

BOSOMKYEKYE,¹ BUNSO, ENOBEN and NURASO



This note is based on visits to the village and interviews with the Queen Mother, Nana Amapofea, and community on 20 July, 2011

Bosomkyekye is a community of some 800 people, situated about 18K north of Mampong on the road to Adidwan. Mampong is the local authority District in which Bosomkyekye is situated.

Bosomkyekye has about 75 households and three satellite villages:

- Bunso, with twenty households) shared
- Enoben with twenty households) Chief
- Nuraso with about fifty households and its own Chief.

The satellites share Bosomkyekye's churches and schools. These four communities are all subsistence farmers. Their principal crops are maize, yam, rice in swamp areas near the rivers, palm oil, sheep, cattle and chickens. Meat is eaten only rarely, and the animals are sold at the farm gate or at the market. Diet is based on maize and yam with protein provided by beans, fish bought from the Volta Lake and soya beans.

Bosomkyekye also has a teak plantation. When the weather is good, they have enough food, but otherwise have to buy it in. This village is the farthest north we have been, and there we saw donkeys for the first time in Ashanti Region.

Water and Sanitation

Bosomkyekye has three boreholes with good water but its three satellites use highly polluted water drawn from nearby streams. It would benefit from another borehole, and we have added all villages to the list to be visited by the drilling rig, for which we are looking separately for finance.

¹ 'Bosom' means 'fetish god,' and the name of the local god is Kyekye, pronounced Chaychay.

Bosomkyekye has three traditional latrines, including one for the school. We were told that a few individuals - less than ten - have household latrines. This is because many years ago an Adventist organisation set up an association to grow cashew nuts and gave latrines to a few of its members.

There is a Unit Committee (village council), and Bosomkyekye is represented by an Assemblyman, said to be of high rank, at the District Council. There is no Water and Sanitation Committee, so the work is shared by the Unit Committee and the Assemblyman.

Schools and School Latrines

The kindergarten for Bosomkyekye has two classrooms, one of which is a shed housing 150 children, while the other is a classroom housing fifty. Because of the shortage of space – ideally a classroom should hold no more than thirty children – there is a selection process for the second year. There is no latrine for the kindergarten.

The Primary School has 370 children spread between six classrooms and the Junior High School has three classrooms containing 175 children. The schools have no latrines. We were told that the Millennium Development Authority recently decided, without consulting the villagers, to build a new primary school at Bosomkyekye although this was not the village's most urgent need. The villagers therefore now use the old primary school classrooms for the Junior High School. Consequently the Primary School and the Junior High School need only one more classroom each.

Health

The three communities suffer most from malaria, heart problems, diabetes and high blood pressure. There isn't a great deal of water-related sickness such as diarrhoea, but doubtless there will be in the satellites where the streams are polluted. The nearest hospital is at Mampong.



Miscellaneous

There are seven churches active in Bosomkyekye: Pentecostal, Methodist, Catholic, Presbyterian and three traditional. There are also five shops.

History

The people originated from Akyim in the eastern region of Ghana. Due to persistent wars in the area, Nana Gyamfi and his relatives decided to move away from the area. They settled temporarily in many places but finally arrived in Jamasi. After a while, they split into two groups. One

went to Yonso whilst the other decided to move on, finally settling in their present village.

Subsequently, they supported the King of Mampong in his War of Conquerors and were rewarded with a large area of land. A position was also created for the Chief of Bosomkyekye in the King's palace at Mampong, and the Chief's subjects are still exempt from payment of traditional fines at the palace.

Village Needs

The village asked for a secondary school, a mechanised borehole (which we would not recommend) and household latrines. We were also told that 'the women in this community are very ambitious' and would like to have microcredit, ie access to small loans and business training. They said that if this was possible they would sell plastic bowls, cloths and fish soup. One said she would and buy and sell maize, and another would be a fruit vendor. They would also sell cassava.