

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



LAUNCH OF UNIVERSITY OF GHANA 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

THEME:

“NURTURING RESILIENCE, ADOPTING TECHNOLOGY, EMBRACING HUMANISM”

ADDRESS BY:

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

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022
GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**



The Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Yaw Adutwum,
Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse,
Chair of the University Council, Her Ladyship Justice Sophia A.B. Akuffo (Rtd.),
Our Guest Speaker, Mrs. Elsie Addo Awadzie,
Chief of Staff at the Office of the President, Hon. Akosua Frema Osei-Opare,
Members of the Governing Council of the University of Ghana,
Honourable Ministers of State and Members of the Parliament of the Republic of
Ghana (past and present)
Pro Vice-Chancellor (ASA), Prof. Gordon A. Awandare,
Pro Vice-Chancellor (RID), Felix A. Asante,
Registrar, Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah,
Provosts, Deans, Directors, Heads of Department, and other senior officers of the
University,
Former Chairpersons of the University Council,
Formers Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors, Provosts and Registrars,
Vice-Chancellors and Registrars of sister institutions,
Heads of Affiliate Institutions,

Chief Executives, Managing Directors, and Corporate Executives of various institutions,

Our esteemed Traditional rulers especially the Overloads of the La and Osu Traditional Councils; Niimeɪ, Naamei, Nananom, Torgbuiwo kple (and) Mamawo,

Representatives of Diplomatic Missions in Ghana,

Chairs and Members of the UG@75 Planning Committee,

Staff, students and our cherished alumni,

Associates of the premier university of Ghana,

Media Partners and Sponsors of the anniversary celebration,

Specially invited guests,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

On behalf of Management, staff, students, alumni and the entire University community, I welcome you all warmly to the pristine *Hill of Learning*, for the launch of the University of Ghana's 75th anniversary.

Over the past years, UG has distinguished itself as the best university in Ghana and one of the best in

Africa. It has been:

- 75 years of attracting significant funding for ground-breaking research addressing pertinent issues;
- 75 years of setting the pace for quality teaching and learning on the higher education landscape in Ghana and beyond;
- 75 years of nurturing great minds, shaping careers and building transformational leaders;
- In essence, it has been 75 years of dedicated service to the nation, positively impacting Ghana and the world at large.

The University has earned this enviable feat by dint of hard work on the part of principal and other officers of the university, faculty, administrators, other professionals, students and our alumni who are undoubtedly eminent and notable, and they continue to make the University proud in various facets of our economy. UG has produced Presidents and Vice-Presidents of this Republic, corporate giants, seasoned media and communication practitioners, legal luminaries, economic and finance experts, top-notch researchers and health workers, just to name a few.

From a humble beginning, UG has transformed from when it started out in 1948 on the Achimota Campus as the University College of the Gold Coast, to Legon

campus, and its transformation to the University College of Ghana, until 1961 when UG became a fully-fledged university with the power to award its own degrees. Today, UG is a household name; the first-choice destination for both SHS leavers and graduate students. It has formidable faculty who are authorities on various issues of national and continental concern, and it attracts some of the world's best researchers, committed administrators and professionals.

To make our services available to a wider audience irrespective of geographic location, UG is combining technology with traditional methods of instruction across our campuses and learning centres. It has, over the years, developed a broad spectrum of programmes tailored to meet the growing needs of our society. The University currently nurtures 26 younger tertiary institutions by way of affiliation and continues to engage in impactful community service and extension activities. UG proudly hosts three World Bank African Centres of Excellence; West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) and West African Genetic Medicine Centre (WAGMC) as well as flagship Research Institutes and such as Noguchi Memorial Institute of Medical Research (NMIMR), Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) and the Institute of African Studies (IAS) among others.

On this occasion of the university's diamond jubilee, we seize the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the gains we have made over the years and strategize for the next 75 years.

Under my leadership as Vice-Chancellor, Management of the University is committed to leveraging on the solid foundation built by previous administrations. My vision as Vice-Chancellor, driven by the key concepts of technology and humanism is reflected in the theme for the 75th anniversary - “Nurturing Resilience, Adopting Technology, Embracing Humanism”

Ladies and gentlemen, my administration is resolute to further improve the fortunes of UG, through the execution of six (6) key strategic objectives (KSOs), delivered through strategic partnerships and collaborations:

These are:

1. Reinvigorating impactful research in the (applied) sciences and humanities;
2. Developing technology-driven and robust processes (in all our endeavours);
3. Strengthening traditional revenue streams and expanding alternative income sources;
4. Leading a vibrant and responsive governance and management system;
5. Increasing UG's visibility and hence rankings;

6. Creating a sense of ownership and commitment (among all our stakeholders).

As an institution, we cannot agree more with the lyrics of the famous song by Fanny Crosby “*To God be the Glory, great things He has done*”. In the next 75 years, we anticipate greater things that He will do, as we continue to strive to make UG a global centre of excellence in higher education.

Ladies and Gentlemen, join me to “[A]ll hail University of Ghana, the nation's hope and glory. The place that bears the star of peace and bids us all to do our best. May this great tower of learning inspire both young and old as we proceed in unity, to uphold the public cause”. (Quote from the University Anthem composed by Professor Emeritus JH Kwabena Nketia)

Long live University of Ghana, long live Ghana.

Thank you for your attention.

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Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, at this juncture, permit me to introduce to you our special guest for this morning’s launch – Mrs. Elsie Addo Awadzie.

Profile of Mrs. Elsie Addo Awadzi

Mrs. Elsie Addo Awadzi has over 26 years of professional experience working in various capacities in Ghana and internationally in law, finance, policy and regulatory reforms, financial sector regulation, sustainable development, and public financial management, among others. She is the Second Deputy Governor of the Bank of Ghana, a position she has occupied since February 2018. She is the second woman to occupy the Office of Deputy Governor in the Bank of Ghana's 65-year history.

Under the leadership of Governor Ernest Addison, she has oversight of the Bank of Ghana's banking supervision, market conduct, and financial stability functions, among others. She is a member of the Bank's Board of Directors, a member of the Monetary Policy Committee, and a member of Ghana's Financial Stability Council which has representation from financial regulatory authorities in Ghana and the Finance Ministry.

As a staunch advocate for inclusive and sustainable finance, she chairs the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI)'s Gender Inclusive Finance Committee which provides thought leadership and guidance to the 100-member AFI network on the design and implementation of measures to close the gender gap in access to finance in developing countries. She is also a member of the Expert Leaders Group on Women's Financial Inclusion in the Digital Economy established by the Graça Machel Trust.

Before her appointment as Deputy Governor, Elsie was Senior Counsel of the Financial and Fiscal Law Unit of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Legal Department where she advised on public financial management reforms, financial sector reforms, and the design of crisis management arrangements for IMF member countries, among other things. Before joining the IMF in 2012, Elsie was a Commissioner of Ghana's Securities & Exchange Commission for six years. She also designed key financial sector reforms in Ghana and abroad, and worked extensively in private law practice, consulting, and banking, among others.

She holds an LL.M. degree (International Business and Economic Law) with distinction from the Georgetown University Law Center (2012), M.B.A. (Finance) and LL.B. Degrees from the University of Ghana (2000 and 1993 respectively), and a post-graduate qualifying certificate to practice law from the Ghana School of Law (1995).

Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

August 31, 2022