



AKOo POLi Newsletter



GaDangbe And Friends Association Of Southern California

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March is Otsokrikri - Named for the burning heat of the sun

Celebrating the end of Colonialism in Ghana



March 6th, 1957

"At long last, the battle has ended!
And thus Ghana, your beloved country is free forever".

That was the opener in Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's speech on our new nation's first day of independence

from the colonialists.

He went on to say, "And, as I pointed out... from now on, today, we must change our attitudes and our minds. We must realize that from now on we are no longer a colonial but free and independent people".

I think that one of the most important lines in his speech was, "Our independence is meaningless unless it is linked up with the total liberation of Africa". That still rings true today, but we're a long way from completing the hard work towards the unification of all African states under one governing umbrella. Here's a YouTube [link](#) to Kwame Nkrumah's speech and the celebration. [link](#)



March Madness

"March Madness" is a term that is applied to NCAA Mens College Basketball tournaments in the U.S. for the excitement that is created by the competition. But it's the unpredictability of the tournaments, contrasted by the predictions of sports commentators, that defines the term.

Bracketology is a word you may not know. According to dictionary.com, this recent addition to the dictionary is defined as the practice of "predicting and tracking the process of elimination among sequentially paired opponents in a tournament," which basically means predicting which teams will win in a group of pairings. Huh? Okay!



Tsie Anaanu

In our traditional Gadangbe literature, **Tsie Anaanu** (Kweku Ananse, as the Akans call him) the trickster spider, is an especially well-known folk character. His clever and sometimes self-defeating exploits have been sources of intrigue and delight across generations in our motherland Ghana. Here's one of Tsie Anaanu stories.

Tsie Anaanu's mother-in-law died, and Tsie Anaanu went to the funeral dressed in his fancy funeral-clothes.

At the funeral he smelled beans cooking, and that got him so hungry during the service that he snuck into the kitchen to help himself.

Tsie Anaanu had just scooped up some beans when the chef walked in.

Uh-oh!

Embarrassed, Tsie Anaanu poured the beans into his hat, to eat later, and put the hat on his head.

As the burning hot beans made him shake, wiggle and sweat, **"It's my hat-shaking dance of grief!"** Tsie Anaanu shouted and danced around.

Tsie Anaanu danced closer and closer to the door until he was able to get away, but it was too late; the beans had burned off his hair, and that's why Tsie Anaanu is bald to this day.

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