

# *The Purdue Peace Project Post*



Daasebre Amankonah Diawuo II Has Been Declared The Legitimate Paramount Chief Of Berekum

## **Declaration of the Legitimate Paramount Chief of Berekum**

Local citizens and leaders, with the assistance of the Purdue Peace Project (PPP), have helped to peacefully resolve a 13-year chieftancy dispute in Berekum, Ghana. The announcement was made on September 9th, 2013. At the time PPP became involved, June 2012, concerns were high that the chieftancy dispute could be used to foment violence during and after parliamentary and presidential elections in Ghana. To help with the situation, the PPP facilitated meetings of key actors. Out of these meetings a series of strategies for preventing political violence were developed and the Berekum Peace Committee, all local citizens, was formed to enact the activities. The PPP also worked with the Berekum Patrons, a group of individuals who hail from Berekum, to strategize to avert political violence in the area.

If you would like to keep up with the updates from Purdue Peace Project please check out our website (<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/ppp/>) and Like our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/PurduePeaceProject](http://www.facebook.com/PurduePeaceProject))

**Promoting Peace Through Local Action**

### **In this Issue**

- News from Berekum, Ghana  
pp.2-3
- Aluu community-university  
project  
p.4
- Pen-pen drivers project  
p.5
- Natl Communication Association.  
p. 6
- On the Horizon  
p. 6

**PURDUE**  
LIBERAL ARTS  
PURDUE PEACE PROJECT

**Quarterly Newsletter  
ISSUE 06 OCTOBER 2013**

## *The Berekum Peace Committee: Events Leading Up to the Proclamation in Berekum, Ghana*



A Peace March through the principal streets of Berekum on August 17th, 2013, organized by The Berekum Peace Committee.

The Berekum Peace Committee, a group of citizen volunteers, which PPP helped to bring into existence, has been instrumental in ensuring peace in Berekum. Their efforts during the last 18 months have helped to bring about a peaceful resolution to the thirteen and a half year chieftaincy dispute. On such event took place on August 17th, when the Berekum Peace Committee, in collaboration with the Patrons of Berekum, organized a Peace March. The objective of the March was to further drive home to Berekum citizens the need for peace and good neighborliness after the final judgment in the chieftaincy dispute had been announced. Berekum citizens representing religious groups, youth groups, government officials, the media, and other actor groups participated in the March. Approximately 100 placards displaying messages of peace were carried. The March earned national and local media coverage.



# The Berekum Peace Committee: Events Leading Up to the Decision in Berekum, Ghana



The Triumphal entry into Berekum on September 10th, 2013 amidst jubilation by citizens.



The Berekum Peace Committee convening.



The Berekum Peace Committee wearing their Purdue t-shirts



A Cultural group jubilating for peace in Berekum



Participants at a Peace March organized by the Berekum Peace Committee with support from the Purdue Peace Project (PPP) on August 17th, 2013, to appeal for peace in Berekum.



Daasebre in a pose with his family members and some chiefs and the Ag Queenmother of Berekum after the ruling.



## *PPP is Pleased to Announce the Formation of COPEDI*



The Executive Director of HMI, Mr. Peter Ujomu (fourth from the left), chiefs of Aluu community, and Mr. Agaptus Anaele of PPP (third from right).

### **COPEDI**

PPP is pleased to announce the formation of COPEDI, the Community Peace Development Initiative, a local peace committee that is dedicated to peacebuilding and violence prevention as it relates to community-university relations in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. COPEDI consists of members of various actor groups who participated in the August 2013 actor meeting facilitated by PPP and Health Matters, Inc. COPEDI members are committed to enacting the locally-led political violence activities that were developed during the August 2013 actor meeting.



Members of COPEDI and other participants in the August 2013 actor meeting.

## *PPP is Delighted to Announce the Formation of The Pen-Pen Peace Network*

PPP is pleased to announce the formation of the Pen-Pen Peace Network, a local peace committee that emerged from the actor meeting held in Monrovia, Liberia July 2013. During the July actor meeting, facilitated by PPP and WOMSUD-Liberia, representatives from the pen-pen drivers, taxi drivers, market women, the Liberia National Police, the Ministry of Transport, and other community members came together to



discuss issues facing pen-pen drivers and riders as well as concerns about how these issues can lead to violence. The Pen-Pen Peace Network is committed to bringing political violence prevention strategies that were developed during the July actor meeting to fruition.





*Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education, Purdue University , West Lafayette, Indiana, USA*

## National Communication Association

PPP will be presenting a Top Paper at the National Communication Association. Our paper is titled “Connecting with local communities to prevent political violence in West Africa: Making a difference through engaged communication scholarship”. This paper centers on the work PPP has done in Berekum.

The 2013 NCA Convention will take place November 21st in Washington DC.

“The National Communication Association advances communication as the discipline that studies all forms, modes, media and consequences of communication through humanistic, social scientific and aesthetic inquiry.”

<http://www.natcom.org/>

## Like Us on Facebook!

The Purdue Peace Project is on Facebook! Like our page to stay up to date on our projects and related peace building and violence prevention efforts.

[www.facebook.com/PurduePeaceProject](http://www.facebook.com/PurduePeaceProject)

Comments, Questions, or Suggestions about the Newsletter?

Please contact the Editor, Cassie McComick, at [ppp@purdue.edu](mailto:ppp@purdue.edu)

**Promoting Peace Through Local Action**

## On the Horizon

The release of a report on the Natural Resources Management Project by International Alert, OSIWA, and PPP.

News on PPP’s new projects in Ghana and Nigeria.

We thank you for your interest in our work on peace building in West Africa.



PURDUE PEACE PROJECT

Beering Hall, Room 2114  
100 N. University Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA  
(765) 494-9107  
[ppp@purdue.edu](mailto:ppp@purdue.edu)  
<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/ppp/>