

INDEPENDENCE!

2012

It started with the United Gold Coast Convention. The convention was a conglomeration of intelligent, educated Ghanaians that called themselves The Big Six. Their stated aim was self-government as quickly as possible. In the beginning according respect was a primary demand, and the Ghanaians used their education to ask feverishly for increased appreciation and acknowledgement.

The change in the old fashioned, courteous manner of conduct was changed after Kwame Nkrumah came into the picture. He formed his Convention People's Party (CPP) in June 1949. Nkrumah initially joined the UGCC, but then split to form his own part – taking a lot of like minded elements away. Their new call was for self governance now.

By 1949, Nkrumah had a massive following, especially with hordes of intellectuals, and later with the illiterate union workers. In the elections that followed, he won majority and his government started with great cooperation with the British, which gradually turned into self dependence and sedition. Nkrumah followed policies of power centralization while quite a few new parties evolved around. On a renewed call for independence in the midst of doubts that Ghana was probably not ready yet, the Crown acceded to the demands, granted a two thirds majority – which would not succeed.

But on August 3, 1956, a new assembly renewed the call with a greater majority: the opposition was infact absent, which was accepted by the British and on March 6, 1957, on the 113th anniversary of the Bond of 1844, an independent Ghana was formed!

Ghana has had dismal success with democracy in the years after independence. The CPP administration would soon turn even more autocratic putting good governance to the crib. The general resentment in the regime of Nkrumah further alienated his supporters. This was partly a reason behind the coup of 1966 by the military. The reasons given were corruption and the decadence of democratic values. The failures of the Busia administration, the first government elected after the fall of the Nkrumah cabinet continued the sad story.