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 Hemaa Yaa Asaa Safoa II, she is the second in command to the Omanhemaa of Akwamu Traditional Area, Ohemaa Nana Afrakuma II. Nana Hemaa 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 Hemaa Asaa Safoa has been around for a long time and she is credited as the inventor of the fabric Kente-oké and the inventor of the loom on which Kente-oké is created.

Kente-oké is a blend of the Ghanaian Kente and the Nigerian Aso-oke. Kente-oké 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 Hemaa was able to house, train and employ less privileged women in the art of Kente-oké 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 Hemaa Safoa participated in numerous international exhibitions working with international designers at which she promoted Ghana/Nigeria and Africa with her Kente-oké 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-oké 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 Hemaa 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 Hemaa 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 Hemaa 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 Hemaa 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.
GW1IN British Female inventor 2003 for the innovation of Kente-oke
BF1IN 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 Hemaa 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.