

# Newspaper Article in 'Stuttgarter Zeitung – Strohgäu Extra'

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## Preserving the memory

### Gerlingen

A report on Nene Sakite II is given to the Committee as evidence of the use of local donations.

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Nearly ten years ago King Nene Sakite II of Kroboland in Ghana had the honour of visiting the house where missionary Johannes Rebmann was born.

Men and women from the Basel Mission worked in Ghana, among them Johannes Rebmann and Johannes Zimmermann.

The connection between Gerlingen and Africa is kept alive to this day through, among other things, the visits of the missionaries of today.

Missionary Hans-Georg Hoprich gave a report to the most recent sitting of the Finance and Administration Committee on his visit to East Africa including his meeting with King Nene Sakite II.

In 2004 the Town Council decided to support two of the projects suggested by King Nene Sakite II in five annual instalments with a yearly amount of €3,000 to each.

This would make an ongoing work in Ghana possible.

The work of Johannes Zimmermann and his missionaries is still held in high regard there.

The people of Gerlingen contributed to the education fund of King Nene Sakite II to ensure the financial support of needy school children.

Parents are supported in the purchase of school books and the payment of school fees.

Nene Sakite set up these funds on his own without the support of the state or the government.

In regard to the other project, the people of Gerlingen wished their contribution to go to the orphans' programme. Provision was thereby made for the orphans whose parents had died of AIDS; also the children would be supported financially in their education.

Kroboland has one of the highest levels of AIDS in Ghana.

"Without an invitation it is not possible to have an audience with the King," reported Hoprich, who grew up in Gerlingen.

Gerlingen's Mayor, Georg Brenner, wrote a letter of recommendation which made it possible for Hoprich to meet the King, who is a practicing Christian and is a "very highly regarded person" in his own country.

In response to an enquiry from Horst Arzt (Independent), Hoprich stated that the 65 year old still teaches as a professor in Economics in Boston and is therefore familiar with the western economic system.

The last of the five originally agreed instalments was used to support a total of 50 school children and students, as well as 400 children whose parents had died of AIDS.

Whether the Town Council will continue to subsidise the King's fund or support other projects, will be decided by the town councillors in the next few weeks.