

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



2023 ALUMNI LECTURE

ADDRESS BY:

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VICE - CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

TUESDAY, NOV. 7, 2023

GREAT HALL

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



Our Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Tony Oteng-Gyasi,
Chairperson and Members of University of Ghana Alumni
Association Council,
Pro Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provosts, Deans, Directors, and Heads of Department,
Heads of Corporate Institutions present,
Cherished Alumni of the University,
Faculty, Staff and Students,
Specially Invited Guests and Dignitaries present,
The Press,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen assembled here in the Great
Hall and those joining us virtually;

Good evening to you all.

I am excited to chair the 2023 Alumni Lecture which happens to
be the 35th alumni lecture, and our anniversary year lecture.
Since the establishment of the alumni lecture series in 1974, it has
provided the platform for distinguished alumni of the University of
Ghana, who have excelled in different fields of endeavor, to share

insightful perspectives on very interesting topics of national interest and sometimes global interest.

Today's lecture will be delivered by one of our very own, who served as Chair of the University Council from 2006 to 2009, and a renowned personality within the manufacturing and industrial sector in Ghana and beyond.

Dr. Anthony Oteng-Gyasi (popularly known as Tony Oteng-Gyasi) takes us on a journey with a very topical, interesting and important subject of economic development, with illustrations dating from pre-independence to present day. As citizens of this nation, we yearn to experience development in all facets of our economy: education, health, finance, and public services among others.

For some it is believed that since the overthrow of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana is yet to experience aggressive and phenomenal transformational agenda that characterized his regime - the establishment of manufacturing companies and service corporations which provided decent employment to citizens as well as massive infrastructural expansions in the sector of roads, electricity, water, and healthcare just to name a few. which accelerated our national development.

Successive governments have touted all kinds of achievements, each trying to outdo previous governments in rhetoric as the best performing government of all time. However, despite these proclamations, Ghana keeps finding itself going back to the IMF for economic bailouts, and we have done so now for the 17th time. Now, who or what is really the challenge here, could it be that our leaders are failing us? Are we are failing ourselves? Or is it a situation of double jeopardy. By the end of this lecture, I believe our distinguished lecturer would have helped us appreciate the bare facts surrounding Ghana's economic development from a pragmatic point of view.

As a university which seeks to remain increasingly relevant to national and global development, platforms such as these present opportunities to engage in dispassionate conversations, dissecting the thorny issues with scientific lenses to proffer workable solutions.

In today's presentation, our lecturer, as expressed in the synopsis, holds up a mirror to us, as a people and as a nation, it provides as with an opportunity to reflect. In the process, we see ourselves as other people see us. It is easy to identify a few individuals or groups of individuals at the helm of affairs and comfortably lay the blame

at their doorstep for having failed our beloved country. Are we justified? And is this all there is to our economic woes?

Dr. Tony Oteng-Gyasi critically examines the effect of qualitative issues such as culture, law and human behaviour in formulating growth and development policies for the nation Ghana.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as you may well see, the lecture has a rather interesting, and perhaps unexpected title, “***The fault, dear Brutus***”. For lovers of literature, we know that is a famous quote in William Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar. I will not attempt to narrate the context of this quote or even cite the full version of it, as I would not like to take the wind out of the sail of our distinguished lecturer. We will wait for him to tell us about the fault and where, or with whom it lies.

With the calibre of our distinguished lecturer, you can be assured that he will draw from his wealth of experience and background (as an economist, a lawyer and an entrepreneur par excellence) to make the lecture very relatable. I find the focus of this lecture very timely especially considering our current economic conditions as a nation and I look forward to recommendations which will spur us on individually and collectively in our quest for economic development.

Thank you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

7th November 2023