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**Ghana**

Ministry of tourism, Arts,  
and Culture

Vol. 4

2024 Motac

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# NEWSPAPER

THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER: TRENDING

## The Chinese Ambassador to Ghana pays a courtesy call to the Hon. minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture



In the spirit of strong bilateral ties, the Chinese Ambassador to Ghana, H.E. Tong Defa and some senior members of the Chinese Embassy called on the Hon. Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture at the Ministry on 8th October 2024.

China and Ghana established diplomatic relations on July 5, 1960. Since then, Ghana has provided substantial diplomatic support to the People's Republic of China (PRC), which in turn has reciprocated with material support for Ghana's

development.

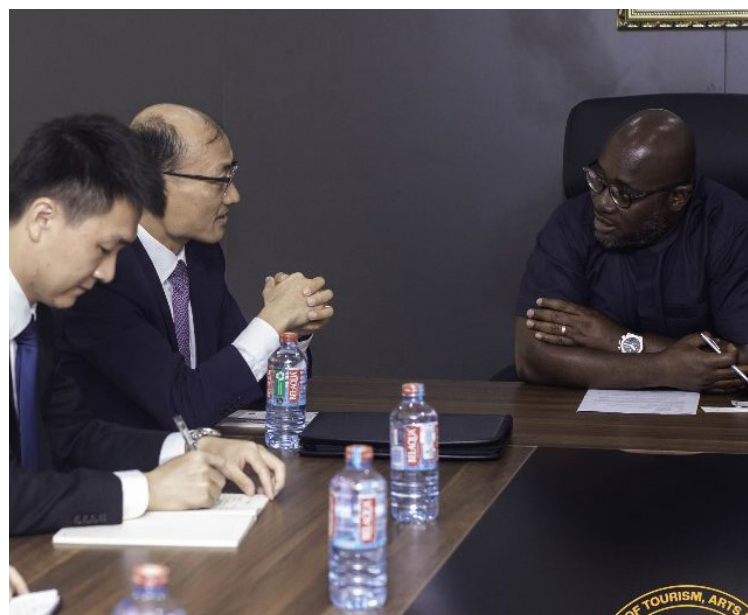
The Ambassador shared very salient remarks regarding the Beijing Platform for Action, which all require immediate and concerted action to create a peaceful, just and humane world based on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

He also underscored how Ghana remains a crucial destination for Chinese Tourists, as his government also works to ensure the Ghanaian community in China is given the

most favourable living conditions to undertake their respective activities. He also shared the willingness of his government to continue to support Ghana with training, investment and scholarship opportunities as it always has.

The Hon. Minister seized the opportunity to register the need for our Chinese counterparts to revisit the structural and interior blueprints of the Ghana National Theatre, as it is an edifice which was constructed by the Chinese.

The Hon. Minister reiterated that Ghana remains committed to enhancing its partnership with China to the benefit of its people.



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# Hon. Egyapa Mercer Opens Cinema Summit in Accra

The Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Andrews Egyapa Mercer addressed the second edition of the Africa Cinema Summit at the Movenpick Ambassador Hotel in Accra. The three-day summit seeks to unite inventive minds and business leaders in the African cinema.

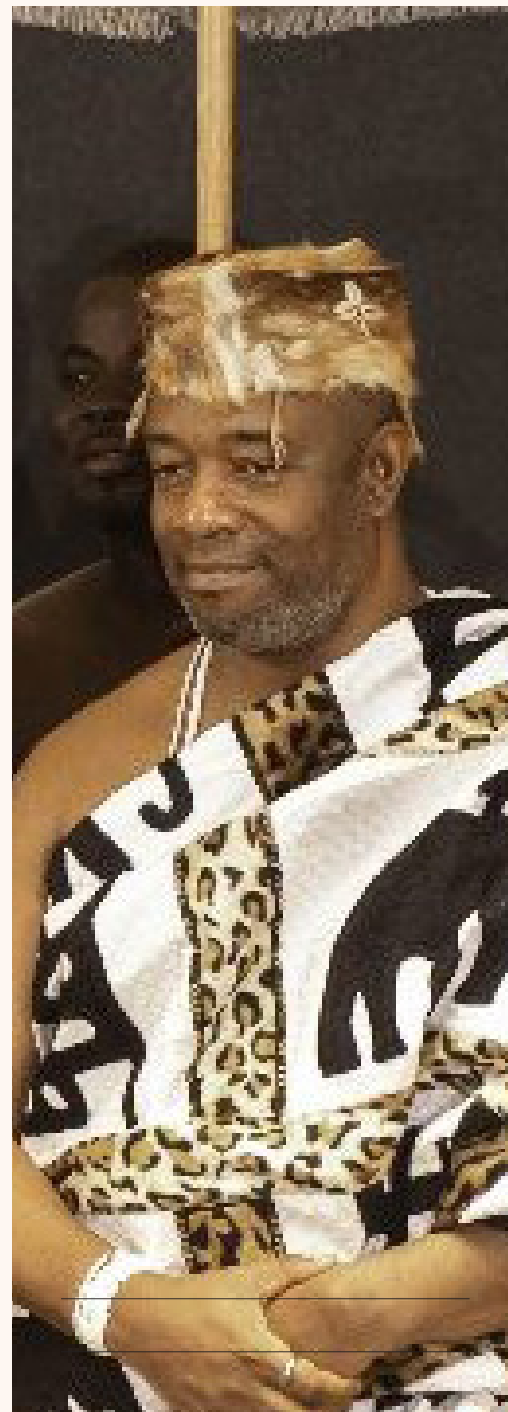
Hon Egyapa Mercer said that the theme chosen for this year's celebration, "Relevance of Cinema in African Communities," could not be more appropriate, and the move indeed is a feather in our cup, having been able to bring people together

for such eye-opening conversations.

He underscored the importance of Cinema as being an important powerful tool, a medium of storytelling that transcends borders, languages, and generations. According to him, It allows us to share our experiences, our challenges, our victories, and our dreams. African communities, rich with history and diverse cultures, have always had a deep connection to storytelling. Through film, we give life to our oral traditions, preserving them for future generations while also making them accessible to the world.

He said it is interesting to note that as a continent, we have long been misrepresented in the global media. Africa's diverse realities, its innovative solutions, and the resilience of its people are too often overshadowed by negative stereotypes. African cinema, therefore, allows us to reclaim our narrative. It provides a platform where our stories can be told authentically and unapologetically. Through film, we challenge these misconceptions and show the world the true Africa—a continent brimming with creativity, innovation, and cultural wealth.

He expressed his hope, that as stakeholders gather for this exciting, but educative period, Ghana and the continent at large will embrace the need for more, the need to outdoor our rich culture and true cinema.



Africa Cinema Summit

## Rwandan Minister of State for Youth and Arts pays courtesy call on Egyapa Mercer

The Minister of State for Youth and Arts in Rwanda, Hon. Sandrine Umutoni paid a courtesy call on Hon Egyapa Mercer at his office on 11th October 2024. She was in Accra to attend the African Cinema Summit (ACS).

Hon. Umutoni, who participated as a guest at the ACS, called on Hon. Mercer to further strengthen the bilateral relations between Ghana and Rwanda.

Currently, Rwanda and Ghana have signed a General Cooperation (GCA) Agreement, a bilateral Air Service Agreement, an Agreement for the establishment of a Joint Permanent Commission and Memoranda of Understanding in a range of sectors including Defence and Security Cooperation, private sector collaboration, tourism arts and culture, financial sector cooperation, and trade and economic cooperation.

Given this, Hon. Mercer expressed Ghana's readiness to collaborate to improve the pending plans and MoUs, consolidate knowledge and expertise, and firm up our knowledge and expertise-sharing vision.

He expressed his satisfaction at the visit, which seeks to strengthen further the collaborations between the two countries.



# 2024 National Tourism Awards held at the Osu Gardens



The year's National Tourism Awards was celebrated under the theme, "Celebrating Innovation and Recognising Excellence in Ghana's Tourism Sector." The event was hosted by the Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA), an Agency under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture at the Osu Castle Gardens on Friday, October 25, 2024, with glamour and appreciation.

The event aimed to honour outstanding achievements in Ghana's tourism and hospitality sectors, celebrating individuals and organizations that have significantly contributed to the industry's growth and resilience.

The ceremony, which was set against the serene ambiance of Osu Castle Gardens, attracted notable figures from across the tourism industry.

Dignitaries who attended the event included the Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture, Hon. Andrew Egyapa Mercer, and his Deputy, Hon. Mark Okraku Mantey, the Board Chair of the Ghana Tourism Authority, Hon. Seth Adjei Baah and other Board members, the Chief Executive Officer Mr. Akwasi Agyeman and Deputy Chief Executive Officers, Mr. Ekow Sampson (Operations), and Mr. Ben Anane Nsiah (General Services).

Others included the Diplomatic Corps, industry professionals, and Agency heads under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture were also present.

Hon. Florence Oboshie Sai Cofie served as Chairperson for the occasion, while Togbe Dr. Crystal-Dzirackor, Group Chair of Crystal TV Group, honoured the gathering as the

Guest of Honour.

In all, there was a total of thirty-six (36) awards distributed to individuals and organizations recognized for their excellence in promoting Ghana's tourism industry. The awards included twenty-six (26) competitive categories, eight (8) honorary recognitions, and two (2) special awards.

The event underscored GTA's commitment to fostering innovation and excellence in Ghana's tourism sector, with the aim to boost the industry's post-pandemic recovery and highlight efforts being used to position Ghana as a preferred travel destination.

## Hon. Egyapa Mercer receives delegation from the National Scouting Association of Ghana



The Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Egyapa Mercer received members from the rank and file of the National Scouting Association in Ghana at the Ministry on Wednesday 30th October 2024.

The National Scouting Association founded in the British Gold Coast Colony is involved in many community service projects in Ghana. Most of these projects occur in rural areas where Scouts organise the people to assist in these projects. Some of these projects are the construction of health centres, schools and potable water. Scouts are also involved in farming, and tree planting and help to cultivate plants that are used to feed fish.

The crux of the engagement was centred around the association's initiative to engage in a peace walk for the upcoming electioneering campaign period and other structural projects that will benefit the association and Ghana

Hon. Egyapa Mercer expressed the government's interest in supporting such peace initiatives as peace is the bedrock of our democratic governance. He stressed the fact that the Government will support this course as one of the initiatives to ensure peaceful and fair elections come December 2024.

# H.E. Dr Bawumia launches the Ghana Music Xperience App



His Excellency the Vice President, Alhaji. Dr Mahamudu Bawumia on Wednesday 30th October 2024 launched the Ghana Music Experience (GMX); a leading music streaming platform created by Ghanaians for Ghanaians, bringing an exclusive collection of the best Ghanaian music all in one place, and seeks to revolutionize the music landscape in Ghana. The event took place at the De Iconic Events Centre in East Legon.

Speaking as the guest of honour for the event, Dr Mahamudu Bawumia indicated that it was a historic moment for Ghana to have its own music streaming App and said it was his distinct honour and pleasure to launch it.

In Ghana, music is more than just art; it is the heartbeat of the people, a channel through which our stories, traditions, culture, hopes, and aspirations of the people are expressed. It has bridged generations, united communities, and given Ghana a distinguished presence on the world stage from the days of Jacob Sam of Yaa Amponsah fame,

Ephraim Amu, Jerry Hansen, Agya Koo Nimo, Naa Amanua, Nana Kwame Ampadu among others.

The Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Egyapa Mercer underscored the importance of the gathering while the GMX was being launched. According to him, it is creating yet another bridge—one that connects Ghanaian artists with audiences across the globe. The platform is expected to give our music the spotlight it deserves while bringing financial benefits to the artists and industry professionals who dedicate their talents and investments to creating the music. He reiterated that the GMX is not only a music streaming platform, but it is to help celebrate Ghana's rich musical heritage, diverse genres, and the creative brilliance of our artists.

He also emphasized that the GMX platform, is of uttermost importance, for it addresses many of the pressing needs that are of concern to the Creative industry – composers, arrangers, publishers, and Executive Producers

among others. It offers better compensation through royalties, visibility for up-and-coming artists, and a unique avenue for the preservation of our Indigenous traditional sounds. With its innovative approach to tracking and distributing royalties, GMX has the potential to serve as a blueprint for cultural preservation and monetization of content across Africa.

This endeavour according to the Hon. Egyapa Mercer aligns perfectly with the government's commitment to advancing the creative arts industry and integrating technology into our cultural promotion strategies. Platforms like GMX will enable us to showcase Ghana's music, our talents, and our culture to a global audience, contributing significantly to tourism and creating new revenue streams for the creative economy.

Hon. Egyapa Mercer expressed hope that as we integrate this App into our economy, it will grow to be one of the transformational pillars that Ghana needs.

## MoTAC embarks on a healthy walk

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and its agencies embarked on a health walk with the theme "Rethinking Tourism; Healthy Workforce for National Development" on Saturday 9th November 2024.

This Health Walk was an effort to encourage the staff on the importance of exercise and emphasized the vital connection between a healthy workforce and the effect on a country's economy.

The health walk, which began from the Ayi Mensah Toll Booth to the Aburi mountains, offered participants not only the chance to engage in physical exercises but also to reflect on the vital role tourism plays in the

nation's development. The theme chosen helped to emphasize the understanding that a motivated and healthy workforce is critical to the tourism industry's success, promoting social well-being, job creation, and economic progress.

A fitness trainer took staff through body exercises and educated them on how to keep fit. Amongst those present were the Director of Human Resource Management, Mr. Vitus Otto Langmagne, Director of Finance and Administration, Mr Kofi Benning and staff of the Ministry and its Agencies.



# RTI Commission sensitises staff of MoTAC on the RTI Law



The Right to Information Commission organised a sensitisation for staff of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture (MOTAC) at the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology and Innovation conference room on Thursday 21 November 2024. The sensitisation aimed to educate MOTAC staff on the Right to Information (RTI) law, Act 989 which was passed in 2019.

Ms Jennifer Owusu, Mr Rafael Osei-Bonsu, Mrs Cynthia Opoku-Konadu, and Ms Nana Akua Afriyie Agyekum from the Right to Information Commission took turns to educate staff. They delved into the essence of the Right to Information law, highlighting key aspects such as access to information, essential facts surrounding the Right to Information, and the necessary procedures for accessing information.

The speakers also shed light on the functions of the

Right to Information Commission and its powers, explaining in detail their orders, decisions, and directives. They also discussed the concept of exempt information, providing a comprehensive meaning to the limitations surrounding access to data.

Through engaging in discussions and informative sessions, staff of MOTAC gained a deeper appreciation for the significance of the Right to Information law. The event not only empowered the staff with knowledge but also underscored the importance of transparency and accountability within ministries.

Staff asked questions, received responses to their questions, and made worthwhile inputs and suggestions on how the law can be made effective. The speakers concluded the session leaving staff inspired and informed, ready to apply the knowledge gained to daily schedules at the Ministry. The sensitization program proved to be a significant moment in fostering a culture of openness and cooperation within the ministry, setting the stage for a more informed and empowered workforce.

# Staff Durbar to bade farewell to minister, deputy minister and chief director



The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture staff held a special Staff Durbar for their outgoing Minister, Deputy Minister and Chief Director at the Ghana National Theatre on 30th December 2024.

The outgoing Hon. Minister inspired staff with words of wisdom and reflection. He spoke of the cyclical nature of life and the importance of leaving a positive impact wherever one finds/herself. He emphasized the need to "brighten the corner where you are," and reminded everyone of the need to uphold patriotism and integrity in their daily tasks.

The Hon. Deputy Minister, Mark Okraku Mantey followed suit, encouraging the staff to remain diligent and committed to their work, even under the new government. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a conducive work environment that nurtured creativity and innovation.

The Chief Director, Mr Robert Patrick Ankobiah, also thanked the Minister and Deputy for their guidance and support, urging staff to prioritize their physical, spiritual, and intellectual well-being, adopting it for holistic living.

Mr. Vitus Otto Langmagne, the Director of Human Resources, who doubles up as the Acting Chief Director welcomed everyone with warmth and grace, setting the tone for reflection and gratitude to God for how far He has brought us. He emphasized the importance of unity and collaboration within the ministry, highlighting the essential role each member of staff must play in helping shape the cultural landscape of the nation.

As the speeches concluded, an avenue was opened for the staff to also express themselves by showing appreciation for what they had learned and experienced while working at the ministry. They praised the successful realignment of various agencies, the renovation works that have added a new touch to the ministry's infrastructure, and the joy and mutual relationships that exist among others.

The Staff Durbar event marked the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, highlighting the power of collaboration and dedication in shaping a brighter future for the nation's cultural heritage landscape.





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Ministry of tourism, Arts and Culture

Ministries- Accra, Ghana

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