

Pejomako Katoo, Banda-Ahenkro¹

Pejomako Katoo is a subfamily of the Royal House (Sie Longo Katoo) and acts in the role of a female head. They have special responsibilities in this capacity. The house is responsible for purification rites in cases where sexual taboos have been violated. For example, if a girl of the Royal House is proved not to be a virgin during the course of *manaa ndiom* (puberty) or *bijam* (wedding) rites, the house is responsible for the sacrifice of a goat and a sheep to the ancestors. The goat and sheep are provided by the man who violated the girl's virginity if he can be identified. If not, the family of the girl provides the animals. Also, if a man is found to have an affair with either a woman and her daughter, or two women from the same family, Pejomako Katoo is responsible for sacrificing offerings for the purposes of purification. In the former case the man must provide a cow and the cow's female offspring. In the latter instance he must provide a goat and a sheep.

The way in which Pejomako Katoo came to have this responsibility relates to the ancestress Tariche. Tariche was accused of causing someone's death where she lived, so she fled from that place and came to Banda. After Tariche arrived, she married a man of the Royal House. Tariche was so faithful to her husband that her house was assigned the special responsibility of appeasing the ancestors when sexual taboos were violated.

Male Heads of Family

1. Hanjo
2. Pejomako
3. Kutuhn
4. Kasente
5. Kwaku Blop
6. Pe Yaw
7. Sie Kwame Bentre (head in 1986)

Female Heads of Family

1. Tariche
- ?
- Hlejininge
- Afua Nyuu

Interview conducted on 3 August 1986 with Sie Kwame Bentre (Head of House) and Kofi Blopour.

Interview conducted by Dr. Ann B. Stahl and Mr. James Anane.

¹ The content of this work remains the intellectual property of the family who shared their knowledge. This information may be cited but may not be used for commercial purposes. To cite this work:

Stahl, Ann, and James Anane. 2011. Pejomako Katoo, Banda-Ahenkro. In, *Family Histories from the Banda Traditional Area, Brong-Ahafo Region, Ghana, 1986*, pg. 33. Brochure circulated 1989, reissued with photos and additional histories in 2011.