

Dear Friends,

If you have been following my recent articles, then you may have read that in March of this year 2026, I had surgery on my lower back which was performed by surgeons here in Ghana. My surgeon told me that I would need a few months to recover from this surgery, so I needed to save some topics to write to you about during my recovery. This article is very interesting as it shows how the history of Ghana is still alive and being celebrated by our *current Akrampa School students*, & please continue reading, to see 4 New photos of our Akrampa students.

Let's go back in time to understand the history, and then see current celebrations:

Going back 69 years: On **March 6, 1957**, Ghana became the first sub-Saharan African nation to gain independence from European colonial rule. Led by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and the Convention People's Party (CPP), the former British colony of the Gold Coast shed its imperial ties and renamed itself Ghana to reclaim the heritage of an ancient West African empire.

Ghana (then known as the Gold Coast) was colonized by the British from the middle part of the 19th century, after effectively taking over from pioneer administrations like the Portuguese (1471-1637) and the Danes (1650-1850). At independence, Ghana became the first African nation south of the Sahara to gain independence from its colonial power and designed a flag to stand for the values of the nation. *I will explain the significant colors of the flag in a moment.*

It is unnecessary to emphasize the relevance and significance of celebrating one's nation's freedom from a particular past. The *importance* of such an event takes its cue from Scripture (Deuteronomy 11:18-20). In the Bible, Moses (& the elders of Israel) is charged with the responsibility to ensure that the **deliverance story from Egypt**, and the making of the Jewish nation *is never forgotten*. In the same sense Ghanaian children, particularly school children, must remember the story of our nation; from the rule of foreign powers to the day, March 6, 1957, when the declaration was made, commemorating our independence. Akrampa school children every year join hundreds and thousands across the nation, to celebrate the independence.

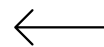
Ghana's Independence Day, March 6th, like the 4th of July in the USA, is a National Holiday. Even now, the occasion is marked with very elaborate activities, some spanning a whole week to do. Particularly for school children the week will be intense and filled with Independence Day related programs. Some of those programs are: **Flag Raising Day** (the first day of the week), **Singing competition**, sometimes among schools in the same community, where particular Ghanaian and traditional (ethnic) songs are acknowledged and recognized with awards, **Poetry recitals** (between classes in the same school, or among schools in the same community), and the **Marching Parade** where the school that presents the best dressed, neatest school, with the most outstanding marching skills, is recognized and award with a trophy.

Akrampa has on two occasions won the Marching Parade (2020, 2024). They made us enormously proud, because, compared with older schools, Akrampa is a younger school, yet could appear as the best school in the district. Every now and then, to revive cultural and ethnic significances, during Independence Day Celebrations schools compete in art works.

Because the Independence Day is very important to the nation, the government leads in the celebrations. In the nation's capital, Accra, Elementary and Secondary Schools gather at the nationally recognized spot known as **Independence Park**. There, the Head of State and President of the Republic of Ghana reviews the parade of the schools gathered, while standing in an open vehicle, then later stands on a special dais raised for the occasion, to inspect the marching past of the students. Leading the marching past at the parade would be the security forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Police, Immigration, and the Prison Officers).

On this day, the whole nation is reminded of the cultural significance of remembering the uniqueness of Ghana as a nation, so our traditional outfits become the attire for the day. Ethnic groupings from all over Ghana come out resplendent in their traditional clothes specific to that locality.

Apart from participating in the celebrations of the Independence Day with other schools, Akrampa School also by itself celebrates the Independence Day. See photos below.



This is the Ghana Flag.

Here is the meaning of the colors of the Ghana flag and the star in the middle:

- **Red:** Represents the blood shed by forefathers and the country's founders during the struggle for independence.
- **Gold / Yellow:** Symbolizes the nation's wealth, abundant mineral resources (particularly gold), and agricultural prosperity.
- **Green:** Stands for the fertile lands, rich vegetation, and vast forests of Ghana.
- **Black Star:** Often referred to as the "Lodestar of African freedom," this symbolizes African emancipation, unity against colonial forces, and the hopes of the African continent.

Please continue to read / scroll down:

... to see **photos** of Akrampa children highlighting & celebrating Independence Day.



Some of the younger Akrapma Students in their cultural attire, to celebrate Independence Day.



Some of the older Akrapma students in their traditional dress, celebrating Independence Day.



Cultural attire for the drummers – Akrampa students celebrating Independence Day.



Cultural attire, for the Akrampa school students performing in the Independence Day celebrations held at our Akrampa School – while their classmates look on from under the tents.

I fervently hope that you've enjoyed reading this summary of the story of Ghana's independence. ~Blessings, Pastor Ben Wilson