



# The Ghanaian Community in Geneva (GCCG) *Newsletter*

**November 2017 Edition**

## *2 years of the Ghanaian Community in Geneva*



## ***(1) GENEVA WELCOMES HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL TURKSON***

**H**is Eminence Cardinal Peter Turkson, President, Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace paid a 3-day working visit to Geneva and was Guest Speaker at the *"Caring For Our Common Home"* Conference. Cardinal Turkson also celebrated mass at the Saint John XXIII Parish, Rue de Montbrillant 57 on Sunday 17th January 2016, where a reception was held in his honour. The Ghanaian Community in Geneva invited Ghanaians to attend mass and interact with Cardinal Turkson during the reception, after the mass.



## ***(2) GHANAIS CELEBRATE 59 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE***

Ghanaians and friends of Ghana from all walks of life gathered at the St. Johns XXIII Parish on 6th March 2016 to celebrate 59 years of Independence.

In attendance were the Ambassador of Ghana to Switzerland H.E Mr. Sammie Eddico, Head of the AU H.E. Mr. Jean-Marie Ehouzou, the Ambassador of Uganda to Switzerland H.E. Mr. Christopher Onyanga Aparr and the Chargé d'Affaires of the Togo Mission to Switzerland, Mr. Balom'ma Bedaba.

Ghanaians and friends of Ghana attended the reception after the church service.





### (3) GHANAIAN COMMUNITY IN GENEVA YOUTH ESSAY COMPETITION

The Ghanaian Community in Geneva launched the Ghana@60 Essay Competition for young Ghanaians. There were two categories. 15—18 year olds focussed on the topic *how the youth could contribute towards the peaceful atmosphere in Ghana*. 19—22 year olds focussed on the topic *how joblessness, in particular of the youth, could be addressed*



### (4) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE GHANAIAN COMMUNITY IN GENEVA

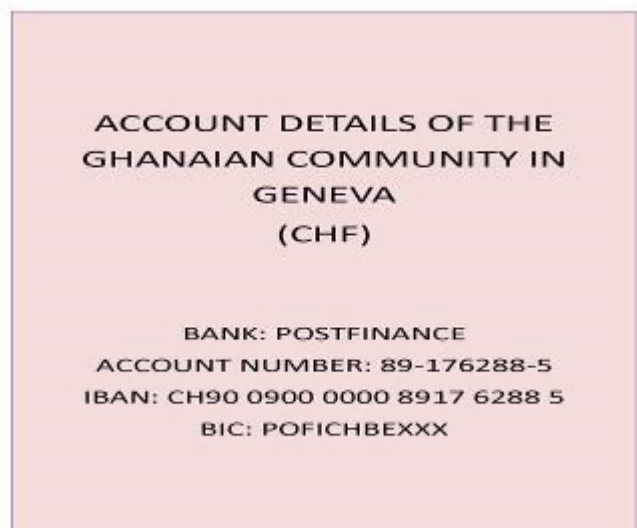
The Ghanaian Community in Geneva convened a General Assembly meeting in line with the dictates of the Constitution. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Executive Committee to discuss the detailed plan of action for the 2-year period. Community members inputted into the plan of action.

Committees such as the Audit, Vetting and Electoral committees were established during the General Assembly meeting. The need to review sections of the Constitution was discussed and a committee was set up to review the finance-related aspects of the Constitution. An agreement was reached to pair General Assembly meetings with end of year party events to boost attendance. The full report on the General Assembly meeting was shared with the Community.

### (5) GHANAIAN COMMUNITY (GENEVA) OPENS BANK ACCOUNT

The Ghanaian Community in Geneva opened a bank account to facilitate the payment of dues and enhance the transactions of the Community.

The account details have been shared with the Community. You can also find the account details on our website . Please pay your annual dues of CHF100 per adult.



## (6) THE GHANA CULTURAL EVENT

The Ghanaian Community in Geneva organized a cultural day to showcase the rich culture of Ghana to the multicultural environment of Geneva.

The event showcased Ghanaian food, Ghanaian cultural dancing, Ghanaian fashion both from Geneva and Ghana, Ghanaian chieftaincy and Ghanaian hiplife music.

The wings of a dove percussion group from Zurich entertained the audience with cultural dances.

The fashion show featured Floflor Tailors (Geneva), Gameli Clotheirs (Geneva) and Pistis Fashion House (Ghana).

Ghanaians and friends of Ghana attended the event to witness the rich Ghanaian culture.





## **(7) THE GHANA@60 CHURCH SERVICE AND RECEPTION**



The Ghanaian Community in Geneva marked 60 years of independence with an Inter-denominational Church service. The theme was Righteousness exalts a nation (Proverbs 14:34). Speaking at the service, Pastor Frank Adu-Gyamfi reminded Ghanaians that through righteousness, Ghana will be exalted.

The reception was held soon after the Ghana@60 Inter-denominational Church service to celebrate 60 years of Independence. It was attended by Ghanaians in Geneva and its environs, friends of Ghana and members of the diplomatic corps. The programme for the reception included short inspiring messages on Ghana, Ghanaian dishes (food), Ghanaian cultural music and dance and the African choir. The Guest of Honour at the reception was His Excellency Jean Marie Ehusou, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Africa Union (AU) Observer Mission in Geneva.

The Ambassador and Permanent Mission Representative of Ghana, Ambassador Sammie Eddico who, after the welcome address by Dr Gayi, narrated the history of Ghana since independence 60 years ago and recounted the different political experiments the nation had been through. He thanked God for the progress made but reminded Ghanaians that there was still a lot more to do. He outlined the policies and programmes of the new Government and emphasized the diaspora engagement agenda. He reminded Ghanaians about the Diaspora Homecoming Summit scheduled for 5th – 8th July 2017 in Accra and encouraged Ghanaians in Switzerland to attend.

## **(8) PRESIDENT NANA ADDO VISITS GENEVA**

The Ghanaian Community in Geneva and Ghanaians from many other parts of Switzerland, including Lausanne, Bern and Zurich happily welcomed President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to Geneva. The President and his entourage were in Geneva to attend the fifth edition of the Africa CEO's Forum scheduled for 20 – 21 March 2017.

Despite his busy schedule, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo made time to interact with the Ghanaian Community. The meeting commenced with a brief welcome address by Ambassador Sammie Eddico, Ambassador of the Ghana Permanent Mission to Geneva, followed by an opening prayer by Pastor Eddie Techie-Menson of Lighthouse Chapel. The President of the Ghanaian Community in Geneva, Mr Kofi Amekudzi, thanked President Nana Addo and raised some of the concerns of the Ghanaian Community in Switzerland

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo informed the gathering that his Government looked forward to moving Ghana forward. The President stated that the future of Ghana is one of limitless possibilities and we should work hard to achieve good results. He reminded Ghanaians that the New Patriotic Party (NPP) had a track record of fulfilling its promises to Ghanaians in the past and his Government will not be an exception. He stated that he has big plans for Ghana and outlined his policies for Ghanaians in the diaspora.





## **(9) GHANAIS IN GENEVA PAY FAREWELL TO HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR SAMMIE EDICCO**



Ghanaians in Geneva held an end of tenure party for His Excellency Ambassador Sammie Edicco prior to his departure to Accra.

HE Ambassador Sammie Edicco was very instrumental in the formation of the Ghanaian Community and as a result, Ghanaians in Geneva thought it necessary to honour him prior to his departure to Accra.

HE Ambassador Sammie Edicco was presented with a Swiss Cuckoo Clock to remind him of his time in Geneva.

In response, HE Sammie Edicco thanked the Ghanaian Community for their support and wished us the best of luck as we forge ahead to build a formidable association. HE Sammie Edicco will be sorely missed



## (10) FUN GAMES FOR THE GHANAIAN COMMUNITY IN GENEVA

To mark Republic Day, the Ghanaian Community in Geneva and Convivial Stars (Geneva) organized a *games and barbeque* day. Ghanaians and friends of Ghana participated in sporting events which included the following:

- 50 meter race (children and adults)
- 100 meter race (children and adults)
- Lime and spoon race (children and adults)
- Sac race (children and adults)
- Tug of war (women)
- Tug of war (men)
- Tug of war (mixed)

Mr Grant, the then acting Ambassador presented medals to deserving winners. Each participant also took home a certificate of participation.

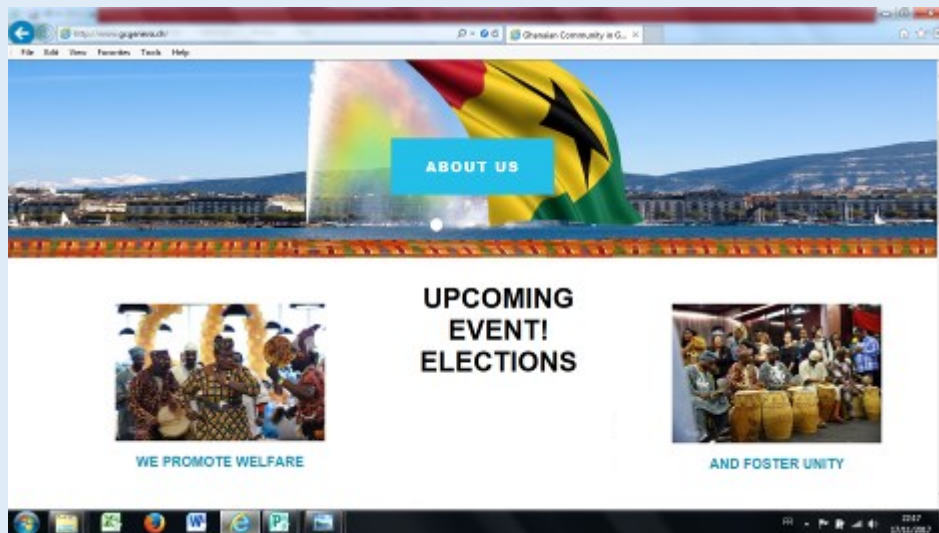
At the bbq which followed, Ghanaians ate, drank and danced to hiplife music as part of the Republic Day celebrations. The members of the Community had a great time and look forward to a similar event in the future.





## **(11) LAUNCH OF GHANAIAN COMMUNITY IN GENEVA WEBSITE**

*We* developed and launched our new website this year. The website will facilitate the dissemination of information to our constituency. We wish to thank the IT sub committee for all the support provided during the development and installation of the website. We encourage you to visit the website at [www.gcgwebsite.com](http://www.gcgwebsite.com)-



## **(12) GCG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WELCOMES AMBASSADOR RAMSES JOSEPH CLELAND TO GENEVA**



*The* Executive Committee of the Ghanaian Community in Geneva met with His Excellency Ambassador Ramses Cleland to welcome him.

*Like* his predecessor, His Excellency Ambassador Cleland promised to continue supporting the work of the Ghanaian Community in Geneva.

*He* stated that his doors are open to members of the Ghanaian Community in Geneva. He looks forward to working very closely with the Executive to make the Community even stronger. The leadership of the Community looks forward to working closely with HE Ambassador Cleland

