

## **UG CELEBRATES WITH EMERITUS PROF. NKETIA ON HIS 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

The Great Hall was the venue to welcome one of the few nonagenarians in the University's history. This was the legendary Emeritus Professor J.H. Kwabena Nketia on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday which fell on June 22.

In his welcome address, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey said it was of importance to acknowledge Prof. Nketia and to celebrate his life that he mostly dedicated to the development of the University and academia as a whole. He said Prof. Nketia had been of great support to the University and the country as a whole, hence the need for such a gathering on his ninetieth birthday. He also presented a gift on behalf of the University to Professor Nketia.

The luncheon was attended by family and friends of the Emeritus Professor, as well as former Vice-Chancellors and Pro-Vice-Chancellors of the University of Ghana, past and present officials of the University.

Dr. Akosua Perbi who spoke on behalf of his children said they were grateful to God for keeping their father for the past ninety years. She said their father had been and continues to be very caring and has not stopped providing for their physical, financial and mental needs. She added that he was a disciplinarian who always made sure they did not go astray. Dr. Perbi prayed for long life and God's continued blessings for Prof. Nketia, on behalf of herself, their late mother and siblings.

On behalf of the grandchildren, Adjoa Konadu Perbi described their grandfather as a living example of the love that Peter described in the Bible. She said their grandfather had helped them to explore their talents and they were grateful that he did not insist that they practised his profession. She said he challenged them to be excellent and they found in him a friend they could talk to all the time. She said that all the grandchildren were grateful to be loved by a wonderful and inspiring man like Prof. Nketia.

Speaking on behalf of the in-laws, Mrs. Nora Sowa also congratulated Prof. Nketia and said she was grateful to God for his life and happy to be part of his family.

The toast was proposed by Prof. Alexander Adum Kwapong, who said that only a few people attain age ninety, hence there was the need to celebrate and congratulate Prof. Nketia. He recalled the exciting times they had together, while in active service in the University and noted that he and Prof. Nketia were

the only surviving original founding Fellows of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In his response, Prof. Nketia said he was grateful to God for the opportunity to celebrate this memorable day adding that he has had great moments in his life. He said he hoped that the Nketia Music Foundation (NMF) will manage his write-ups and support projects that emerge in the music industry.

Other invited guests and friends of the family also offered congratulations and words of encouragement to Prof. Nketia as well as gratitude for the impact he had made on their lives.

Emeritus Professor Joseph Hanson Kwabena Nketia is an Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Ghana, where he began teaching in 1952. He is a renowned Africanist, teacher, ethno-musicologist, composer, poet, linguist and sociologist, and a former Director of the Institute of African Studies of the University. He has composed for both Western and African instruments.

Emeritus Prof. Nketia is still active in the academia even though he retired thirty years ago. He recently performed live at the musical concept at the National theatre, which according to Media Excel Productions, organizers of the concept, was aimed at launching the “NKETIA MUSIC FOUNDATION”.

The University wishes him many more years of good health and cheer!