



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
DATE: March 6, 2017

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**MAYOR MINER PROCLAIMS MONDAY “GHANA  
INDEPENDENCE DAY” IN SYRACUSE, RECOGNIZING  
60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF GHANA**

*Miner: Ghanaian Community Has Long Been an Anchor of the Diversity that  
Makes Syracuse a Vibrant, Welcoming Community*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner today welcomed members of the Syracuse Ghanaian-American community to City Hall to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ghana’s independence. The Mayor issued a proclamation declaring Monday to be “Ghana Independence Day” in the City of Syracuse.

“The Ghanaian community has long been an anchor of the diversity that makes Syracuse a vibrant, welcoming community,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “I am pleased to join them as we mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ghana’s independence.”

“Ghana's independence on March 6th, 1957 served as a springboard for self-governance on the African continent which was still heavily under colonial rule. Although Ghana went through some tumultuous times in the past- it has risen to be a shining example and beacon of hope for the championing of democracy, press freedom, free and fair election, free speech, economic development and human rights,” said **Vincent Odamten**, President of the Ghana Society of Central New York.

Ghana achieved its independence from Great Britain on March 6, 1957 when Kwame Nkrumah was installed as the first Prime Minister. The West African nation had been known previously as the Gold Coast. The Ghanaian community has long been a presence in the City of Syracuse, with generations of immigrants calling Central New York home. On March 25, the Ghana Society of Central New York will present a dinner recognizing the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ghana at Le Moyne College.

Mayor Miner issued a proclamation declaring March 6 to be “Ghana Independence Day” in the City of Syracuse. The full text of the proclamation is below:

*WHEREAS, 60 years ago, Ghana became the first independent Sub-Saharan African country formed by merging the Gold Coast with a German colony; and,*



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*WHEREAS, The colonial independence of Ghana has allowed the country to thrive in democracy and have a growing population of twenty-two million; and,*

*WHEREAS, By celebrating their heritage, the Ghana Society of Central New York continues to broaden the cultural atmosphere of our city, providing the Syracuse Community with cultural context and performances; and,*

*WHEREAS, The Ghana Society of Central New York has both fostered and supported advanced education by raising funds to support the Pan-African endowed scholarship at Onondaga Community College; and,*

*WHEREAS, Raising this national flag serves as a symbolic reminder of the accomplishments of the Ghanaian community that shall be commemorated and carried on for years to come.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEPHANIE A. MINER, Mayor of the City of Syracuse, do hereby proclaim the Sixth Day of March, Two Thousand and Seventeen as*

**GHANA INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
*In the City of Syracuse*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seals of the County of Onondaga and the City of Syracuse to be imprinted this Sixth Day of March, Two Thousand and Seventeen.*

*/s/*

*Stephanie A. Miner  
Mayor*

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