsequently, some of the stalls were demolished. As a result of these circumstances, the said Avoka without Baffour's knowledge or otherwise, issued a writ of summons against KMA together with the Attorney General. He tried contacting Avoka to discontinue the suit as same was unhealthy but Avoka has categorically refused to speak to Baffour, and some other chiefs trying to contact him.

Baffour tried to procure a copy of the writ of summons to explore the avenue of proceeding to the Court to have the matter discontinued. However, a reading of the writ of summons and statement of claim brought a different dimension in its entirety.

In the said claim, Avoka is now claiming that the land which Baffour gave to him to undertake the construction is his, and that he 'bought it from one Yaa Adowaa. This has the effect of denying the Bantama Stool (The Caretaker) and for that matter the Asantehene title to the land.

Baffour then tried to get the Attorney General to strikeout the suit as Avoka did not give the One (1) month statutory notice to the Attorney General. We have however been informed that the matter has been adjourned sine dié which we managed to get a copy and gave same to Adumhene.

Looking at the current state of affairs, Baffour is being advised to rather join the suit to protect and defend the ownership of the land,

as a judgment without Baffour's input could most likely deny the Asantehene's interest in the land.

I must add that at all times material, a similar suit is being dealt with in Court against the same woman for some lands lying and situate at Kwadaso (Sofoline) by Baffour.