

# Junior Graphic

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Serving the youth of Ghana



## Managing Sickle Cell Disease:

# Give children support to live healthy lives — Doctor

By Priscilla Asantewaa Obeng

A medical officer of the Medifem Hospital in Accra, Dr Oyeronke Suliati Oyawoye, has advised parents not to give up on their children living with sickle cell disease (SCD) because they can

live healthy lives when given the needed support and care. She noted that some families had been separated because their child or children are living with sickle cell so they could not bear the stress and financial cost

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Read an exciting new miniseries, **Abena's Cap**  
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## The royals

• Jesse Sackitey Adjoka, a student of the Odumase Presby Junior High School in the Eastern Region, was carried shoulder-high when he represented Nene Sakite II, the Paramount Chief of Manya Krobo during the Manya Klo Nngmayem Festival Mock Durbar at Odumase-Krobo recently.



Beware of cholera

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# The heroes of Vanna Islands

## Short Story

**T**he Tortoise and Elephant were good friends who lived on an island called the Yatula Kingdom.

The Tortoise, although slow, was known for his intelligence and creativity. The Elephant on the other hand was known for his laziness and strength.

One day, the animals in the Yatula Kingdom received an invitation from the majestic Lion King who ruled over the eight islands of the Vanna Islands to brainstorm and stop the terrible floods that ravaged the land during the rainy season.

Vanna Islands was surrounded by the sea, so the individual kingdoms flooded whenever it rained heavily, particularly during the rainy season.

The floods destroyed crops and made life difficult for the smaller animals who couldn't escape the raging torrents and drowned.

The Tortoise and the Elephant were chosen by the elders to represent the animals in the Yatula Kingdom.

When they got to the palace, they saw the king waiting for them, his golden mane gleaming in the sunlight.

His powerful voice produced an echo as he spoke, saying, "Welcome, Elephant and Tortoise. I have called you here because I know you two are the wisest and oldest in our land.

Our crops are being washed away,

and our smaller and weaker animals suffer any time it rains. We must find a way to protect our land from the floods and save our families and other animals from dying," the king said.

The Tortoise, who was always prepared to talk, cleared his throat and said, "Your majesty, I believe we can build thick walls between the sea and the land to protect our

homes and farmlands from the floods. We can use stones, branches and sand to build these walls that would be so strong that the floods cannot penetrate.

The Lion nodded thoughtfully, impressed by the Tortoise's idea. He then turned to the Elephant and asked: "What about you? Make your suggestion"

"Well, uh, maybe we could... I don't know... just move to a new spot when it rains?" yawning widely.

"Elephant, your strength can help us in building the walls. With your strength, we could gather stones and build the walls in no time," Tortoise suggested.

The Elephant snorted, realising

he wouldn't get out of this so easily. "All right, your majesty," he said reluctantly.

The following day, work started in earnest on the erection of the walls and no one was left out. The Elephant helped the other animals dig the foundation of the defence walls.

After two weeks of hard work, they completed the defence walls

along the eight

kingdoms on the Vanna Islands and all the animals were satisfied with the work done. They believed that no matter how it rained, the floods could not destroy their houses and farmlands again.

That year, the animals who farmed had a bumper harvest

and the smaller animals no longer had to worry about being swept away by floods.

One sunny afternoon, the King called the Tortoise and the Elephant back to the palace for a special gathering. When they got there, the king stood on the dais and said: "Tortoise and Elephant have shown us that true power lies not in strength or intelligence alone, but in working together for a good cause.

Tortoise, for your wisdom, I bestow on you the title of Royal Advisor. From this day onwards, you shall help us with all the challenges that threaten our land."

Tortoise's eyes widened. The animals cheered and he bowed gratefully to the king.

"And as for you, Elephant," the king continued, turning to face the Elephant. "For your strength and commitment to the Vanna Islands, I confer on you the title of Defender of the Land. You will help protect our kingdom, not from floods alone but from all form of danger."

"Thank you, your majesty," he said, with a sense of pride.

"I have to admit, Tortoise," Elephant said, on their way back home. "This whole 'Defender of the Land' title... it feels so good. It makes me feel important, you know?"

Tortoise chuckled. "Well, you are now feeling important, Elephant. Sometimes you have brave the odds to change people's perception about you. We all have something valuable to offer."

As the two friends looked over the Vanna Islands, they knew they would face many challenges together but they were poised for action, to confront all the challenges and protect their land.

*Dzikrayat Abdull Majid,  
Believers Hope School,  
Accra.*

## GLOSSARY

**Ravage** — The destructive effect of something.

**Bestow** — Present (an honour, right, or gift).

**Torrents** — A strong and fast-moving stream of water or other liquid.

**Confer** — Grant (a title, degree, benefit, or right).

## Letters



Send your letters and Colour Me to: The Editor, Junior Graphic (Letters), P.O. Box GP 742, Accra, or send an email to: [jgraphic@graphic.com.gh](mailto:jgraphic@graphic.com.gh)

## Revive Ghana Black Stars

**D**ear Editor, The Ghana Black Stars for some time now have consistently disappointed Ghanaians with their poor performance in almost all the matches they have played.

The latest of them was their abysmal performance at the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

Every year, Ghana invests so much to ensure the senior national team participates in all football matches.

We all expect them give off their best and bring a trophy home.

The likes of Sule Muntari, Richard Kingston, Stephen Appiah, Asamoah

Gyan and others have raised the flag of Ghana high but the current Black Star team's performance is not impressive at all.

I appeal to the government of Ghana to put in place measures to salvage the situation so the Black Stars team will regain its lost glory.

They must also motivate the Ghana Football Association officials, coaches and players so that team can be revived, to enable them win their matches and make ghanaians happy.

*Samuel Achire, Eastern Region.*



**The Senior National team, Black Stars.**