



25 years on the Golden Stool

The Asantehene reigns over and is the Monarch of the Asante Kingdom, with Kumasi the capital of Asanti Empire. His majesty Osei Tutu II is the 16th Asantehene, enstooled on 26 April 1999, and is in direct succession to the 17th-century founder of the Ashanti Empire, Otumfuo Osei Tutu I.

King Charles III receives His Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene, King of the Ashanti Kingdom, during an audience at Buckingham Palace, London. Picture date: Thursday May 4, 2023.

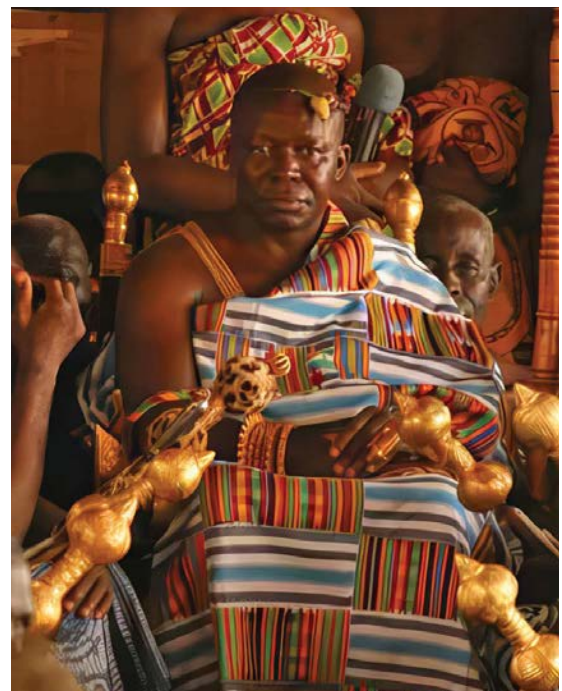
Photo: Gareth Fuller via Alamy (Alamy stock image).

A Transformational King

25th Enstoolment Anniversary
of **Otumfuo Osei Tutu II**

His Excellency Bishop Dr Akwasi Adu Amankwah, a United States Ambassador to the United Nations Assembly, describes the King of the Ashanti Kingdom as a transformational leader whose reign has brought honour and fame to his people, Ghana, and Africa. He noted that since the reign of Otumfuo Osei Tutu II as the occupant of the Golden Stool in 1999, he has been a 'one-of-a-kind monarch' whose kingship has brought glory to Ghana and Africa on the global stage..

H.E Bishop Dr Adu Amankwah, also the Commander of the Most Noble Peace Ambassadors, said the Asantehene had not only been exceptional in promoting Ghanaian culture globally, but his singular contributions to education, health, and infrastructure were clearly evident. **LC**



Otumfuo Osei Tutu II in May 2005.
Photo: By Retlaw Snellac via Wikimedia Commons.
Self-published work by Retlaw Snellac, CC BY 2.0
(originally posted to Flickr).

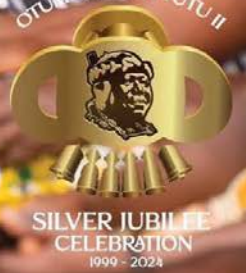
God put me here. It is not by my will,
beauty, strength or wisdom.
His will has put me here.
If I forget that he is the source
of my authority, I will not progress.
What I never forget is that
I'm seated here because of His grace ...
I pray that I never forget this.
I want to leave a legacy that
I respected and treated
all men with dignity.

– Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II





The Traditional Ruler



Don't sign your heritage to the politician.

– Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II





The bi-partisan Statesman

Asantehene, His Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, met with Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency, António Guterres, at UN Headquarters in New York, 12 September 2019. Photo: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe.



Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, known for his astute political acumen, has demonstrated a remarkable ability to forge dynamic relationships across ideological lines while remaining steadfast in addressing tough matters. With a firm stance on national issues, he emphasizes the urgency of halting the nation's decline, advocating for democratic governance as a cornerstone of Ghana's identity.

Among his initiatives, Otumfuo plans to host the upcoming Constitution Week in Kumasi, rallying citizens under the theme 'Together We Can Build Ghana So Let's Get Involved'.

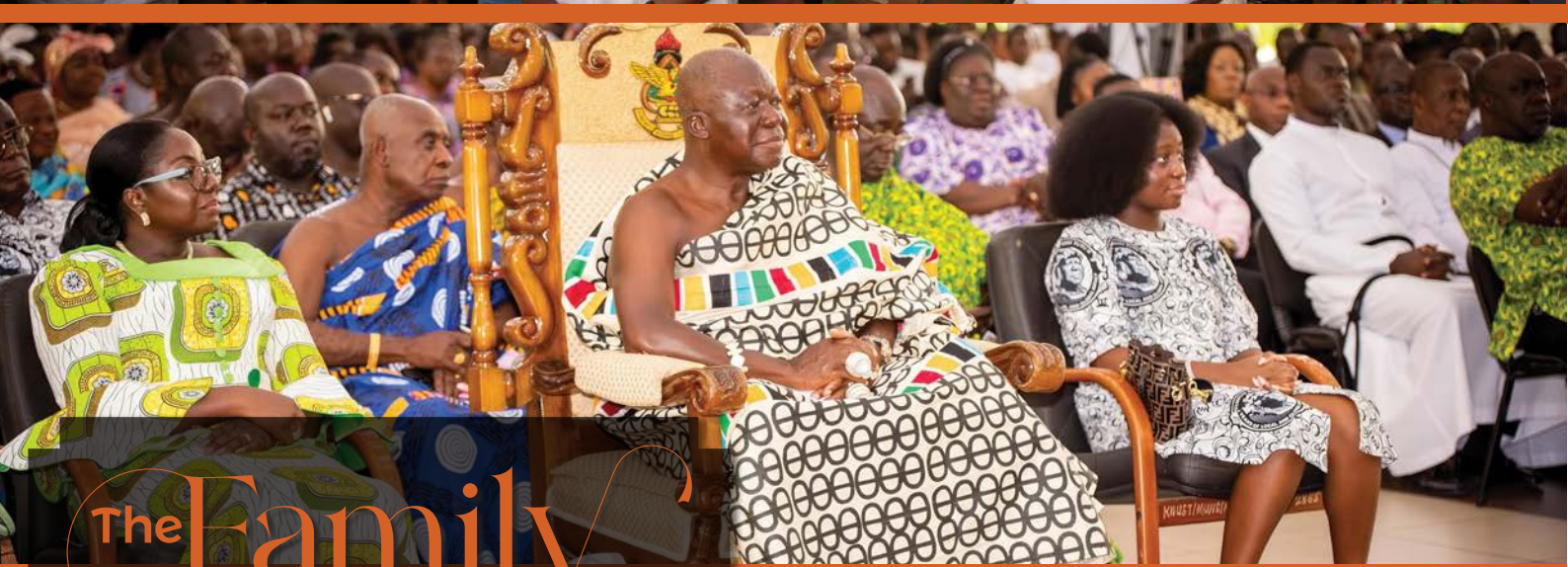
His admiration for leaders like Paul Kagame of Rwanda reflects his commitment to resilience and development in Africa. Otumfuo's leadership exemplifies a bipartisan approach to governance driven by a vision for a prosperous and unified Ghana.





The peoples'

King

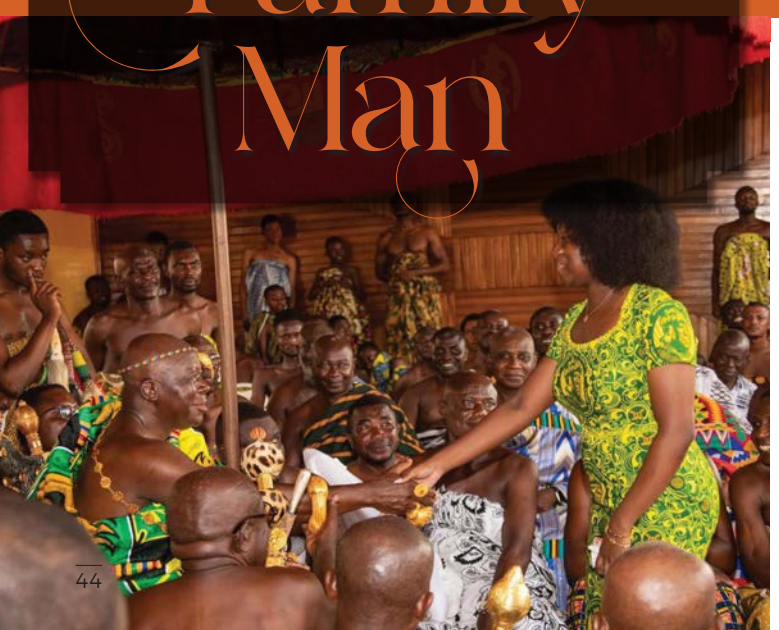


The Family Man

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the revered Monarch of the Asante Kingdom, is a staunch advocate for strong family values and the empowerment of women within Asante society. He emphasizes the integral role of women and queen mothers in decision-making processes, highlighting their authority and veto power in important matters.

At a recent event commemorating his 25th Enstoolment Anniversary, Otumfuo reaffirmed the significant contributions of women, citing the matrilineal system as evidence of their esteemed position. He called for the creation of opportunities for women to ascend leadership positions in political parties, institutions, and corporations, emphasizing their competence and efficiency in such roles.

Otumfuo's dedication to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment underscores his commitment to a more inclusive and progressive Asante community.





The Entrepreneur/ Global Leader

Some of the Monarch's diverse enterprises include:

- Establishing Bodukwan Holdings, which comprises three subsidiaries:
 - » Bodukwan Multi-fruit Processing Company
 - » Bodukwan Farms Limited
 - » Royal Jute Company

“The government should be looking at policies instead of being involved in industry and all that,” he is on record as saying. “It doesn’t work. It’s about time Ghana realises that it’s not going to work for the government to be setting up companies. Government should be contained with policies and the private sector should be involved in setting up the companies. It works that way and therefore it will attract investment.”

Ghana’s Global Transformational Leader: Asantehene’s Impact on the World Stage

In the realm of global affairs, Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II stands as a visionary and thought leader, unafraid to address weighty matters of local and global significance, particularly those concerning the people of Ghana, and specifically the Asante Kingdom. His influence reverberates far beyond the borders of his kingdom, resonating with audiences worldwide.

Some notable instances:

In 2023, the G20 (comprised of 19 sovereign nations at present, with Russia excluded) and the European Union, extended a permanent membership offer to the African Union (AU). Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, with his astute perception, strategic foresight, and emphasis on genuine partnerships, sees Africa’s inclusion in the G20 as a significant milestone. His thoughtful inquiry reflects his dedication to analyzing and advocating for African interests and development on the global stage, highlighting the region’s importance to the world.

During a state visit to Suriname in South America, the Asantehene took the opportunity to connect with descendants of Africans whose ancestors were subjected to the horrors of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, tracing their roots back to Ghana. This gesture of solidarity and acknowledgment of shared history exemplifies his dedication to fostering meaningful connections with people of African descent worldwide.

Ongoing discussions are underway for the Asantehene to extend similar acknowledgment to Akans in Jamaica, Antigua, and Barbados, highlighting his efforts to strengthen cultural ties and promote unity among the African diaspora.

Otumfuo rendered the keynote address of a Solidarity Message at the United Nations High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace – the 20th Anniversary Convened by the President of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly H.E. Maria F. E. Garces. HRH highlighted the hybrid nature of local governance in Ghana whereby Traditional Rulers are key participants, partners and agents of development,

On his diplomatic engagements, Otumfuo has played a pivotal role in negotiating and he secured critical funding from the World Bank for environmental developments and modernisation of the education sector. He has been instrumental in brokering business and investment opportunities with multinational corporations and educational institutions, further solidifying his reputation as a catalyst for economic growth and development in Ghana.

Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II's impact transcends national boundaries, positioning him as a beacon of leadership and advocacy on the global stage. His unwavering commitment to advancing the interests of Ghana and the broader African community underscores his status as a transformative leader of international stature.

57TH SPECIAL ANNUAL GATHERING



Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II's legacy transcends local and national boundaries, encompassing stories of immense private generosity and kindness.

His forthcoming presence at the 2024 Conference of the Ghana Bar Association (GBA) underscores his commitment to fostering unity and dialogue at many levels (including the legal community). With a desire to reignite annual gatherings with lawyers, Otumfuo seeks to facilitate connections and opportunities for aspiring legal professionals.

Otumfuo's intervention played a pivotal role in bringing about reconciliation and peace to troubled regions, notably resolving the longstanding rivalry between the Abudu and Andani families. His leadership has brought stability and harmony to areas plagued by conflict, leaving a lasting impact on the communities he serves.

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II's legacy extends far beyond his reign as Asantehene, embodying the values of reconciliation, generosity, and leadership that resonate both locally and internationally.

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II's legacy

- Otumfuo Osei Tutu II Foundation (OOTIIF).
- Manhyia Palace (Two Decade Appeal).
- Chancellor, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.
- Peace in Dagbon.
- Otumfuo Education Fund.
- The Otumfuo Osei Tutu II Jubilee Hall.

MANHYIA PALACE: A SYMBOL OF ASHANTI HERITAGE

Situated in Kumasi, the capital of the Ashanti Region, Manhyia Palace stands as the revered seat of the Asantehene, the monarch of the Ashanti Kingdom, and serves as his official residence. Each year, thousands of visitors from around the globe are received by the King through private appointments

and traditional events, offering a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of the Ashanti people.

Additionally, the Manhyia Palace Museum, once the private residence of past Kings, now welcomes millions of tourists annually, showcasing the kingdom's illustrious history and traditions since its conversion into a museum in 1995. In a momentous event at the Manhyia Palace in Kumasi, Ashanti Region, the Otumfuo Osei Tutu II Jubilee Hall was unveiled, symbolizing a harmonious fusion of tradition and modernity. This state-of-the-art facility boasts a dignified cocktail lounge, efficient offices, and a fully air-conditioned, acoustically designed hall with a 2000-person capacity. Additionally, it features a VIP room, impressive lobby area, numerous washrooms, ample parking space, and a 5-star commercially fitted kitchen. With its rich historical significance, resilient present, and cultural affirmation for the future, the hall stands as a testament to the pride of its people.



Otumfuo Osei Tutu II Jubilee Hall: A blend of tradition and modernity.

Remarks from Ghanaian Australians

Living Colour Magazine approached several Ghanaian Australians for their views on – and tributes to – the man, the King, and the institution on this occasion. Many highlighted the positive impacts the King has personally had on the wider Ghanaian/African communities (especially the youth) and the virtues extended to mainstream Australia.

Richard O Amoaye – Sydney

A Tribute to Asantehene: Exemplar of global black leadership

“Asantehene’s leadership stands as a beacon of excellence, transcending borders and leaving an indelible mark on the global stage. His astute political acumen, ability to forge dynamic relationships across ideological lines, and unwavering respect for tradition define his reign. With the utmost discernment and decency, he navigates complex decisions with respect, grace and dignity. His leadership exudes decisiveness, generosity, and dignity, rooted in a profound sense of consciousness and accountability to a higher authority. *Ɔpemsuo Osei Tutu Ababio, Ɔhene wo nkwa so. W’ama ahennie aye akonnɔ. Otumfuo nya nkwa daa!*”

– Richard O Amoaye, son of Odeefuo Owusu Amoaye II, founder of Testimony Hub and Inspiring Greatness.



Henry Addison, Canberra

“The Silver Jubilee of the enstoolment of Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II is of immense significance to African Australians. Otumfuo, your ceaseless advocacy for youth education, environmental protection and economic development, resonates with our lived experience in Australia. And your efforts to bridge the gap between indigenous and contemporary cultures echoes our commitment to inclusiveness and fairness in Australia. Otumfuo, we wish you a fabulous Silver Jubilee.”

– Henry Addison, great-grandson of Otumfuo’s Adontehene, Nana Kwame Frimpong, international tax adviser to the Australian Treasury, barrister, Inner Temple (England and Wales).



Charles DaCosta, PhD (Brazil and Ghanaian descent) – Melbourne

“Twenty-five years have passed since I missed witnessing the grandeur of Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II’s coronation due to work in Accra. Yet, the memory remains vivid. A thousand diasporas, awestruck by their regal past, reaffirmed their identity in the presence of Ghana’s cultural compass. Otumfuo Osei Tutu II’s reign stands as a beacon for Ghanaian Australians, echoing the importance of cultural affirmation.”

– Staché Charles DaCosta, PhD.

Dr. Francis Nii Lanteye Acquah AM – Melbourne



“The global celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Otumfuo will serve as opportunities for young people to showcase their talents, skills, and creativity to promote wellbeing, resilience, and community cohesion. As Ghanaian-Australians, by embracing traditional African clothing, we not only honour our ancestors and cultural legacy but also assert our presence and pride in our identity.”

– Dr Francis Nii Lanteye Acquah AM, member of the Order of Australia Association and clinical director.

Stella Affum – Brisbane

“Otumfuo Osei Tutu II’s 25th Silver Jubilee celebrates unity and cultural pride, honouring Ghanaian roots and showcasing cultural strength. As Asantehene (a.k.a. ‘King’), he initiated projects like the Otumfuo Education Fund and Teachers Award Scheme, highlighting the value placed on education within our culture. Ghanaian Australians and the diaspora celebrate his legacy, drawing inspiration from his leadership, striving for a future centred on education, resilience, and harmony.”

– Stella Affum, Ghanaians Queensland executive past and primary school educator.



NSW Asanteman – Sydney

“Asantehene (King of Ashanti) Otumfuo Osei Tutu II on celebrating the Silver Jubilee of his esteemed ascension to one of the highest royal positions in Africa. As the 25th anniversary of his ascension to the Golden Stool of the Ashanti people of Ghana, West Africa gathers pace. The African community in Australia wish him a happy anniversary and God’s blessings.”

– On behalf of Nana Oppong Peprah (Martin Kwakwa, Abusuapanin NSW Asanteman).

NSW Ghana Association President – Sydney

“Indeed, the knot of wisdom is untied only by the wise! Peace in Dagbon, Educational Fund to develop the talent in our youth, new-look Okomfo Anokye Hospital and the gravitas you exude before the world, are only few of your achievements over the past 25 years. From Sydney, we wish you long and impactful reign, Otumfuo Nana Osei Tutu III!”

– Isaac Kwamena Acquah, President, Ghana Association of NSW, Sydney.



Gloria eSowah – Brisbane

“The illustrious reign of HRH Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II over the past 25 years has been marked by tireless dedication, fruitful endeavours, and remarkable achievements. As we look forward to the next 25 years (Golden Jubilee) and beyond, may the abundant harvest of his efforts propel Ghana (and Diaspora Ghanaians) beyond introspection, embracing its ‘black star’ global mandate with boldness and vigour. Long live Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II.”

– Gloria Sowah, Publisher and Editor, *Living Colour Magazine*.

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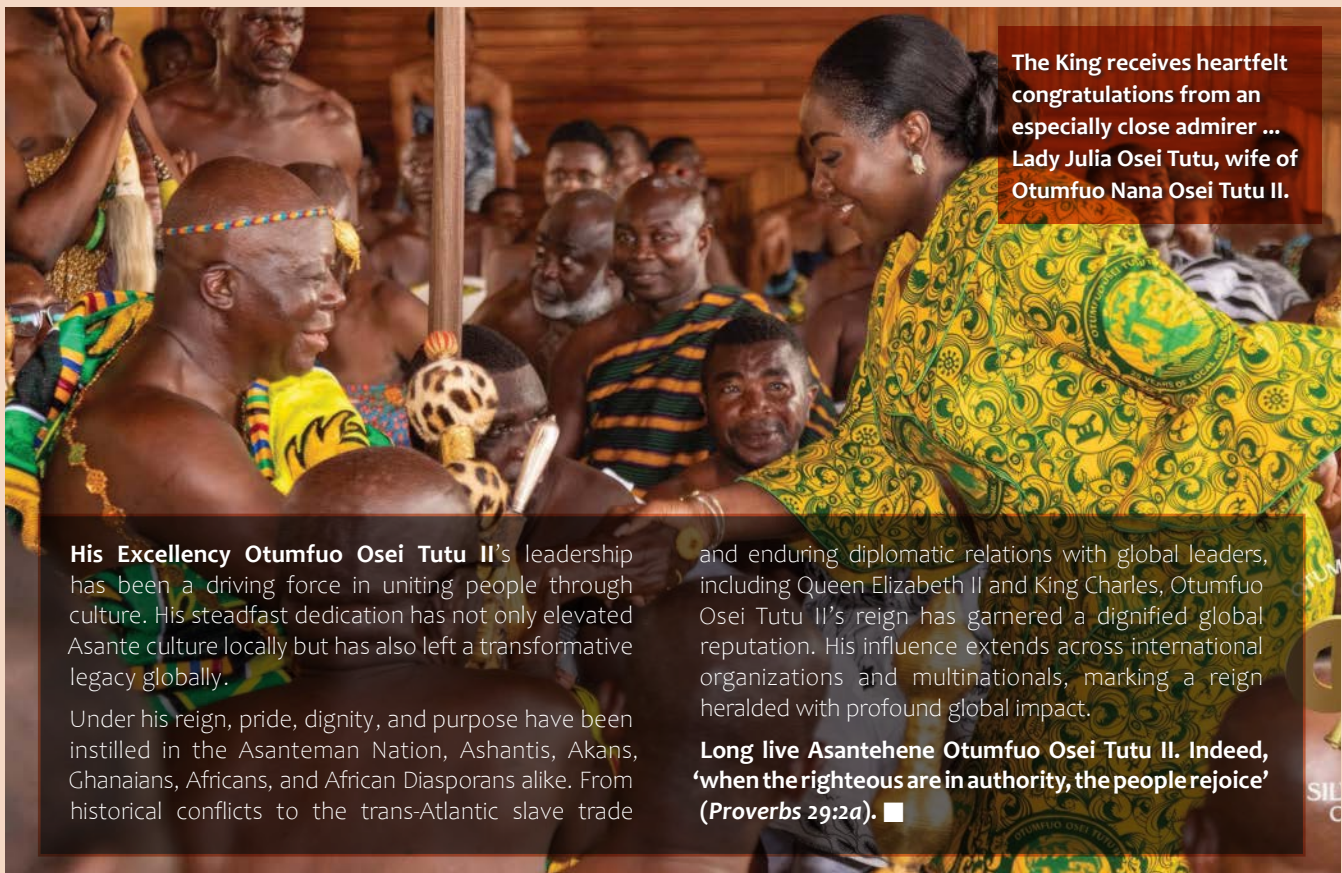


Samuel Yao Kumah – Canberra

“Over the period of his 25-year reign, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the 16th Asantehene, has projected an inspiring and transformative leadership, successfully adapting traditional authority to modern trends.

“Otumfuo’s impactful influence, evident through the numerous causes he has championed, has positively affected the fortunes of different levels of society of the present and future generations. Ghana is proud of his accomplishments and may the years beyond the Silver Jubilee witness greater successes.”

– His Excellency Mr. Samuel Yao Kumah, High Commissioner of Ghana to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region.



The King receives heartfelt congratulations from an especially close admirer ... Lady Julia Osei Tutu, wife of Otumfuo Nana Osei Tutu II.

His Excellency Otumfuo Osei Tutu II’s leadership has been a driving force in uniting people through culture. His steadfast dedication has not only elevated Asante culture locally but has also left a transformative legacy globally.

Under his reign, pride, dignity, and purpose have been instilled in the Asanteman Nation, Ashantis, Akans, Ghanaians, Africans, and African Diasporans alike. From historical conflicts to the trans-Atlantic slave trade

and enduring diplomatic relations with global leaders, including Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II’s reign has garnered a dignified global reputation. His influence extends across international organizations and multinationals, marking a reign heralded with profound global impact.

Long live Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II. Indeed, ‘when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice’ (Proverbs 29:2a). ■

Recommended extending reading: *The Sagrenti War* lecture on YouTube by Dr McCaskie; *The Asante Royal Umbrella, A History of Manhyia Palace Museum* by Ivor Agyeman-Dua; *Images of Ghana* by Malcolm Donald McLeod.

www.manhyiapalace.org | [@manhyiapalace](https://www.instagram.com/manhyiapalace)