

A LETTER TO MY FATHER-IN-LAW

Retired Major Boateng, I presume you would be called

I bring you good tidings from my home, especially my kid sister

I guess you have seen me with Baaba, your daughter, a few times

Yes, I'm not her course mate, if that's what you think

I'm neither her church member, I barely even go to church

As a matter of fact, I want to make her the bearer of my ten seeds

And... are you serious about the dowry?

Did you say I needed to pay a thousand Ghana cedis which was the worth of a bottle of Schnapps? Like seriously?

That buys an ultra-modern laptop ooo, you know!

And, I don't even have a second-hand desktop, not to talk of a laptop

If only a drink for the gods is costing that much, I'm not surprised you say I should pay two thousand Ghana cedis for only six yards of *GTP*

If you care to know, I've been wearing affordable '*the-white-man-is-dead*' for as long as I can remember because I know very well I can't afford *Printex*, *Woodin* or even *GTP*

Baaba even loves the '*oburoniweewu*' more than I do. Ask her

She showed me a tall list of other to-buy items on the dowry form

Let me ask you, Retd. Major Boateng. You say you go to church. Don't you want us to fulfill God's task of us multiplying and filling the Earth or you're just trying to be rebellious?

How much did Adam pay to God for Eve? If even the father of all men, who lived in the abundance of food in the Eden garden under God's economy, paid nothing for the first woman, how can you ask an unemployed graduate like me to pay as much as five thousand Ghana cedis for bride price, under such suffocating *Mahamaic* economic conditions?

Do you care to know how much the Brazilian hair she wears costs? As much as eight hundred cedis! I pay for it every two months.

I guess she asked you for money to buy skin-toning creams like ages ago. It's not as though she doesn't use them any longer. I pay at least two hundred cedis for them every three months.

I paid for her one thousand Ghana cedis worth iPhone last month.

When last did you pay for her lecture notes and church offertory? Of course you can't remember but I took over from where you stopped.

When you were in other war-torn countries fighting for peace, I was doing same here in GH, warding off blood-thirsty mosquitoes from her succulent skin.

I have paid half of her fees before; that was somewhere last academic year, when you used all your peace-keeping earnings on lotto.

Retired Major, I'm not well-versed in calculations but if you sum up all my expenses made, I suppose you even have a deficit to pay me.

I won't talk. I'll just give you my account number for you to deposit into it the about two thousand Ghana cedis, after deducting your five thousand cedis.

As I said, I won't talk because I've seen your son, Fiifi, around my kid sister, whom I've been taking care of for some time now.

He comes here in the name of studying with her but I know Nana Akua is a medical student and Fiifi studies archaeology; unless he wants to tell me that archaeology is a synonym of medicine.

Have you heard of the latest Samsung Galaxy tablet? Ask of the price because that would be the least item he's going to buy on my dowry list.

I even want him to buy the latest Mercedes C class when the time is due but because he runs errands in calling Baaba for me sometimes, I'll have pity on him; he would buy only two *Hummers!*

Ask Baaba for my account number. I'll be expecting my money by the close of working day tomorrow because I need it to buy some diapers for my first seed she's carrying. This is your yet-to-be son and father-in-law **feeling annoyed**!

Reply from Retd. Major Boateng: Oh, you should have said all of these all this while. As for my son Fiifi, he definitely would be your son-in-law, too. He just told me about his marriage plans yesterday.

And did you say I'm going to be a grandfather? Goodness! Look, Baaba is even here. I've been forcing her to marry you as soon as possible. Come for her any day, anytime.

In fact, come for her today. I was only testing you with that supposed dowry list. You have passed. Just forget bride price. If you have any two- sure, let me know. Ok? Son-in-law papapaaa!

NB; When coming, prepare for your funeral, too. I would test my never- used AK- 47 on you. Let me see if you pass that, too **feeling anxious**!