



WETA TRADITIONAL AREA

Ketu North Municipal Assembly. c/o Postal Agent. Weta

OUR REF. ~~WT/27/025~~ YOUR REF.....

27th October 2025

REJOINDER TO DR. GABRIEL KWAMIGAH-ATOKPLE'S MEDIA COMMENTS ON THE WETA CHIEFTAINCY DISPUTE

1. As the rightful Overlord and Paramount Chief of Weta Traditional Area, I, Togbiga Ashiakpor VI (Emmanuel Gbeve), find it necessary to respond to the recent public utterances made by Dr. Gabriel Tanko Kwamigah-Atokple, Council of State Member for the Volta Region, during his appearance on Fafaa 100.3 FM's Duamenefa Programme.
2. Atokple's statements, which sought to delegitimize my authority and misrepresent the facts surrounding the Weta chieftaincy dispute, are not only misleading but deeply troubling - especially coming from a senior statesman who is expected to uphold neutrality, wisdom, and peace.
3. Atokple claims that "one of the claimants has been officially gazetted" and urges the other to seek redress in court. This statement is disingenuous and omits critical facts. As clearly documented in Suit No. VRP.2/2018 and Suit No. C13/01/23, the gazettement of Mr. Nelson Kofi Glago (purporting to be Torgbuiga Akpo Ashiakpor VI) was procured through fraudulent misrepresentation, despite a pending suit challenging his eligibility and lineage.
4. This individual has consistently acted as an imposter, emboldened by elements within the NPP government to intimidate and destabilize the legitimate kingmakers and the Ashiakpor Royal Family of Weta - a campaign of coercion that continues to this day and is now being whitewashed under the current NDC-led regime, with Dr. Gabriel Kwamigah Atokple (Tanko) leading the charge or in the helm. His dual role as a Council of State member and partisan actor has compromised the neutrality expected of his office, allowing him to shield fraudulent chieftaincy claims while suppressing the rightful custodians of Weta's heritage.
5. The National House of Chiefs was misled into registering his name while the matter was actively before the Volta Region House of Chiefs. This act, as detailed in the petition and

legal filings, undermines the integrity of the chieftaincy institution and violates the principle of due process.

6. It is ironic that Dr. Atokple, who styled himself as peace ambassador and sponsor of the Duamenefa Peace Initiative, has become the very architect of division in his own homeland. It has been alleged that he openly declared that “as long as I am Tanko, Nelson Kofi Glago will not be degazetted”, is a direct affront to the rule of law and the independence of our traditional institutions.
7. When did Tanko become a kingmaker of the Ashiakpor Royal Family? What constitutional or customary authority does he wield to determine who is or is not a legitimate chief in Weta? Could this be the power of money to influence the ongoing case before the regional house of chiefs?
8. During the 2025 Weta Rice Festival - a long-standing cultural celebration - Atokple orchestrated a campaign of intimidation against me and eight other eminent chiefs of the Weta Traditional Area. Under his influence, the Municipal Police Command compelled us to sign a “bond of peace” at the Dzodze Magistrate Court. This case, as rightly strike out by the court through the able representation of our counsel, was baseless and politically motivated.
9. Despite the strike out, Atokple further instigated the police to suspend our festival, which had already commenced. The most egregious act was the deployment of state security, including the NIB and armed police, to harass and detain us—traditional leaders who were merely upholding our cultural heritage. This operation, led by Commander Sup. William Gyamfi, was executed under Dr. Atokple’s directive, turning a peaceful festival into a militarized zone.
10. Dr. Atokple’s dismissive reference to the Weta Rice Festival as “some people’s festival” is not only disrespectful but reveals his contempt for the traditions of the very land he claims to serve. The Rice Festival is not a factional event—it is a sacred celebration of our agrarian identity, unity, and resilience. His attempt to delegitimize it is an affront to the entire Weta Traditional Area.
11. Despite the intimidation and harassment orchestrated by Gabriel Kwamigah-Atokple—who deployed police and intelligence operatives to disrupt our Weta Rice Festival - we, the rightful chiefs of Weta Traditional Area, stood firm and successfully celebrated our heritage with dignity. In a widely circulated video, Atokple, while feigning forgiveness, issued a veiled threat that should we attempt to celebrate the festival next year which is not in accordance with his detect, whims and caprices, he would “teach us a lesson.” Such language from a Council of State member, who is expected to uphold peace and

constitutional order, is not only unbecoming but reveals a dangerous abuse of influence aimed at suppressing legitimate traditional authority.

12. In yet another disturbing display of hostility, Dr. Gabriel Kwamigah-Atokple ordered the Member of Parliament for Ketu North, Hon. Eric Agbana, and the Municipal Chief Executive to turn back from greeting us during the Weta Rice Festival, falsely claiming that we—the legitimate chiefs of Weta—posed a security threat. This baseless accusation is not only insulting but deeply ironic, considering that Dr. Atokple himself is a native son of Weta. Can he point to a single instance, even the threat to a fly, where we have endangered anyone in our peaceful exercise of tradition? What, then, is my offense to Tanko—other than being the rightful heir to the Ashiakpor Paramount Stool, installed through due customary process and upheld by the kingmakers of our land? His actions betray a personal vendetta cloaked in state authority, undermining the very peace he claims to champion.

Conclusion

Dr. Atokple's conduct—his media pronouncements, political interference, and misuse of state security - has eroded his credibility as a peace advocate. His actions have deepened the chieftaincy crisis in Weta, not resolved it. I call on the The President of the Republic, Chairman of Council of State, NDC Party, National House of Chiefs, the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, and all well-meaning Ghanaians to take note of these developments and call Gabriel Tanko Kwamigah-Atokple to order to uphold the sanctity of our traditional institutions.

Let it be known: peace is not achieved through coercion, deception, or favoritism. It is built on truth, justice, and respect for tradition.

Signed,

Togbiga Ashiakpor VI

Overlord & Paramount Chief of Weta Traditional Area

Weta Palace, Volta Region

October 27, 2025

Cc: 1. H.E John Dramani Mahama - President of Ghana, 2. Mr. Johnson Asiedu Nketiah - Chairman, NDC Party, 3. Hon Doe Adzaho - Council of State Chairman, 4. IGP, 5. Regional Minister, 6. Regional/Divisional Commander, 7. RHC - HO, 8. Togbiwo/Mamawo, 9. Kingmakers and Citizens of Weta, 10. Media.

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Dr Kwamigah-Atokple urges Weta chiefs to seek legal redress in chieftaincy dispute

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Dr Gabriel Kwamigah-Atokple is the Council of State Member for the Volta Region

The Council of State Member for the Volta Region, Dr Gabriel Tanko Kwamigah-Atokple, has advised one of the two chiefs in the Weta Traditional Area who is not gazetted to seek legal redress through the courts, rather than causing misunderstanding within the community.

Dr Kwamigah-Atokple made this statement on the airwaves of Fafaa 100.3 FM, during the Duamenefa Programme hosted by Abaas Seidu, when he was called to address the public on events that transpired during the Weta Morluza Festival (Rice Festival).

It was alleged that two chiefs had organised separate celebrations of the same festival, even though it was supposed to be a unified traditional event.

The Council of State member explained that two persons are currently laying claim to one paramount chieftaincy stool title, Torgbiga Akpo Ashiakpor VI.

According to him, one of the claimants has been officially gazetted, while the other has not yet received such legal recognition.

Dr Gabriel Kwamigah-Atokple, therefore, urged the chief without the gazette to challenge the decision through the law courts if he believes he has legitimate grounds, rather than causing conflict and division within the Weta Traditional Area.

He emphasised that any such challenge should be done peacefully and lawfully, stating that the court is the proper place for redress.

He further advised that until a final decision is made, all parties and their followers should respect and support the one currently holding the gazetted title and focus on the development of the Weta Traditional Area.

In citing an example, Dr Kwamigah-Atokple recounted a troubling incident that occurred at the Weta Council, where a site designated for community work was deliberately blocked with truckloads of sand.

According to him, one of the chiefs had tipped ten truckloads of sand at the venue, claiming that no one should use the place.

He said he had to personally arrange for an excavator to remove the sand before the activity could proceed, describing the act as "very unfortunate and uncalled for."

He further disclosed that during the recent festival, he had invited special guests of high standing to witness the celebration and explore possible ways to assist in the development of the Weta Traditional Area.

However, just hours before the event, he said he received calls from the guests informing him that they had decided not to attend after hearing reports of misunderstandings and tensions at the festival grounds.

Despite his efforts to convince them otherwise, they maintained their decisions not to come.

Dr Gabriel Tanko Kwamigah—Atokple lamented that while some of them are working tirelessly — even beyond Ghana's borders — to attract investors for the development of their communities, others are busily fighting over titles, which only bring setbacks and disputes.

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Dr Gabriel Tanko Kwamigah—Atokple lamented that while some of them are working tirelessly — even beyond Ghana’s borders — to attract investors for the development of their communities, others are busily fighting over titles, which only bring setbacks and disunity.

He bitterly expressed disappointment over the situation and urged the chiefs and people of Weta to exercise patience, focus their energies on development projects, and “fight for progress, not positions.”

He also emphasised that true leadership is shown through service and unity, not conflicts and divisions.

Dr Kwamigah-Atokple also revealed that, while speaking live on Fafaa 100.3 FM, he had before him an official letter from the Regional House of Chiefs in Ho.

He read the letter live on air, which listed the officially-recognised paramount chiefs in the Ketu North Municipality, including their private names, but which he did not disclose publicly out of respect for traditional norms.

He concluded that if anyone believes they have a rightful claim, they should proceed to court for justice, rather than causing misunderstanding in the community.

He further emphasised that, “We must all understand that we are governed by laws, and as traditional leaders and citizens, we must respect the law.”

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