Day of German Unity 2019

30 years Fall of the Berlin Wall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019
Your Excellency; please explain what is the history behind the Unity Day Celebration?

On German Unity Day, Germans celebrate the signing of the Unity Treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the former German Democratic Republic (East Germany) on October 3, 1990. This treaty formally sealed a united Germany after the partition of our country as a consequence of the Second World War. The reunification process started with the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, one year earlier, 30 years ago from today.

Kindly tell me the significance of the German Unity Day Celebration

The fall of the Berlin Wall was indeed a defining moment for Germany, Europe and the world. It was unexpected at the time, marked possible by courageous people who stood up for freedom, human rights and democracy. And they prevailed. No blood was shed. It was a peaceful uprising that changed the world and still is an inspiration for many people. And we are still grateful to our international partners, mainly the US, Korea, China and the UK, for their support in realising the German unity.

Could you also tell me the significance of the fall of the Berlin wall?

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What can Ghana learn from this important aspect of German history?

Today’s celebration will take place in Kiel, Germany’s most northern state capital. The theme is very well chosen: “Courage unites” – a homage to the courageous people of East Germany who opened the borders with their peaceful demonstrations in the autumn of 1989. And a homage to the courageous people and politicians in Poland and Hungary who took the first decisive steps to overcome the iron curtain.

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Sir, what is the theme for this year’s celebration?

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Germany and Ghana, building trusted partnerships for sustainable development

Our priorities are sustainable Economic Development, Good Governance and Agriculture. We also have a very substantial education committed to Africa. Since 2015, we have signed a ‘Compact with Africa’, an investment partnership. Another key priority of our cooperation is the Western African Science Centre for Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) in Senegal. It is dedicated to prevent climate change and to adapt to its impacts.

Migration, especially illegal migration, is a very often directly linked to climate change and poverty. Illegal migration poses a burden to both societies and, especially, to the people who have to endure the very severe life-threatening journey to Europe. The fight against illegal migration is one key factor to stop global warming. And I would like to encourage Ghana to set an ambitious green energy agenda. Renewable energy is one priority of our bilateral relation.

Before we end this interview, Sir, could you please say a few words on environment/ climate change and migration?

There are huge challenges. Ghana will be one of the countries most affected by climate change. Rising sea levels and desertification are very urgent threats to many people. And we have already seen how if we do not succeed in tackling climate change, it can lead to conflict.

For me, renewable energy is an inspiring model for other African countries – that’s why we are working with the government to achieve “Ghana Beyond Aid”. And let me add, we must succeed in this endeavour. The stakes are high. Many young people in Ghana, especially, need good jobs.

Our cultural relations are substantial. More than 40 universities are partners in Ghana and Germany and currently close to 50 scholarships for young Ghanaians to come to Germany. We don’t forget the challenges: the fight against the cause of corruption is not yet won. It needs support from all strata of society and a special responsibility by the political and business leaders in this country. They must give an example they must lead by doing. Because in Ghana it has improved, but Ghana should continue to strengthen cooperation.

What can you say about cooperation between Ghana and Germany?

Our economic relations are developing well. Trade in 2018 went up by 25 per cent compared to 2016 to almost 150 Mio EUR. Business in Ghana has tripled since 2010. There are great opportunities.

What are the major areas of cooperation between the two countries and what are the challenges?

We have an excellent cooperation also in the highest political level. Chancellor Merkel and President Akufo-Addo met regularly. The same goes for business relations from both sides. The economic relations are developing well, trade in 2018 went up by 25 per cent compared to 2016. With a trade volume of around 110 Mio EUR, there certainly is room for further improvement.

End of November, we will host the first “German-African Business Dialogue” in Berlin. And German companies are increasingly looking to Ghana for investments. Volkswagen will very soon start car assembly in Ghana, just to name one example. Development cooperation is another very important sector.

Your Excellency: what are your expectations? Where do you see Ghana and Germany in the coming years?

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J ust a few days ago, I stood on a balcony in Prague and watched the sun rise on the new October 3rd. The same balcony on which, precisely 30 years ago, Hana Billa, a lawyer from Prague, opened the border for the people of Czechoslovakia. The truth is that they would be able to leave for the Federal Republic.

Shortly before this, Hungary, in what was an uncharacteristic step, had opened its borders with Austria in September of the same year for tens of thousands of people who had fled East Germany, thereby enabling them to head west toward Germany.

We also celebrated this together with young people from Germany and Austria. This day in 1989 also marked an important milestone in the path to the unification of Germany and Europe. It was a year when, for the first time, the Berlin Wall came down. This marked the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the process of German reunification.

The events in East Germany in the late 1980s were important milestones on the road to German unification. We want to underscore this fact, especially during our Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2020, with the 30th anniversary of German unification.

The events in East Germany in the late 1980s are a reminder of how important it is to stand up for democratic values, the protection of human rights and a rule-based international order, not least against the backdrop of our own experience. We are more convinced than ever that a strong and united Europe is the best guarantor of peace and prosperity also for future generations.

It is therefore all the more important that we continue to work on the unification of Europe. Such a Europe is the best insurance for the future.

Examples come to mind from all around the world in which we can observe something similar today. This is true especially during our Presidency of the Council of the EU, where we have witnessed a new wave of nationalistic voices, and where we have seen how important it is to stand up for democratic values, the protection of human rights and a rule-based international order, not least against the backdrop of our own experience. We are more convinced than ever that a strong and united Europe is the best guarantor of peace and prosperity also for future generations.
German institutions in Ghana

The only accredited German school in West Africa

German Swiss International School — The Bilingual Advantage

Financial cooperation with Ghana since 1961

KfW is one of the world’s leading development banks and an experienced partner in Africa. It supports Germany’s financial cooperation with developing and emerging countries on behalf of the Federal Government. Since 1961, KfW has actively supported Ghana with commitments amounting to more than EUR 1.5bn for grants, concessional loans and accompanying technical assistance.

KfW has disbursed a grant of EUR 6.2m to support the Ghanaian secondary education system.

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During the last academic year, the school hosted an extensive series of workshops and concerts, featuring the Heidelberg Philharmonic Orchestra from Germany.

Every year the school hosts about 1000 examiners from German, Ghanaian and international backgrounds.

A recent project with the South Philharmonic Orchestra from Heidelberg educating and entertaining the school community through workshops and concerts was a highlight of the year.

Youth and child development through training

YMA has worked on supporting the underprivileged for the last 175 years. In Ghana YMA has been active since 1890 in many parts of the country.

In March 2019 it was decided to establish a Media Hub Education Centre following the impact of the 2018 All-On-Board Film Training Project. The Centre shall serve the community in their own small communities in their own small ways.

In September 2019 Ghana YMA organised a national film project “GTVP” in collaboration with the Ghana TVET Voucher Training “COTVET” to support the setting-up of VRA´s Outgrower and Value Chain fund “OVCF” with a concessional loan amounting to EUR 22.8 m.

Outgrower and Value Chain development (OVCF) as a production-related bonus for the benefit of the poor.

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KfW scaled up its support to the “ATI” in 2019, making risk mitigation solutions available to Ghana.

A music project with the Youth and Child Development Centre following the impact of the “Make A Difference – YMA 2018” All-On-Board Film Training Project.

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German institutions in Ghana

Enhancing Ghana’s technical and military capabilities

The German government in cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany supports Ghana with its technical and military capabilities. The DAAD Information Centre in Ghana promotes academic exchange between German and Ghanaian partnerships. It has supported more than 300 Ghanaian companies and universities in recent years. The Centre also provides advice and information on studying in Germany and doing research in the Federal Republic of Germany. Since then it has offered services to nearly 2,000 Ghanaian students. Since 2001, the DAAD Information Centre has offered extensive support to an advisory group of the Ghanaian government.

The Centre’s activities include promoting research and development in Ghana, fostering academic exchange, providing advice and information on studying and research in Germany, and enhancing Ghana’s technical and military capabilities.

Fostering academic exchange through scholarships and university collaboration

In 2019, the Centre offered scholarships to Ghanaian students and researchers. It has supported more than 1,000 Ghanaian students and researchers in recent years. The Centre also provides advice and information on studying and research in Germany and enhancing Ghana’s technical and military capabilities. In addition, the Centre has organized academic conferences and workshops to promote academic exchange between German and Ghanaian institutions.

DEG supports private sector development in Ghana

DEG is the German development finance institution that offers financing, advisory, and support services to private sector development in Ghana. The Centre has supported Ghanaian businesses and private sector development in the country, with a focus on supporting businesses in the energy, health, and education sectors. It has provided financing, advisory, and support services to more than 1,000 Ghanaian businesses and private sector development initiatives in recent years. The Centre also provides support to private sector development initiatives in other African countries.

DENK PHARMA produces quality medicines, food supplements

DENK PHARMA is a global company based in Munich, Germany. It produces high-quality pharmaceuticals and food supplements in Ghana. The company has been active in the Ghanaian market for more than 30 years. DENK PHARMA offers quality medicines to the Ghanaian population.

DENK PHARMA products include high-quality pharmaceuticals and food supplements. The company focuses on producing quality medicines that are cost-effective and accessible to the Ghanaian population. DENK PHARMA’s products are distributed throughout Ghana and are available at pharmacies, hospitals, and clinics across the country. The Centre has organized academic conferences and workshops to promote academic exchange between German and Ghanaian institutions.

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KEY EVENTS 2019

- Expenditure not endangered: Ghanaian-German students, artists and entrepreneurs’ week on stage at the Goethe-Institut.
- GABS 2019: Vice President, Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, Federal Minister of Economy Cooperation and Development, Gerd Müller, and Deputy Minister of Economy Thomas Biehal at the German African Business Summit.
- Key events 2019 - Akufo-Addo welcoming German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Chanceller’s Residence.
- Trusted partners for sustainable development: President Mahamudu Bawumia and German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Akufo House.
- High-level exchange: Minister of Science and Education, Anja Karliczek, at the German Embassy.
- Micro-project Fund: Signing of agreement with the Norden-Bassani-German Foundation for the construction of two boreholes in the Volta Region.
- Cultural Conservation: Signing of agreement between the German Embassy and the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) for the renovation of the Volta Regional Museum in Winneba.
- World Environment Day: German Embassy and UNICEF plant trees at a school in Kadzennokrom.
- WASCAL: Signing of agreement with the German Embassy and the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) for the renovation of the Volta Regional Museum.
- Inauguration of the Old Fadama scrap yard, the Volta Region.
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-Launch of German Desk Ghana: (Agbogbloshie) Training Centre.
- Job Fair 2019: Ambassador Bockstiegel launching the 2019 Job Fair at the Trade Fair Centre.
- Educate Ghana 2018: Final higher education conference and fair in Ghana organized by AFI - German Embassy Accra.
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DW Akademie trains young Ghanaians in modern journalism

The second IFG on Parliaments and Democracy in Africa has just started its work in September 2019.

FES promotes political participation of women

While FAHP (German Church in Ghana) continues to promote the political participation of women and young Ghanaians via its two flagship programmes, the "Women in Politics Training (WITP)" and the "Young Leaders’ Programme (YLP)" in collaboration with the "Women’s Manifesto", produced together with GIZ the Ghana Job Fair & Conference (WACEE) Energy & Environment Trade Fair & Conference (WACEE)Energy & Environment Trade Fair & Conference (WACEE) Energy & Environment Trade Fair & Conference (WACEE) Energy & Environment Trade Fair & Conference (WACEE)Energy & Environment Trade Fair & Conference (WACEE) Energy & Environment Trade Fair & Conference (WACEE)

German institutions in Ghana

Connecting German and Ghanaian businesses

Aims of the German-Ghanaian business cooperation are to develop young Ghanaian business relations in different fields at the AKH, Ghana, African Energy, Environmental, Entrepreneurial Training, Energy, New Economy are just some of the focal points. While Ghana is classified cooperating with the German chambers of commerce and chambers of industry in Ghana, several companies and institutions are involved in similar cooperation measures. The Swiss Club of the German-speaking Evangelical Church of Ghana is well positioned to further strengthen the bilateral relations.

Church service in German

As a local branch of the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ, we are the German-speaking Evangelical Church in Accra, working in partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Accra. We offer our Sunday church services and our Bible studies at Accra. Annual Advent and Christmas services are held on the wrist of the Ghanaian International School. On Christmas Eve, everyone is welcome to join us!

German language and culture

The Goethe Institute Accra offers the cultural institutes of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. Its main goals are to promote knowledge of the German language abroad and foster international cultural cooperation as well as providing opportunities for German and foreign language and cultural life in Ghana. The cultural and educational programmes encourage intercultural dialogue and cultural encounter.

Enhancing peace and stability in Africa

The German government strongly supports the KAIPTC on its way to becoming the leading and prominent international centre for training, education and research focused on security in Africa. The KAIPTC is currently one of the leading peace and security training organisations in the world. The Centre offers training in various areas such as peace, security, conflict prevention, and good governance.

Fara Akandi

Goethe-Institut

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An unprecedented historical process, the end of division and coming to terms with the past

On October 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall was torn down. This event, which marked the beginning of the end of the Cold War, was the result of a combination of internal and external factors. The fall of the Wall was a significant moment in the history of Germany and the world, leading to the reunification of Germany and the transformation of European politics and security architecture.

The Berlin Wall, erected in 1961 by the East German authorities to prevent its citizens from crossing into West Berlin, became a symbol of the division between East and West Germany. The Wall remained a physical barrier until its official removal on November 9, 1989. The fall of the Wall paved the way for the division of Germany and the establishment of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG).

The fall of the Wall led to the reunification of Germany, which was formally declared on October 3, 1990. The reunification process was a complex and challenging task, involving significant economic, social, and political changes. The reunification of Germany had significant implications for the political landscape of Europe, leading to the end of the Cold War and the transformation of European politics and security architecture.

Despite the challenges of reunification, Germany managed to achieve a successful transition, with the country becoming a stable member of the European Union and NATO. The reunification process also had significant implications for the political and economic integration of Europe, leading to the establishment of the European Union and the introduction of the euro as the common currency.

The fall of the Wall and the reunification of Germany represent a significant moment in the history of the world, with significant implications for the political, economic, and social development of Germany and Europe. The reunification process has been marked by significant challenges, including economic and social integration, as well as political and institutional changes.

Dealing with the past

The reunification of Germany has been marked by a range of initiatives aimed at coming to terms with the past and addressing the challenges of reunification. These initiatives include the establishment of the German Federal Constitutional Court, the introduction of the German civil code, and the establishment of the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research.

The reunification process has also been marked by significant economic and social challenges, including the integration of the economies of East and West Germany, as well as the integration of the populations of the two states.

Despite these challenges, the reunification of Germany has been successful, with the country becoming a stable member of the European Union and NATO. The reunification process has also had significant implications for the political, economic, and social development of Germany and Europe, leading to the establishment of the European Union and the introduction of the euro as the common currency.
A bilateral friendship since 1957

Germany

Germany’s priorities in the Security Council

The security Council is the most important organ of the United Nations for managing peace and security worldwide. Germany’s membership will therefore focus on ensuring that the Security Council is the forum that is best equipped to prevent and manage conflicts, but also to better protect them against serious violations of international law. In this context Germany is aiming to achieve the following objectives:

- The co-chairmanship, together with Peru, of the Informal Group on Women, Peace and Security.
- Finally, Germany intends to promote international humanitarian law, protecting humanitarian workers and other civilians in armed conflicts. As the second largest donor of official development assistance, it is in this context that Germany is aiming to achieve the following objectives:

- Germany is the fourth largest contributor to the regular and peacemaking budgets and the second largest donor of official development assistance.

Germany

Member of the United Nations Security Council for 2019-20

Security cooperation

Germany supports Ghana in implementing initiatives to promote peace and security through a group of eight military and police experts, the so-called GNFM-Team. Germany supports the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAPTC) and has substantially contributed to the GNFM-Team’s work and support efforts to strengthen the country’s peace and security efforts.

Legal

The Embassy in Accra is the first point of contact for Ghanaians or other nationals who intend to take up their studies in Germany. In addition, the Embassy assists German nationals in Ghana in all legal matters such as passport applications, public notarizations or legalization of documents. The Embassy provides information about Germany’s legal system as well as about the procedures and legal standards that apply to Germany. In addition, the Embassy offers advice on how to obtain a visa to travel to Germany. During the past 12 months, the Embassy has processed over 1,200 visa applications, public notarizations or legalization of documents.

Economic exchange

Economic exchange is in order to foster the culture of economic relations and the German Embassy cooperates closely with the German Embassy in Accra and the German Embassy in Accra. The German Embassy in Accra and the German Embassy in Accra are responsible for promoting economic relations and economic cooperation in Ghana. The German Embassy in Accra is the first point of contact for Ghanaians or other nationals who intend to take up their studies in Germany. In addition, the Embassy assists German nationals in Ghana in all legal matters such as passport applications, public notarizations or legalization of documents. The Embassy provides information about Germany’s legal system as well as about the procedures and legal standards that apply to Germany. In addition, the Embassy offers advice on how to obtain a visa to travel to Germany.
Deposit Protection in Ghana

On September 30, 2019, the Bank of Ghana launched the Ghana Deposit Protection Scheme. Germany is very happy to support Bank of Ghana in this endeavour through its Development Bank KfW. The following are some insights from Bank of Ghana into Ghana’s Deposit Protection Scheme.

1. What is the Ghana Deposit Protection Scheme?
   It is a deposit protection scheme set up by Act 931, an amended and updated small deposit insurance legislation that is available to all depositors in the event of a bank or specialized deposit-taking institution (SDI) failure. Under the law, the Deposit Protection Scheme is to be managed by the Ghana Deposit Protection Corporation (GDPC); the GDPC is also to manage the Deposit Protection Fund, from which reimbursements will be made in the event that a bank or SDI licensed by the Bank of Ghana is liquidated by the Bank of Ghana. The Bank of Ghana will also collaborate with the GDPC through the exchange of relevant information, data, and any other function required for the effective performance of GDPC’s functions.

2. What will the Bank of Ghana do in the Deposit Protection Scheme?
   The Bank of Ghana will continue to perform its traditional functions mandated by law, which is ensuring price stability, promoting economic growth and promoting financial stability. It will also collaborate with the GDPC to support the sector to ensure it remains resilient. Bank of Ghana will continue to supervise the sector to ensure it remains resilient.

3. What is the rationale for implementing the Ghana Deposit Protection Scheme?
   It is to strengthen the banking industry and to help promote the stability of Ghana’s financial system by providing an explicit form of protection of depositors’ funds. It will also boost public confidence in the banking system by minimizing fears and uncertainties that the public would otherwise be exposed to if a bank/SDI fails. With the Deposit Protection Scheme in place, when there is a bank/SDI failure, the Deposit Protection scheme will pay off all depositors up to the maximum amounts specified under Act 931, thereby avoiding on taxpayers’ money to pay them off.

4. Some say Ghana does not need a Deposit Protection Scheme. Is the Bank of Ghana confident that the new scheme will provide an additional layer of protection for depositors’ funds and boost confidence in the banking system?
   Deposit Protection is an additional and necessary safety net mechanism implemented around the world to support and maintain confidence in the financial system. In view of modern global trends, Ghana cannot stand in isolation. It is therefore imperative that we all embrace it to ensure the protection of our depositors in the event of a bank or SDI failure and to contribute to the financial stability of the country.

5. How does Deposit Protection support and promote financial stability?
   The new Deposit Protection Scheme will support and promote financial stability by minimizing fears and uncertainties that the public would otherwise be exposed to if a bank/SDI fails. With the Deposit Protection Scheme in place, when there is a bank/SDI failure, the Deposit Protection scheme will pay off all depositors up to the maximum amounts specified under Act 931, thereby avoiding on taxpayers’ money to pay them off. It will also build confidence in the banking system and prevent public panic and minimize to a significant extent any undesirable effects of a bank or SDI failure.

6. Does Ghana have a strong and resilient banking sector for the Deposit Protection Scheme?
   Following the recent clean-up of the whole banking sector, Bank of Ghana’s technical assessments confirm that the banking and SDI sectors are viable and sounder and more resilient. Bank of Ghana will continue to supervise the sector to ensure it remains resilient.

7. When will the Scheme be Implemented?
   On September 30, 2019.

Conclusion
Deposit Protection is an additional and necessary safety net mechanism implemented around the world to support and maintain confidence in the financial system. In view of modern global trends, Ghana cannot stand in isolation. It is therefore imperative that we all embrace it to ensure the protection of our depositors in the event of a bank or SDI failure and to contribute to the financial stability of the country. GDPC is a member of the International Association of Deposit Insurers (IADI) and is therefore part of the global network of deposit insurance schemes around the world.
German destinations

- Deutsches Eck Koblenz, Where Rhine and Mosel rivers meet
- Frankfurt Skyline
- Church of our Lady - Dresden
- Neuschwanstein Castle
- Marzipan, Nuremberg
- Oktoberfest - Munich
- Sanssouci, Potsdam
- City of Cologne
- Zugspitze - Highest Peak in Germany
- Olympia Stadium - Berlin
- Alexanderplatz - Berlin
- German Tudor houses
- Neues Binnenstätte Castle

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