



Theme

**200 YEARS OF ODWIRA:
HONOURING OUR HERITAGE,
SECURING OUR FUTURE**



21ST SEPTEMBER - 2ND OCTOBER



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President of the Republic of Ghana



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Eastern Regional Minister



OKUAPEHENE
OBREMPONGKESE OSEADEEYO KWASI AKUFFO III -
PARAMOUNT CHIEF OF THE AKUAPEM TRADITIONAL AREA

THE AKUAPEM STATE

PAST & PRESENT

The Akuapem Traditional Area, located in the eastern part of Ghana, is a historically rich and culturally significant region that spans approximately 300 square miles along the Akuapem Ridge. It is bounded to the north by the Suhyen River near New Juaben, to the south by the Densu River in Akyem Abuakwa, and to the east by the Bontum-Aketewa River near Huhunya. This strategically positioned and naturally endowed area has, over the centuries, served as a centre of settlement, culture, governance, and commerce.

Okuapeman comprises about 30 principal towns and over 200 satellite towns and villages. Key towns within the traditional area include Kitase, Berekuso, Gyankama, Aburi, Ahwerase, Obosomase, Tutu, Mampong, Abotakyi, Amanokrom, Mamfe, Larteh, and Akropong, which serves as the traditional capital. Other notable towns are Abiriw, Tinkong, Awukugua, Adukrom, Apirede, Aseseeso, Abonse, Kokonnuru, Nsawam, and Pakro. These towns collectively contribute to the administrative, cultural, and economic life of the Akuapem State, each playing distinct roles within the traditional governance structure.

Historically, Akuapem was predominantly inhabited by two main ethnic groups the Akans and the Guans whose interactions and alliances shaped the identity and evolution of the state. Over time, however, the area has grown into a cosmopolitan society, welcoming people from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Today, Akuapem stands as a vibrant and inclusive community, where tradition and modernity coexist, and where its rich cultural heritage continues to thrive alongside ongoing social and economic development.

THE OKUAPEHENE

Authority in Akuapem both administrative and traditional centres on the Okuapehene, the Paramount Chief and supreme custodian of the land, people, and customs of Okuapeman. Seated in Akropong, the traditional capital, the Okuapehene serves as the unifying figure who provides leadership, direction, and spiritual guidance to all towns and communities within the traditional area. Governance is exercised through a well-structured system of divisional and sub-divisional chiefs, ensuring effective administration, representation, and the preservation of customary law across the state.

The Okuapehene occupies the revered Ofori Kuma Stool, a symbol of authority, continuity, and the collective identity of the Akuapem people. The stool embodies the history, values, and ancestral legacy of Okuapeman, and its occupant serves not only as a political leader but also as the spiritual head responsible for upholding traditions, performing sacred rites, and safeguarding the cultural heritage of the people. Central to this role is the leadership of key traditional institutions that guide decision-making, conflict resolution, and community development.



The current Okuapehene, Obrempongkese Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo III, is the 26th occupant of the Ofori Stool. He serves as President of the Akuapem Traditional Council, the statutory body responsible for administrative governance, and the Okuapeman Council, which oversees customary and cultural affairs. Through these institutions, he provides strategic leadership that bridges tradition and modern governance, ensuring that development initiatives are aligned with the values and aspirations of the people.

Under his reign, there has been a renewed emphasis on education, infrastructure development, youth empowerment, and cultural preservation. His leadership continues to position Okuapeman as a forward-looking traditional state, committed to progress while remaining deeply rooted in its heritage.

HIERARCHY OF AKUAPEM



OKUAPEHENE



WHAT IS ODWIRA?

Nearly every town in Ghana celebrates an annual festival that reflects its history, traditions, and communal identity. For the people of Akuapem, Odwira stands as the most significant and revered festival. In 2026, the Akuapem State proudly commemorates the 200th Anniversary of the Odwira Festival, marking two centuries of cultural continuity, spiritual renewal, and communal unity.

Akuapem's Odwira is celebrated exactly forty (40) days after the last Awukudae in the Akuapem Traditional Calendar, with nine Awukudaes constituting a full calendar year. The festival spans approximately two weeks, during which a series of sacred rites, traditional ceremonies, and cultural activities handed down through generations are observed.

The word "Odwira" is an Akan term meaning "PURIFICATION." The festival derives its name from its central purpose: a period when the Okuapehene and all stool occupants perform sacred rites to purify their stools, offer sacrifices to their ancestors, and give thanks for the blessings of the past year. It is also a time to pray for good health, long life, peace, and prosperity for the year ahead.

Historically, the grand celebration of Odwira in Akuapem was observed primarily in Akropong, Amanokrom, and Aburi, and was largely associated with the Akan people. Over time, however, the festival has evolved to reflect the diversity of the Akuapem State. Many Guan communities, who traditionally celebrated Ohum as their principal festival, now also observe Odwira in their own



unique ways, making it a truly inclusive celebration across Okuapeman.

The Odwira Festival is a vibrant expression of Akuapem's cultural heritage, embracing the rich traditions, symbolism, and artistic expressions of the Akan people. It is also the sacred occasion during which the spiritual authority and leadership of the Okuapehene are renewed. The festival is renowned for its magnificent displays of culture and regalia, with horn blowers, drummers, linguists, and various state officials performing traditional roles in colourful ceremonies.

Over the years, divisional chiefs across Akuapem have acquired elaborate Akan regalia, including palanquins, ceremonial

umbrellas, swords, richly patterned cloths, gold-plated sandals, linguist staffs adorned with proverbial symbols, and exquisite gold ornaments. During Odwira, these treasured items are proudly displayed as chiefs, and their entourages pay homage to the Okuapehene, making the festival one of the most spectacular showcases of traditional authority, art, fashion, and symbolic adornment. It is also an important occasion where newly installed chiefs publicly display their status and authority.

Beyond its cultural pageantry, Odwira serves as a solemn moment of remembrance and gratitude. The festival honours the forefathers who fought courageously and sacrificed their lives to secure and protect the Akuapem State. It is

also a period that fosters family reunions, community bonding, and reconciliation, where longstanding disputes and misunderstandings are settled in the spirit of unity and renewal.

Although there are moments of reflection and remembrance for departed ancestors, the overall atmosphere of Odwira is one of joy, thanksgiving, and communal celebration. The festival's vibrant ceremonies, rich traditions, and grand displays of pomp and pageantry reflect the Akuapem people's great pride in their cultural heritage.

The **Akuapem Odwira Festival** is one of the most significant traditional celebrations in Ghana, blending **religious, political, and cultural elements** into a powerful expression of the identity and heritage of the Akuapem people. Historically, the Odwira Festival serves as an important occasion for reaffirming **sacred myths, legends, and historical events** that shaped the Akuapem State particularly the memory of the **Akantamanso War of 1824**, which played a pivotal role in the political and historical development of the Akuapem people.

At its core, Odwira upholds deep **spiritual and communal values**, not only within Akuapem but also across Ghana. The festival strengthens kinship and social bonds through **traditional music, dance, and communal gatherings**, while also providing an opportunity for the settlement of disputes and the restoration of harmony within families and communities. Through songs, performances, and public gatherings, the festival creates a unique platform for



The word
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communal expression where the collective voice of the people can be heard in a socially engaging environment.

Beyond its symbolic and historical significance, the festival plays a crucial role in **affirming societal values and reinforcing the ties that bind the Akuapem community together**. Like many traditional festivals, Odwira is a rich blend of **ritual, ceremony, artistry, and celebration**, with each activity performed at designated locations according to a carefully structured traditional calendar.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the festival is its ability to **revitalize artistic expression as a communal experience**. Music, drumming, dance, and vibrant cultural displays form an integral part of the celebration, making Odwira a dynamic showcase of Akuapem's cultural heritage and artistic excellence.

KEY PURPOSES OF THE ODWIRA FESTIVAL

The Akuapem Odwira Festival serves several important spiritual, cultural, and social purposes, including:

Purification of the land, the people, and traditional authorities.

Offering thanksgiving and the ceremonial consumption of the New Yam, symbolizing renewal and abundance.

Honouring ancestors and deities through sacred traditional rites.

Preparing the King and his people for a prosperous new year.

Remembering and mourning members of the community who passed away during the previous year.

Reaffirming political alliances and strengthening traditional leadership structures.

Strengthening military and social bonds within the state.

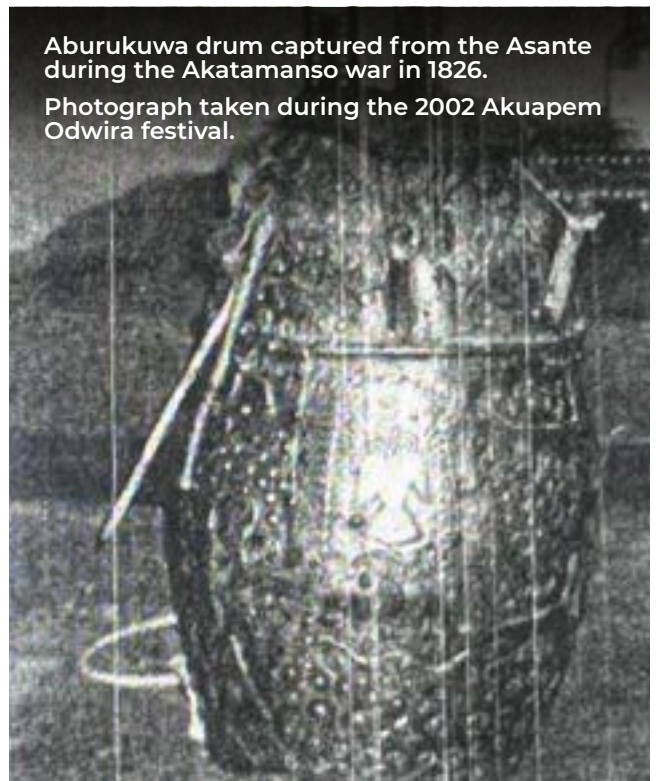
Proclaiming and celebrating the unity of the Akuapem State.

In keeping with tradition, the Okuapenehene, as the Paramount Ruler of Akuapem, is the first to celebrate Odwira before any other chief or town can commence their festivities. His observance of the festival sets the spiritual

and ceremonial tone for the entire Akuapem State, reinforcing his role as the supreme traditional and spiritual leader of Okuapeman.

As Okuapeman marks the 200th Anniversary of the Odwira Festival, the celebration becomes not only a reflection on the past but also a renewed commitment to preserving the rich heritage, unity, and values that have sustained the Akuapem people for generations. The bicentenary serves as a moment of pride and reflection, while also inspiring collective efforts to safeguard this treasured cultural legacy for the future.

Aburukuwa drum captured from the Asante during the Akatamanso war in 1826.
Photograph taken during the 2002 Akuapem Odwira festival.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AKUAPEM ODWIRA FESTIVAL

The Akuapem Odwira Festival is a cultural cornerstone that embodies profound religious, political, social, and economic significance. It marks the culmination of forty days of spiritual reflection, purification, and rest, after which the traditional rites signaling the start of Odwira are first performed at Akropong, the capital of Akuapem. This central celebration sets the pace for all other divisional festivals, as no other town may begin its observances until the Okuapehene has completed his rites. The strict sequence of celebrations reinforces both the authority of the Okuapehene and the unity of the Akuapem State.

Odwira is celebrated as a total cultural expression, showcasing the artistic and creative heritage of Akuapem and Ghana

as a whole. It is a festival that integrates multiple art forms, making it a living repository of cultural identity. Drumming and dancing form the heartbeat of the festival, displaying traditional rhythms, movements, and messages historically used in palace communication.

Traditional drama brings history to life, with performances and reenactments of key historical and mythical events, including the foundation of the Akuapem State and significant battles such as Katamanso. Rituals and ceremonies honor ancestors and spiritual custodians, ensuring the continuity of sacred practices while reinforcing the community's shared heritage and values.

WHY SPONSOR ODWIRA 2026 (200TH ANNIVERSARY)

The Odwira 2026 Festival, marking its historic 200th Anniversary, presents a rare and powerful platform for brands to connect with a broad, engaged, and culturally rooted audience. With 26 high-impact events spanning traditional ceremonies, cultural showcases, wellness initiatives, and modern experiential activities, sponsors are guaranteed extensive visibility, strong audience engagement, and meaningful brand association.

Unlike previous editions, this bicentennial celebration is not limited to the official festival period in September. Activities will commence from May and run through to the end of the year, providing sponsors with prolonged exposure, sustained audience engagement, and multiple touchpoints to interact with diverse audiences.

In addition, events will be held across the entire Okuapemman, ensuring wide geographical reach and deeper community penetration. This significantly enhances brand visibility at both the grassroots and national levels.

Sponsoring Odwira therefore goes beyond brand placement, it is an opportunity to align your organization with heritage, community development, and national significance, while benefiting from extended visibility and continuous engagement throughout this landmark year.

KEY BENEFITS TO SPONSORS

1. UNMATCHED BRAND VISIBILITY

Your brand will enjoy prominent exposure across all festival touchpoints, including:

- On-ground branding at events and venues
- Television, radio, and digital media coverage
- Social media campaigns and promotional materials
- Official Odwira publications and communications

2. EVENT OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsors have the unique option to:

- Adopt and fully brand one or more events, positioning your company as the headline sponsor of a specific activity
- Curate the event experience in alignment with your brand identity, values, and marketing objectives

3. DIRECT ACCESS TO DIVERSE AUDIENCES

Engage with thousands of attendees, including:

- Traditional leaders and opinion influencers
- Government officials and policymakers
- Corporate stakeholders and investors
- Youth and the general public

4. FLEXIBLE SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Brands can select from tailored sponsorship tiers designed to suit different levels of investment and exposure:

- **Bronze Package** – Entry-level visibility and participation
- **Silver Package** – Enhanced branding and engagement opportunities
- **Gold Package** – Premium exposure across multiple platforms
- **Platinum Package** – Top-tier exclusivity, maximum visibility, and strategic brand positioning

5. STRONG CSR & LEGACY IMPACT

Position your brand as a champion of:

- Cultural preservation and heritage
- Community development and social impact initiatives (e.g., mental health campaign, education, youth engagement)
- Sustainable partnerships with traditional institutions

6. ASSOCIATION WITH A HISTORIC MILESTONE

Be part of a once-in-a-generation celebration—the 200th anniversary of Odwira—creating lasting brand recognition and goodwill that extends beyond the festival.

ODWIRA 2026 SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Bronze GHC 100,000

The Bronze Package provides essential brand visibility and engagement opportunities, positioning your organization as a proud supporter of the Odwira @ 200 celebration.

Benefits:

1. **Brand Visibility**
 - Logo inclusion on selected festival signage and promotional materials
 - Quarter-page advertisement placement in the 2026 Odwira Festival Magazine
2. **On-Ground Presence**
 - Shared branding presence within designated festival zones or activity areas
 - Access to a vendor booth for product promotion, sales, or sampling
3. **Digital Presence**
 - Brand recognition on the official festival website
 - Social media mentions and promotional shout-outs across festival platforms

Silver GHC 200,000

The Silver Sponsorship Package offers enhanced brand visibility, exclusivity, and engagement opportunities, positioning your organization as a key partner in the Odwira @ 200 celebration. **Benefits:**

1. **Premium Brand Visibility**
 - Prominent logo inclusion on festival signage and selected high-impact promotional materials (banners, flyers, and event branding assets)
 - Increased visibility across multiple festival touch-points, ensuring strong brand recall
 - Half-page advertisement placement in the 2026 Odwira Festival Magazine
2. **Exclusive Activity/Zone Sponsorship**
 - Exclusive sponsorship rights to a designated festival zone or activity area (e.g., exhibition space, performance area, wellness zone, etc.)
 - Opportunity to brand the selected zone with your company's identity (subject to festival guidelines)
 - Brand association with a specific high-traffic or high-value festival experience
3. **On-Ground Activation & Engagement**
 - Access to a dedicated vendor booth for product promotion, direct sales, sampling, and customer interaction
 - Opportunity to engage festival attendees through activations, demonstrations, and experiential marketing
4. **Digital Presence**
 - Brand recognition on the official festival website, including logo placement and company profile (where applicable)
 - Regular social media mentions and promotional shout-outs across all Odwira Festival platforms, amplifying brand reach and engagement
5. **Media & Publicity Exposure**
 - Inclusion in selected media mentions (radio, TV, and online platforms) as a supporting sponsor
 - Recognition in selected press releases and festival communications
6. **Access & Experience**
 - 4 VIP passes for company representatives to attend selected festival events
 - Access to key festival experiences and networking opportunities

Gold GHC 500,000

The Gold Sponsorship Package offers premium visibility, strong media presence, and high-impact engagement opportunities, positioning your organization as a major partner in the historic Odwira @ 200 celebration. **Benefits:**

1. High-Impact Brand Visibility

- Prominent logo placement on selected high-visibility festival promotional materials, including banners, event backdrops, and branded collateral
- Strong brand presence across key festival platforms, ensuring wide audience reach and recognition
- Full-page advertisement placement in the 2026 Odwira Festival Magazine

2. Media Exposure

- Brand mentions across radio and television platforms, increasing awareness before and during the festival
- Inclusion in key publicity campaigns and promotional features tied to the festival

3. Exclusive Activity Sponsorship

- Exclusive sponsorship of a specific festival activity or attraction, providing strong brand association with a major programme highlight
- Opportunity to integrate branding within the sponsored activity (subject to festival guidelines)

4. On-Ground Activation & Engagement

- Dedicated vending space for product display, sales, sampling, and interactive brand experiences
- Opportunity to distribute branded promotional materials directly to festival attendees

5. Digital & Online Presence

- Recognition on the official festival website, including logo placement and brand listing
- Consistent visibility across social media platforms through mentions, tags, and promotional content

6. Ceremonial Recognition

- Verbal acknowledgement during opening and closing ceremonies, positioning your brand at the forefront of key festival moments

7. Access & Hospitality

- Three (3) VIP hospitality passes for access to exclusive areas during key festival events
- Ten (10) all-access accreditation passes for your organization, enabling broader team participation and engagement

Platinum GHC 1,000,000

This Package represents the highest level of partnership, offering unmatched brand visibility, extensive media reach, and premium engagement opportunities. This tier positions your organization as a lead partner in the historic Odwira @ 200 celebration. **Benefits:**

1. Maximum Brand Visibility

- Prominent logo placement across all festival promotional materials, including billboards, banners, flyers, event backdrops, and branded collateral
- Extensive exposure across all digital platforms, ensuring continuous brand visibility before, during, and after the festival
- Center spread (double-page) advertisement placement in the 2026 Odwira Festival Magazine

2. Extensive Media Exposure

- Frequent brand mentions across major radio and television channels, as part of official festival publicity campaigns
- Strong inclusion in media engagements, interviews, and promotional features

3. Premium Digital Presence

- Cross-promotion across all official festival digital platforms, including social media, website features, and campaign content
- Enhanced online visibility through consistent tagging, mentions, and branded content integration

4. On-Ground Brand Dominance

- Opportunity to display branded materials at key festival locations, ensuring high-impact visibility in high-traffic areas
- Dedicated premium vending space for product promotion, sales, experiential marketing, and customer engagement
- Opportunity to create immersive brand experiences within festival environments

5. Public Relations & Recognition

- Prominent recognition in press releases and media coverage, positioning your organization as a leading supporter
- Inclusion in official festival announcements, programmes, and
- ceremonial acknowledgements

6. Access & Hospitality

- Ten (10) VIP access passes for company representatives to attend all major festival events
- Thirty (30) all-access accreditation passes for your organization, ensuring broad team participation and access across festival activities

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2026 ODWIRA FESTIVAL

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXHIBITION CENTRE (TEMPORARY ODWIRA MUSEUM)

A Temporary Odwira Museum will be established as a central attraction for the bicentennial celebration. This curated exhibition space will showcase historical artefacts, royal regalia, archival photographs, traditional tools, and documented narratives of Akuapem history and the Odwira Festival.

The centre will serve as an educational and cultural hub, offering guided tours for schools, tourists, dignitaries, and the diaspora. It will also feature multimedia presentations, storytelling sessions, and interactive displays that chronicle the 200-year journey of Odwira, making it a key legacy project for cultural preservation and tourism promotion.



JULY - DECEMBER

2. ARTISTIC ENACTMENT & PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

This integrated activity combines dramatic artistic reenactments with public lectures to create a rich, immersive, and educational experience that brings the history and significance of Odwira to life. The artistic component will feature live performances, cultural theatre, and reenactments of key moments in the Odwira tradition.

To ensure authenticity and excellence befitting the 200th Anniversary, the Planning Committee is collaborating with the Akrofi-Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture for research and script development, and Abibigroma, the resident theatre group of the School of Performing Arts, University of Ghana, for performance execution.

As part of the lead-up to Odwira, mini versions of the enactment will be staged across all divisions, showcasing each division's unique contribution and role in the history and celebration of the festival. These build-up performances will culminate in a grand, full-scale enactment in Akropong during the main Odwira festivities. Complementing this, the public lecture series will bring together historians, traditional leaders, academics, and thought leaders to engage the community in meaningful dialogue. Topics will include the origins of Odwira, the evolution of Akuapem society, governance structures, cultural identity, and future development pathways.



MAY - SEPTEMBER

3. DIVISIONAL CULTURAL SHOWCASE AND ABRAFO DISPLAY

This integrated cultural activity will combine the Divisional Cultural Showcase with the revival and display of the Abrafo (traditional executioners), creating a rich and educational platform to celebrate the diversity of Akuapem heritage. Each of the five divisions will present unique cultural expressions through music, dance, regalia, and traditional performances, highlighting their distinct histories and identities. As part of the showcase, the Abrafo display will feature the revival and presentation of their traditional attire,

symbols, and roles within Akan society. Delivered respectfully and educationally, this component will provide audiences with deeper insight into the historical significance of the Abrafo and their evolution in modern times. Together, this activity will promote cultural preservation, unity among the divisions, and a deeper appreciation of Akuapem traditions, serving as a key highlight of the 200th Anniversary of the Odwira Festival.

MAY - SEPTEMBER



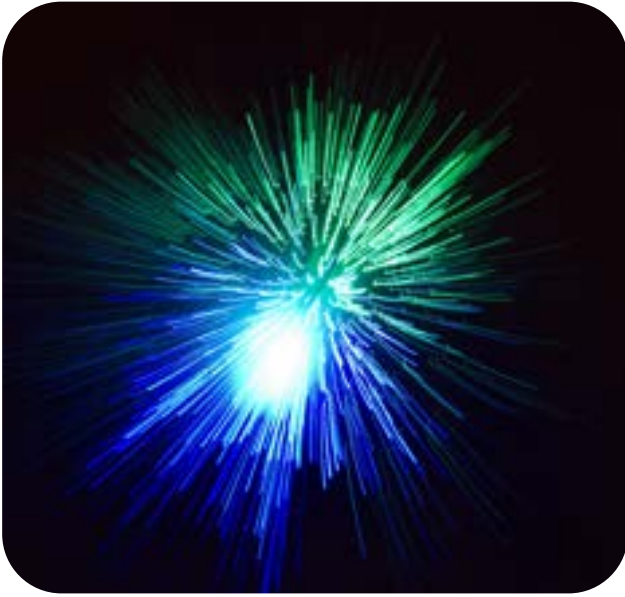
4. FONTOMFROM DRUMMING & DANCE COMPETITION



The Fontomfrom Drumming and Dance Competition will be a key cultural highlight of the festival, showcasing the rich tradition of royal drumming combined with coordinated dance as a powerful form of expression and communication. The competition will feature participation from all five divisions of Akuapem, each presenting its best ensembles. Groups will demonstrate skill, precision, creativity, and synchronization through intricate drumming and well-choreographed dance performances rooted in traditional rhythms. Beyond entertainment, the event will promote and preserve indigenous cultural heritage, foster unity and healthy competition among the divisions, and provide a platform to discover and nurture emerging talents in traditional drumming and dance.

APRIL - AUGUST

5. NIGHT PROCESSION AND FIREWORKS DISPLAY



This activity will bring together a solemn candlelight procession and a vibrant fireworks display, creating a powerful blend of reflection and celebration as part of the bicentennial observance. The night procession will see participants dressed in appropriate attire carrying candles through designated routes, symbolizing unity, remembrance, and spiritual reflection. It will serve as a moment to honour ancestors, remember departed loved ones, and reflect on the journey of the Akuapem people over the past 200 years. The procession will culminate in a grand fireworks display, lighting up the night sky in a spectacular celebration of joy, renewal, and hope for the future.

25TH SEPTEMBER, 2026

6. MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN

As part of the 200th Anniversary of the Odwira Festival, the Akuapem Traditional Council is launching a Mental Health Campaign to address stigma and improve awareness around mental wellbeing. The initiative will bridge traditional leadership, modern healthcare, and community engagement, positioning Odwira as a platform for holistic wellbeing of mind, body, and spirit.

The campaign also offers sponsors a high-visibility, socially impactful platform to support community development while strengthening brand relevance.

Key Objectives:

- Increase awareness and reduce stigma around mental health
- Promote early detection and access to professional care
- Educate the public on mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing
- Empower traditional leaders as mental health advocates
- Provide free or subsidized screening and counselling services.



MAY - SEPTEMBER

7. HONORARY AWARDS CEREMONY AND GALA DINNER

A prestigious Honorary Awards Ceremony will be held to recognize and celebrate individuals, institutions, and partners who have made outstanding contributions to the development of Akuapem. Awards will be presented across various categories, including community service, cultural preservation, leadership, business excellence, education, and philanthropy.

As part of the 200th Anniversary celebrations, this ceremony will not only honour past and present contributions but also serve to inspire excellence, encourage service, and strengthen partnerships for the continued growth and transformation of Okuapeman.

DECEMBER



8. ODWIRA DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION AND SCREENING



A high-quality documentary will be produced to chronicle the history, evolution, and significance of the Odwira Festival over the past 200 years. The documentary will feature interviews with traditional authorities, historians, cultural practitioners, and community members, as well as archival footage and reenactments. It will capture key elements such as rituals, historical milestones, and the cultural impact of Odwira. Screenings will be held across Akuapem and beyond, including special premieres during the festival period. This initiative will serve as a lasting visual archive and promotional tool, enhancing cultural preservation, education, and international visibility.

APRIL - JUNE

9. EDUCATION DAY – ODWIRA QUIZ COMPETITION AMONG SCHOOLS

An Odwira-themed Quiz Competition will be organized among basic and senior high schools across Okuapeman as part of an official Education Day celebration. The quiz will test students' knowledge of Akuapem history, culture, traditions, notable personalities, and the significance of Odwira. It aims to stimulate interest in local history, encourage academic excellence, and instill cultural pride among young people. Winning schools and participants will be recognized and rewarded, making the event both competitive and motivational, while contributing to the long-term preservation of cultural knowledge.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER



10. HISTORICAL PRESENTATION ON TETTEH QUARSHIE AND COCOA HERITAGE



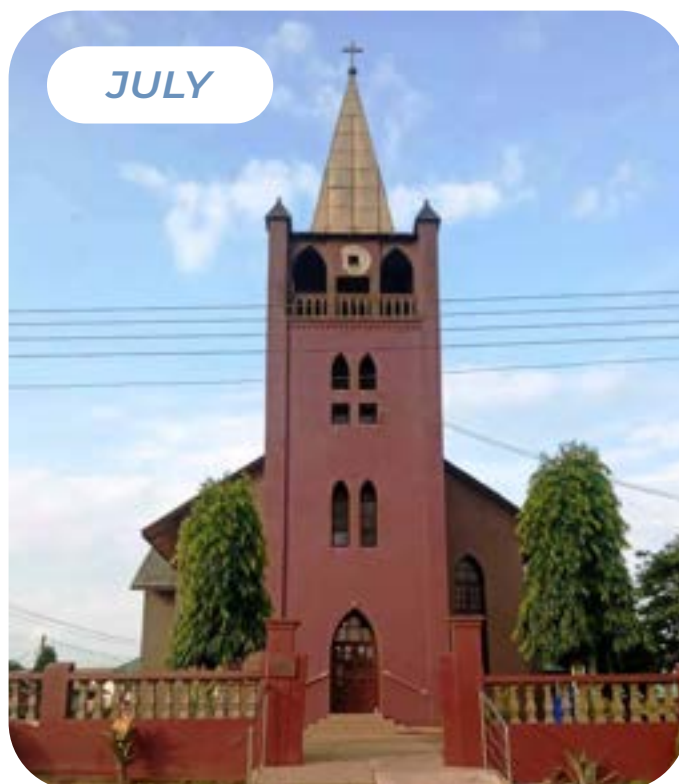
This activity will focus on the life and legacy of Tetteh Quarshie, who is credited with being the first person to successfully introduce the nation's first cocoa farm in Mampong-Akuapem, an achievement that has had a profound impact on the nation's economy. The presentation will explore the history of cocoa in Ghana, its connection to Akuapem, and its role in national development. It will also highlight opportunities for modern agribusiness, youth involvement in agriculture, and value addition within the cocoa industry. This initiative aligns with the broader goal of linking heritage to economic empowerment, especially in the context of the Odwira bicentenary.

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER

11. OKUAPEMAN AND THE CHURCH: HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL REFLECTIONS

Through lectures, panel discussions, and historical presentations, this programme will explore the deep historical relationship between Okuapeman and the Christian Church, with particular emphasis on the role of early missionary activity in shaping the social, cultural, and educational development of the Akuapem State.

A central highlight of this discussion will be the recognition of the Christ Presbyterian Church, the oldest Presbyterian church in Ghana, founded in 1835 at Akuapem-Akropong. The establishment of this historic church marked a significant turning point in the introduction of formal education, literacy, and Christian values in the region, laying the foundation for Akuapem's reputation as a centre of learning and intellectual advancement in Ghana.



12. COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP EXERCISES



A series of community-wide clean-up exercises will be organized across all towns and divisions of Akuapem in the lead-up to and during the festival. Residents, youth groups, traditional authorities, and corporate partners will be mobilized to participate in cleaning public spaces, markets, streets, schools, and drainage systems. This activity reflects the core Odwira principle of purification, extending it beyond spiritual cleansing to include environmental sanitation. It will also promote civic responsibility, public health awareness, and community ownership, while presenting Akuapem as a clean, welcoming destination for visitors during the bicentennial celebrations.

13. TREE-PLANTING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES

In line with the forward-looking aspect of the theme, a large-scale tree-planting exercise will be undertaken across Akuapem to promote environmental conservation and sustainability. This initiative will involve schools, community groups, environmental organizations, and development partners, with trees planted in public spaces, schools, degraded lands, and along major roads. Educational sessions will also be held on climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable land use practices. As part of the 200th Anniversary legacy, this activity aims to create a greener and more resilient Okuapeman, reinforcing the commitment to securing the environment for future generations.



14. HEALTH SCREENING AND WELLNESS OUTREACH

A comprehensive health screening and wellness outreach programme will be organized to provide free or subsidized medical services to communities across Akuapem. The outreach will include basic health checks such as blood pressure, blood sugar, eye examinations, and general consultations, as well as health education on preventive care and healthy lifestyles. Partnerships with health institutions, NGOs, and medical professionals will ensure broad coverage and impact. This initiative reflects the festival's commitment to holistic well-being, ensuring that the celebration also contributes to improving the health and quality of life of the people.



15. SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR WOMEN



Specialized skills training and capacity-building programmes will be organized for women across Okuapeman, focusing on entrepreneurship, vocational skills, financial literacy, and small business development. Workshops and training sessions will cover areas such as agro-processing, crafts, digital skills, marketing, and access to funding opportunities. This initiative is aimed at empowering women economically, enhancing livelihoods, and promoting inclusive development. By investing in women, the programme supports families and communities, aligning with the broader goal of sustainable socio-economic growth.

JUNE & JULY

16. AKUAPEM BUSINESS FORUM

The Akuapem Business Forum will serve as a high-level platform bringing together entrepreneurs, investors, business leaders, policymakers, development partners, and the Akuapem diaspora to explore economic opportunities within Okuapeman. The forum will feature panel discussions, investment presentations, networking sessions, and exhibitions, focusing on key sectors such as agriculture, tourism, real estate, agro-processing, technology, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Participants will

have the opportunity to showcase products and services, explore partnerships, and attract investment into local businesses and projects. The forum will also address challenges such as access to finance, infrastructure gaps, and market expansion, while proposing practical solutions. As part of the bicentennial celebration, the forum aims to position Okuapeman as a viable destination for investment and innovation, aligning economic growth with cultural heritage.



17. LAUNCH OF THE AKUAPEM ENDOWMENT FUND



OCTOBER

A major legacy initiative of the 200th Anniversary will be the launch of the Akuapem Endowment Fund, a strategic financial vehicle designed to support long-term development projects within Okuapeman. The fund will mobilize resources from traditional authorities, government, corporate organizations, philanthropists, and the diaspora to finance initiatives in areas such as education, healthcare, cultural preservation, infrastructure, and youth empowerment. The launch event will outline the vision, governance structure, funding mechanisms, and priority areas of the fund while inviting stakeholders to contribute and partner. This initiative will ensure that the impact of the Odwira bicentenary extends far beyond the celebrations, creating a sustainable source of funding for continuous development and transformation in Akuapem.

18. DEVELOPMENT OF A POST-ODWIRA STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR OKUAPEMAN



NOVEMBER

In line with the forward-looking vision of the theme, a comprehensive Post-Odwira Strategic Development Plan will be developed to guide the growth and transformation of Okuapeman in the years ahead. This process will involve consultations with traditional leaders, government agencies, development experts, community stakeholders, and the private sector to identify key priorities and opportunities. The plan will focus on areas such as infrastructure development, tourism promotion, education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, economic diversification, and digital transformation. It will also define clear goals, timelines, and implementation strategies to ensure measurable progress. As a key outcome of the 200th Anniversary of Odwira, this strategic plan will serve as a blueprint for sustainable development, ensuring that the legacy of the festival translates into tangible improvements in the lives of the people of Okuapeman.

19. INTER-DIVISIONAL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS

The inter-divisional football tournament will bring together teams from all divisions of Akuapem in a friendly but competitive series of matches. The tournament will be structured in stages, leading to a grand finale that will attract wide community support and attendance.

This activity aims to promote unity, teamwork, and healthy competition among the youth while strengthening bonds across the divisions. It will also serve as a platform to identify and nurture young football talents within Okuapeman. Beyond the sport itself, the matches will create a lively social atmosphere, drawing families, supporters, and visitors together in celebration of the Odwira spirit.

**MAY/AUGUST - GALA,
SEPTEMBER - FINALE**



20. COOKING COMPETITION

The cooking competition will showcase the rich culinary heritage of the Akuapem people, bringing together participants from various communities to prepare traditional and contemporary dishes. Contestants will be judged on creativity, taste, presentation, and authenticity, with a strong emphasis on local ingredients and traditional recipes. The event will highlight the role of food in cultural identity and community life, while also promoting nutrition, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the food sector. This activity will provide an engaging platform for women, youth, and culinary enthusiasts to demonstrate their skills, while also creating opportunities for learning, networking, and cultural exchange.

SEPTEMBER



21. MISS ODWIRA PAGEANT

The Miss Odwira Pageant will be a flagship social event celebrating beauty, intelligence, cultural awareness, and leadership among young women in Akuapem. Participants will go through various stages including cultural display, talent exhibition, public speaking, and community-based projects. The pageant will emphasize not only physical appearance but also knowledge of Akuapem heritage,

confidence, creativity, and social impact. The winner will serve as a cultural ambassador for Okuapeman, promoting the values of the Odwira Festival and supporting community initiatives throughout the year. As part of the 200th Anniversary celebrations, the pageant will highlight the role of young women in preserving tradition while shaping the future.



22. ODWIRA BOXING NIGHT

As part of the exciting lineup of activities for the 2026 Akuapem Odwira Festival, a Boxing Night will be organized in partnership with the Ghana Boxing Authority.

This event is envisioned as a high-energy sporting and entertainment spectacle that will bring together some of Ghana's finest boxing talents, alongside emerging fighters, to showcase skill, discipline, and national pride. The Boxing Night will not only serve as a platform to promote sports development but also enhance the festival's appeal to a broader audience, particularly the youth.



23. GOLF TOURNAMENT – ADEHYE INVITATIONAL CUP

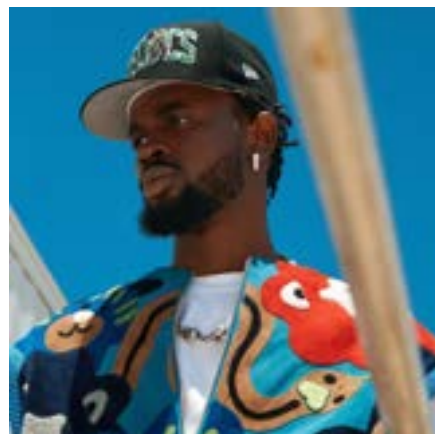
As part of the 2026 Odwira celebrations, the annual Adehye Invitational Golf Tournament will be held at Safari Valley. This premier event is designed to bring together leading philanthropists and esteemed supporters for an exclusive day of golf with His Royal Majesty Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo II, the Okuapehene.

Beyond the game, the tournament serves as a key fundraising platform to support the Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo Foundation (OKWAF), combining recreation with purpose in support of lasting community impact.

OCTOBER



24. ODWIRA MUSICAL CONCERTS



The Odwira Musical Concert will be a vibrant series of live music events held across all five divisions of Akuapem as part of the 200th Anniversary celebrations. Each concert will feature a rich blend of traditional and contemporary music, showcasing local talents, emerging artistes, and established performers. Beyond entertainment, the concerts will create opportunities for social interaction and economic

activity, with vendors and local businesses actively participating. Overall, the Odwira Musical Concert will serve as a unifying and lively platform that reflects the creativity, cultural pride, and collective spirit of the Akuapem people during this historic bicentennial celebration.

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

25. PROMOTION OF AKUAPEM TOURIST SITES

Activities will be organized to highlight the rich tourism potential of Akuapem, including guided tours and cultural exhibitions at key sites across the region. Participants will have the opportunity to visit natural attractions, historical landmarks, and cultural centres, while learning about the history, traditions, and folklore associated with each location. To maximize reach and engagement, various social media platforms as well as traditional media channels will be used to promote these tourist sites, sharing information, stories, and visuals that highlight their cultural and

ecological significance. This initiative aims to raise awareness of Akuapem as a destination for cultural and eco-tourism, attract visitors from across Ghana and beyond, and generate economic opportunities for local communities. It will also encourage investment in hospitality, tourism infrastructure, and community-based tourism initiatives, ensuring the long-term preservation and promotion of local heritage.

APRIL - DECEMBER



26. VISIT TO KATAMANSO

The guided visit to Katamanso, the historic site of the Battle of Katamanso, will provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on a pivotal moment in Akuapem and Ghanaian history the 1826 victory over the Asante army. This site, historically significant as a place of both struggle and triumph, symbolizes the resilience and unity of the Akuapem people and their allies during the conflict. Through historical interpretation, storytelling, and commemorative ceremonies, visitors will learn about the strategies, sacrifices, and heroism that contributed to the victory, as well as its lasting impact on the political and cultural development of Akuapem.



27. DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES



The bicentennial celebrations will include targeted initiatives to engage members of the Akuapem diaspora and foster cultural exchange. Programs will include workshops, cultural performances, networking sessions, and collaborative projects with diaspora participants. These engagements will provide opportunities to share knowledge, explore business and investment collaborations, and strengthen cultural ties between Okuapeman and its global community. By facilitating dialogue and mutual understanding, the diaspora programs will reinforce the global relevance of Akuapem heritage and encourage active participation in the socio-economic and cultural development of the region.

APRIL - SEPTEMBER

PHOTO GALLERY

ODWIRA @ 200 ANNIVERSARY LAUNCH









TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

ORGANIZED BY DAY

The Akuapem Annual Odwira Festival commences on Monday and ends unofficially on the following Sunday; however, it runs for another week till the following Sunday

MONDAY – 21st September, 2026

Path Clearing: Early morning, after preparatory sacrifices led by the Banmuhene, the Adumfo and Ankobeafo leave the town to clear the pathway leading to Amamprobi the royal mausoleum. This “Path-clearing” exercise has a symbolic rather than practical value. It does not only open the gates so the ancestors may come in and eat but also keeps the lines of communication open between the living and the ancestors so that the ancestors may travel home without hindrances.

TUESDAY – 22nd September, 2026

Outdooring the New Yam: This is the day on which the New Yam crop is introduced to the people. This ceremony takes the form of a mock battle or struggles when young men of the town compete in breaking, with their fists, pieces of the new yam and scattering them on the main streets of Akropong. It is after this ceremony that the people are allowed officially, to eat the New Yam.

- **Bringing in the “Odwira”:** Early in the morning of this day, led by the Banmuhene, with support from Adumhene, Apesemakahene and Nkonguasofohene with their members go to the royal mausoleum (Amamprobi) to usher in the “Odwira”. Later in the afternoon, the group returns from Amamprobi, the royal mausoleum with a purifying, strengthening mixture which has been prepared. They also bring other sacred materials, all combining to form the symbol representing the “Odwira” which is ceremonially presented to the Okuapehene
- **Lifting of the ban on Drumming:** Shortly after the symbolic presentation of the

“Odwira”, to the Okuapehene, the official ceremony of the lifting of the ban on drumming, singing, weeping and all forms of noise which was imposed six weeks earlier is performed. This is done amidst drumming and dancing.

WEDNESDAY – 23rd September, 2026

Remembering the Departed: Starting from dawn, there is general mourning in remembrance of dead relatives, in almost every house. This continues until dusk. This day is marked with drinking, weeping and wailing and in many homes no cooking takes place.

At about 11 am, the Okuapehene sits in state at the palace with his elders to receive condolences and greetings from all and sundry.

Around 2 pm that day, the Okuapehene accompanied by Ankobeafo and Asafo groups go around to greet and offer condolences to all stool occupants of Akropong.

THURSDAY – 24th September, 2026

1. Symbolic Cleansing of the Traditional Area and the People: Early morning, before dawn, the Black Stools of the Paramountcy are taken to the “Adami” Stream from purification. The ritual of purification is done to symbolize the cleansing of the Traditional Area and the people. This is one of the few occasions that the Black Stools are taken out of the stool house. The ritual of purification is done under security precautions.

2. Renewal of allegiance: All Chiefs within Akuapem converge on Akropong, the traditional capital, and starting from 7 am up to 4 pm each Chief goes to the stool room to renew his allegiance to the Paramount Stool (Ofori Kuma stool).

3. General Feasting: This day is a day of feasting, in almost every house, Sheep and fowl are slaughtered and sumptuous dishes are prepared. There is communal feasting and general merry-making.

4. Feeding the Ancestors: In the afternoon, starting from about 1 pm, bowls of mashed yam “Oto” (some mixed with palm oil and others left white) which has been specially prepared by the Okuapehene and other stool occupants are carried in a procession from the Ahemfi to the ancestors at “Nsorem”. Nsorem is at the outskirts of Akropong town at a point between Akropong and Abiriw. This was the ancient site of Akropong where most of the ancestors were buried. It is significant to note how many of the carriers of this sacred food “Oto” to Nsorem are possessed by the spirits of the ancestor. The procession of the possessed individuals returns to the palace where those affected later regain consciousness.

5. Customary Blessing: At about 5pm the Okuapehene still sitting in state receives blessings and good wishes from his elders in turns. This signifies the solidarity of the elders to the Ofori Kuma Stool and its occupant. In the night starting from 7pm all Divisional Chiefs meet in the Stool house to renew their allegiance to the Ofori Stool.

FRIDAY – 25th September, 2026

Grand Durbar of Chiefs: From the morning, preparations are made towards the highlight of the festival, which is the Grand Durbar of Chiefs.

SUNDAY – 27th September, 2026

The Krontihene of Akuapem celebrates his Yam Festival at Kyekurotia, Akropong.

Thanksgiving Service

The Okuapehene, his Chiefs and the people attend a service in thanksgiving to the Almighty God and take part in an Odwira Harvest at the Grace Presbyterian church.

FRIDAY (FIDA FOFIE) - The Octarian 2nd October, 2026

The Friday following Odwira Sunday, known as “Fofie,” is a significant day of reflection, gratitude, and royal fellowship within the festival calendar. On this day, the Akrahene, together with the Akrafo, join the Okuapehene in a ceremonial feast.

This gathering symbolizes the successful completion of the Odwira Festival and serves as a moment of thanksgiving for the peace, unity, and spiritual renewal experienced throughout the celebrations. During the occasion, the Akrafo invoke blessings upon the Okuapehene, offering prayers for wisdom, strength, and continued prosperity for both the king and the Akuapem State.

