



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,
CULTURE & CREATIVE ARTS
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

THE CULTURAL POLICY OF GHANA



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MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE & CREATIVE ARTS
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HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

FOREWORD

Ghana, our cherished nation, is built on the bedrock of unity in diversity, proudly embracing over fifty (50) ethnic groups as one cohesive entity. Our rich cultural heritage is a treasure trove, waiting to be harnessed for sustainable development.

The Cultural Policy of Ghana arrives at a pivotal moment in our nation's journey as we strive to assert our sovereignty, bolster our economy, foster social justice, and chart a uniquely Ghanaian path to progress. This policy, with its focus on unlocking the full potential of our indigenous cultural legacy, is a powerful tool in our quest for social justice.

Our dynamic culture, evolving in response to human needs, is a testament to the innovation, creativity, and ingenuity of our people. As we improve the quality of life for all Ghanaians, our normative and material culture flourishes, showcasing the genius and creative prowess of our people.

Our heritage is the foundation of our development, and we are committed to promoting and preserving it as a valuable plank of the non-traditional export sector, generating wealth and opportunities. To achieve this vision, we pledge to provide unwavering financial and logistical support for the implementation of this policy, empowering our cultural heritage to propel Ghana forward.

HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

DEDICATION TO THE PEOPLE OF GHANA

The Cultural Policy of Ghana is dedicated to the loving memory and meritorious contributions of our beloved ancestors and forebears who handed over this unique culture to us. It is also a tribute to Ghana's illustrious men and women, sons and daughters, who have valiantly upheld and nurtured this unique culture. Their unwavering dedication in the struggle for self-determination has been instrumental in asserting and defending Ghana's cultural sovereignty and freedom.

This dedication is a testament to the Cultural Policy Review Committee members, whose immense contributions have not only shaped the Cultural Policy of Ghana but have also laid the foundation for our indigenous cultures to become the bedrock, context, and substance of national development. Their vision and efforts are deeply appreciated and have been instrumental in this significant achievement.

Lastly, this dedication serves as a solemn commitment to Ghana's ongoing struggle, a testament to the unwavering importance of utilising culture as a driving force for national development.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all for their invaluable contributions to this unique and progressive cultural achievement. We say 'Ayekoo' to each and every one of you.



HONOURABLE ABLA DZIFA GOMASHIE (MP)
MINISTER FOR TOURISM, CULTURE AND CREATIVE ARTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts (MoTCCA) deeply appreciates and values the collective effort of all actors, departments and agencies, including the Cultural Policy Review Committee (2019- 2023) and the Cultural Policy Review Committee (2023- 2024), in the development of the Cultural Policy of Ghana.

The Ministry wishes to commend the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) under the auspices of UNESCO for providing funds for the policy review, and the European Union (EU) for their technical assistance.

The policy, developed in strict adherence to the provisions on culture of the 1992 Constitution, establishes a robust and enduring foundation for a well-defined, practical, effective and universally acceptable cultural policy, regardless of the government in power.

Ghana is steadfast in its commitment to implement both domestic and international development goals, many of which have socio-cultural dimensions and vectors. For effective and sustainable implementation, it is crucial to embed these goals within their appropriate local and cultural contexts, fostering local understanding and ownership, and promoting the use of local actors, indigenous ideas, customary practices, and cultural resources, all of which are integral to the implementation of this cultural policy.

The Ministry commends the selfless dedication and effort of the members of the Cultural Policy Review Committee, including all successive ministers responsible for culture, as well as past chairpersons of the National Commission on Culture. We commend the Committee and all the stakeholders who participated in the consultations during the review process.

HONOURABLE ABLA DZIFA GOMASHIE (MP)

MINISTER FOR TOURISM, CULTURE AND CREATIVE ARTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and Purpose of the Policy

The Cultural Policy of Ghana (2026) is a revised and updated framework that builds on the earlier 2004 policy. It reflects extensive national consultations involving government, cultural practitioners, communities, and international partners. The policy is grounded in Ghana's history, values, and legal framework (specifically, the 1992 Constitution) and aligns with international agreements, including UNESCO conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals.

At its core, the policy recognises culture as the foundation of national identity and development. It emphasises that Ghana's rich cultural heritage, both tangible (monuments, artefacts) and intangible (languages, traditions, knowledge systems), is not only a source of pride but also a key driver of economic growth, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

The policy responds to contemporary challenges such as globalisation, cultural erosion, youth disconnection from heritage, and the need to strengthen the creative economy. It positions culture as a strategic national resource that must be protected, promoted, and integrated into all areas of development.

Vision of the Policy

Recognising that Ghana's diversified and distinct cultural legacies are essential capital for identity building and sustainable national development, the vision of the Cultural Policy document is to identify, honour, protect, celebrate and utilise these cultural resources in a way that inures to our collective benefit. By implementing the various strategies put forward by this document, we would be creating a cohesive, vibrant, and prosperous Ghanaian society whose social, economic and political development is deeply rooted in its cultural heritage and identity.

Objectives of the Policy

The main objectives of the Cultural Policy are to:

- Strengthen Ghana's cultural identity and sovereignty.
- Ensure culture informs all government policies and actions.
- Promote collaboration across sectors and stakeholders.
- Create synergy between policy domains and actors.

- Use cultural heritage as a foundation for sustainable development.

Specifically, the policy further seeks to:

- Encourage creative expression and cultural production.
- Promote inclusive governance and social justice.
- Preserve and adapt cultural traditions responsibly.
- Harness culture for economic growth and job creation.
- Align national development with global cultural frameworks.
- Promote Pan-African cultural exchange and dialogue.
- Leverage technology to preserve and promote culture.

Structure of the Policy Document

The policy is organised into six main sections, each addressing a major area of national life:

1. Culture and Heritage

Focuses on safeguarding Ghana's tangible and intangible heritage, including language, arts, indigenous knowledge systems, culture and religion, recognition of heroes and heroines, culture and health, performing arts, game and recreation, language and literary arts, literature, vernacular architecture, culture and the environment, cultural designs and symbols, visual arts, and food culture.

2. Culture and Society

This section examines Ghana's culture and key social institutions. Topics include family – the bedrock of Ghanaian society, protection of community and individual rights, youth and national culture, culture and disability, culture and education, festivals and ceremonial life, and Ghanaian markets as cultural domains.

3. Culture and Governance

The cultural policy recognises that effective governance requires a deep understanding of the cultural context in which it operates. To this end, this section addresses the nuances of culture and its connectedness with three key governance systems such as traditional authority (chieftaincy), political

participation (democracy), as well as the media.

4. *Culture Across the Economy*

This section explores how culture can be harnessed for its economic output. Sub-sections include the creative economy (publishing industry, cinema and audiovisuals, multimedia economy, recorded music industry, fashion industry and clothing culture, events industry, culture and creative industries, culture and agriculture, and culture and tourism)

5. *Culture and Technology*

Under this section, the importance of digital tools, ICT, and innovation in preserving and promoting culture is highlighted.

6. *National Oversight, Implementation and Regulation*

This section outlines funding, institutional arrangements, and monitoring systems required for effective implementation of the policies proposed.

To define the strategic direction for the issues discussed, each chapter within these sections identifies the key issues and is followed by proposed policy statements (actions).

Key Issues and Policy Actions Addressed by the Policy

The policy identifies several critical challenges and opportunities and also proposes policy actions to improve the situation.

Key Issues	Policy Actions
<i>Culture and Heritage</i>	
• Risk of losing indigenous knowledge, languages, and traditions. • Weak systems for documenting and protecting cultural assets. • Need for stronger intellectual property protection. • The need to protect our material (natural) heritage.	• Establish national registers for heritage (tangible and intangible). • Promote research and documentation of indigenous knowledge. • Strengthen intellectual property systems. • Protect cultural sites, artefacts, and promote sustainable use of natural resources.

Key Issues	Policy Actions
<i>Culture and Society</i> • Erosion of cultural values due to globalisation. • Youth disconnection from cultural heritage. • The need to integrate culture and arts in education. • The need for urban planning projects to recognise cultural dimension in connection of the spaces to be developed. • Limited opportunities for creative development. • Barriers for persons with disabilities in cultural participation.	• Strengthen the role of families and communities in cultural transmission. • Promote cultural education and identity among young people. • Promote Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) for an all-round holistic education that nurtures creativity and responds to contemporary challenges confronting the nation. • Protect community ownership of land and heritage. • Support marginalised groups in cultural production. • Promote festivals and cultural events as development tools.
<i>Culture and Governance</i> • Insufficient integration of traditional governance system into modern governance structure. • Need to encourage media to reflect a positive Ghanaian outlook in their reportage.	• Integrate and strengthen the role of traditional authorities into local government and law enforcement. • Promote Ghanaian orientation and content in media, showcasing culture in a positive light and raising awareness of indigenous values and practices.

Key Issues	Policy Actions
<i>Culture Across the Economy</i>	
• Underdeveloped creative industries. • Limited access to funding, markets, and infrastructure.	• Support creative entrepreneurs with training and funding • Develop infrastructure such as theatres, galleries, and studios • Expand local and international markets for cultural products
<i>Culture and Technology</i>	
• Insufficient integration of traditional governance system into modern governance structure. • Need to encourage media to reflect a positive Ghanaian outlook in their reportage.	• Digitise cultural resources and archives. • Use ICT to promote cultural education and integrate cultural awareness in technology and engineering education. • Support innovation in creative production.

Implementation Approach

The success of the policy depends on:

- Strong collaboration between government, communities, and private sector. This can be made possible by the structuring and systematizing the relationship between state and non-state actors within the culture and creative sector.
- Adequate funding and resource allocation via Culture and Heritage Fund with sources from government contribution, 5% national lottery earnings, 10% copyright earnings etc.
- Capacity building across institutions especially dealing actively with worrying trend of dwindling levels of specialists in the culture and creative sector within public institutions.

- Continuous monitoring and evaluation.
- The policy emphasises that culture is a shared responsibility which requires active participation from all stakeholders.

Conclusion

The Cultural Policy of Ghana (2026) is a comprehensive framework that positions culture as a central pillar of national development. It seeks to preserve Ghana's rich heritage while harnessing it for economic growth, social inclusion, Pan-African engagement and global interaction.

By implementing this policy, Ghana aims to:

- Strengthen its national identity.
- Empower its people, especially youth, creatives and cultural professionals.
- Build a resilient and inclusive society.
- Leverage culture as a driver of sustainable development.

In essence, the policy calls for a future where culture is not just preserved but actively used to shape Ghana's prosperity, progress and Pan-African global leadership.

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OVERVIEW

i. Introduction

The introduction connects this cultural policy to Ghana's history, laws, and development goals for progress. It is divided into six main sections, each with an opening statement and chapters on related topics. In each chapter, a short analysis is given to guide the policy and suggest ways to achieve important goals in specific areas.

The Cultural Policy of Ghana is a product of inclusive and extensive consultation, embodying the fundamental principles, values, and aspirations of the Ghanaian people. This policy reaffirms the centrality of Ghana's indigenous culture as the bedrock of its national identity and the foundation of its development. The policy envisions a vibrant and prosperous society where culture is valued, promoted, and integrated into all aspects of national development. We recognise the indispensable link between culture and development as underscored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and commit to harnessing the power of culture to drive our nation's progress. The policy is developed on the premise that Ghana has a rich cultural heritage, including its tangible and intangible assets, which is deployed to foster a sense of national identity and belonging among all Ghanaians.

The policy underscores the need to support creative industries and cultural entrepreneurship and promote cultural diversity and inclusivity. The policy is guided by the principles of the protection of Ghana's cultural rights and interests, cultural sovereignty and self-determination, respect for cultural diversity and inclusivity, integration of culture into development policies and programmes, community participation and ownership, intellectual property protection, collaboration and partnership. It also underscores an organic link between culture and technology.

The successful implementation of this policy requires the collective efforts of all stakeholders, including government, civil society, private sector, and communities. This requires commitment to allocating the necessary resources, building capacities, and monitoring progress to ensure the effective realisation of the objectives of this policy. The Cultural Policy of Ghana is a landmark document that sets the tone for our nation's cultural development and its implementation will contribute significantly to Ghana's dignity, sense of self and prosperity, and inspire

a vibrant and diverse global future.

This version of the policy is a revised edition of the initial comprehensive 2004 Cultural Policy of Ghana.

ii. Underlying Domestic and International Frameworks

Ghana's cultural policy considers the implementation of domestic and international conventions, treaties, protocols, and agreements that bind Ghana to the comity of nations.

ii. (a) The 1992 Republican Constitution of Ghana

One of the key goals for developing this Cultural Policy of Ghana is to align with the principles outlined in the preamble of the 1992 Republican Constitution, which emphasises the importance of national unity amidst cultural diversity. This objective can be achieved by promoting the positive aspects of Ghanaian culture and traditions. The influence of culture on the nation is evident in the recognition it receives in various articles of the Constitution, such as those related to the Directive Principles of State Policy, Cultural Rights and Practices, Educational Rights, and the Functions of the National House of Chiefs. Additionally, other articles in the Constitution touch on themes like National Cohesion, Economy and Sustainable Development, the Environment, Democracy, and International Co-operation, highlighting the integral role of culture in these aspects of Ghanaian society.

ii. (b) International Conventions

Ghana's commitment to culture is evident through its ratification of seven UNESCO Conventions and implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, showcasing the vital role of culture in sustainable development. Additionally, Ghana aligns with various cultural frameworks such as the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, the Cultural Policy of ECOWAS, and the African Union's Agenda 2063. These initiatives are in harmony with Ghana's laws and the 1992 Republican Constitution.

This Cultural Policy of Ghana embraces the definition of culture from the 2004 Cultural Policy, emphasising culture as a way of life that shapes social, political, economic, and religious practices, providing a distinct identity for the people.

Ghana also adopts UNESCO's definition of culture, highlighting its role in shaping human values, critical thinking, and moral commitment. Culture enables individuals to express themselves, reflect on their existence, and create meaningful works that transcend limitations. Through these definitions, Ghana recognises the profound impact of culture on society and individuals.

iii. Vision

This Cultural Policy of Ghana aligns with the vision set forth in the 2004 Cultural Policy, which aims to honour, protect, utilise, and celebrate Ghana's cultural heritage and resources. The ultimate goal is to foster a cohesive, vibrant, and prosperous national community with a unique African identity and character. This vision seeks to instil a sense of collective confidence and pride among Ghanaians, positioning Ghana prominently among the comity of nations. By embracing and promoting its cultural heritage, Ghana aspires to create a strong and unified society that embodies the richness and diversity of its African roots.

iv. Objectives of the Cultural Policy of Ghana

iv. (a) Main Objectives

The Main Objectives are to:

- Highlight the cultural identities of Ghana in order to consolidate the sovereignty of the nation and to foster a cohesive, enduring, dynamic, corporate, multicultural society from its diverse population.
- Ensure that culture inspires state policies and actions, evaluating them based on their cultural roots and impact.
- Approach the broad objectives of the 1992 Constitution in a coordinated manner, emphasising interconnectedness and collaboration among all stakeholders.
- Highlight cross-cutting issues to showcase the entirety of the Ghanaian way of life and create synergies between policy domains and actors.
- Enhance understanding of how Ghana's indigenous cultural legacy serves as essential capital for sustainable national development.

iv. (b) Specific Objectives

- Enable and encourage all Ghanaians to contribute their creative work and cultural products to enhance the quality of national life.
- Ensure that culture inspires inclusive governance, corporate administration, economy, human rights, rule of law, education, health, environment, land use, agriculture, gender equality, social justice, child-rearing, care of the aged, and overall quality of life, especially for marginalised groups.
- Preserve traditional customs and traditions while adapting them through customary processes as needed.
- Capitalise on the country's rich cultural heritage as a valuable resource for economic development.
- Consider all cultural provisions of the 1992 Constitution and provide guidelines for individuals, organisations, and government entities to align their activities with national goals.
- Incorporate international development goals and cultural protocols into Ghana's strategies to ensure alignment between national and global development efforts, promoting citizen participation and benefit.
- Promote cultural dialogue among Africa and its Diaspora's diverse cultures in fulfilment of Ghana's objective of promoting Pan-Africanism.
- To move in tandem with the contemporary advancement and relevance of technology and deploy the use of the ICT revolution to harness, collate and store, develop, promote and present our culture and heritage to generate work and wealth.



SECTION ONE – CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Heritage encompasses both material and non-material aspects of culture passed down from one generation to the next. It can be identified through natural and cultural expressions. Many Ghanaian communities preserve tangible and intangible cultural elements through social, religious, and artistic practices. However, indigenous cultures in Ghana have faced challenges from colonialism. Like other nations with diverse indigenous populations, Ghana is striving to uphold its cultural identity and traditions amidst globalisation.

The Cultural Policy of Ghana aims to make significant strides in this endeavour. To achieve this goal, Ghana must reconstruct the presentation of its history, avoid overwhelming dependence on external sources for its sustenance and safeguarding its culture and heritage. Ghanaians can decolonise their minds by actively preserving, developing, and protecting their culture and heritage, thereby reaffirming its significance and relevance.

This section is dedicated to Ghana's Intangible Cultural Heritage, which embodies its Indigenous Knowledge Systems; Culture and Religion; Recognition for Heroes and Heroines; Culture and Health; The Performing Arts; Language and Literary Arts; Literature; Tangible Cultural Heritage and its constituents including Vernacular Architecture; Culture and the Environment; Visual Arts; and Food Culture.



CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Ghana's ratification of the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2016 highlights the country's commitment to preserving and promoting its rich cultural heritage. The definition of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' adopted by Ghana aligns with the 2003 Convention, emphasising the importance of practices, representations, knowledge, and skills that communities recognise as part of their cultural identity.

This heritage, passed down through generations, plays a vital role in shaping Ghanaian identity and promoting cultural diversity. Ghana's intangible cultural heritage encompasses a wide range of indigenous knowledge systems, from environmental practices to traditional technologies and social institutions.

These cultural elements serve as sources of inspiration for creativity and contribute to national development. Ghana's efforts to safeguard its intangible cultural heritage are essential for maintaining a sense of identity and continuity within its communities as buttressed by the Directive Principles of State Policy, Article 39 (1-4) which states:

- *“Subject to clause (2) of this Article, the State shall take steps to encourage the integration of appropriate customary values into the fabric of national life through formal and informal education and the conscious introduction of cultural dimensions to relevant aspects of national planning.*
- *The State shall ensure that appropriate customary and cultural values are adapted and developed as an integral part of the growing needs of society as a whole; and in particular that traditional practices which are injurious to the health and well-being of the person are abolished.*
- *The State shall foster the development of Ghanaian languages and pride in Ghanaian culture.*
- *The State shall endeavour to preserve and protect places of historical interest and artefacts.”*

1.1 Key Issues

The key issues provided by the Constitution is that the State shall:

- Regard all indigenous cultural expressions of ethnic groups as assets of the State and protect same by law.
- Facilitate and promote the study and recording of the cultural expressions of indigenous culture for contemporary use and for posterity.
- Encourage the study of all indigenous languages, literature and oral institutions and protect them from extinction.
- Encourage the collection and collation of indigenous knowledge embodied in oral tradition, myths, legends, oral histories, proverbs, songs and customary practices as national and world heritage assets.

1.2 Broad Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Commit to safeguarding and promoting its intangible cultural heritage through developing a National ICH Register, empowering relevant state institutions to enforce copyright protection, encouraging the collection and collation of indigenous knowledge, promoting research and development of intangible cultural heritage, and recognising and protecting the intellectual property rights of individuals and communities.
- Mobilise communities to establish mechanisms for patenting traditional products and processes.
- Create ICT infrastructure for collecting and disseminating indigenous knowledge in local languages.
- Protect and utilise indigenous knowledge as a crucial source for cultural development and share for the benefit of all.
- Recognise the importance of international co-operation, particularly with organisations like the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), to ensure the protection of indigenous knowledge at a global level.

1.3 Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Ghana

AU Agenda 2063 clearly affirms that culture is an integral part of development efforts on the continent. Consequently, it is essential to protect and effectively utilise indigenous knowledge that represents a major dimension of the continent's culture and to share this knowledge for the benefit of humankind.

In this policy, special attention shall be given to the protection and nurturing of indigenous knowledge, which includes tradition-based literacy, artistic, and scientific works, inventions, scientific discoveries, designs, marks, names and symbols, undisclosed information and all other tradition-based innovation and creations, resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields. The term indigenous knowledge also includes genetic resources and associated knowledge.

Ghana can assert the contribution of its indigenous knowledge to world culture by preserving and utilising Ghanaian cultures, identities, and values in the development process. This can be achieved by focusing on preserving, protecting, and promoting Ghana's heritage as a spiritual, social, and developmental asset.

Additionally, the use of indigenous institutions, norms, and values is intended to promote mutual understanding and good governance within Ghana. Research into Ghanaian cultures is encouraged to enhance national development objectives, while education is utilised to prevent the alienation of Ghanaians from their cultural heritage.

Efforts are made to empower communities to eliminate discrimination and promote understanding of cultural norms and practices. Cultural events and intercultural dialogue are used to address ethnic conflicts and enhance national stability. Furthermore, rural economies are strengthened through the development of indigenous resources for the national and global market, while efforts are made to promote general health through traditional foods and indigenous medical products.

Protection of biodiversity and agro-diversity is ensured through the study and development of indigenous knowledge and practices in environmental management. Global partnerships are created to protect heritage objects and cultural sites, and laws are enacted to safeguard the intellectual property rights inherent in indigenous products and community knowledge.

1.3.1 Key Issues

- Taking urgent steps to ensure that indigenous knowledge in Ghana is protected through appropriate legislation.
- Promoting its protection at the international level, by working closely with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).
- Protecting and preserving our diverse cultural heritage.
- Enforcing Copyright protection.
- Empowering existing traditional and indigenous institutions to enable them to impact positively on development policy planning.
- Building capacity to identify and inventorise our cultural heritage.
- Building capacity to employ cultural resources to develop indigenous cultural products for the world market.
- Understanding the scientific basis of our indigenous knowledge and practices in environmental management (e.g., taboos).

1.3.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Promote learning of indigenous languages and values to strengthen mass education and reduce illiteracy.
- Preserve and develop cultural heritage to support tourism and related industries.
- Restore the environment based on the indigenous knowledge and practices.
- Mobilise communities and recognise what they can contribute to development through their ownership of indigenous knowledge, technology and resources.
- Record, store, collate information and develop ICT on the indigenous knowledge and practices.

1.4 Culture and Religion

Culture and religion are intricately intertwined, with culture often serving as the vibrant tapestry that weaves together the beliefs, values, and practices of a community's faith. As a nation, Ghana's rich cultural heritage is deeply rooted in its religious diversity, with each ethnic group's unique traditions and customs influencing their spiritual practices. By embracing and celebrating this cultural and religious diversity, we foster a society that values inclusivity, understanding and mutual respect, allowing our collective heritage to flourish and inspire future generations. Culture and religion are buttressed by the Constitution as follows:

Article 17(2) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, under Equality and Freedom from Discrimination, states:

"A person shall not be discriminated against on the basis of gender, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed, or social or economic status."

Article 21(1) (c) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, under Equality and Freedom from Discrimination, states: *"Freedom to practice any religion and to manifest such practice."*

Article 26 (1) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, under Cultural Rights and Practices, states: *"Every person is entitled to enjoy, practice, profess, maintain and promote any culture, language, tradition or religion subject to the provisions of this Constitution."*

By fostering religious tolerance and promoting collaboration, Ghana aims to build a united and prosperous nation.

1.4.1 Key Issues

- *Freedom of Worship*

Ghana upholds absolute freedom of worship, ensuring that religious extremism and anarchy do not prevail within its borders. This commitment is crucial for a successful national integration process that promotes unity amidst religious and cultural diversity.

- *Embracing Religious Tolerance*

Embracing religious tolerance is a valuable asset for cultivating a harmonious and multicultural society. This is evident in instances where people of different faiths coexist peacefully.

- *Collaboration between Faith-Based Organisations and the State*

The collaboration between faith-based organisations and the State in providing essential services in urban and rural areas will be actively supported and reinforced. These services encompass a wide range of amenities, such as health, education and social services.

1.4.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Recognise faith-based organisations as partners in the national development process.
- Use religion to promote peace, manage and settle conflicts where necessary.
- Safeguard religion and cultural rights as an essential component of human rights.
- Comprehensively address social dissonance such as noise pollution caused by religious and social activities, ensuring it is managed effectively at both national and local levels.

1.5 Recognition for Heroes and Heroines

Ghana's journey from a collection of kingdoms and ethnic groups to a unified nation has been marked by the sacrifices of selfless individuals and groups. Their struggles, hardships, and dedication have paved the way for the freedom and sovereignty we enjoy today. Our national icons have made significant contributions that are etched in our hearts and minds, inspiring us to build a better nation.

1.5.1 Key Issues

- Recognising and celebrating our heroes and heroines from all walks of life is crucial, as it inspires future generations to follow in their footsteps.
- Honouring citizens who have demonstrated unwavering dedication and sacrifice in service to the nation.
- Ensuring that the legacies of our heroes and heroines are immortalised through various forms of recognition, including awards, monuments, festivals, public lectures, and other expressions of gratitude.

15.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Set up an administrative process to develop policies required by the legislation to guide the identification of Ghanaian heroes and heroines (past and present).

1.6 Culture and Health

Cultural beliefs and practices significantly influence our physical and mental well-being. Our cultural heritage is a treasure trove of traditional knowledge and practices that can contribute to our holistic health and wellness. The Cultural Policy of Ghana recognises the importance of integrating culture into our healthcare system, promoting traditional medicine, and supporting research into our indigenous knowledge systems. By embracing our cultural diversity and promoting cultural expression, we can foster a healthier society that values wellness, and overall quality of life.

Through this policy, we commit to harnessing the power of culture to improve the health and well-being of all Ghanaians:

- *Commitment to Health and Well-being*
Article 36(10) of Ghana's 1992 Constitution states: "The State is unwavering in its commitment to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of all persons in employment and shall establish the basis for the full deployment of the creative potential of all Ghanaians." This commitment is the foundation of our policies and action.
- *Health as a Critical Index of Development*
The State recognises that the overall health status of its citizens is a critical index to a nation's development. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), health is defined as "the physical, social and mental well-being of the family or individual and not the mere absence of disease or infirmity."
- *Role of Culture in Health*
The State acknowledges that culture plays a leading role in people's health. Culture shapes people's perceptions of disease, disease causation, and disease management, as well as their perception of individual and community health or well-being. Traditional practices related to human survival, such as those associated with pregnancy, childbearing, nurturing, feeding and medications,

impact the health of all human communities.

- *Promoting Traditional Medicine*

The State encourages the continuous dispensation of traditional medicine. In most Ghanaian communities, modern clinical medicine only reaches a few, while traditional Ghanaian medicine makes health services available to over 70% of the rural majority.

1.6.1 Key Issues

Key issues to be addressed by the government include the following:

- Recognise traditional medicine as a national heritage asset by establishing institutions for research and teaching.
- Research, through collaboration with traditional healers, the efficacy and therapeutic qualities of traditional medical systems.
- Dispense both traditional and orthodox medicines in all health centres and place both under the same directorate and monitoring systems.
- Collect statistics of users of traditional medicine to help shape policy.
- Enact laws to protect traditional medicine and intellectual property rights in therapy.
- Register herbalists and give them recognition and a code of ethics.
- Eliminate inimical cultural practices to reduce health hazards.
- Patent and protect traditional medicine procedures.

1.6.2 Policy Statements

The State shall take the necessary steps to provide a health delivery system that is culturally relevant and accessible to all:

- Recognise the quality and scope of traditional health systems.
- Identify ways to improve the practice of traditional healers.
- Establish institutions to research and teach traditional medicine.
- Put in place a regulatory system to grant and protect the intellectual property rights of holders of indigenous knowledge in traditional medicine.

- Use targeted behavioural change communication messages and strategies to educate communities on cultural practices that lead to the spread of infectious diseases.
- Promote traditional food products and diets that are healthy and locally produced.
- Prepare a database of Ghanaian healing practices and medicinal plants.
- Protect Ghanaian forests and biodiversity as a health resource.

1.7 The Performing Arts

The performing arts have the power to captivate, inspire and unite us, providing a platform for storytelling, creativity, and self-expression. Through music, dance, theatre and other forms of performance, we can explore our cultural heritage, celebrate our diversity, and foster a sense of community and shared humanity. The Cultural Policy of Ghana recognises the performing arts as a vital component of our cultural landscape and it is committed to promoting, supporting, and celebrating the creative talents of our nation.

1.7.1 Key Issues

Key issues to be addressed by the government include the following:

- *Nurturing the Performing Arts in Ghana*
The National Theatre Law of 1991 stands as a crucial legislation aimed at fostering the growth and advancement of the performing arts sector in Ghana. This landmark law requires the establishment of theatres at the national, regional, and district levels to cultivate and exhibit various art forms, such as music, dance drama, and literary arts.
- *Modern Tools and Technology*
To further support the performing arts industry, it is essential to equip it with modern tools and technology. This can include state-of-the-art sound systems, lighting equipment, and digital platforms. These resources play a vital role in enhancing production quality, presentation, packaging, and finesse, ultimately helping the industry to maintain its competitiveness.
- *Marketing and Job Creation*
In addition to providing necessary resources, the State is committed to

creating effective marketing channels for performing arts products. By tapping into the industry job creation potential, especially targeting youth employment, efforts can be made to alleviate chronic unemployment among young people.

- *Performers' Training and Development*

The government is dedicated to offering comprehensive training and development programmes for performers, focusing on various aspects such as performance techniques, stagecraft, music composition, and choreography. These programmes are designed to empower artistes with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their respective disciplines, thereby contributing significantly to economic growth and transformation.

- *Developing a Vibrant Performing Arts Ecosystem*

To establish a vibrant and sustainable performing arts ecosystem in Ghana, emphasis will be placed on the holistic development of the industry. This can involve supporting various facets including music recordings, musical instruments, compositions, festivals, concerts, plays, dance, opera, orchestral music, songs, and other performing arts endeavours. Additionally, the State will extend its assistance to services related to the production, distribution, operation, and promotion of music and performing arts, further enriching the cultural landscape of the nation.

- *Cultural Exchange Programmes*

Encourage collaborations and cultural exchange programmes with artistes and organisations from different countries. This can help expose Ghanaian artistes to new perspectives, techniques, and audiences, leading to a richer and more diverse artistic scene.

- *Arts Education in Schools*

Advocate the integration of arts education in school curricula to cultivate a love for the performing arts from a young age. Providing students with opportunities to explore music, dance, drama, and other art forms can help nurture future talent and appreciation for the arts.

- *Artiste Residency Programmes*

Establish artiste residency programmes where local and international artistes can work together, share experiences, and create new works. These programmes can serve as incubators for innovation and creativity within the performing arts community.

- *Creative Entrepreneurship Support*
Offer training and resources to artistes interested in entrepreneurship, helping them develop business skills to navigate the industry effectively. Supporting artistes in areas such as marketing, finance, and project management can empower them to sustainably pursue their artistic endeavours.
- *Community Engagement Initiatives*
Organise community events, workshops, and outreach programmes to engage diverse audiences and foster a sense of cultural pride and unity. By making the performing arts more accessible and inclusive, the sector can reach a wider demographic and have a more significant impact on society.
- *Preservation of Cultural Heritage*
Encourage the preservation and celebration of Ghana's rich cultural heritage through traditional performances, storytelling, and rituals. By honouring and showcasing indigenous art forms, the performing arts can serve as a medium for cultural preservation and inter-generational knowledge transfer.
- *Collaboration with Local Institutions*
Foster partnerships with universities, cultural institutions, and grassroots organisations to create a network of support for the performing arts sector. By leveraging existing resources and expertise, collaborations can lead to increased opportunities for training, research, and performance.

1.7.2 Policy Statements

The State shall take the necessary steps to:

- Encourage the teaching and learning of the performing arts in schools and colleges from kindergarten to tertiary.
- Rehabilitate the existing National Theatre as a national monument.
- Establish district and regional theatres to showcase the arts and provide spaces for rehearsals.
- Intensify research into relevant performing arts disciplines.
- Enhance the capacity of performing artistes and industry players.
- Provide insurance and welfare packages and incentives to practitioners within the performing arts industry.

- Include the Business of Performing Arts in the teaching and learning of performing arts in schools.

1.8 Games and Recreation

Article 37 (5) of the 1992 Republican Constitution of Ghana, under Sports and Recreation, states:

“The State shall ensure that adequate facilities for sports are provided throughout Ghana and that sports are promoted as a means of fostering national integration, health and self-discipline as well as international friendship and understanding.”

These facilities, including sports complexes, stadiums, training centres, and community sports grounds, all equipped with modern amenities and maintained to international standards, play a crucial role in fostering a sense of unity and belonging among our diverse population.

Sports and Recreation constitute physical culture, including indoor and outdoor traditional and contemporary games and sports.

1.8.1 Key Issues

- The government has to recognise the importance of physical culture and commit to providing cultural spaces like museums, galleries, live theatres and cinemas, libraries, bookstores and record stores, live music venues, and multidisciplinary art spaces for growth and development.
- In rural and urban development projects, the government has to ensure that existing cultural spaces are preserved for the enactment of our culture and also create new ones- demonstrating our respect for cultural heritage and encouraging public participation.
- The government has to be resolute in its efforts to revive our storytelling tradition and rekindle native wrestling, archery, horse racing, and tug-of-war competitions. These cultural activities, deeply rooted in our heritage, are not just a part of our past but also a catalyst for intellectual, physical, and emotional development. They instil a profound sense of pride in our rich artistic legacy, sparking excitement for their revival and this singular step would demonstrate government's active role in cultural preservation.

- The State has to place great importance on the preservation of Ghanaian childhood games. These games, beyond their entertainment value, serve as a powerful tool to cultivate bonds of unity and enforce proper social control, fostering a sense of togetherness and responsibility among our citizens.

1.8.2 Policy Statements

The Government shall take the necessary steps to:

- Promote games and recreation and encourage research into and the creation of new forms to enrich the Ghanaian entertainment scene.
- Enact laws to compel physical planners to make provisions for the activities of the youth in community planning.
- Ensure that facilities for sports and cultural activities for children are provided within every community.
- Promote games and recreation as extracurricular activities within schools and colleges.
- Ensure that Ghanaian indigenous games and recreation do not phase into extinction.

1.9 Language and Literary Arts

Language and literary arts are the cornerstones of our cultural expression, providing a window into our past, present, and future. Our languages are the vessels that carry our stories, myths, and legends, while our literary arts provide a reflection of our society, values, and beliefs.

The Cultural Policy of Ghana recognises the importance of language and literary arts in shaping our identity, fostering creativity, and promoting cultural diversity. The policy is committed to supporting the development and promotion of our languages, literature, and literary arts, ensuring their vibrancy and relevance in modern Ghanaian society, and providing opportunities for writers, poets, and linguists to flourish.

This Cultural Policy of Ghana proudly endorses paragraph 1.0.1 of the 'Introduction' of the 2004 Cultural Policy of Ghana, which eloquently states: "Ghana, a nation of over 50 ethnic groups, is a tapestry of common values and institutions that

embody our collective national heritage. Each ethnic group, united by the twists of history, boasts unique cultural features and traditions that bestow upon its people a sense of identity, self-respect, and profound pride." This is buttressed by Article 39 (3) of Ghana's Constitution which states: "*The State shall foster the development of Ghanaian languages and pride in Ghanaian culture.*"

1.9.1 Key Issues

- Take the necessary steps to develop a Ghanaian Language Policy to give strategic direction for developing Ghanaian languages and pride in Ghanaian culture as demanded by the 1992 Constitution.
- The Language Policy, among others, would provide direction to the:
 - Medium of instruction in schools and colleges.
 - Development of orthography and orthographic control of Ghanaian languages.
 - Development of a Ghanaian language map.
 - Curriculum development and assessment for Ghanaian languages.
 - Development of Ghanaian language materials – books, e-books, etc.
 - Training of Ghanaian language teachers.
 - Methodology for the teaching of Ghanaian languages.
 - Posting of Ghanaian language teachers.
 - Eradicate the stigma associated with the teaching and learning of Ghanaian languages.
- Provide adequate financial, logistical, and technical support to existing Ghanaian language departments, agencies, schools, and colleges so that they can exercise their respective mandates.

1.9.2 Policy Statements

The State shall take the necessary steps to ensure the:

- Use of Ghanaian languages as a medium of instruction in schools.
- Use of Ghanaian languages to broadcast daily news on radio and TV channels.
- Printing of newspapers in Ghanaian languages.

- Availability of archives and libraries of the spoken languages – oral traditions, proverbs, folktales and legends, praise songs and dirges, and dictionaries of Ghanaian languages.
- Development of literature in Ghanaian languages.
- Use of Ghanaian languages in theatre.
- Use of Ghanaian languages in Parliament and government business.
- Translation of foreign language literature into Ghanaian languages.
- Translation of Ghanaian folktales and proverbs into foreign languages and vice versa.
- Availability of Ghanaian language schools, university faculties and departments.

1.10 Literature

Literature is a mirror of culture, reflecting values, beliefs, and experiences. It has the power to shape perceptions, challenge assumptions, and inspire the imagination. Through literature, we can explore our cultural heritage, confront our challenges, and envision a better future. Literature is a vital part of our cultural landscape, and we celebrate its ability to educate, entertain, and inspire us.

1.10.1 Key Issues

- *Recognising Literature as Intellectual Property*
The State acknowledges literature as a valuable intellectual property, leveraging its originality, cultural significance, and contribution to Ghana's rich literary heritage. This recognition encompasses a broad range of literary works, including books, magazines, periodicals, journals, and reports authored by Ghanaian writers, which reflect the Ghanaian experience and cultural identity. This recognition underscores the importance of literature in shaping Ghana's cultural identity, preserving its heritage, and inspiring future generations.
- *Extending Recognition to Foreign Literary Works*
Furthermore, the State recognises literary works by foreign nationals or writers that have significantly impacted Ghana's educational landscape, both formal and informal, culture and heritage. These works should be readily accessible in

libraries, bookshops, online platforms, and other physical or digital resources available to all the people across Ghana, fostering a culture of reading, learning, and intellectual exploration.

- *Promoting Accessibility and Cultural Exchange*

By recognising literature as intellectual property, the State aims to:

- Encourage Ghanaian writers to produce high-quality, culturally relevant works.
- Foster a vibrant literary culture that showcases Ghana's unique perspective.
- Promote cultural exchange and understanding through literature.
- Ensure accessibility of literary works for education, research, and personal enrichment.

110.2 Policy Statements

The State shall take the necessary steps to:

- Ensure copyright protection for Ghanaian literature and intellectual property.
- Encourage the writing and publication of Ghanaian literature materials.
- Provide incentives and award schemes for authors and producers of Ghanaian literature.
- Document Ghanaian literature through the creation of digital libraries/e-libraries.
- Develop Ghanaian literature into textbooks, supplementary reading materials, bedtime stories/children's books, etc.
- Use ICT to animate Ghanaian literature materials for easy adaptation in schools and colleges.
- Promote research and study of Ghanaian literature through formal and informal education.
- Promote the literature business – writing, publishing, printing, distribution (bookshop and online) to ensure a viable ecosystem.



CHAPTER TWO

2.0 TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

2.1 Ghana's Commitment to Cultural Heritage

On July 4, 1975, Ghana ratified the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted in Paris on November 16, 1972. In doing so, Ghana embraced the Convention's definition of 'Cultural Heritage' as outlined in Article 1, which encompasses:

- *Monuments*: architectural works, sculptures, paintings, archaeological elements, inscriptions, cave dwellings, and combinations of features that hold outstanding universal value from historical, artistic, or scientific perspectives.
- *Groups of Buildings*: connected or separate buildings that, due to their architecture, homogeneity, or landscape setting, possess outstanding universal value from historical, artistic, or scientific viewpoints.
- *Sites*: human-made or natural sites, including archaeological sites that hold outstanding universal value from historical, aesthetic, ethnological, or anthropological perspectives.

The State is committed to the holistic development, protection, promotion and preservation of Ghana's Cultural Heritage, including antiquities, collectors' items, museum services, archive services (documents, recordings of intangible cultural heritage, etc.), preservation services for historic sites and monuments, services related to safeguarding and transmitting oral traditions.

Ghana has adopted the definition of Natural Heritage' in Article 2 of the 1972 Convention, which states: "*For this Convention, the following shall be considered as "natural heritage":*

- Natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view.
- Geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.
- Natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal

value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

Article 39 (4) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, under Directive Principles of State Policy, states: *"The State shall endeavour to preserve and protect places of historical interest and artefacts."*

Ghana is resolute in its mission to preserve, protect, and develop its vast legacy of cultural objects. These objects not only tell our history but also serve as a compass, guiding us from where we came, showing us where we are going, and helping us define how we might travel and reach new horizons.

Ghana's great variety of human-created objects from past generations shows us the path and process of national development and indeed shows how, besides the things Ghanaians produced to meet survival needs, we produced artefacts that spoke to our worldview, representations of religious beliefs, of human power and control in society, and of life after death.

2.1.1 Key Issues

- Ghana's natural heritage is a precious legacy, encompassing our vast landscapes, diverse wildlife, and fragile ecosystems.
- Our forests, rivers, lakes, and coastlines are not only a source of economic wealth but also a repository of cultural significance, holding the secrets of our ancestors and the stories of our past.
- Our natural heritage is a vital part of our cultural identity, influencing our art, literature, music, and spirituality.
- Ghana recognises the intrinsic value of its natural heritage and is committed to preserving, protecting, and promoting it for future generations, ensuring that our cultural legacy remains intact and our natural resources are harnessed sustainably.

2.1.2 Broad Policy Statements

The State shall encourage and take the necessary measures to:

- Equip, protect, conserve and manage the registered material cultural heritage of the nation.

- Control the export, import, sale and change of ownership of material cultural properties through licensing and issuance of permits.
- Establish a national register and keep an inventory of the material cultural heritage of the nation.
- Identify and recommend for declaration as national monuments, structures and sites of historical and cultural significance.
- Undertake research and publish cultural heritage information.
- Facilitate tourism through the proper maintenance of museums and monuments.
- Provide explanatory services on the nation's material cultural heritage to the public.
- Recover cultural heritage properties illicitly trafficked or stolen.
- Acquire material cultural objects.

2.2 Vernacular Architecture

- Vernacular architecture refers to the traditional and indigenous building styles and methods used by local communities, often passed down through generations, to construct buildings and structures that are adapted to the local climate, culture, and available resources. It is characterised by:
- Use of local materials, such as wood, mud, thatch, and stone.
- Simple and functional designs.
- Adaptation to local environmental conditions, such as climate, topography, and natural disasters.
- Reflection of local cultural and social values.
- Often constructed without the involvement of professional architects or formal training.
- Vernacular architecture is a reflection of the community's identity, history, and way of life, and is often considered an important part of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

2.2.1 Key Issues

The key issue is recognising Vernacular Architecture in the following areas:

- *Contributions and Benefits*
Vernacular architecture contributes significantly to rural housing, embodying indigenous knowledge. Its designs are functional such as thatched roofs, reducing sun impact, and rounded walls, resisting strong winds. The State aims to integrate valuable elements of vernacular architecture into modern building practices, reducing dependence on imported materials and promoting proper ventilation and energy efficiency.
- *Preserving Traditional Designs*
Incorporating traditional designs and motifs into modern architecture can enhance facades and fortify buildings, making them more resilient to the vagaries of the weather. This approach will help preserve the cultural heritage of vernacular architecture, ensuring its continued relevance and importance in Ghana's building traditions.
- *Researching Building Materials*
The State shall conduct in-depth research on building materials, focusing on the durability of materials used in vernacular architecture, such as soil types.

2.2.2 Policy Statements

The State shall take the necessary steps to:

- Investigate the enduring qualities of soil types used in vernacular architecture.
- Explore alternative building materials from natural sources.
- Develop improved housing solutions using researched materials.
- Preserve traditional building techniques.
- Enhance the durability of modern housing.
- Promote sustainable and eco-friendly construction practices.

2.3 Culture and the Environment

Our cultural beliefs and practices shape our relationship with the natural world. Our cultural heritage is deeply rooted in the land, and our traditional knowledge

and practices have always been adapted to the local environment. The way we live, our values, and our beliefs are all reflected in the way we interact with the natural world. The Cultural Policy recognises the intrinsic link between culture and the environment.

Article 36 (9) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana emphasises the State's commitment to safeguarding the national environment for future generations and collaborating with international partners to protect the global environment. Ghana's rich cultural heritage recognises the spiritual significance of our natural resources, including oceans, rivers, lakes, forests, plants, and animals.

2.3.1 Key Issues

- Empowering communities to play a vital role in environmental conservation through recognition and affirmation of their cultural perceptions, rules, and institutions.
- Reviewing mining regulations to ensure the protection of livelihoods, health, and cultural benefits.
- Preserving the sacredness of our ecosystem by treating it with reverence and respect.

2.3.2 Policy Statements

The State shall take the necessary steps to:

- Protect its natural heritage for future generations.
- Promote sustainable development and eco-friendly practices.
- Foster collaboration with international partners to address global environmental challenges.

2.4 Cultural Designs and Symbols

Ghana's rich cultural heritage is reflected in its diverse symbols, designs, motifs, patterns, and insignia, which collectively form a unique visual language. The 1992 Constitution [Article 41(a)] encourages citizens to promote Ghana's prestige and respect its national symbols. The State seeks to preserve and protect these cultural assets, recognising their significance in defining the Ghanaian national character,

spirit of nationalism, patriotism, hopes, and aspirations.

2.4.1 Key Issues

- Encourage the development of new designs and logos by various entities, such as schools, churches and civil society groups, for communication and identity purposes.
- Preserve and protect existing symbols, including:
 - The Coat of Arms,
 - National Flag,
 - Parliamentary mace,
 - Adinkra symbols,
 - Asafo flags,
 - Kente cloth and smock patterns and motifs,
 - Stool emblems,
 - State umbrella finials,
 - Linguist staff finials,
 - Surface or wall markings on chiefly palaces and shrines.

2.4.2 Policy Statements

The State shall take the necessary steps to:

- Develop a National Design Register.
- Empower relevant state institutions (National Folklore Board, Copyright Office) to enforce copyright protection.
- Prevent adulteration, alteration, or damage to Ghanaian designs.
- Collaborate with international bodies (WIPO) for copyright protection.
- Encourage research into the origins of indigenous designs and undisclosed information.
- Foster the development of new designs that promote creativity, corporate identity, and national development.

2.5 Visual Arts

The State recognises the importance of visual arts in Ghana's cultural landscape and commits to supporting and promoting the development of visual arts, artists, and indigenous art industries for the benefit of Ghanaians and the global community.

Visual Arts are creative expressions of Ghana's cultural heritage, encompassing traditional and contemporary forms, including painting, sculpture, printmaking, textiles, ceramics, photography, architecture, and digital arts. Visual arts in Ghana reflect the country's rich cultural diversity, history and values, and they are characterised by:

- Traditional forms, such as Adinkra, Kente, beads, basketry, jewellery, leather wares and gold weights.
- Contemporary expressions inspired by Ghanaian culture, history, and everyday life.
- Use of local materials and techniques, such as wood carvings, bronze casting, and batik making.
- Storytelling through visual representations, symbolism, and metaphors.
- A blend of traditional and modern techniques, reflecting Ghana's cultural evolution.

Visual arts in Ghana play a significant role in:

- Preserving and promoting cultural heritage.
- Encouraging creativity and innovation.
- Providing a means of self-expression and communication.
- Contributing to Ghana's cultural identity and global recognition.

2.5.1 Key Issues

- The State has to support the development of visual arts in Ghana by providing tools and technology to enhance production quality, marketing avenues to promote products, and skills training to enhance the industry's competitiveness and contribution to economic transformation.
- The State has to prioritise the holistic development of the Visual Arts

disciplines, including painting, sculpture, photography, and digital arts, to unlock their job creation and employment potential, particularly among the youth.

2.5.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Intensify the teaching and learning of visual arts in schools and colleges.
- Provide teaching and learning materials for visual arts.
- Organise refresher courses for effective teaching of visual arts.
- Provide studios for visual arts practitioners.
- Facilitate access to credit.
- Establish national, regional and district galleries.
- Reward excellence in visual arts.
- Organise periodic trade fairs, exhibitions, and bazaars for visual arts locally and internationally.

2.6 Food Culture

Food culture refers to the shared beliefs, values, customs, and practices surrounding food and its role in society. It encompasses the way food is produced, prepared, consumed and appreciated, and includes traditions, rituals, and symbols associated with food. Food culture is a vital part of a community's identity, shaped by history, geography, religion, and social interactions. It brings people together, fosters a sense of belonging, and provides a means of expressing hospitality and cultural heritage.

2.6.1 Key Issues

- The Food and Drugs Authority and the Ghana Standards Authority have to vigorously enforce stringent standards in the Ghanaian food and beverage industry, ensuring excellence in production quality and adherence to rigorous quality control benchmarks.
- To showcase the richness and diversity of Ghanaian cuisine, the government

has to spearhead regular food festivals and bazaars, providing a vibrant platform for local and international recognition, appreciation, and patronage. These events will not only celebrate Ghana's culinary heritage but also foster economic growth, cultural exchange, and global recognition for Ghanaian foods and drinks.

2.6.2 Policy Statements

The State shall take the necessary steps to:

- Ensure the incorporation of Ghanaian foods and beverages on the menu of the transport industry that requires the serving of meals.
- Intensify the teaching and learning of Ghanaian indigenous cuisine and food processing in schools and colleges.
- Organise food fairs, bazaars and exhibitions locally and internationally to put Ghanaian indigenous cuisines on an international pedestal.
- Guard against the adulteration of Ghanaian indigenous culinary practices with foreign recipes to ensure authenticity.
- Intensify research into Ghanaian indigenous culinary practices and food processing and storage.
- Enforce hygienic and safety standards within the Ghanaian food and beverage industry chain link of operations.



SECTION TWO – CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Ghana's cultural diversity strengthens our nation. Our constitution serves as a guiding force, ensuring that we cherish and promote tolerance, understanding, and integration among all citizens, regardless of their background, gender, religion, or beliefs. This inclusive spirit is the bedrock of our democracy, built on the principles of freedom, justice and human rights, as enshrined in the 1992 Constitution under Article 35, thus:

- Protecting Ghana's independence, unity, and territorial integrity, ensuring a strong and united nation.
- Promoting the well-being of all citizens and leaving no one behind.
- Respecting and upholding fundamental human rights and freedoms, because every individual deserves dignity.
- Fostering a spirit of national loyalty that transcends sectional, ethnic and other loyalties, encouraging a sense of belonging to our great nation.
- Prohibiting discrimination and prejudice based on place of origin, circumstances of birth, ethnic origin, gender, religion, creed, or other beliefs, promoting equality for all.

These principles strive to build a cohesive, resilient, and multicultural national community where all citizens feel valued, respected, and integrated.

This section is therefore dedicated to the Family as the Bedrock of Ghanaian Society; Protection of Community Rights; Youth and National Culture; Culture and Disability; Culture and Education; Festivals and Ceremonial Life; and Ghanaian Markets as Cultural Domains.

This section is also dedicated to the management of Ghana's culture and heritage in times of crisis, conflicts, wars, natural disasters, climate change actions, looting, illicit trafficking of cultural property, return and restitution of cultural property, underwater cultural heritage exploitation, culture and security, safeguarding of culture and heritage assets during the sale of culture heritage infrastructure as a result of divestiture of government assets and properties.



CHAPTER THREE

3.0 THE FAMILY: THE BEDROCK OF GHANAIAN SOCIETY

The State acknowledges the extended family as the fundamental unit of society, fostering kinship ties and social cohesion. Unlike the linear approach, which prioritises the nuclear family, Ghana embraces a circular view of lineage relationships, recognising the vital role of the extended family in our cultural heritage.

3.1 Key Issues

- In Ghana, the extended family is the backbone of our social structure, providing care, and support. Our cultural traditions emphasise the importance of family bonds, ensuring that our nuclear families remain strong and resilient.
- While economic challenges may strain our ability to care for our extended families, we must continue to uphold our cultural values and protect our family ties.
- As a nation, we commit to recognising, respecting, and supporting the family as the primary social organisation and structural unit.
- By doing so, we ensure the continuation of our rich cultural heritage and the well-being of our citizens.
- The extended family remains the foundation of our society and we will continue to prioritise its importance in our national fabric.

3.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Vigorously safeguard, honour, and acknowledge the extended family as the bedrock of social organisation and structure, fostering a unified Ghanaian society.
- Collaborate with various institutions to establish and enhance cultural education facilities and community programmes, fortifying family ties and empowering families to remain the cornerstone of Ghanaian society.

- Ensure a strong and cohesive nation by providing inclusive and accessible platforms for cultural enrichment and communal bonding.



CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 PROTECTION OF COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

The list below outlines the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution to ensure the well-being, dignity, and justice for all citizens in Ghana:

- Life, liberty, and security.
- Human dignity and equality.
- Freedom from slavery and forced labour.
- Privacy and property rights.
- Fair trial and protection from deprivation of property.
- Fundamental freedoms and economic, educational, and cultural rights.
- Special protections for women, children, disabled persons, and the sick.
- Access to administrative justice and court protection of rights.
- Social objectives and traditional rights to stool and skin lands and property.

4.1 Key Issues

- Our sovereignty over land comes with the responsibility to manage and care for it properly, along with its resources.
- In every ethnic group, land is tied to a system of rules, regulations and enforcement mechanisms, as well as rituals and festivals that preserve cultural beliefs, values, and protective practices.
- The government must ensure co-ordinated planning of urban development projects, recognising the significance of land to Ghanaian communities.
- Forcibly removing people from their lands would disrupt their ability to perform rituals and festivals, erasing cultural heritage and identity.
- The land provides a sense of place, freedom, dignity, and continuity for Ghanaian communities.
- Communal land ownership means that communities inherit land from their ancestors to pass down to future generations.

- The government must protect individual and community rights to ancestral lands, ensuring unhindered access and preserving cultural legacy.

4.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Enforce all constitutional provisions protecting community rights, ensuring their safeguarding and promotion.
- Develop strategies to protect community lands, geographical features, water bodies, forests, ecosystems, and biodiversity through collaborative efforts involving government, community leaders, academia, corporate entities, and international organisations.
- Ensure that no land acquisition or use for commercial or industrial purposes occurs without a thorough impact assessment, certifying no significant harm to natural or cultural assets.
- Restore degraded lands to their natural state, habitable by indigenous flora and fauna, and valuable to the original owner communities.
- Require architects and planners to incorporate natural beauty, historical significance, and cultural heritage into infrastructure, road, and building designs, preserving the unique character of the land.



CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 YOUTH AND NATIONAL CULTURE

Ghana's youth, (15-29) make up 32.8% of the population, a significant demographic making a notable contribution to entrepreneurship and emerging as a driving force in economic transformation through innovation. They are however vulnerable to several factors of insecurity, including gender-based discrimination, inadequate education and training, unemployment, loss of cultural identity, erosion of agency over the development of national resources and disillusionment in the capacity of the nation to meet their needs.

Furthermore, the sum of legacies emanating from national policies being implemented in contemporary times would be left to the youth of Ghana. This places a heavy responsibility on current duty bearers at all levels to invest in key policies and strategies which build on the cultural heritage of the nation to achieve transformation in the political, social and economic circumstances of the country.

5.1 Key Issues

- The role of Ghanaian youth as a bulkhead for socio-economic transformation has not been sufficiently recognised.
- The youth are dissociating with their heritage leading to a loss of identity crucial for negotiating the current era of globalization.
- Age-appropriate formal and informal cultural orientation programmes need to be integrated into carefully calibrated orientation programmes including out of school activities, edutainment and cultural emersion.
- More efforts need to be made to discover and develop young people's creative abilities with a view to channelling their energies into positive pursuits.
- Patriotism, co-operation, Pan-African solidarity and internationalism are among the values.

5.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Ensure that the demographic is properly segregated by age group to ensure effective targeting of policies.

- Create pathways to administrative and financial support for innovative and creative initiatives by the youth.
- Safeguard the fundamental rights of children and youth as envisaged under international and national laws and conventions.
- Inculcate in the youth the national aspiration of building a just, free and prosperous country with high-levels of national income and broad-based social development especially through the cultural economy.
- Introduce lifelong education to ensure that Ghanaian youth are equipped with a clear understanding of the place of Africans in the global context and cutting-edge technology adapted to promote the highest national aspirations.
- Develop programmes for school-age children and youth to include the following themes:
 - *Cultural Heritage and National Identity*: History, language, philosophy, food, clothing, housing, education, vocation, recreation, politics, defence, economics, and social organisation.
 - *National Development*: Democracy, justice, equality, patriotism, unity, self-reliance, science and technology.
 - *Arts and Culture*: Music, song, dance, drama, literature, puppetry, fine art, cottage crafts, pottery, ceramics, weaving, sculpture, and physical culture.
 - *Library and Research*: Reading, homework, extra tutoring, literacy work, seminars and research programmes.
 - *Excursions and Environmental Programmes*: Visits to tourism sites, industries, schools, clean-up exercises, tree-planting and outdoor activities.
- Ensure accessible and inclusive cultural programmes for the youth:
 - Foster partnerships with schools, communities and organisations to support programme implementation.
 - Ensure programmes are age-appropriate and tailored to diverse youth needs.
 - Encourage youth participation in programme-design and decision-making processes.
 - Monitor and evaluate programme effectiveness and making adjustments as needed.

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 CULTURE AND DISABILITY

The Government of Ghana recognises the paramount importance of inclusivity and accessibility in promoting cultural participation and enjoyment for all citizens, regardless of their abilities.

6.1 Key Issues

- Society should deeply appreciate the rich cultural contributions of persons with disabilities and pledge to create an inclusive cultural environment that caters to their unique needs.
- Legislation dedicated to persons with disability, particularly the Disability Act 2006, (Act 715) should be systematically implemented.

6.2 Policy Statements

The State shall take the necessary steps to:

- Ensure accessible infrastructure and facilities in cultural institutions and venues.
- Provide sign language interpretation, audio description, and braille materials for cultural events and programmes.
- Support disability-themed cultural productions and exhibitions.
- Establish partnerships with disability organisations to promote inclusive cultural practices.
- Provide training and capacity-building for cultural practitioners on disability awareness and inclusion.
- Encourage the representation and celebration of disability culture in our national narrative.
- Ensure that existing legislation dedicated to persons with disabilities is progressively implemented.



CHAPTER SEVEN

7.0 CULTURE AND EDUCATION

The 1992 Constitution of Ghana in Articles 25 and 38 guarantees equal educational opportunities and facilities for all. The State recognises arts and culture as essential educational tools, acknowledging the centrality of culture in reclaiming dignity, self-worth, and well-being. Education is a cultural process that transmits values, norms, and skills from one generation to the next. Therefore, the State shall ensure that education is a comprehensive and culturally sensitive process that empowers individuals to participate in society.

7.1 Key Issues

The Constitution provides that the State shall:

- Provide free, compulsory, and universal basic education.
- Make secondary and higher education accessible and available to all.
- Promote functional literacy and provide adequate facilities.
- Allow private schools to be established and maintained.
- Create equal access to education for all.
- Integrate culture and arts in education.
- Transmit cultural values and skills through education.

7.2 Policy Statements

- Relate school learning to local environment:
 - Use local examples and case studies in teaching various subjects.
 - Encourage field trips and outdoor learning experiences.
 - Arts education should also include teaching the business side of the arts, which simply deals with how to monetise the arts.
- Develop and use Ghanaian languages and literature:
 - Develop textbooks and educational materials in Ghanaian languages.
 - Use Ghanaian languages as the medium of instruction in basic education.

- Affirm and impart Ghanaian values:
 - Integrate Ghanaian world view, history, social institutions, folktales, and proverbs into the curriculum.
 - Encourage critical thinking and problem-solving based on Ghanaian values.
- Research and disseminate indigenous knowledge:
 - Document and publish indigenous knowledge and practices.
 - Incorporate indigenous knowledge into school textbooks and curricula.
- Leverage Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) for knowledge sharing:
 - Develop digital platforms to store and access oral knowledge.
 - Create interactive learning resources and games.
- Utilise cultural institutions for education:
 - Collaborate with museums, art galleries, and theatres to showcase African contributions.
 - Organise cultural events, exhibitions, and performances for students.
- Foster cultural identity and awareness:
 - Encourage students to explore and appreciate their cultural heritage.
 - Promote critical thinking and problem-solving to address African challenges.
- Promote Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) for an all-round holistic education that nurtures creativity and responds to contemporary challenges confronting the nation.



CHAPTER EIGHT

8.0 FESTIVALS AND CEREMONIAL LIFE

Ghana's rich cultural diversity is showcased through various ethnic festivals that have become a symbol of national unity, peace, and development. The State recognises the importance of supporting these festivals, which celebrate cultural values, social organisation, political systems, and historical events.

8.1 Key Issues

- In recent years, new festivals are being established by the public and private sector as well as communities. These include the Kente festivals, Cocoa Festival and food festivals. Others are the National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFAC), and the Pan-African Festival of Arts and Culture (PANAFEST).
- Emerging festivals such as December in GH, Ghana Film Festival, Black Star International Film Festival, theatre festivals, and Chale Wote Street Art Festival are rapidly extending the global impact of Ghana's cultural heritage.

8.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Recognise festivals as a vehicle for community mobilisation for cultural self-assertion, restoration and development.
- Project festivals as cultural attractions to promote domestic and international tourism.
- Highlight festivals as vehicles for forging a multi-ethnic nation.
- Invest in festivals to realise their full economic potential.
- Support the establishment of festivals to serve as rallying points for development in the communities.



CHAPTER NINE

9.0 GHANAIAN MARKETS AS CULTURAL DOMAINS

Ghanaian markets are vibrant cultural hubs where community values and norms reign supreme. They are a testament to the country's rich cultural heritage and play a vital role in promoting social solidarity, economic empowerment, and inter-ethnic transactions. The markets are predominantly run by women, who wield significant economic, social, and political power. The traders have developed unique mechanisms for conflict management and resolution and their ability to communicate in various languages fosters a sense of community and co-operation.

The markets are also important venues for cultural activities, hosting annual festivals and ritual cycles that showcase Ghana's diverse cultural traditions. The market queens and leaders of commodity groups exhibit remarkable leadership and influence, and their networks span the entire country, giving them significant control over the economy.

Markets also serve as a platform for inter-ethnic transactions and the affirmation of common cultural values. The art of bargaining, a hallmark of Ghanaian and West African markets, is a unique aspect of the cultural experience that attracts tourists from around the world.

Ghanaian markets are a true reflection of the country's cultural identity, resilience, and creativity, and their significance extends beyond economic transactions to encompass social, political, and cultural dimensions.

9.1 Key Issues

- Miss-match between infrastructural design and market culture.
- Lack of or insufficient security for persons and property within the market.
- Lack of proper refuse disposal points.
- Improper sanitation within markets.
- Lack of access roads within the markets rendering them unmotorable and inaccessible.
- Unsolicited trading on pavements and roads which impedes access to transaction points.

- Improper use of electric devices, causing frequent fire outbreaks.

9.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Ensure that the socio-cultural dimensions of markets are included in National Statistical Surveys as an input to development planning for the enhancement of the value of markets.
- Mobilise community and business leaders such as chiefs and market queens to transform their markets for value-added contemporary activities.
- Intensify fire education and surveillance on the use of electric gadgets within the markets.
- Intensify enforcement or compliance to sanitation by laws within the markets.
- Establish robust mechanisms to enhance security systems within the markets.
- Promote markets as major tourism destinations.



CHAPTER TEN

10.0 CULTURE AND HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

This chapter is dedicated to the management of Ghana's culture and heritage in respect of its –

- Shared Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of urgent safeguarding with our neighbouring countries.
- Disposal of cultural heritage assets during divestiture or sale of government enterprises and infrastructure.
- Preserving Culture and Heritage in Times of Crisis.
- Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) exploration, and issues concerning Culture and Security.

10.1 Key Issues

- *Shared intangible cultural heritage with our neighbouring countries in need of urgent safeguarding*

As a signatory to the 2003 UNESCO Convention on the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Ghana needs to consult its neighbours on all issues regarding the shared intangible cultural heritage elements in need of urgent safeguarding in the interest of peace and international friendship and solidarity. They include:

- Smock weaving, its designing and applications is a shared heritage between Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and beyond.
 - Kente weaving, its designing and applications, is a shared heritage between Cote d'Ivoire and Togo.
 - Xylophone production, its designing and its applications is a shared heritage between Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and beyond.
 - Delicacies like akyeke, jollof, akple, and tuozafo are shared heritage between Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and beyond.
- *Disposal of cultural heritage assets during divestiture or sale of government enterprises and infrastructure*

The State has to take the necessary measures to safeguard all of its cultural

heritage assets during divestiture or sale of government enterprises and infrastructure that contains culture and heritage assets.

- *Preserving culture and heritage in times of crisis*
Ghana recognises the importance of preserving its culture and heritage, even in the face of crisis.
 - Firstly, since the 25th of July 1960, Ghana has been on the Accession List as a State Party to the 1954 UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention and its Protocols 1954 and 1999.
 - Secondly, Ghana has since the 20th of September 2019 been on the Accession List as a State Party to the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (Rome, 1995).
- *The State acknowledges the existing vulnerabilities of culture and heritage which include ethnic conflicts, irreversible destruction through climate change, looting, illicit trafficking of cultural property, and wanton persecution of individuals and groups on the grounds of their cultural affiliation.*
 - It is therefore expedient for the State to outline the necessary mitigation strategies to manage culture in crisis situations within this policy framework.

10.2 Policy Statements

The necessary measures to protect and promote Ghanaian culture and heritage during times of war, natural disasters, and other emergencies include:

- Protection of Cultural Heritage Sites and Artefacts
 - Identification and evacuation of movable cultural artefacts to safe locations in times of crisis.
 - Implementation of emergency conservation measures to protect cultural heritage sites from defacement, damage or destruction.
 - Collaboration with international organisations and partners to provide technical assistance and support for cultural heritage preservation.
- Intangible Cultural Heritage
 - Documentation and digital preservation of intangible cultural practices, such as music, dance, and oral traditions.

- Support for community-based initiatives to maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage to future generations.
- Cultural Revitalisation and Resilience
 - Promotion of cultural activities and events that foster community resilience and solidarity in times of crisis.
 - Encouragement of cultural expression and creativity as a means of coping with trauma and stress.
 - Support for cultural education and awareness programmes to promote Ghanaian culture and heritage.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
 - Development of emergency response plans and protocols for cultural heritage sites and institutions.
 - Training for cultural heritage professionals and emergency respondents on cultural heritage protection and preservation.
 - Establishment of a national emergency fund for cultural heritage protection and preservation.
- International Co-operation
 - Collaboration with international organisations, such as UNESCO and the International Committee of the Blue Shield, to ensure Ghana's cultural heritage is protected and preserved during times of crisis.
 - Participation in international conventions and agreements related to cultural heritage protection and preservation.

10.3 Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) Management

As a signatory to the 2001 UNESCO Convention on Underwater Cultural Heritage, the State recognises the fact that 400 years of the Trans-Atlantic trade in human cargo might have accumulated vast amounts of cultural properties underneath the ocean floor as a result of perceived shipwrecks and other oceanic occurrences within the Gulf of Guinea which requires urgent state interventions and concrete actions.

10.3.1 Key Issues

- Insufficient institutional and human resource capacity for UCH harnessing and exploration in Ghana.
- The government, in conjunction with relevant state actors, needs to mobilise external technical and logistical support to develop the requisite human capacity and also strengthen the infrastructural base for UCH management.

10.3.2 Policy Statements

The urgent state interventions and necessary actions include:

- *Legislation*
Develop a framework that protects and supports the management of UCH in the country. The legal framework shall incorporate the protection of UCH from destruction and plunder.
- *Inventory*
In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, identify and document all UCH in the country in line with the 2001 UNESCO convention, and ensure UCH compliance with the Social and Cultural Impact Assessment in the country's deep ocean and offshore petrochemical exploration.
- *Collaboration and Partnership*
Commit to collaborating and partnering to protect and promote UCH through direct research, advocacy, political and financial support. Collaboration shall extend beyond national borders, and UNESCO shall be a key partner.
- *Capacity and Infrastructure Building*
Students shall be encouraged to take subjects relating to the marines and water resources management. Private and public institutions shall be encouraged to invest in the blue economy to create avenues for UCH management to thrive in Ghana. Through multi-national collaborations, the State shall set up a 'UCH Regional Training Centre,' sufficiently equipped to facilitate research in maritime archaeology and promote marine tourism.
- *Education and Advocacy*
Stakeholders in education and media and communications shall ensure that they highlight and underscore the significance of UCH protection, promotion, and management. Relevant stakeholders shall ensure they highlight UCH

dimensions in the national curricula. The universities and other tertiary institutions should organise UCH courses or include UCH dimensions in their syllabi.

- *Networking Group*

A networking group shall be established to co-ordinate, facilitate, and support programmes to protect and promote UCH through advocacy, public education, and curricular development.

- *Monitoring and Evaluation*

Security agencies, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, shall spearhead the monitoring and evaluation of UCH resources in the country. Regular meetings shall be held between the security agencies and affiliate institutions to discuss issues regarding looting, restitution, and illegal removal of UCH. Monitoring and evaluations should always discuss alternative and innovative ways of protecting and promoting UCH. Traditional authorities shall be motivated to ensure the protection and promotion of UCH in their respective communities.

10.4 Culture and Security

The State shall continue to exercise a deep reflection on culture and security as the main pillars for unity in cultural diversity which inure to sustainable national development. Ghana is recognised by all and sundry as an oasis of peace. This recognition, therefore, offers a secure environment for investment.

10.4.1 Key Issues

- The key vectors for Culture and Security which stem from cultural strategies for nation- building, national integration, engendering unity through common beliefs, values, language, character and identity are buttressed by the 1992 Constitution under Directive Principles of State Policy, Article 35 (1-2), (4-6) (a) and Article 39 (1-3).
- Culture and nation-building, national integration, engendering unity through common beliefs, values, language, character and identity can be achieved through respect for the dignity and sovereignty of all ethnic cultures of the citizens of Ghana.

- The State should at all times uplift the first principle of state policy for the promotion of unity in diversity which is to guarantee and ensure respect for the dignity and sovereignty of all ethnic cultures of the citizens of Ghana.

10.4.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Give priority to the preservation, protection, development and use of all valued cultural expressions in the national domain.
- Introduce the study of the diverse ethnic cultures into the educational system.
- Support the celebration of festivals of the people of Ghana as an important means of preserving the values and historical memories of indigenous cultural groups.
- Ensure that traditional leaders and communities determine and give directions to changes in customs and traditions.
- Ensure that no citizens suffer discrimination on account of their ethnicity or place of origin.



SECTION THREE – CULTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Ghana as a sovereign State embraces the separation of powers and, therefore, uses the three arms of government comprising the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary as a recognised and acceptable structure for governance.

Culture and governance are interconnected concepts that shape the fabric of a society. The relationship between culture and governance is complex and multifaceted. Culture can shape governance by influencing the values and beliefs that underpin political and social institutions, while governance can also impact culture by promoting or suppressing certain cultural practices and values.

Effective governance requires a deep understanding of the cultural context in which it operates. Cultural sensitivity and awareness can help policymakers and leaders to design and implement policies that are responsive to the needs and values of the community, promoting social cohesion, stability, and development.

Conversely, cultural practices and values can also be shaped by governance processes, such as laws, policies, and institutions. The intersection of culture and governance is critical for building resilient, inclusive, and prosperous societies.

In Ghana, several traditional cultural factors impact on the practice of governance.

This section is dedicated to the institution of Chieftaincy; Governance of Community and National Assets, including Culture and Democracy; and the Media.



CHAPTER ELEVEN

11.0 THE INSTITUTION OF CHIEFTAINCY

The Constitution of Ghana provides that:

The chiefs and people of Ghana, as historic ethnic sovereignties, are the owners and custodians of the indigenous cultural legacy of Ghana. The indigenous culture of the people of Ghana shall be the foundation and building blocks of Ghanaian national culture and identity.

11.1 Key Issues

- The institution of chieftaincy is a vital component of Ghana's traditional governance systems, recognised by the State as a crucial anchor of cultural heritage and national unity. The National House of Chiefs, as established by the 1992 Constitution, plays a significant role.
- The National House of Chiefs serves as a forum for promoting inter-ethnic understanding and national unity, recognising overarching cultural values and common historical bonds among Ghana's diverse ethnic groups.
- Chieftaincy has maintained its relevance and vitality, serving as a vehicle for preserving and promoting Ghanaian cultural expression.
- The institution of Chieftaincy is essential for fostering national integration and a multicultural civil society, utilising cultural heritage assets to address fundamental needs and challenges, and ensuring a better quality of life for present and future generations.
- *Governance and Land:* The Constitution of Ghana provides that the chiefs and people of Ghana, as the primary stakeholders, hold the ownership and custodianship of all the lands and natural and cultural resources within the country's boundaries.
- When granting the use of lands within Ghana, the chiefs and people are obligated to respect and consider the cultural values, customs and practices associated with the land, including the natural and cultural items above and beneath the lands and water bodies of Ghana.
- Culture and Governance in this policy seek to integrate traditional governance systems into modern governance structures, promote inclusive

decision-making, and ensure good governance, accountability, and the rule of law.

11.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Integrate traditional governance into national policies.
- Strengthen the roles of traditional authorities in local government and law enforcement.
- Promote political stability and good governance through inclusive decision-making.
- Reduce interethnic conflicts by ensuring equitable resource distribution.
- Review constitutional provisions to align with pluralistic governance.
- Uphold separation of powers and promote pluralism.
- Co-ordinate and harmonise development processes with diverse stakeholders.
- Combat corruption in politics.
- Ensure free, fair, and credible elections.



CHAPTER TWELVE

12.0 GOVERNANCE OF COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL ASSETS

12.1 Culture and Democracy

Article 35 (1) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, under Political Objectives, states: *"Ghana shall be a democratic state dedicated to the realisation of freedom and justice; and, accordingly, sovereignty resides in the people of Ghana from whom Government derives all its powers and authority through this Constitution."*

Secondly, Article 21 (3) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, under General Fundamental Freedoms, also states: *"All citizens shall have the right and freedom to form or join political parties and to participate in political activities subject to such qualifications and laws as are necessary for a free and democratic society and are consistent with this Constitution."*

12.2 Key Issues

- Ghana's democratic system recognises the importance of traditional institutions and values in promoting good governance and peaceful elections.
- By empowering traditional leaders, promoting local languages, eliminating harmful cultural practices, and upholding human rights, the State aims to build a democratic system that is inclusive, participatory, and sustainable.
- The State has to educate citizens to reduce the influence of parochial ethnicity in civil society developmental efforts. This will help to promote a culture of inclusivity and diversity, where everyone has an equal opportunity to participate in the democratic process.
- Additionally, the State has to uphold traditional values and respect for human rights through education and the elimination of damaging cultural practices.
- Promoting local languages is also crucial in facilitating dialogue and participation in the democratic process. By using local languages, citizens can express themselves freely, promoting democracy, rule of law, consensus building, and good governance.
- This approach will also help to eliminate harmful cultural practices that hinder women and youth participation in development planning processes and projects.

- Traditional modalities for conflict prevention, management, and settlement require further study to enable them to be supported with appropriate legislation. This approach will help to promote peaceful conflict resolution and reduce the risk of violence and instability.
- To further promote cultural exchange and understanding, the State has to establish national forums for traditional leaders to discuss issues of culture and development. This will help to strengthen links between traditional leaders in the sub-region and Africa as a whole, thereby promoting a culture of co-operation and collaboration.

12.3 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Identify the traditional institutions of governance such as Family, Clan and Community Heads, Divisional and Paramount Chiefs, 'Queen Mothers' and Women Leaders, Council of Elders, Religious Leaders/Bodies and recognise their respective roles in local government administration.
- Identify the contemporary structures of local government administration, such as Unit Committees, Area/Urban/Zonal Councils, District, Municipal and Metropolitan Assemblies, Regional Co-ordinating Councils, Legislative, Judiciary and the Executive, Council of State and the Presidency and define the role and collective participation of community and cultural leaders in decision-making at the national level.



CHAPTER THIRTEEN

13.0 THE MEDIA

Culture and the media are inextricably linked, with the media playing a significant role in shaping, reflecting, and influencing cultural values, beliefs, and practices. The media's ability to reach vast audiences and perpetuate messages makes it a powerful tool in constructing and negotiating cultural identity, fostering cultural exchange and understanding, and challenging cultural stereotypes and biases. As a result, the media's representation and portrayal of diverse cultures have a profound impact on how we perceive ourselves, our communities, and our place within the global cultural landscape.

13.1 Key Issues

- *Cultural Information*

The State acknowledges the media's potential to foster national unity, self-sufficiency in media production, and cultural identity. By harnessing radio, TV, film, theatre, internet, and traditional media, we can showcase Ghana's heritage, values, and aspirations, and promote self-sufficiency in content creation. The State recognises the media's profound cultural impact and believes it can safeguard our rich heritage. To achieve this, the State has to:

- Develop print media content in Ghanaian languages to deepen cultural understanding and appreciation.
- Leverage electronic media to entertain, inform, educate, and market cultural products, promoting our heritage and identity.

13.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Promote Ghanaian orientation and content in the media, showcasing culture in a positive light and raising awareness of indigenous values and practices.
- Develop and protect the Ghanaian media as a tool for development, fostering national orientation, self-sufficiency, and identity.
- Produce news publication in local languages and provide training for media practitioners on cultural reportage and appreciation.

- Regulate broadcasting and film imports to safeguard values and national interests, ensuring 70% local content on television programmes.
- Support cultural programming, archival documentation, and private investment in film and media ventures.
- Promote investment in culture-related media through financial institutions and encourage content relevant to African realities, history, and aspirations.
- Vigorously promote the creative presence of Ghanaian journalists in the global new media space.



SECTION FOUR - CULTURE ACROSS THE ECONOMY

The Cultural Policy aims to enhance Ghanaian cultural life, develop cultural programmes, and contribute to national progress through heritage preservation, conservation, promotion, and the use of traditional and contemporary arts and crafts, among others, to create jobs, wealth and reduce poverty.

This section is dedicated to mainstreaming culture, economy, and sustainable development; the creative economy; publishing industry; the cinema and audiovisual industry; multimedia industry; recorded music industry; the fashion industry and clothing culture; events organisation; culture and creative industries; culture and agriculture; and culture and tourism. These industries are clear economic boosters that impact heavily on the nation's GDP.



CHAPTER FOURTEEN

14.0 MAINSTREAMING CULTURE, ECONOMY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The chapter is dedicated to the mainstreaming of culture into all relevant aspects of national development planning strategies to accelerate poverty reduction through job and wealth creation and impact positively on sustainable economic growth and development with visible indicators.

The Constitution provides that *“the State shall manage the national economy to maximise economic development, welfare, freedom, and happiness”*, as stated in Article 36 (1) of the 1992 Constitution. The State shall rely on collective and individual experiences, accumulated knowledge, and cultural factors and its integration in planning strategies for sustainable development.

14.1 The Creative Economy

Ghana's vibrant creative economy which is driven by culture and creative industries must be nurtured to create jobs and increase income. The Culture and Creative Industries (CCIs) refer to the sector of businesses and organisations involved in the creation, production, and distribution of creative goods and services. It is a vital sector that impacts culture, economy and society, making it an essential part of a nation's creative ecosystem. The CCIs include:

- Visual Arts (galleries, studios, etc.),
- Performing Arts (theatres, music venues, etc.),
- Literary Arts (publishing houses, literary agencies, etc.),
- Design Arts (design firms, architecture studios, etc.),
- Digital Arts (animation studios, video game developers, etc.),
- Music Industry (record labels, music producers, etc.),
- Film and Television Industry (production companies, studios, etc.),
- Fashion Industry (design houses, fashion brands, etc.),
- Advertising and Marketing Agencies,
- Digital Media and Technology Companies.

According to the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda, the linkage between the creative industry and economic development is becoming clearer. Trade in cultural goods and services worldwide valued at US\$2.2 trillion in 2000 and grows at 5% annually. Ghana's Handicraft Exports increased by 47% from US\$2.78 million in 2010 to US\$4.099 million in 2012. The government endorses the contribution of the creative industry and is committed to harnessing its potential for national development.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Creative Economy Outlook 2022 states:

“The global exports of creative goods represented US\$524 million in 2020, while world exports of creative services reached US\$1.1 trillion. In addition, UNCTAD estimates that, in 2020, creative goods and services represented 3 and 21 per cent of total merchandise and services exports, respectively. The report also shows that creative services were more resilient during the COVID-19 pandemic than other services sectors.”

14.1.1 Key Issues

Ghana can benefit exponentially from tapping into the creative sector, and there is therefore the need for government to develop the following:

- Legal Framework
 - Establish a specialised Division of the High Court to handle intellectual property rights cases.
 - Create a dedicated enforcement unit to ensure effective implementation.
- Industry Co-ordination
 - Set up a Creative Industry Council to unite and represent the interests of the creative sector.
 - Harmonise fragmented groups into a single, functional body that protects members' interests.
- Technology and Royalties
 - Collaborate with the private sector to acquire technology and equipment for logging creative works.
 - Strengthen regulatory bodies by determining accurate royalties for creators and ensuring fair compensation.

- Establish an additional Copyright Office in Tamale to serve the northern sector, complementing existing offices in Accra and Kumasi.
- Cultural Development
 - Promote regional and district competitions in literature, music, dance, and drama, especially in schools and colleges.
 - Construct modern, large seating theatres in every regional capital.

14.1.2 Policy Statements

Government's key policy interventions and strategies include:

- Establishment of a council for the creative sector for the development of the creative industry.
- Using the Tourism Development Levy to provide access to financing for the industry, which is a major challenge, through Call for Proposals.
- Participation in both local and international fairs and exhibitions as measures to develop and strengthen Ghana's creative industry to compete effectively in the world trade in creative goods and services.
- Enforcement and supervision of laws and regulations pertaining to intellectual property rights.
- Promotion of the use of multimedia technology in the creative industry, with the creation of opportunities for the development of the relevant human resources.
- Co-ordination among key MDAs in the development of the creative industry to foster institutional linkages and synergies.
- Undertaking and promoting research to create an inventory/database and impact assessment of indigenous Ghanaian creative industries on national economy for policy makers, academics, administrators, artists and artistes, embassies, foreign visitors and all other interested persons. This initiative would provide development actors with a tool demonstrating how indigenous Ghanaian creative industries impact on development processes from the grassroots to the national level.
- Development of industries that leverage Ghanaian cultural values, institutions, and resources to create jobs and wealth, ensuring national growth and

stability.

- Making arts and cultural programmes accessible to all.
- Establishment of associations of producers to set quality standards.
- Conducting research to improve production quality based on consumer preferences.
- Supporting sub-regional festivals, art fairs, and artists' programmes to promote cultural products globally.
- Protection of cultural products from competition from other developed countries.
- Establishment of a viable brand in the Ghana film industry.
- Education of stakeholders on appropriate business models to improve output, create employment, generate wealth, and contribute to national economic growth.
- Supporting creative industries through investments in training, materials, machine tools, production efficiency, product refinement, entrepreneurship, and marketing.
- Exploring foreign markets in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and America for cultural products.
- Ensuring that the creative economy is the deserved priority in national development planning and programming.

14.2 Publishing Industry

Publishing plays a vital role in the development and dissemination of culture, as it provides a platform for the creation, sharing, and preservation of cultural knowledge, ideas, and expressions. Through publishing, cultural works such as literature, art, music, and film are made accessible to a wider audience, contributing to the shaping of cultural identity, fostering cultural exchange, and promoting cultural understanding and appreciation.

Moreover, publishing helps to perpetuate cultural heritage, making it possible for future generations to learn from and build upon the cultural achievements of the past. In this way, publishing serves as a crucial bridge between culture and society,

enriching both individual and collective cultural experiences.

14.2.1 Key Issues

- The State has to create a comprehensive approach to boost the growth of the publishing industry, competitiveness, and contribution to Ghana's economic development, while also promoting a culture of reading and knowledge sharing.

14.2.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Support the publishing industry with tools and technology to enhance production quality and competitiveness.
- Prioritise purchasing locally published materials over imported ones.
- Create marketing avenues for Ghanaian publications.
- Harness the job creation potential of the industry to reduce youth unemployment.
- Ensure the industry contributes significantly to economic transformation.
- Enhance the skills of publishing professionals.
- Foster the holistic development of printed and digital materials, including books, newspapers, periodicals, and e-publications.

14.3 The Cinema and Audiovisual Industry in Ghana

The film industry is a vital cultural asset that tells our story, showcases our history, values, and identity. It has the power to educate, entertain, and inspire our population. Recognising its significance, the State acknowledges the industry's potential as a convergent point for various cultural forms, skills, and professions, generating employment and wealth.

14.3.1 Key Issues

- The Ghanaian film industry, in competing with global giants like Hollywood,

Bollywood, and Nollywood, requires urgent financial and logistical support.

- In the determination of government's topmost priorities, a thriving film industry that showcases Ghana's rich cultural heritage and contributes to the country's economic growth must be considered.

14.3.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Enhance skills and competencies in areas, such as writing, directing, acting, technical production, crew development, and business management.
- Develop a viable and authentic Ghanaian film industry by providing basic infrastructure and meeting film production needs.
- Foster the holistic development of the Cinema and Audiovisual Industry, encompassing:
 - Film and video production,
 - Television programmes,
 - Entertainment software and video games,
 - Educational programmes,
 - Internet creativity sites and virtual reality,
 - Broadband video broadcasting and television services,
 - Production, distribution, operation, dissemination, and promotion of film and video content.

14.4 Multimedia Industry

Digital technologies are revolutionising the creation, dissemination, and consumption of cultural content. The digital landscape offers unprecedented opportunities for cultural expression, innovation, and diversity, enabling global accessibility and connectivity. However, it also raises concerns about cultural homogenisation, intellectual property rights, and the impact of technology on traditional cultural practices. This commitment aims to harness technology and innovation to promote Ghana's cultural heritage and contribute to the well-being of humanity in line with UNESCO's efforts.

14.4.1 Key Issues

- Ghana has to harness the potential of digital multimedia to preserve, promote, and evolve cultural heritage, fostering a vibrant and inclusive cultural ecosystem for the benefit of all.

14.4.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Promote local creation of global digital platforms to make Ghanaian culture accessible online, using youth-friendly platforms.
- Make Ghanaian festivals available on virtual reality digital platforms, allowing global participation and revenue generation for hosting communities.
- Explore showcasing culture and traditions using Artificial Intelligence (AI), building capacity among programmers to develop relevant content.
- Align with the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics, prioritising human rights, transparency and fairness, and addressing the impact of AI on various sectors.

14.5 Recorded Music Industry

Music is a fundamental expression of cultural identity, values, and beliefs. The recorded music industry has the power to shape and reflect cultural narratives, influencing how we perceive ourselves and the world around us. It provides a platform for artistes to share their unique perspectives, stories, and experiences, enriching our cultural landscape and fostering empathy, understanding, and connection among diverse communities. By promoting and celebrating diverse musical genres and talents, we can preserve cultural heritage, inspire creativity and ensure the continued evolution of music as a universal language.

14.5.1 Key Issues

- The State has to position the Recorded Music industry as a vibrant cultural and economic force, showcasing Ghanaian talent and creativity to the world.

14.5.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Support the Recorded Music industry with cutting-edge tools and technology to enhance production quality, competitiveness, and market appeal,
- Foster marketing opportunities to increase visibility and consumption of Ghanaian music.
- Harness the industry's job creation potential to address youth unemployment and drive economic growth.
- Ensure the industry's significant contribution to economic transformation and development.
- Develop the skills of professionals in the Recorded Music industry.
- Promote the holistic growth and development of the industry, encompassing all aspects, from creation to distribution.

14.6 The Fashion Industry and Clothing Culture

The fashion industry is a vibrant reflection of culture, as clothing and textiles have long been an integral part of human expression, identity, and heritage. Fashion has the power to convey values, beliefs and traditions, weaving together the threads of culture, creativity, and self-expression. It not only showcases aesthetic appeal but also tells stories of our past, present and future, making it a dynamic and essential aspect of culture. By embracing and celebrating diverse fashion styles and cultural heritage, Ghana can foster cross-cultural understanding, appreciation and exchange, recognising the significance of clothing culture in shaping our collective identity.

14.6.1 Key Issues

- The State has to facilitate the revitalisation and promote Ghana's rich fashion heritage, supporting economic growth, cultural unity, and national pride.

14.6.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Foster a unified national clothing culture, bridging ethnic divides.
- Educate citizens on the economic benefits of patronising locally made clothing, promoting patriotism and national pride.
- Create an enabling environment for a thriving national dress industry, encouraging growth and development.
- Launch marketing campaigns like 'Friday Wear' and 'Wear Ghana' to boost patronage.
- Showcase products through exhibitions and fashion shows, enhancing sales and visibility.
- Encourage corporate groups, schools, churches, and associations to adopt Ghanaian national dress for various events.
- Provide incentives for producers of traditional fabrics and costumes, creating a niche market for Ghana's fashion industry.
- Facilitate access to international markets, promoting the local fashion industry globally.
- Encourage the production of local raw materials to reduce dependency on imported raw materials to feed the Ghanaian fashion industry.
- Encourage the evolution of an integrated national dress to reflect the Ghanaian personality, confidence and style.
- Protect the local fashion industry from unnecessary competition from foreign markets.

14.7 Events Organisation Industry

The events organisation industry, in the context of culture and cultural policy, refers to the planning, management, and execution of cultural events such as, festivals, and exhibitions that showcase the country's cultural heritage, arts, and traditions.

This industry encompasses various aspects, including:

- *Festival Management:* Organising festivals, celebrations, and events that promote traditional music, dance, theatre, and visual arts.
- *Event Production:* Co-ordinating logistics, staging, and technical aspects of

cultural events.

- *Exhibition Management:* Curating and showcasing cultural exhibitions, museums, and galleries.
- *Conference and Workshop Organisation:* Hosting international cultural conferences, seminars, and workshops.
- *Tourism and Cultural Exchange:* Facilitating cultural exchange programmes, tours, and travel experiences.

14.7.1 Key Issues

The State has to create an enabling environment for a thriving events organisation industry, encouraging growth and development because the industry plays a significant role in:

- Preserving and promoting cultural heritage.
- Fostering cultural exchange and understanding.
- Supporting local artists and creatives.
- Enhancing cultural diversity and inclusivity.
- Contributing to economic development through cultural tourism.

14.7.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Develop infrastructure for cultural events.
- Provide funding and resources for cultural programming.
- Encourage community engagement and participation.
- Promote cultural education and awareness.
- Support the development of cultural industries and creative entrepreneurship.
- Support event organisers with tools and appropriate technology to improve production quality, finishing, packaging and finesse to remain competitive.
- Create suitable marketing avenues for their products.

14.8 Culture and Agriculture

In Ghana, culture and agriculture are deeply related, with agriculture being an integral part of the country's cultural heritage. The way of life of Ghanaians is deeply rooted in traditional agricultural practices, which have been passed down through generations. The mode of food production and consumption in Ghana reflects the roots of its culture, with various ethnic groups having their unique knowledge and techniques for crop production, processing, and preparation.

The State recognises the importance of promoting agriculture and industry, as enshrined in Article 36 (3) of the 1992 Constitution. Ghana's rich agricultural heritage has provided a diverse range of food resources, livelihoods, and prosperity for numerous communities. The cultural capital in agriculture refers to the wealth of knowledge and practices passed down through generations, including:

- The variety of plant resources accumulated over centuries.
- Knowledge and techniques for cultivating and preparing soil for specific crops.
- Techniques for preparing nutritious meals from locally produced crops.
- Community-based methodologies for identifying, developing, and spreading knowledge about new crops and agricultural practices.

These collective efforts are crucial for ensuring the continued prosperity of Ghana's agricultural sector, and the State is committed to promoting and supporting these initiatives to ensure national development and sustenance.

14.8.1 Key Issues

- *Traditional Agriculture*
Traditional farming methods, devoid of mechanised tools, make traditional agriculture labour-intensive. They are typified by practices such as shifting cultivation/bush fallowing, crop rotation, mixed farming, inter-cropping, mono-cropping, etc.

14.8.2 Policy Statements

The State shall take the necessary steps to:

- Modernise and utilise traditional food production modes to increase efficiency, productivity and food security, while improving health and breaking poverty

cycles.

- Develop indigenous crop varieties and animal species, and promote traditional knowledge and practices that protect the environment, bio-diversity, and agro-diversity.
- Support farmers with affordable technology, research and credit, and encourage sharing of seeds, knowledge, and traditional supervision systems.
- Address land acquisition and water conservation challenges using cultural approaches and solutions, and adopt regional policies to ensure cross-border movement of people and animals for food sufficiency.

14.9 Culture and Tourism

Tourism and culture are deeply connected in Ghana, where international visitors are drawn to the country's rich heritage sites, attractions, and cultural expressions. Culture makes up over 70% the substance of Ghana's tourism industry. While tourism can generate economic benefits and preserve cultural assets, it is essential to consider its impact on culture and the environment.

A well-managed tourism sector can:

- Preserve cultural heritage and generate jobs and income.
- Contribute to economic growth and vitality in rural and urban communities.
- Inspire locals to protect their natural resources and cultural beauty.

Protecting cultural values and heritage sites is not only essential for tourism but also a duty to preserve Ghana's cultural legacy. By emphasising this responsibility, we can ensure that tourism benefits Ghanaian communities while preserving our cultural heritage.

14.9.1 Key Issues

The key issues can encompass the following:

- Ghana as Africa's leading tourism destination.
- Heritage sites and cultural attractions.
- Use tourism to create artistic and creative industries, reducing poverty and unemployment.

- Inter-state tourism with African countries.
- Cross-cultural dialogue and understanding through tourism.
- Cultural sites and products to increase Ghana's share of global tourism.

14.9.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Identify, develop, and package heritage sites for tourism.
- Improve infrastructure: roads, utilities, and facilities (hotels, restaurants) that harmonise with local culture and environment.
- Promote cultural performances, traditional foods, and local interactions (homestay programmes).
- Train tourism guides and encourage private sector investment.
- Raise awareness and appreciation for ecosystem preservation and cultural heritage among travellers and locals.
- Develop specific experiences to meet the needs of the Pan-African family residing in Diaspora.
- Foster cross-cultural dialogue and understanding through tourism.



SECTION FIVE – CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

Culture and technology are the twin engines of human progress, intersecting in a dynamic dance that shapes our destiny. As we harness the power of technology to propel us forward, we must also honour the rich cultural heritage that defines us, for it is the fusion of these two forces that will propel us towards a future that is both innovative and authentic.

Ghana's development trajectory demands a paradigm shift, where culture is elevated to the same stature as science and technology. The nation cannot afford to lag behind developed economies that have long recognised the transformative power of culture. Science and technology are mere tools devoid of direction and purpose without the guiding force of cultural values and institutions.

This section is dedicated to Culture and Technology; Culture and International Co-operation:

Information Transfer and Technology, including Ghana's Pan-Africanist Profile.



CHAPTER FIFTEEN

15.0 CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

In this era of globalisation and technological disruption, Ghana must acknowledge culture as the primary driver of human and material progress. By harnessing science and technology in harmony with our indigenous knowledge, history and cultural heritage, we shall unlock our true potential and chart a destiny that is authentically Ghanaian.

New technologies have a great impact on cultural life in various ways for a developing country. There is the need not only to adopt appropriate technology in line with environment and cultural prescriptions but also to preserve and develop indigenous technologies to the benefit of the ordinary people.

15.1 Key Issues

Ghana has placed digitalisation at the forefront of its development agenda. Important aspects of the national economy have been digitalised for ease of everyday business of life and therefore not limited by time, distance and space. This includes mobile money interoperability and access to a wide range of online services and products. There is a need to evaluate and monitor the impact of ICT on Ghanaian cultural values and way of life. In this regard, the objective must be to encourage and harness:

- Indigenous Technology Development
 - Study, preserve, and develop indigenous technologies.
 - Harness and adapt indigenous knowledge to modern trends.
- Local Innovation and Industry
 - Link research to the needs of Ghanaians and develop local industries.
 - Manufacture products that carry the Ghanaian brand.
- ICT for Development
 - Close the ICT gap and leverage ICT for indigenous knowledge, technology, and product development.
 - Generate employment and create wealth.

- Collaborative Research
 - Establish centres for traditional knowledge owners to collaborate with scientists.
 - Investigate indigenous sciences and technology aligned with academic standards.
- Cultural Awareness in Education
 - Integrate cultural awareness into Technological and Engineering Sciences courses.
- Incentives for Innovation
 - Provide incentives for original, environmentally suitable technologies.
 - Adopt simple, implementable technologies that substitute or augment traditional practices.
 - Adapt modern technology to suit local environment and practices.

15.2 Policy Statements

The State shall:

- Create Regional Centres for Indigenous Science and Technology – linked to the Research Institutions/Universities.
- Establish mechanisms for patenting of traditional food preservation/processing technology.
- Introduce affordable technology that will contribute to the preservation of nature and as well complement the effort to maintain biodiversity and repair damage to the environment.
- Research and produce tools that can improve traditional modes of production.
- Charge an ICT Centre to develop the appropriate software for dissemination of culture.
- Develop indigenous language texts on the worldwide web to cater for persons who operate mainly in these languages, or for people who cannot read in English, French or any European Language.
- Encourage the creation and local usage of digital games that reflect and carry cultural sentiments to rejuvenate youth interest and appreciation for digital

experiences that resonate with the Ghanaian populace.

- Promote the inclusion of emerging technologies such as Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) to enhance the engagement and dissemination of Ghana's rich cultural heritage;
- Emphasise the importance of secure digital payment platforms, ensuring they are safeguarded against fraud and adhere to copyright laws.
- Encourage the inclusion and regulation of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) to protect digital cultural assets.



CHAPTER SIXTEEN

16.0 CULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION: INFORMATION AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

Ghana shall enter into mutually beneficial cultural co-operation agreements with neighbouring and other friendly countries to facilitate the flow of information, cultural exchanges and the transfer of technology to enhance the following:

- Development of creativity.
- Enhancement of the access to culture.
- Promotion of heritage.
- Development of cultural dialogue between various artistic and social groupings and communities with a view to improving intra-national understanding.
- Mainstreaming of culture in the economy, that is, ensuring the contribution of culture to economic development on one hand and improving the funding of culture on the other hand.

Article 40 (a-d) (i-iv) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, under International Relations, states:

“In dealing with other nations, Government shall:

- *Promote and protect the interest of Ghana;*
- *Seek the establishment of a just and equitable international economic and social order;*
- *Promote respect for international law, treaty obligations and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means;*
- *Adhere to the principles enshrined in or as the case may be, the aims and ideals of –*
 - *The Charter of the United Nations,*
 - *The Charter of the AU,*
 - *The Commonwealth,*
 - *The Treaty of Economic Community of West African States,*
 - *Any other international organisation of which Ghana is a member.”*

16.1 Key Issues

Ghana's Pan-Africanist Profile

Ghana's Pan-African profile is deeply rooted in a rich cultural heritage that transcends borders, symbolising the unity and diversity of the African continent and its diaspora. As a champion of African unity since independence, Ghana recognises culture as a powerful tool for fostering solidarity, exchange, and co-operation among African peoples.

By celebrating and sharing our diverse cultural expressions, traditions and values, Africa can strengthen its collective identity, promote cross-cultural understanding, and pave the way for a more integrated and prosperous Africa.

Through cultural exchange programmes, festivals, and educational initiatives, Ghana aims to spearhead a cultural renaissance that complements the political and economic dimensions of the African unity agenda and the resurgence of Pan-Africanism.

16.2 Policy Statements

The State shall reinforce cultural Pan-Africanism, promote African cultural heritage, and foster a sense of unity and shared identity among African nations and the diaspora through the following strategic interventions:

- *Education:* Integrate Pan-African history, culture, and values into school curricula and educational programmes.
- *Language:* Promote the learning and use of African languages, such as Swahili, Hausa, Yoruba, and Zulu, as a symbol of unity and cultural identity.
- *Cultural Institutions:* Establish and support cultural institutions, museums, and libraries that showcase African art, literature, music, and heritage.
- *Festivals and Celebrations:* Organise and promote festivals and celebrations that honour African culture in different countries.
- *Cultural Diplomacy:* Use cultural diplomacy as a tool for international relations, spearheading the campaign for reparative justice, fostering co-operation and exchange between African countries and the diaspora.
- *Support African Creative Industries:* Provide resources and support for African artists, musicians, writers, and filmmakers to promote cultural expression and

creativity.

- *Cultural Policy:* Develop and implement policies that protect and promote African cultural heritage, intellectual property, and traditional knowledge.
- *Community Engagement:* Engage with African communities and diaspora organisations to promote cultural awareness, understanding, and exchange.
- *Digital Platforms:* Create digital platforms and online resources to showcase African culture, history and heritage, making it accessible to a global audience.
- *Collaborations and Partnerships:* Foster collaborations between African countries, international organisations, and the private sector to promote Pan-African culture and sustainable development.

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SECTION SIX – NATIONAL OVERSIGHT, IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATION

This section outlines the implementation and regulation of the Cultural Policy of Ghana, with the Ministry responsible for Culture overseeing the process through various pro-cultural organisations.

The objective is to harness Ghana's cultural resources and creativity for sustainable national development, with the state playing a crucial role in developing capacities and facilitating collaboration among stakeholders.

This section is dedicated to the core issues of funding the implementation of the policy which includes its constituent Culture and Heritage Fund; additional funding sources; tax relief; accountability; institutional and administrative framework and monitoring and evaluation.

The main action points are:

- *Capacity-building:* Enhancing the skills of industry players in project management, cultural administration, and technology usage to improve production quality and global competitiveness.
- *Implementation Strategies:* The National Commission on Culture will lead the implementation, with integration into annual action plans and budgets of public and private institutions.
- *Collaboration:* Government institutions, civil society actors, and private organisations will work together to mobilise resources, partnerships, and expertise.
- *Oversight:* The Ministry responsible for Culture will ensure adequate budgetary allocation and regulate the implementation process.
- *Integration:* The policy will be incorporated into the annual performance plans of relevant institutions, with regular reporting and evaluation.



CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

17.0 FUNDING

The Government of Ghana recognises the importance of culture in driving economic growth and development. Sectors such as chieftaincy, education, national festivals, tourism and non-traditional exports reflect the commitment of state funding to the sustenance and development of cultural heritage and creativity. Tangible and intangible culture as well as the creative economy are variously supported modestly by individuals, communities, civil society organisations and private sector entities.

17.1 Key Issues

- There is the need for funding to provide a sustainable and diversified source of income to support the implementation of the Cultural Policy of Ghana and promote the development of the arts and culture in Ghana.

17.2 Policy Statements

To support the implementation of the Cultural Policy of Ghana, the following funding sources have been identified for State intervention:

- *Culture and Heritage Fund*

The fund shall be sourced from:

- Government contribution.
- 5% of National Lottery earnings.
- Earnings from exhibitions, promotions, and commercial activities.
- 10% of copyright earnings.
- Donations.

- *Additional Funding Sources*

Funding shall be sourced from:

- Government subvention.
- Contributions and grants from Regional, District/Municipal/Metropolitan Assemblies.
- 1% of the District Assemblies Common Fund.

- Sponsorship and donations from private individuals, industry, business organisations, and commercial houses.
- Other sources.
- *Tax Relief*
The government will enact laws to grant tax relief to organisations and businesses that donate to and sponsor arts and cultural activities.
- *Accountability*
The Ministry responsible for Culture will ensure judicious application and accounting of funds from the Culture and Heritage Fund and other cultural promotion and development resources.

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CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

18.0 INSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORKS

18.1 Existing Framework

The Ministry responsible for Culture has oversight responsibility for safeguarding and implementing the Cultural Policy of Ghana, which aims to mainstream Ghanaian culture into all aspects of national life and promote a vibrant, creative economy to boost the tourism industry. The policy will be implemented through various pro-cultural institutions and agencies, including:

- i. National Commission on Culture,
- ii. Ghana Tourism Authority,
- iii. National Theatre of Ghana and its Resident Troupes,
- iv. Ghana Museums and Monuments Board,
- v. Bureau of Ghana Languages,
- vi. National Folklore Board,
- vii. W. E. B. Du Bois Memorial Centre for Pan-African Culture,
- viii. Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park,
- ix. Hotel, Catering and Hospitality Training Institute,
- x. Pan-African Writers Association,
- xi. Creative Arts Agency,
- xii. National Film Authority,
- xiii. Ghana Tourism Development Company.

18.2 Key Issues

- The State has to ensure that all the national pro-cultural institutions and agencies, state and non-state actors, including CSOs, work together to fulfil the effective implementation of the policy, with the Ministry providing the necessary administrative, operational, and budgetary support.
- Dwindling levels of specialists in the culture and creative sector in public

institutions.

18.3 Policy Statements

The State shall take the necessary steps to:

- Review the entire legislative framework governing the departments and agencies in the culture sector and to integrate cultural values into the code of ethics/code of conduct of corporate entities.
- Establish Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for institutions and staff.
- Empower institutions and organisations of culture including art associations and guilds through capacity building.
- Structure and systematize the relationship between the public institutions of culture and the non-state actors in the cultural sector.
- Facilitate the enhancement of the capacity of Collecting Societies.
- Put in place a programme of specialise resource development in the institutions of culture in the public sector.



CHAPTER NINETEEN

19.0 PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

19.1 Strategic Plan for Implementing the Cultural Policy

The Ministry responsible for Culture shall lead the development of a Strategic Plan for the implementation of the cultural policy, which will be implemented across various sectors and levels of government.

19.2 Implementation Machinery

The implementation machinery shall consist of:

- Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) at the national, regional, and district levels,
- Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) as the basic units of implementation,
- Heads of Departments and Agencies, Faith-Based Organisations, Civil Society Groups, Artistic Groups, NGOs, Community-Based Organisations, Traditional Authorities, etc.

19.2.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Each implementing entity shall execute its roles in conformity with its institutional mandate(s) and the specific policies and objectives reflected in the Cultural Policy of Ghana.

19.2.2 Strategic Focus for Monitoring and Evaluation

The M&E framework shall focus on:

- Articulation and propagation of Ghanaian national values.
- Exhibition and propagation of national identity and cultural values.
- Creation of a national mindset, collective moral consciousness, national character, and a sense of identity.
- Brand Ghana creation and visibility.

- Alignment of national development agenda with core national values.

19.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The Ministry shall commission a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework to track the implementation of the policy. The M&E framework shall be incorporated into the National Strategy for mainstreaming purposes.

19.4 Expected Outcomes

The implementation of the Cultural Policy of Ghana shall result in:

- Preservation of cultural heritage and positive traditional practices.
- Promotion of national identity and cultural values.
- Enhancement of national development and sovereignty.
- Increase in multilingualism and peaceful multi-ethnic communities.
- Reduction in ethnic and chieftaincy conflicts.
- Growth of investment in tourism and the creative economy.
- Improved herbal medicine practice and traditional medicine research.
- Clear policy guidelines provided to operatives in the cultural sector to optimise its potential.

19.5 Institutional Arrangements

The Ministry responsible for Culture shall establish a statistical system, planning and monitoring indicators, and co-ordinate activities with other MDAs and MMDAs.

19.6 Laws and Regulations

Laws and regulations shall be put in place to give effect to key aspects of the policy. Attention will be paid to supporting and improving traditional conservation regimes and practices, protecting cultural and natural resources, and ensuring the mainstreaming of culture in national development.

