

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



2023 SPECIAL CONGREGATION

ADDRESS BY:

**PROFESSOR NANA ABA APPIAH AMFO
VICE - CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023
GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**



SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AT 2023 SPECIAL

CONGREGATION

Madam Chancellor,
Chair and Members of the University Council,
Chief Justice/Honorable Minister of Education/Chief of Staff/Speaker of
Parliament/Members of Parliament
Pro Vice-Chancellors, Registrar, Provosts,
Deans and Directors,
Nananom, Niimeh and Naameh,
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Former Staff and Former Officials of the University,
Alumni,
Invited Guests,
Members of the Press Corps,
Our distinguished awardees
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good afternoon,

I welcome all of you to this afternoon's special congregation ceremony, during which we will celebrate 18 distinguished persons who have contributed significantly in various spheres to national and international life.

Today's ceremony is especially significant as it is one of the activities marking the University of Ghana's 75th anniversary and we are proud that the University has over the years distinguished itself in the area of quality teaching and learning and impactful research. As we count our gains over the decades, it is appropriate to also celebrate these distinguished personalities, who have contributed in different ways either directly or indirectly to the fortunes of the University of Ghana.

Honorary doctorate degrees will be awarded in eight categories:

- Distinguished Scholarship
- Contribution to Education
- Alumni of Whom We are Proud
- Contribution to Public Service
- Contribution to Industry
- Institutional Builder
- Former Vice Chancellor
- 2023 Aggrey Fraser Guggisberg Memorial Lecturer

The selection of these individuals was done through a rigorous process, starting with a call for nominations from members of the University community, and ending with approval by the University Council. It is a mark of the stature of the awardees that some of them were nominated more than once, and in different categories.

Madam Chancellor, ladies and gentlemen, as the University celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, we continue to reflect on the theme for the celebrations: "Nurturing Resilience; Adopting Technology, Embracing Humanism," which reflects our commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and human-centeredness. We continue to roll out programmes to mark the anniversary year, and we encourage you all to participate fully when these are announced. As the celebrations go on, let us reflect on our achievements, commit to do even better and to uphold the values that have defined the University of Ghana over the years.

Special Initiatives

Madam Chancellor, I would like to take this opportunity to speak about the Vice-Chancellor's Special Initiatives, which I announced during my induction as Vice-Chancellor in October 2021. The University of Ghana has commenced the

implementation these special initiatives, to further enhance student experience at the University.

One Student One Laptop (1S1L) project: We have implemented the One Student One Laptop (1S1L) project, which has already provided 120 needy students with laptops and we will soon give out a second batch of up to 200 laptops when school resumes. Procurement processes are far advanced to enable students procure laptops at reasonable prices and on flexible terms. Further, we are going through due process to assemble these computers right here on campus, offering opportunities of learning for our students, while meeting a very important need for the 21st century student. We are most grateful for the generous support from individuals and corporate bodies, who have made valuable contributions towards enabling the beneficiaries to excel in their academic pursuits.

Classroom Modernization Project: The classroom modernization project has yielded impressive results. The initiative was started with 5.5 million Ghana cedis that was internally generated by the University. The University solicited assistance from other organisations, and received additional support from the World Bank Centres of Excellence and the Centre for Teaching and Learning Innovation (CTLI) all here at the University of Ghana. The Intermarket Group of Companies, supplied the five screens that are in use here in the Great Hall. Various banks, including the Bank of Ghana, have made contributions towards this project. Last December, as part of the Classroom Modernisation Programme, I happily commissioned the refurbished K.A. Busia Classroom and I recently, together with the Chair of Council, commissioned modern IT facilities at the Staff Resource Learning Centre and modernised classrooms at the Oracca Tetteh/Larway Building, the University of Ghana Medical School (UGMS) and the Accra City Campus.

The facilities commissioned at the Medical School were funded by the 1996-alumni year group of the school, and the year group also donated 16 modern microscopes and four (4) teaching cameras to the Medical School.

The second phase of the classroom modernization project, which has started with ongoing civil works, will include the modernization of the Jones Quartey Building, Central Cafeteria, the N Block and the GCB Building.

Hotspot Comfort Zones Project: We have also initiated the Hotspot Comfort Zones project, which will provide students with comfortable and reliable places to access the internet.

I thank all who have contributed to these projects and look forward to additional contributions from friends of the University, to significantly enhance the student experience.

Each of the persons being honoured today has given back to society in various ways, and it behoves on all of us to emulate their example, and seek to contribute our quota to improve the world we live in.

Madam Chancellor, ladies and gentlemen, I once again extend warm congratulations to all our awardees. As we ponder over your achievements, it is my hope that this will kindle in all of us, both young and old, the inspiration to do our best in whatever we do and wherever we find ourselves.

I thank you for your attention.

Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo
28th April, 2023