

# PERSONALITY

OF THE MONTH

April  
Edition

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**GODFRED**  
OWUSU ANSAH



# INTRODUCTION



**Bemah:** Good evening. I trust you're doing well. My name is Bemah, as you already know. I serve as the General Secretary for NUGS-RUSSIA and will be conducting the interview today. Before we proceed, could you please share your name and where you study?

**Godfred:** Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Godfred, and I am currently in my fifth year studying medicine at Kirov State Medical University in Kirov.

**Bemah:** Welcome, Godfred. Let's jump into the questions. Firstly, why did you accept the position of Speaker for the Royal Senate? I understand if this question is a bit forward, but it's a good starting point.

**Godfred:** Of course. It was a recent decision for me, considering my involvement since arriving in Russia. I began by serving as a Senate member for my city and participated in the 2022 Congress in Moscow, gaining first-hand experience. Two years later, the current president, Honorable Festus, approached me for assistance. He offered me the position of Speaker of the Royal Senate. Being patriotic and wanting to share my experience, I gladly accepted to contribute to our community.

**Bemah:** That's commendable, Godfred. Now, let's revisit the basics. You're a fifth-year medical student in Kirov. Could you please provide some background information about yourself, your family, and your journey thus far?

**Godfred:** Certainly. I'm originally from the Ashanti region, specifically Santasi, though I grew up mostly in Sunyani. My family relocated due to my grandfather's work at Ghana Commercial Bank, where he served as the managing director. Consequently, I completed my schooling, including Solomon Bennett's Memorial School and later St. James Seminary Senior High School, both located in Sunyani.

**Bemah:** Interesting. I'm somewhat familiar with Solomon Bennett's. Please continue.

**Godfred:** After high school, I took a gap year in 2018 to pursue medicine. Initially planning to study in Ukraine, logistical issues with obtaining a visa led me to choose Russia instead. I've been in Kirov for nearly five years now, first completing a language course for nine months before starting my medical studies



# ACADEMIC JOURNEY

**Bemah:** Moving on, let's discuss your academic journey. Do you study medicine in Russian?

**Godfred:** No, I study in English. Although I initially completed a preparatory faculty, my medical studies have been conducted entirely in English. My year group was the first to start studying medicine in English.

**Bemah:** That's interesting. How has medical school been for you?

**Godfred:** It's been great, thankfully. I haven't encountered any significant academic challenges so far.

## EXPERIENCE AS A SPEAKER

**Bemah:** It's refreshing to hear that. Now, regarding your nickname "Levite," how did that come about?

**Godfred:** Ah, "Levite" is a nickname that stuck from my high school days. A friend suggested it while we sang together, and it just stuck, especially on my social media accounts.

**Bemah:** Fascinating. Speaking of singing, do you still pursue it in Russia?

**Godfred:** Yes, I do. I manage to balance it with my academic and other commitments, ensuring it doesn't interfere with my studies.

**Bemah:** That's very true. We all came here primarily for school. Returning to one of my earlier questions about why you accepted the position of Speaker for the Royal Senate, I recall you mentioning starting off as a member of the senate for your city. How did that come about?

**Godfred:** The previous president, Hon. Pobe, for 2021-2022, and my president saw my efforts for Nugs-Russia at the local level and suggested I should represent my city in the Royal Senate. I also served on the vetting committee for the last two administrations.

**Bemah:** That sounds like a valuable experience.

**Godfred:** Yes, I simply made myself available for Nugs-Russia, and things have been progressing smoothly since then.

**Bemah:** How has your experience been as the Speaker? Was it challenging to bring in senate members?



**Godfred:** Honestly, it wasn't easy. It took me a couple of weeks to establish the Royal Senate for the current administration. The issue of people losing interest began with previous administrations, and most individuals lacked the motivation to serve.

**Bemah:** Are there enough people for the Royal Senate?

**Godfred:** Yes, we don't have the desired numbers, but we have enough to conduct senate proceedings effectively. A clear example is the Nug-Russia cargo and courier policy that was being drafted by the house.

**Bemah:** Speaking about people losing interest, what do you think led to that?



**Godfred:** I believe there wasn't enough transparency in the previous administrations, coupled with the selfish interests of a few individuals.

**Bemah:** But we must gradually move away from that to secure a future for ourselves in this union.

**Godfred:** Absolutely, we must rebuild trust in the process and strive for transparency in our own little way.

**Bemah:** You made an excellent point about building trust. For where we are now, this responsibility doesn't solely lie on the national executives.

**Godfred:** Yes, it's something I've observed. The responsibility also falls on us, the royal senators. We're actively implementing new policies and providing an opportunity for change in any part of the constitution.

**Bemah:** Another issue we currently face is low finances and the collection of dues, which is poorly managed. What do you think we can do to improve and make it better for future administrations?

**Godfred:** Russia's vastness poses unique challenges, but I believe we can leverage technology to streamline the dues collection process. For instance, developing an app that allows individuals across the country to conveniently pay their dues into a centralized system, ensuring transparency and accountability by directing funds directly to designated accounts. This approach empowers us to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and effectively track every transaction.

**Bemah:** Reflecting on my own previous university experience, dues were added to school fees, making collection easier. However, here we're all in different universities, and the only method available was deducting from the stipends of scholarship students. Even with this, it has been halted due to the current situation in Russia and sanctions imposed upon it.

**Godfred:** I believe people will be more willing to pay if they see how their money is being utilized. This will certainly improve compliance. Despite these challenges, I remain optimistic about our ability to overcome them.



# CONCLUSION

**Bemah:** Absolutely. Lastly, what are your final thoughts on these issues?

**Godfred:** Moving forward, continuity is crucial. We must ensure a seamless transition of leadership to sustain the union's momentum. Engagement is key in this endeavor. By promoting open dialogue and active participation, we can reignite enthusiasm and commitment among members. Every voice must be heard, and decision-making should be guided by consensus-building.

**Bemah:** Those are profound words. Thank you once again for accepting my invitation for this interview, honorable Speaker.

**Godfred:** It's been my utmost pleasure.

