



**NANA AFUA NKETIAA OBUO II
OKUAPEHEMEA**

PRESS RELEASE

**RE: PURPORTED ENSTOOLMENT
OF HER LADYSHIP JUSTICE SOPHIA AKUFFO AS
MMRAHENE OF AKUAPEM TRADITIONAL AREA**

The Ohemea of Akuapem Traditional Area, Nana Afua Nketia Obuo II, the Asonahene, together with the good people of the Akuapem Traditional Area, have taken notice of a widely circulated publication announcing the purported enstoolment of Her Ladyship Justice Sophia Akuffo, former Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana, former President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, former Chairperson of the University of Ghana Governing Council and current Member of the Council of State, as the Mmrahene of the Akuapem Traditional Area on Wednesday, 20th May 2026.

The said purported enstoolment is alleged to be undertaken by one Odehye Kwadwo Kesse who continues to hold himself out as the Omanhene of the Akuapem Traditional Area by name Oseadeayo Nana Kwasi Akuffo III despite clear judicial pronouncements concerning his status.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Judicial Committee of the Eastern Regional House of Chiefs in a Judgement dated 30th April 2020 specifically found and ordered as follows:

"i. That nominating a candidate to occupy the Ofori Kuma Stool is a consultative process.

ii. That to validly nominate a candidate the Abrewatia of the ruling house whose turn it is to produce a candidate must select an eligible Royal and submit the name of the Royal to the Asonahene to be sent to the Queenmother.

iii. That in nominating a candidate the Queenmother alone cannot select a candidate from the Royal house without the involvement of the Abrewatia.

iv. The involvement of the Abrewatia and the elderly female group is an age long custom and does not take away the powers of the Queenmother to present the Candidate to the Kingmakers as her nominee, thereby confirming the notion that the Queenmother nominates

v. Nananom further orders that the customs, usages, practices of Akropong Akuapem must be followed in the processes ending in the installation of an eligible Odehye as the next occupant of the Ofori Kuma Stool."

ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 101, AKROPONG - AKUAPEM | EMAIL: okuapehemea@akuapem.org
TELEPHONE: +233 (0) 20 773 1030, +233 (0) 54 895 1959, +233 (0) 24 327 0606

Contrary to the said judgement and consequential orders, the said Odehye Kwadwo Kesse was purportedly enstooled by some individuals without recourse to the Orders and Judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Eastern Regional House of Chiefs, which clearly spelt out the proper customary procedure to be followed in the selection, nomination, and enstoolment of an Odehye as the Okuapemhene, which decision was subsequently affirmed by the Judicial Committee of the National House of Chiefs, and has since continued to assume and exercise authority as Omanhene without lawful customary legitimacy.

Infact, the power of the Okuapehemea to NOMINATE a suitable Candidate after the selection of the candidate by the Abrewatia and the seven elderly women was taken away from her which clearly violated the age long custom of Okuapeman and the judgement of the judicial committee of the Eastern Regional House of Chiefs.

An issue that remains unresolved is the identity of the person or persons who nominated Odehye Kwadwo Kesse, who has since been holding himself out and parading as the Okuapehene under the stool name *Oseadeeyo Nana Kwasi Akuffo III*

Consequently, Nana Afua Nketia Obuo II and Nana Kwasi Omenako II, Asonahene, commenced contempt proceedings against him and another before the High Court, Koforidua. Upon hearing the matter, the Court convicted them for contempt and imposed a fine of Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHS10,000.00) each on Odehye Kwadwo Kesse and Lily Agyemang, which fines they duly paid. However, notwithstanding the payment of the fines, the convicts have since failed, refused, or neglected to purge themselves of the contempt.

Subsequently, an application for certiorari was filed before the Supreme Court of Ghana by the convicts seeking to quash the decision of the High Court on the grounds that the High Court lacked jurisdiction to entertain the contempt proceedings. However, in a unanimous decision delivered on 20th February 2024, the Supreme Court dismissed the application and affirmed that the High Court was properly seized with jurisdiction in the matter. The conviction and sentence therefore remain valid and subsisting.

In light of the foregoing judicial decisions and the unresolved legitimacy issues surrounding the purported authority of Odehye Kwadwo Kesse, we respectfully urge Her Ladyship Justice Sophia Akuffo to exercise utmost circumspection and restraint regarding the purported enstoolment.

***Nemo dat quod non habet* — No one gives what he does not have. Odehye Kwadwo Kesse, who has since been holding himself out and parading as the Okuapehene under the stool name *Oseadeeyo Nana Kwasi Akuffo III* has no valid Chieftaincy title and hence cannot enstool another validly.**

Her Ladyship remains one of Ghana's most distinguished jurists and internationally celebrated legal personalities whose integrity, stature, and contributions to constitutional governance and the rule of law are deeply respected both within Ghana and beyond. It is therefore our

respectful view that Her Ladyship ought not to permit her enviable reputation and distinguished legacy to be associated with a process, title, or authority that is presently tainted by serious legal and customary controversies and which does not emanate from a legitimate and lawfully recognized traditional authority within the Akuapem Traditional Area.

This statement is not intended to disparage or undermine the distinguished person of Her Ladyship Justice Sophia Akuffo. Rather, it is issued in the interest of preserving the sanctity of the customs, usages, traditions, and lawful institutions of Akuapem, as well as safeguarding the dignity of eminent national personalities from becoming inadvertently entangled in unresolved traditional and judicial disputes.

We accordingly call on the general public, the media, and all stakeholders to take note of the existing judicial pronouncements and the legal implications surrounding the purported enstoolment.

Signed

Office of the Okuapehemea

Note to Editors

For Favour of Publication please

Cc:

All Media Houses