

## **IT HAS HAPPENED!**

By Abena Osegu Boateng

All kinds of feet are stepping on the resting place of the founder of the modern Republic of Ghana with gusto.

Twisted, manicured and dirty feet have all come together in a monumental act of desecration engineered by the government of Nana Akufo-Addo and the World Bank.

The Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park has now been reduced to a disco, spotting flashy lights, and ear piercing music with a restaurant to boot.

The most annoying part of it is that, those who are busy desecrating this sacred place originally meant to do honour to Africa's Man of Destiny are really proud of their treachery.

An advert put out on ghanaweb.com reads "After President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023, commissioned the renovated and modernised Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park in Accra, a musical concert is set to be held on Friday, July 7, 2023 to outdoor the facility to the general public."

"Scheduled to start at 8pm, the event dubbed "Re-ignition Concert "is expected to be entertaining as musicians Samini, Kofi Kinaata, the High School Band amongst others have been billed to perform. Also on the Bill is ace Disc- Jockey Andy Dosty. The event will be hosted by Mergury-Quaye"

In line with the World Bank's commitment to the principle of maximisation of profit and the privatisations of everything, the entry fees for the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park have been increased by a whopping 500 percent.

Ghanaian adults will now have to pay GHC 25.00 to enter the park while non-Ghanaians will have to cough -up as much as GHC100. In addition to this, every person who wants to use the park as an events centre or venue pays GHC3000.00 for the first two hours at night and GHC2000.00 for the first two hours during the day.

A graphic online report on the concert which is reproduced below speaks volumes.

“The concert, put together by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC), together with its partners, also saw performances from the High School Band and electrifying tunes by renowned Disc Jockey (DJ), Andy Dosty.

“Even though the show did not start on schedule, the almost two-hour wait was worth it as the various performers treated patrons to some wonderful tunes from their respective collections, with showbiz broadcaster, Merquy Quaye, of Hitz FM, holding the audience spellbound throughout the show.

“The main acts were phenomenal, thrilling patrons with back-to-back hit songs, leaving fans thirsty for more after each round.

“Their interactions with the audience, coupled with their thrilling displays, gave the audience, made up of Ghanaians and foreigners, every reason to jam.

“The Deputy Minister of Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC), Mark Okraku-Mantey, explained that the programme was a celebration of the new phase of the memorial park.

“He also said the edifice was a testament to the President’s unwavering commitment to make Ghana the tourism hub of Africa and the number one destination for revellers and visitors from across the world.

“The President is still committed to developing tourism, arts and culture.

“This project is just one of the things that show that he is ready to do more,” Mr Okraku-Mantey said.

“As part of the event, the Deputy Minister presented awards to the consultant, the contractor and the architect of the project, adding; “we are doing this because everything you see here was made by Ghanaians, so we need to motivate and acknowledge them.”

Mark Okraku-Mantey, Deputy Minister of Tourism makes it clear that the park is not about honouring Nkrumah. It is essentially about promoting the business of tourism.