



Maxwell
Maundy

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**AUTHOR'S SPEECH AT THE LAUNCH; @ The British Council in Accra on 17th
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Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders...
Let me walk upon the waters wherever you would call me...
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander...
And my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Saviour...

Mr Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen; I would like to start by thanking the Almighty God, the Creator of the universe, for making it possible for us to assemble here for this great event. I would also like to use this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to key individuals whose invaluable inputs have made our gathering here possible. Amongst them is Reverend Kennedy Okosun - CEO of KRIF Ghana, KRIF media partners, and publishers of Integrity Magazine.

Next person is Madam Doris Adabasus Kuwornu - Vice President of Ghana Association of Writers. Other notable key persons are Mr Emmanuel Adams Kusi – Supervisor at the Bank of Ghana, my printer Mr Daniel Masetorwo and his company Almok Books and Stationery, my editor Miss Esther Sedinam Dominic and Mr Francis Gbormittah – President of Ghana Association of Writers. And to my four Spiritual Fathers - Prophet Victor Richard Tamaloe, Pastor Jeffrey Mbroh, Pastor Titus Tanbesaghr and Pastor Isaac Doe Essor - may God increase you all mightily.

Frankly, I owe a debt of gratitude to the executives and membership of Ghana Association of Writers, an institution I have come to love so dearly. To the Awards Committee Members, Nana Kwasi Gyan Apenteng (immediate past President of GAW) – I love you all – you have greatly enriched my life. And to everyone here, I am eternally grateful. Today is an emotional day for me, as I have come into contact with family, friends and classmates I have not seen for decades. I just cannot find words to thank you all enough. God bless you all.

Now to the story of this Book - **Darkest Humanity**. As Nelson Mandela was about to leave prison, he made a statement:

“As I stand before the door to my freedom, I realise that if I do not leave my pain, anger and bitterness behind me, I will still be in Prison...”

Like Nelson Mandela, there had been times when I felt like leaving my pains, anger and bitterness towards the British behind me. And that would mean, in part, letting go off this Book. The only time

I had strongly felt the need for this Book was on 23rd January 2016, as I was walking out of an interview room at the Bank of Ghana.

On my return from the UK in July 2014, I submitted an application to the Central Bank of Ghana in November of 2014. A year on, in October 2015, I was called to come for an aptitude test. Three thousand applicants turned up for the aptitude test. Then in December 2015, Bank of Ghana began interviewing shortlisted applicants. In January 2016, I was called by the Central Bank for an interview. After an impressive performance at the interview on 23rd January 2016, the chairman of the interview panel said:

"Before we offer you the job, we'll seek clarification from the British Police."

Well, I became a taxi driver after my interview with the Central Bank. In February 2018, I had some breakthrough and got a job with a Municipal Assembly. Two months after starting my job as a civil servant, I became saddled with incessant dreams about London. As I became restless with dreams about London, I realised that I have a **Divine Mission** to accomplish. Quickly I decided to complete typing my manuscript. But then a disaster struck - I lost some of my scripts; perhaps would have been the most interesting part of the Book. The scripts I lost were the prison and post-prison chapters of the Book. These were the chapters I was writing as the events were unfolding.

Darkest Humanity is the product of my years of pain, anger and bitterness in the hands of the British government. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr.:

"As my sufferings mounted I soon realized that there were two ways in which I could respond to my situation – either to react with bitterness or seek to transform the suffering into a creative force. I decided to follow the latter course."

So, I can happily say that the good that has come out of the pains is this Book, which I believe will impact on the lives of many around the globe. In 2007, my last resident permit in the UK expired. I decided to stay on as "overstayed" immigrant and pursue my master's degree, after which I would return to Ghana quietly. So I began my studies in September 2007. On 7th October 2007, I was arrested whilst on my way to school. I was served with removal note; ticket and boarding pass to be removed from the UK on 13th October 2007.

After I was released, one of the arresting immigration officers started calling me to demand bribe from me in order to sell my passport back to me. I reported the matter to the Metropolitan Police Service. British undercover intelligence officers kept me in hotels for two days and trained me to do an undercover for them, after which the corrupt immigration officer was arrested. As a result, my removal was cancelled. With my assistance, the Metropolitan Police Service undertook a one year investigation into the activities of the corrupt immigration officer and his colleagues. The case proceeded to court in September 2008, and I was the prosecution witness to the British Crown Prosecution Service. The officer was found guilty of bribery and corruption and sentenced to prison for three years.

When I first went to report the corrupt approach by the immigration officer to the Police, promises were made to me. But after the trial, the Police and the government just abandoned me. My local

Member of Parliament for Barking constituency – Rt. Hon. Margaret Hodge - became involved in my case for five years, mediating between me and the Home Office. After years without success, with my passport still in the custody of the British government and about to expire, I demanded for my passport in order to return to Ghana. I was told that my **“useless Ghanaian passport”** had been lost, so I should apply for a travel certificate from the Ghana High Commission in London, go back to my country, and forget about my **“useless Ghanaian passport.”**

In 2012, I wrote to immigration and requested that I wanted to be removed from the UK on a specific date. I followed up with several phone calls to the Home Office. On the said day, I proceeded to Heathrow airport with my luggage, ready to be removed to Ghana. I was again told at Heathrow airport that my passport had been lost. I prepared placards ready to do a demonstration at the airport should things go wrong again. This led to a scuffle between me and the airport security and the Police. The Police overpowered me, forcefully kicked me to the ground, and handcuffed me as I was in pain. They removed me from the airport that day, and drove me to an Underground Station to board the Tube back to London. The Police warned me not to return to the airport or face their wrath.

I decided then that I would not leave Britain without my Ghanaian passport, whether expired or useless. I created a blog to publish my story. I titled my blog **“My Encounter with the White Man.”** Few weeks after I started publishing my story on my blog, the case of two terrorist shoe bombers made headlines across Britain and the world. The terrorist who tried to detonate his shoe bomb on a flight to the US was being tried. Prosecutors of the terrorist in the US needed his British counterpart to testify against him. As a result, the terrorist turned prosecution witness was given rewards by the British Government and the Police.

In the arithmetic of logic and thinking of the British, it is better being a terrorist turned prosecution witness than an “illegal” immigrant turned prosecution witness. There was public anger against the British Government for offering a deal to a convicted terrorist on becoming a prosecution witness. The British government issued a statement in support of their decision to offer a deal to the convicted terrorist:

“The administration of justice internationally benefit from such agreement...” Sue Hemming from the British Crown Prosecution Service

With this logic and thinking of the British, I wrote an article titled “I want to be a Terrorist in London.” The Police then launched a manhunt for my arrest. After months of several raids on different addresses across London but with no possible hope of being able to arrest me, I voluntarily walked into a Police Station and handed myself over to the Police. This led to a lengthy legal battle and I was remanded to custody at North London’s Pentonville prison. So, after years of being subjected to horrendous treatments by the British Government, I began a protest against the Government. And that ended in my incarceration by the Government. It was during my time in prison that I became aware of David Goodhart’s novel *The British Dream*.

Darkest Humanity was partly inspired by *The British Dream*. David Goodhart, author of *The British Dream* portrayed immigrants in the UK negatively:

“From lazy Somalis and macho African-Caribbeans to inbreeding Pakistanis and standoffish Poles.”

Whilst in North London’s Pentonville Prison, I joined a journalism class. One day, a reporter from the Guardian Newspaper was invited to give a lecture on journalism. The reporter spoke about *The British Dream*, which had newly been published, and how immigrants in the UK have been portrayed negatively by the author.

The Guardian reporter expounded on the historical account of post-war Britain, and how Britain opened the floodgates of immigration and sent emissaries to the West Indies to bring in African Caribbeans to help rebuild the country after the Second World War. Britain lost most of its active workforce to the war.

Here then arose the question: *can someone write the British Dream from the perspective of immigrants?* This question kept lingering within me because of what I had been through, and my encounter with the British establishment – the Westminster fraternity.

One day, whilst reading a book in the library in Pentonville, I had an urge, an urge so strong that I could not resist it. The urge to start writing my Book came to me right inside the library in North London’s Pentonville prison. The urge for me to re-write *The British Dream* from the perspective of immigrants was so strong that I became restless. After reading few pages of the book I was reading in the library, I put the book down. The next thing I did was to start writing the *All-African (Commonwealth) British Dream!* Here was the birth of **Darkest Humanity**, a ground-breaking Pan African Book we are launching today.

Five Titles I considered when I was writing this book in Pentonville: **1 - The British Dream. 2 - Heart of Darkness. 3 - Silver and Gold. 4 - Mein Kampf. 5 - Darkest Humanity.**

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Author, *Darkest Humanity*

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