

HOMELAND STUDY GROUP FOUNDATION

P.O.BOX HP 1107, HO.

Tel: 00233599244091 Email: wtlhsgf@gmail.com tbearer44@gmail.com

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION FOR THE ATTENTION OF GHANA NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL

All Media Houses

RE: DISCARD FALSEHOOD THAT EWES ARE NOT BONAFIDE GHANAIANS

The office of the Executive Chairman of the Homeland Study Group Foundation (HSGF) has learned from a publication by modern Ghana.com an online news outlet that a conference was organised by the National Peace Council on the theme: "Building An Inclusive Nation" on the 5 December 2022.

According to the publication, "The conference was organised by the National Peace Council and was attended by Paramount Chiefs, Divisional Chiefs, Queen Mother's, the Clergy, the Academia, Civil Society, Women and Youth Groups. It was a follow-up to a series of dialogue meetings held by the council last year in some 18 communities in both Volta and Oti Regions to discuss claims of discrimination against people in the two regions and to promote national cohesion and peaceful coexistence." On the outcome of the conference, the publication stated that "The communique reaffirmed that the Ewe and other ethnic groups from the Volta and Oti Regions were bona fide Ghanaians, whose forebears mainly inhabited the Trans Volta Togoland joined the Gold Coast through a plebiscite in 1956 to form Ghana on 6th March 1957."

HSGF will like to state categorically that no inhabitants of Trans Volta Togoland had joined Gold Coast in any plebiscite because there existed no geographical area called the Trans Volta Togoland during the colonial days and as such did not also exist during the plebiscite days.

When French and British forces invaded the German TOGOLAND and divided it between themselves, the Eastern portion known as East Togoland went to the French while the Western portion which stretches from Bawku in the North to Keta in the South and known as Western Togoland or British Togoland went to the British.

Again, Trans Volta Togoland didn't "join" the Gold Coast through a plebiscite in 1956 to form Ghana on the 6th of March 1957. The intention of the 1956 plebiscite was for Britain to form a union between Western Togoland and Gold Coast as clearly stated in UN General Assembly Resolution 1044 of 1956

It is very sad that such calibre of personalities as contained in the publication will attend a conference of that nature and would not be conversant or apprised with the historical facts of such an important issue.

The office of the Executive Chairman would like to remind the Ghana National Peace Council that the constant alienation of the population of Western Togoland by some people in Ghana is consistent with the scheme of the so-called True Ghanaian, the "Ya gyi yeman" cabals which dates back to the era of colonialism. The records are there to show.

It is rather unfortunate that when the citizenship alienation was very rife the voices of those who attended the supposed conference were not heard. For instance, in the lead up to the 2016 General Election the present Vice President Dr. Bawumia was on record to have said that he had evidence that Voltarians were not Ghanaians, and recently the comment by Hon. K.T. Hammond, a parliamentarian, during the COVID-19 lockdown when heavily armed security forces were sent to the Volta and Oti Regions in the name of fighting the pandemic, he said in an interview that those people are not Ghanaians but Togolese. And he actually cited the 1956 plebiscite as proof said that they must not be allowed to register during the Ghana Card registration exercise. Even though the Media did not broadcast all what he had said, for the fact that we heard him mention the plebiscite we knew what he was referring to.

The National Peace Council in their communique did not demand an official apology or some sort of action from this high ranking members of Parliament.

For us, we do not take it as an offense when we are labeled as aliens in Ghana but it should have been made clear to such people that our forebears did not migrate to Gold Coast and none of them took part in the campaign for a "YES" to the Union vote during the plebiscite. In fact it was rather the leaders of Gold Coast led by their Prime Minister Dr Kwame Nkrumah who crossed the boundary and entered the Western Togoland towns such as Ho to beg our people to accept to help them gain independence since their being qualified for independence rested on our decision, according to the United Nations Trusteeship Council.

That was why Britain was asked to take such steps to grant the Togoland under her administration independence and do same to Gold Coast.

It is very clear that our being part of the enterprise Ghana was something dearest to the Gold Coasters than the Western Togolanders, because we knew we could manage

our own affairs without them but they could not.

It will be very prudent for the population of Ghana to note that the call for Self Determination or statehood by Nations are not new and will continue to come up. Western Togoland and her population has reached the crossroad with Ghana and there is no going back.

We are going to remain very focused and peaceful in reversing the wrong done to our land in 1956.

The Executive office however wish to congratulate the National Peace Council for advising the government to release all those kept in detention to save the little gain the country had made in the international community in terms of human rights. This is a good call because in application of the law we must be fair and transparent. We cannot be acting Dictatorial in a democratic dispensation, the two cannot work together.

Finally, the Executive Chairman will like to seize this opportunity to inform all at the Frontline of Western Togoland independence that nothing good ever happened without peace, and for that matter we must all maintain our peaceful stance and not be swayed by anyone who will say if we do not act violently the world will not hear us. The office will like to remind all and sundry that wise people choose Peace. It may seems long and tiring but it is an uncompromising stance to remain peaceful.

Western Togolanders should be encouraged for there definitely is Good News on the Way.

Thank you.



Dr. A.K. Akounoo

GENERAL SECRETARY