

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



CEGENSA-UNFPA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

ADDRESS BY:

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

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I bring you warm greetings from the University of Ghana. In celebrating this year's International Women's Day, it is delightful that the Center for Gender Studies and Advocacy in collaboration with the UNFPA has put together by a two-day webinar series on breaking the gender bias in academia, activism and leadership. Conversations shall be held with two of our distinguished professors on how they navigated and defied bias in their fields of work.

The CEGENSA-UNFPA International Women's Day events are in line with the key strategic priority of the University of Ghana-on *Gender and Diversity*, by which we aim to create a just and equal teaching, learning and work environment for all members of the university community. Over the years, we have been working at creating an environment which is free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. It may please you to know that the University of Ghana is the first university in Ghana to develop a Sexual Harassment Policy. Last January, I inaugurated a new Anti-Sexual

Harassment Committee to address issues of sexual harassment and misconduct in the University. I have charged the fifteen-member committee to take relevant steps to prevent sexual harassment and abuse in the University; respond promptly and effectively to reports on sexual harassment and abuse in the University, and administer appropriate disciplinary measures to people who violate the policy.

Because the University of Ghana is determined to break every gender bias within its community, and in a sustainable manner, we shall not rest on our laurels just because we have an all-female set of principal office holders. We shall continue to work at ensuring that this historic feat trickles down to inspire, guide and create more opportunities for females within the University community. By this, I have personally been interested in mentoring female faculty, administrators, staff and students, having chaired the mentoring committee of CEGENSA some years ago.

In the next two days, as we celebrate two of our illustrious female academics and hold conversations with them on their activism,

leadership and pathways to flourishing in their fields of work, it is hoped that some latent intellectual and leadership potentials in many of you will be ignited, and many of you will be inspired to have bigger career aspirations. I also hope that you will feel empowered to rise above professional challenges at your respective levels. I hope that the stories of Professors Adomako Ampofo and Sekyi Dawson will move you out of your comfort zone, so you see possibilities, and build resilience to make great impacts in your society.

May I end by thanking you all for attending this event. Our profound thanks also goes to the UNFPA for supporting the Center for Gender Studies and Advocacy to put these events together. I am confident that this is just the beginning of many more collaborations towards the promotion of gender equality in this university and the entire nation.

I wish you all a reflective and invigorating International Women's Day Celebration. Have fruitful deliberation.