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EWE STUDIES

No. 1

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# THE ANLO CONSTITUTION

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The Framework of the Constitution

BY

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Printed at the Achimota Press

The Author's thanks are due to the Executive Committee of the Ewe Union and others for their help. He will be pleased to receive further suggestions from readers.

D. A. C.

KETA  
1st May 1944

### A list of Ewe words and their anglicized forms

Adotri	Aḍotri	Etoa	Ētōa
Adzovia	Adzovia	Ewe	Ewe
Afife	Afife	Gbota	Gbōta
Aflao	Flawu	Hevi	Xevi
Anlo	Aṅlō	Hlowo	Hlōwo
Avenor	Avenō	Klikor	Klikō
Awadada	Awadada	Klobo	Klōbo
Awalogomefia	Awalogomefia	Lafe	Lāfe
Awanu	Avanu	Letsofe	Letsofe
Awomefia	Awomefia	Notsie	Ŋotsiē
Blaeto vo adea	Blaetō vo adea	Penyi	Fenyi
Dukomefia	Dukomefia	Weta	Ueta
Dukowo	Dukowo	Wifeme	Uifeme
Dumegawo	Dumegāwo	Yohoenu	Yōxōenu

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# SHORT NOTES ON THE ANLO CONSTITUTION

## The Framework of the Constitution

### 1. Anlo Land

The territory of the Anlo State includes :

- a) The sandy coastal strip of land bordering the Gulf of Guinea from the mouth of the River Volta to Aflao,
- b) The Anlo Lagoon and its islands and creeks, and
- c) The plains forming the hinterland of the Anlo Lagoon as far as the southern frontier of Togoland under British Mandate.

### 2. The People

The Anlo people are a branch of the Ewe people who migrated westwards about the 15th or 16th century from what is modern Nigeria to Tado and on to Notsie. From Notsie the Ewe people spread into the Ewe mountains and the lands lying to the south as far as the sea. The Anlo people were among those who migrated southwards, and after many wanderings established themselves on the shores and islands of the Anlo Lagoon.

### 3. Divisions of the Land

The Anlo State is built up of the following divisions known as *Dukowo* (singular, *Duko*).

Duko	Population	Duko	Population
Anlo Akuaku	63,428 165,025	Weta	6,857
Avenor	29,123	Klikor	6,264
Mafi	10,787	Hevi	4,911
Some	10,620	Afife	4,108
Aflao	10,335	Penyi	3,444
Dzódze	9,247	Ahunda	901
		Ave	?

Each of these *Dukowo* is under a *Dukomefia* (*Fia*=king, chief). There are settlements of various sizes in each *duko*; and many of these settlements have grown into villages and towns. The bigger settlements are known as *Durwo* (singular, *Du*) which are under

*Dufiawo* (singular, *Dufia*). In some of the settlements there is more than one *Dufia*. The villages and towns are generally divided into *Towo* (singular, *To*) or into groups of closely related families each under a *Hanua* (plural, *Hanuarwo*).

#### 4. Military Organization

The various *dukowo* of the Anlo State are divided into three military units known as *Dome*, *Dusi* and *Mia* respectively. Each unit is under the command of its own *Awalogomefia* and all the military divisions of all the *dukowo* of the Anlo State are under the supreme command of the *Awadada* of Anlo Akuaku. In War the *Dufiawo* who are in charge of the villages and towns of the State serve under the *Awalogomefiawo*.

Owing to the long standing alliance between the Anlo Akuaku, Ashanti and Akwamu—the Anlo accepted an offer of alliance from the Asantehene Kwaku Dua in 1866—some Ashanti military terms have been introduced into the Ewe language and we thus find that in Anlo the *Dufia* is also called *Asafohene*, and the *Awalogomefia* is also called *Asafohenega*. The Anlo military divisions *Dusi*, *Dome* and *Mia* are also termed *We*, *Adotri* and *Lasiobi* or *Klobo* respectively, but the origin of these terms is not very clear.

#### 5. The Awomefia (Paramount Chief)

The Awomefia is the supreme head of the Anlo State. He is elected from Anlo Akuaku.

#### 6. Hlo

The people of the Anlo State are also divided into a number of groups based on descent from different paternal ancestors. These groups are known as *Hlowo* (singular, *Hto*), and there are sixteen of them altogether

but there are fewer *Hlowo* in some of the *dukowo* of the Anlo State. The names of the *Hlowo* are as follows :

Adzovia	Bame	Hedze	Like
Agave	Bate <i>for</i>	Klevi	Tovi
Ame	Blu <i>for</i>	Lafe	Tsiamé
Amlade	Dzevi	Letsofe	Wifeme

The importance of these patrilineal groups lies partly in the fact that the *Awomefia* is elected alternately from two of them i.e. from the *Adzovia* and the *Bate* groups. The *Adzovia* and *Bate* groups are composed of a great many families but there are two Royal Houses from which the *Awomefia* is elected. These Royal Houses are known as *Fianye-Adzoviawo* (*Yohoenu*) and *Fianye-Bateawo*.

## 7. Assemblies of the Dukowo

There are meetings of each *duko* in the Anlo State. A meeting of the *Anlo Akuaku* is termed *Anlo gbota blaeto vo adea fe takpekpe* (an assembly of the thirty-six towns of Anlo) or *Anlo awanu etoa fe takpekpe* (an assembly of the three military wings of Anlo). Membership of this assembly is open to all the people of Anlo *Akuaku* who are willing to attend.

## 8. Closer Union of the Dukowo

Before the beginning of the 20th century, the various *dukowo* of the Anlo State of today were independent sister-states united by ties of common ancestry, history, language and customs. The last forty years have witnessed the gradual drawing together of the various *dukowo* to form the Anlo State. A Council known as *Dukowo fe takpekpe* (State Council) has been established, and representatives of all the *dukowo* of the Anlo State come together to discuss matters of common interest.

## 9. The Anlo State Council

The membership of the Anlo State Council is as follows :

Awomefia	( <i>Paramount Chief</i> )
Awadada	( <i>Head of Anlo Military Organization</i> )
Dukomefiawo	( <i>Civil Divisional Chiefs</i> )
Awalogomefiawo	( <i>Military Divisional Chiefs</i> )
Dufiawo	( <i>Chiefs</i> )
Dumegawo	( <i>Elders</i> )
Hanuawo	( <i>Headmen</i> )

The position of the *Dumegawo* and *Hanuawo* needs some explanation. The mass of ordinary adult citizens is known as *Duawo*, and it is from the ranks of the *Duawo* that the *dumegawo* and *hanuawo* come. The most prominent and public-spirited persons among the *duawo* are termed *dumegawo* and they are the elders who are generally appointed to the councils of the *dufiawo*. The *Hanuawo* are the leaders of the various associations of the State. These associations may be composed of fishermen, farmers, traders, drumming clubs etc.

## 10. The Anlo State and its Neighbours

We have dealt with the framework of the Anlo Constitution by itself. We must now consider the position of the Anlo State in relation to the Constitution of the Gold Coast Colony of which it forms part. But this cannot be done without some reference to the ethnography of the neighbouring states.

The Anlo people as mentioned in paragraph 2 above are an offshoot of the *EWE* tribe which has been partitioned and incorporated by the ruling European Powers in the following political units :

- (1) Togoland under French Mandate,
- (2) Togoland under British Mandate, and
- (3) Gold Coast Colony.

The Anlo and some other Ewe groups are incorporated in the Eastern Province of the Gold Coast Colony together with the following :

- (1) Ga-Adangme Tribes, and
- (2) Akan Tribes.

Each of these tribes is divided into a number of states, and each state is again divided into units which are similar to the unit known in the Anlo State as *Duko*.

### 11. The Anlo Constitution in Relation to the Constitution of the Gold Coast Colony

The Anlo State is linked politically through various bodies to its neighbours, and through the Legislative Council to the rest of the Gold Coast Colony. We have seen that there are thirteen *Dukowo* in the Anlo State. All these *Dukowo* belong ethnographically to the Ewe tribe. But there are other *duko* units of the Ewe tribe which are attached to the Akan and the Ga-Adangme *duko* units to form separate states. Peki State is composed of an Ewe section and an Akan section, and the senior partner is the Ewe section. In the Akwamu State, Akan and Ewe units are grouped together under the Akan section. The Ada State is similarly composed of a Ga-Adangme group and an Ewe group under the former.

The states of the Eastern Province of the Gold Coast Colony therefore fall into the following classes :

- (1) Akan States, e.g. Akim Abuakwa State.
- (2) Mixed Akan and Ewe States, e.g. Peki State.
- (3) Ga-Adangme State, e.g. Ga State.
- (4) Mixed Ga-Adangme and Ewe States, e.g. Ada State.
- (5) Ewe State, e.g. Anlo State.

All these states are represented in a Provincial Council of Chiefs, and through this Council in the Legislative Council of the Gold Coast Colony.

The Eastern Provincial Council of Chiefs is the highest Council of Chiefs in the Eastern Province of the Gold Coast Colony. The membership of this Council consists of the following elements each of which sends a representative to the Legislative Council of the Colony :

- (1) The Akan Section  
including the mixed Ewe-Akan State of Akwamu and the other purely Akan States,
- (2) The Ewe Section  
including the mixed Ewe-Akan State of Peki and the purely Ewe State of Anlo,
- (3) The Ga-Adangme Section  
including the mixed Ewe-Ga-Adangme State of Ada and the other purely Ga-Adangme States.

The Ewe Section was represented on the Legislative Council of the Gold Coast Colony from 1916 - 1942 by Togbui Sri, II, C.B.E., K.M.A.C., Awomefia of Anlo State. He was succeeded in 1943 by Nana Nyarko VII, Nifahene ( *Dusi Awalogomefia* ) of Peki State.

