

Pɛmbɔ Amo Katoo, Banda-Ahenkro¹

Pɛmbɔ Amo Katoo (also known as Dogoo Katoo) is a subhouse of the Kafɔnɔ Katoo. At first, the Kafɔnɔ house was one. Because of increasing numbers of people, a nephew of Pɛmbɔ Amo, by name Sienyono Donkor, decided to put up a new house at a site called Blungo Jaara in order to accommodate the growing numbers of people. He moved there with his wife, children and nephews. Though they were living in different houses, they continued to perform rites in common with the Kafɔnɔ family. At a later point in time, this group split off from the Sienyono Donkor house. Harmony still exists within the family and it is only due to their size that they live in separate houses. All still perform rites and customs in common. The subhouse has access to the position of sword bearer and can take on responsibilities of executioner.

Pɛmbɔ Amo was an executioner who used to kill witches and other people charged with offenses against the stool. Pɛmbɔ Amo was a contemporary of Sie Dongi.

There was a man from the house who saved the Chief Habaa from a man who attempted to kill him. The attempted assassin was a slave named Kakatɔ who had had an affair with the Chief's wife. When Kakatɔ heard that there were plans to kill him, Kakatɔ tried to kill Habaa first. Before Kakatɔ could kill the chief, he was arrested by the man from the Kafɔnɔ house. A struggle ensued and the Kafɔnɔ man received fatal wounds from a cutlass. Habaa, in gratitude for saving his life, declared that if any member of the Kafɔnɔ house commits an offense against the Royal House, he should not be punished. This was true during the time of Kofi Dwuru II, but this decree has not been given attention in recent years.

Male Heads of Family

1. Pɛmbɔ Amo
2. Sie Kwadwo
3. Doogo Kwame
4. Osei Kwame
5. Yaw Mensah
6. Kofi Krah (head in 1986)

Female Heads of Family

1. Bulele
2. Penijo Genu
3. Nyini Kupo
4. Akua Tinga
5. Tumba
6. Afua Yeli
7. Afua Bawroncho
8. Abena Jaesaay
9. Akua Nsia (head in 1986)

Interview conducted on 10 August 1986 with Kofi Krah (male head of family) and Ebenezer Cudjoe.

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

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