

June 21, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL AND MATTERS ARISING - ADDENDUM

I. INTRODUCTION

1) The attention of the Secretariat of the National Cathedral of Ghana has been drawn to another set of accusations relating to the “private” registration of the National Cathedral of Ghana, the omission of two of the Trustees from the registration, and accusations about payments to a Ghanaian Artiste, Sonnie Badu.

This memo responds to these, and is an addendum to the June 17 Press Release.

II. A PRIVATE OR PUBLICLY OWNED COMPANY

2) On 29th July 2021, a letter from the Secretariat of the National Cathedral, signed by me, was sent to the Attorney General to seek clarity on the legal status of the National Cathedral. This was a follow up to the advice of the Attorney General that the most effective framework for operationalizing the partnership envisaged by the President was to register the National Cathedral as a company limited by guarantee, with the Museums and Monuments Board, a government agency, as the sponsoring agency.

3) In response to my letter, the Attorney General, in a letter dated 6th January 2022, provided his legal opinion, which I reproduce extensively below.

4) In a letter titled CLARIFICATION OF LEGAL STATUS OF NATIONAL CATHEDRAL FOUNDATION AND THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, with reference No. C21/SF.104 the Attorney General writes, inter alia:

2. It is noted that that on 18th July, 2019, the National Cathedral of Ghana was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1963 (Act 179) as a company limited by guarantee. The National Cathedral of Ghana is therefore a company limited by guarantee with its sole corporate member being the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board, a government agency.

4. By its registration documents, the principal activities of the National Cathedral of Ghana are the following:

- a. To own the assets of the National Cathedral of Ghana*
- b. To administer the National Cathedral of Ghana*
- c. To serve as a convening platform for national conversations on faith*
- d. To operate an interdenominational church for national purposes*

5. It is clear from the above listed activities of the National Cathedral of Ghana of Ghana that, it is a non-profit making organization. **Since the sole member is a government agency, the National Cathedral of Ghana is a State-owned non-profit making organization** (my emphasis). Any income generated and income and property acquired by the National Cathedral are thus required to be reinvested and used for promoting its non-profit activities.

...

We are therefore of the opinion that:

- i. The National Cathedral of is a State-owned company limited by guarantee since its sole corporate member is the Ghana Museums Board.

5) The incorporation of the National Cathedral of Ghana, as a **private company owned by the State**, with the Museum and Monument's Board as its sole corporate member, reflect and affirms the National Cathedral's character as a National Monument, and hence a public project.

III) COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

6) The Directors of the State-owned company, the National Cathedral of Ghana are:

NAME	DESIGNATION	REPRESENTATION
• Ofosu Ntiamoah Kingsley	Ag Director, Museums & Monuments Board	Corporate: Museums & Monuments Board
• Rev Prof Opoku Onyinah		Board of Trustees
• Archbishop Charles Gabriel Palmer-Buckle		Board of Trustees
• Rev Victor Kusi Boateng		Board of Trustees
• Archbishop Nicholas Duncan-Williams		Board of Trustees
• Archbishop Justice Offei-Akrofi		Board of Trustees
• Most Rev T.K. Awotwi-Pratt		Board of Trustees
• Rev Prof Emmanuel Martey		Board of Trustees
• Rev Dr Joyce Aryee		Board of Trustees
• Rev Prof Paul Frimpong Manso		Board of Trustees
• Rev Eastwood Anaba		Board of Trustees
• Most Rev Samuel Asante Antwi		Board of Trustees (deceased)

IV) OMISSION OF TWO TRUSTEES FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7) The omission of two of the Trustees, namely i) Rev Prof Cephas Omenyo and ii) Bishop Dag Heward Mills, on the Board of Directors is due to the following reasons:

8) Rev Prof Cephas Omenyo, the immediate past Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, has been indisposed since 2018, and so could not register. He is yet to be formally replaced as a member of the Board of Trustees by the President.

9) Bishop Dag Heward Mill's registration materials, which are the Secretariat, came in after the registration as he had travelled out of the country.

10) The Secretariat is awaiting the replacements of Rev Cephas Omenyo and the late Chairman, Most Rev Asante Antwi to the Board of Trustees. Once these replacements are made by the President, there will be a Board resolution to add their names, and that of Bishop Dag Heward Mills, to the list of Directors.

11) While he is yet to be added to the registered Board of Directors, Bishop Dag Heward Mills remains a very committed and active member of the National Cathedral Board of Trustees.

V. PAYMENT TO SONNIE BADU

12) There are reports about the payment of \$50,000.00 to the singer, Sonnie Badu, for his performance at the Launch of the National Cathedral Fundraising in Washington DC in February 8, 2019.

The Secretariat of the National Cathedral has not paid any money, neither is it aware of any such payment, to Sonnie Badu.

VI. CONCLUSION:

13. Following my June 17, 2022 Press release, our expectation was to begin a process of rationalizing the discussions on the National Cathedral. Concretely, our expectation was that issues would be directed to the National Cathedral Secretariat for clarification.

14) These expectations have not changed, and the National Cathedral Secretariat still remains committed to an open and transparent process of communication, to achieve this.

Please direct all requests for information to the Executive Director at the National Cathedral Secretariat.

Email: executive.director@nationalcathedralghana.org

Tel: 0246 273 241

In the service of God and Country,



Dr. Paul Opoku-Mensah
Executive Director
National Cathedral of Ghana