

All Sekondi-Takoradi schoolchildren must visit Bisa Aberwa – Prof. Kofi Anyidoho

By Kouame Koulibaly

LITERARY scholar, educator, poet and cultural activist, Prof. Kofi Anyidoho, has urged all schools in the Sekondi -Takoradi area of the Western Region to ensure that every child in their educational system gets a chance to visit the Bisa Aberwa Museum.

In an interview on a radio programme during a recent visit to the museum at Nkotumpo in Sekondi, Prof. Anyidoho said it was necessary to awaken the young to the history of black people and a trip to the museum would be a useful exercise in that direction.

The museum, founded by well-known filmmaker, Kwaw Ansah, is located near the Effia Nkwanta Regional Hospital. It was inaugurated in July 2019 and it covers four floors. There's a basement that also houses exhibits.

Bisa Aberwa recognises and celebrates the achievements black people from all over the world in areas such as visual arts, crafts, literature, performance arts, film, music, sports, medicine, science and more.

“The visits should not be short, one-hour trips because the children cannot cover the



• Prof. Anyidoho in front of a collage of black writers in the Bisa Aberwa Museum

full story here in a few hours. So they come and start with the first floor. By the time they are introduced to the items and personalities on display on the first floor, it may take half a day. Then they come back at another time and gradually learn some more,” Prof. Anyidoho pointed out.

In Prof. Anyidoho's view, when the story behind each exhibit in the museum was told and well-absorbed by the children, their knowledge about African history would be greatly enhanced by the time they were walked through all the four floors of the museum.

“Schools are for transmission of knowledge,” he stressed. “That's what they are for but it depends on which knowledge and

whose knowledge”.

The acclaimed published poet said he was invited to the opening of the museum in 2019 but could not make it. He was therefore glad to eventually see what was on show there which he described as ‘a very compact collection’ and ‘not one of those random things that you just wake up one day and do’.

Prof. Anyidoho commended

Kwaw Ansah for the thoughtfulness and intense passion that went into establishing the museum, indicating that it was necessary for adults to also try and avail themselves of the massive collection of enlightening material available there.

“We spend too much time in church praying to other people's ancestors and in the process, demitise our own ancestors. That is a problem we must solve at some point,” remarked the professor whose book ‘The Pan African Ideal in Literatures of the Black World’ deals with the quest by black people for their true self-identities lost through their turbulent history.