

**THE JOHN EVANS ATTA MILLS MEMORIAL HERITAGE
PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 12TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEMISE OF
PRESIDENT JOHN EVANS ATTA MILLS.
INTERNATIONAL PRESS CENTRE, ACCRA
THURSDAY, 11TH JULY 2024**

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media.

We warmly welcome you all to this Press Conference, on the commemoration of the 12th anniversary of the death of His Excellency, Prof. John Evans Atta Mills. Thank you for your custom.

As we reminisce on the life and works of Prof. John Evans Atta Mills on the 12th year anniversary of his death, we remember his 'everlasting message' to us twelve years ago.

'I came to serve; I have finished my time here on earth and have moved on to everlasting rest and celestial duties with my heavenly Father.....

Weep not; for I am not dead. I am alive and awake in the Lord. Ghana will not die; Ghana will live to declare the works of the Lord'

As I rest in perfect peace in the celestial realm with my Maker, I always pledge to uphold and defend the good name of Ghana'

Prof.'s words are indeed everlasting, and we will always have fond memories of him. 2024 is the 12th year of remembrance of Prof John Evans Atta Mills, third President of the Fourth Republic of Ghana. Prof. Mills would have turned 80 years on 21st July, 2024. 'Prof. at 80 years', what would it have been like? a past President of Ghana, an experienced professor of law and taxman, a husband, and an astute public servant. If only we could still experience those valuable wonderful moments with Prof. We can just reminisce.

At Prof's burial in 2012, it was the wish of his family, that; 'no effort shall be spared in creating special vehicles in his name to keep his legacy alive' his family promised to join others to (1) offer support and access to education for gifted children and youth

from disadvantaged homes(2) promote sports for youth and children with special needs(3) to undertake targeted actions to provide basic productive infrastructure for poor and peri-urban communities'

One such vehicle created in memory of President Mills is the J. E. A. Mills Memorial Heritage. In terms of context, at the 9th anniversary commemoration of his demise, a group of academics, his friends, professional colleagues, former appointees, as well as his family members, created the Memorial Heritage to preserve the legacy of Prof Mills, acknowledging his attributes and values of humility, kindness, compassion, strength, resilience, strength in adversity, and above all, his true leadership.

We decided to set up a not-for-profit organisation to promote the President John Evans Atta Mills brand and unique view of strengthening democratic values and human development. On 1st February 2021, the J. E. A. Atta Mills Memorial Heritage was born as that special vehicle. The Memorial Heritage has since gained NGO status and been duly registered with the Department of Social Welfare.

The Man John Evans Atta Mills; twelve years on. His legacy spanning five decades was summarised in his family tribute as follows; (1) A legacy of commitment to education and the pursuit of excellence,

(2) An avid sportsman, a legacy of devotion to the development of the youth through sports,

(3) A legacy of deep respect for the political process and a determination to prove that good and decent people need to be involved in politics to be relevant in policy formulation and implementation and,

(4) A profound conviction that Ghana cannot be transformed without a determined effort to build productive infrastructure.

The legacy of Prof. Mills lives on. Since its launch, the Memorial Heritage has implemented a series of activities. These include organising the John Evans Atta Mills Memorial Annual Commemorative lectures; the J.E.A Mills Memorial Regional Lectures; Wreath Laying Ceremonies, launching five publications on Prof. J.E.A Mills, organising the J.E.A. Mills Sports Tournaments and the instituting awards in memory of Prof. Atta Mills at the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) for the best long-distance student.

The Memorial Heritage has also developed a Five-Year Strategic Plan (2024 – 2028), outlining its programmes, activities and operations for 2024- 2028. Details are as follows: the first category are general programmes, activities and operations. These include the Annual Lectures, Commemorative lectures, Publications and Sports Tournaments. The second category are thematic programme of activities; these include, but not limited to; governance related programmes, sports and education related programmes. Governance programmes include commissioning a documentary on the life and works of President John Evans Atta Mills and leading an advocacy strategy to implement some uncompleted activities based on the vision of Prof. Atta Mills. For education, the Memorial Heritage will strengthen its relationship with the John Evans Atta Mills Senior High School in Otuam, Central Region. It will also institute awards and scholarships for students in tertiary institutions.

The Memorial Heritage will the promote Inter-Schools Hockey Competition under the John Evans Atta Mills Inter-Schools Hockey competition. It will also mobilise funds to sponsor the development of Astro Turf hockey pitches. We are appealing to all well-meaning persons to support these worthy causes. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The activities implemented by the Memorial Heritage have been successful, and we are grateful to Ghanaians for heavily patronising the Annual Memorial Lectures, the Regional Lectures for all regions in Ghana, the Hockey Tournaments, and for purchasing the five publications of Prof. Mills.

Today, the Memorial Heritage will outdoor its activities to commemorate the twelfth anniversary of the demise of President John Evans Atta Mills as follows:

On Friday, 19th July, 2024, at 2pm, at the Cedi Conference Centre, University of Ghana, the 12th John Evans Atta Mills Commemorative Anniversary lecture will be held. The Keynote Speaker is Kwesi Pratt Jnr., Managing Editor of the Insight Newspaper. The Lecture will be chaired by Justice Sophia Akuffo, former Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana. A book will be launched at the Lecture titled, 'Atta Mills Around the Regions'. The book is a compilation of all the Lectures delivered in the clustered 16 regions of the country as part of the year -long celebration of the 10th anniversary of the death of President Mills. It will be reviewed by Prof Ransford Gyampoh, of the Political Science

Department of the University of Ghana, and the President of the University of Ghana branch of the University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG).

On 24th July 2024 at 9 am, the 12th Anniversary Wreath Laying Ceremony and Memorial Service for President John Evans Atta Mills will be held at the Asomdwee Park, near the Independence Square. All Party faithfuls and the general public are cordially invited to the Ceremony.

On 27th July 2024 at 8.30 am, the President John Evans Atta Mills Memorial Hockey Tournament will be held at the Theodosia Okoh Hockey Stadium, Accra.

In July last year, we lost an illustrious matriarch and one of the Cabinet Ministers who served under President John Evans Atta Mills; Dr Mrs Hanny Sherry Ayittey. She was a founding member of the Memorial Heritage and a member of its Board of Directors. She was a pillar of the Memorial Heritage and actively participated in all our activities. May her soul continue to rest in perfect peace.

Dr Hanny Sherry Ayittey has been replaced by Ms. Nancy Ampofo Esq. a distinguished senior lawyer. We welcome Nancy on board.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,

Once again, we look forward to your full participation in all the activities planned for the President John Evans Atta Mills 12th Anniversary commemoration this month.

Thank you and good morning.