



BIOGRAPHY OF HRM OHEMAA NANA YAA ASAA SAFOA II Osomanyawa (Amankrado) Bekai Queen of Akwamu Traditional Area, Guantoa Queen, Queen of Akwamufie

Installed under the stool name Nana Hema Yaa Asaa Safoa II, she is the second in command to the Omanhema of Akwamu Traditional Area, Ohema Nana Afrakuma II.

Nana Hema Asaa Safoa can be described as a very stylish queen who likes to blend ancient and modern; western and local tradition in her presentation.

Many may not know but Nana Hema Asaa Safoa has been around for a long time and she is credited as the inventor of the fabric Kente-oke and the inventor of the loom on which Kente-oke is created.

Kente-oke is a blend of the Ghanaian Kente and the Nigerian Aso-oke. Kente-oke has given a modern look and feel to the West African Narrow Loom Hand woven fabrics making them more sophisticated, luxurious and softer. With the help of a United Nations Development Programme Grant, Nana Hema was able to house, train and employ less privileged women in the art of Kente-ok weaving. After the training, the women were able to work and earn regular incomes working on their own or independently and supplying Nana's Company.

Nana Hema Safoa participated in numerous international exhibitions working with international designers at which she promoted Ghana/Nigeria and Africa with her Kente-oke fabrics. During this period, she became the voice of the African textile industry, reporting on ethnic styles and trends as seen on the catwalk at the London Fashion week, on BBC World African News and Focus on Africa.

Currently she produces Kente-oke for specific orders for fashion items and special events, as well as interiors such as curtains and soft furnishings.

Brief background

Born on December 21, 1950, Nana Hema left Ghana in 1954 to join her parents who were studying in England.

She had all her education in England and obtained a Diploma in Private Secretarial Studies. She worked with Rank Xerox, Sun Life Assurance Canada and DAK Simpson in England. At DAK Simpson she was the Personal Assistant to the Marketing Director.

Back to motherland

Nana Hema returned to Ghana in 1972 and was employed by the Aryton Drug Manufacturing Company as Personal Assistant to the Managing Director.

She later left to join Brain Munro Ghana Limited and while there undertook a marketing course at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration where she obtained a Diploma in Marketing in 1976.

At a very young age of 25, she became the Executive Director of Brian Munro Ghana Limited, she obtained the first one million dollar import license for Brian Munro to import rice into Ghana. She worked in conjunction with the Ghana Food Distribution Corporation and Riviana Rice Company in Houston, Texas, to produce special bags and labels for the consignment, which was imported into, and distributed throughout Ghana.

Dachel & Company is born

By 1977, Nana Hema had formed her own company, Dachel & Company Limited. The company acted as manufacturers' representatives for popular international food and drinks companies in Ghana such as Friesland Land Foods BV, the manufacturers of Peak milk, Lesaf Baking Yeast, Long John Whisky, Hine Cognac, Baron Wines, Lurpack Butter, Noel Spices and CFAO to name but a few.

Awards

For her commitment in promoting African fashion, Nana Hema has received the following awards:

The Trumpet's Gathering of Africa's Best Award for Excellence for Contributions to the Positive image of Africa and Africans through Fashion in 2001.

The Ghana Professional Achievers Award for Excellence in Fashion in 2002.

GW11N British Female inventor 2003 for the innovation of Kente-oke

BF11N Global Female Inventor 2003 for the invention of the loom on which Kente-oke is created. This is also exceptionally inventive.

Clubs

Fashion Designers Association of Nigeria

Zonta International Accra Club II

Infanta Malaria Foundation

HRM Nana Asaa Safoa II Foundation

Family

Nana Hema has four children, Damian, Michel, Omotoke and Eyimofe. She has two daughters' in-law, Sara and Mounia and two granddaughters.

She loves to listen to music, dance, write, go out with friends, read and bake when she is less busy.