

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PACKS Africa is a youth-led Pan-African think tank operating from Accra (Ghana) and providing support services in the evidence-to-policy sector.

We have a vision of a Pan-African development process that is fueled by evidence-informed policies.

We work mostly with government agencies across Africa to enhance production and use of evidence in policy, practice and general social policies.

Our work normally involves;

- Information Systems Research
- Knowledge Management
- Advocacy for Evidence-Informed Policies

On the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), our work involves Goal 9 (target 9.5), Goal 16 (target 16.10) and Goal 17 (targets 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.17, 17.18 and 17.19).

PACKS Africa....

... where we promote  
knowledge for Pan-African  
development

## Akwaaba Brouhaha in Ghana: Caution at Managing Complexities of Postcolonial Governance Structures

At **PACKS Africa**, we have been following with concern the ongoing debate about calls to replace “Akwaaba” with “Oobake” on signage at the **Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park** and **Kotoka International Airport in Accra, Ghana**. While the concerns raised by sections of the Ga community reflect a legitimate desire for cultural inclusion, the responses and counter-responses from state actors, particularly the Greater Accra Regional Minister, reveal deeper governance challenges that deserve attention.

Ghana’s diversity — over 100 ethnic and language groups — is a strength, but it requires clarity and balance. The [2023 Ibrahim Index](#) of African Governance (IIAG) shows that 78% of Africans now live in countries with declining governance, often worsened by weak institutions and identity-driven tensions. Without careful management, symbolic disputes like this risk eroding trust in the neutrality of the state.

Research in Ghana consistently shows gaps in collaboration between traditional leaders and state officials, leading to tension over land, planning, and representation. Communities already report feeling excluded from decision-making, describing consultations as tokenistic, which deepens disillusionment when cultural issues arise.

At **PACKS Africa**, we see this as a moment for evidence-informed public leadership, not division. We recommend:

- **Orientation for Government Officials:** New appointees should receive structured capacity strengthening sessions on multi-ethnic governance and state-building principles to help them act as neutral liaisons.
- **Evidence-Based Dialogue Platforms:** Multi-perspective epistemic forums should be established to facilitate constructive discussions between government, traditional leaders, and communities, as seen in countries like South Africa and Botswana.
- **Institutionalised Collaboration:** Clear frameworks defining roles and responsibilities will reduce overlaps and prevent similar tensions in the future. The role of traditional authorities should, in this regard, be better defined within the ongoing constitutional review process, which should be to complement evolving formal attempts at state building.

Ghana’s strength lies in unity within diversity. We call on government, traditional authorities, civil society, and the media to engage calmly, objectively, and with a shared commitment to cohesion.

At **PACKS Africa**, we stand ready to provide technical expertise, and capacity support to turn this controversy into an opportunity for inclusive, resilient governance.

**END**