

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS AT THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

ADDRESS BY:

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

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023
CEDI CONFERENCE CENTRE & LEGON CENTRAL MOSQUE
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**



His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the
Republic of Ghana,

Chief Justice of the Republic, Her Ladyship Justice Gertrude
Torkornoo,

First Deputy Speaker of Parliament and the Honorable MP of
Bekwai, Mr. Joe Osei-Owusu,

Preacher for the Service, Very Rev. Prof. Kwabena Asamoah-
Gyadu,

The Honourable Deputy Minister for Education, Rev. Dr. Ntim
Foudjour,

Honourable Ministers of State and Members of Parliament,

Lady Chancellor, Mrs Mary Chinnery-Hesse and Lady Chair of
Council, Her Ladyship Justice (rtd) Sophia Akuffo,

Members of the Governing Council of the University of Ghana,

Former Chairpersons of the University Council,

Pro Vice-Chancellors, Registrar, Provosts, Deans, Directors, Heads
of Department, and other senior officers of the University,

Formers Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors, Registrars and
other Past Officials of the University of Ghana,

Director General of GBC,

Director General and Deputy Director General of Ghana Tertiary
Education Commission,

Vice-Chancellors, Registrars and Senior Officers of Sister
Institutions,

Corporate Executives,

Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni and Friends of UG,

The Press,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Praise the Lord.

A year ago, on 30th August 2022, the University of Ghana launched the celebration of its 75th anniversary. Following the successful launch held at a colourful ceremony in the Great Hall, very exciting and equally thought-provoking programmes have been held.

As a university, this anniversary has been a period of introspection and reflection. Having operated for the past seven and a half decades, there was the need to take stock of our achievements, make time to celebrate this significant milestone, but more importantly re-strategize for a more impactful 75 years ahead.

With this in mind, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I constituted the 75th Anniversary Planning Committee, a 22-member Committee, with the mandate to plan a year-long series of programmes that will culminate into the realization of a legacy project and other fundraising activities to undertake key infrastructural projects at the University. The anniversary celebrations were to be very engaging and to include all stakeholders of the University community (faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends of the University and our local communities). Under the direction of the two able Co-chairs, Prof. Akosua Adomako Ampofo and Prof. Clement Appah, and with support from the Secretariat headed by Mrs. Joanna Omaboe, the University has experienced a very vibrant and impactful anniversary year.

Mr. President, with your kind permission, permit me to walk you through highlights of our 75th anniversary journey. Selected photos of some of the events have been displayed in the brochure as well as screens mounted in the foyer of this very auditorium.

1. ANNIVERSARY THEME:

Our anniversary theme is – *“Nurturing Resilience, Adopting Technology, Embracing Humanism”*.

- Resilience: this component is inspired from the University's tenacity to stand tall amid challenges.
- Technology: Our quest to let technology drive all our processes is greater now than ever.
- Humanism: In our pursuit to create knowledge and produce expert human resources, we will not forget to pursue public good.

These concepts which make up the theme align with my key strategic objectives as Vice-Chancellor.

2. ANNIVERSARY LOGO

A logo competition was launched, and several entries were received from members of the University community. The review panel settled on the design from Dr. Kofi Sarpong Adu-Manu, a lecturer at the Department of Computer Science.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, the 75th anniversary logo is not only beautiful aesthetically as you can see but it also has very interesting and revealing emblems/symbols which I will share with you:

- **Colours:** Seventy-five in UG branded colours: (7) in gold and (5) in deep blue –

Gold: expresses dynamism and freshness.

Deep blue: demonstrates academic depth and serenity of the environment.
- **Symbols:**
 - Mframadan: This is an Akan symbol for well-ventilated dwelling. It is a symbol of fortitude and willingness to tackle life's ups and downs, representing “*resilience*”;
 - Human icon: representing *Humanism*
 - Circuit: circular in shape to show togetherness, representing *technology*,
 - Leaves: a symbol of life and growth.
- **UG logo** (Crest): Signifying the University of Ghana.

3. ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

- **Lecture-Type Programmes**

A total of four high-profile public lectures have been held on various topics of national interest.

- The first was an Energy Lecture delivered by Mr. Egbert Faibille Jnr., CEO, Petroleum Commission, Ghana in January this year. This lecture attracted many stakeholders with key takeouts to strengthen the energy sector.
- In March this year, the University hosted Mr. Manasseh Azure Awuni for a dispassionate dialogue on Ghana's 66th Independence. The lecture unearthed and reminded the audience of actions and inactions that have culminated in the Ghana we have today. He called on all to rethink and reform to build a prosperous nation.
- This was followed by a public lecture on the Economy by Dr. Yao Graham of the Third World Network Africa on a very important topic of restructuring the national economy for accelerated development.
- Through collaboration with the Harvard Centre for African Studies, the University hosted the 2023 JS Agyepong Distinguished Lecture on Public Health in Africa which also generated phenomenal feedback from participants. This lecture was delivered by Prof.

Peter Lamptey of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

- **Semi-Formal Interactive Programme**

- An Evening of Relaxation and Lessons in Resilience was held at JamRock Restaurant with Mrs. Elizabeth O. Olympio-Emanuel in February, and
- On March 6, 2023, Mr. Kwame Ametepee Tsikata, an artiste popularly known as M.anifest, engaged an audience, in this hall, in a conversation on the potential of the creative arts industry for national development.

- **Fun and Sports Programmes**

With support from the Sports Directorate and other units of the University, a number of sporting events were organized – two alumni health walks, students’ sporting events and staff games among others. Pupils of the University Basic School were not left out in the celebration.

- **Community Service**

Some of the humanistic initiatives during this anniversary year included a blood donation exercise, tree planting exercise and a mega health/psycho-social outreach programme which is planned for August 18 at the Madina Market for vulnerable individuals who ordinarily may not have access to such services.

- **Wear UG Day**

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, there's one more event for me to announce. The Planning Committee doesn't know about this. Academic Board nor Business and Executive Committee hasn't debated nor approved this. Your Excellency, I am instituting this by executive instrument. Today is our birthday. The Ordinance establishing the University College was passed by the Gold Coast Legislature on 11th August, 1948. On 11th October 1948, the formal opening of the University College took place in the Dining Hall of the western compound of Achimota School. So, if 11th August is our birthday, 11th October is our outdoor day. To commemorate our Day of Outdoor day, on 11th October, we will have a Wear UG Day. Irrespective of where you find yourself, once you are

a UG student, staff, faculty, alumni, friend or affiliate, on that day, wear something made from our beautiful 75th anniversary cloth, take a photo, post it on social media and hashtag it UGIS75.

- **Special Programmes**

- Special Congregation: At a Special Congregation held in April, eighteen (18) personalities who had distinguished themselves in various fields of endeavour were awarded honorary doctorate degrees of the University of Ghana.
- Day of Scientific Renaissance of Africa: Various units of the University held a series of events and community engagements to showcase the research work and innovations championed by the faculty, staff and students of the University of Ghana in the month of June.
- Anniversaries within the 75th Anniversary: While the University marked its 75th anniversary, a number of units and departments i.e: Medical School, Business School, Department of Communication Studies,

School of Graduate Studies, Regional Institute for Population Studies, School of Engineering Sciences, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Department of Political Science, the SRC and GRASAG, among others, held programmes to mark their anniversaries.

4. LEGACY PROJECT

Management of the University has approved the construction of a Student Experience Centre as the main UG@75 legacy project. The proposed project is a multipurpose avant-garde facility with state-of-the-art equipment which will serve as a one-stop centre for a variety of students' needs. A Leadership Training Centre and Incubation Hub are included to provide a space where University faculty, leadership, and students could nurture ideas and acquire leadership skills. Additionally, the Centre will house satellite offices of units that provide student services and respond to student needs, such as the Offices of the Dean of Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Students with Special Needs/Disabilities, Students Financial Aid Office and Careers and Counseling Centre. We will also have a Students' Clinic in there. Finally, to enable it

be income-generating, it should include multipurpose meeting rooms, spaces for commercial activities, such as banking, and a food court, and of course well-kept washrooms open to guests.

To complement donations received so far towards this project, a fundraising dinner will be organized in December 2023. We entreat our stakeholders to lookout for notices on this programme.

5. FUNDRAISING

Mr. President, it is worthy to note that University has received donations both in cash and in kind in support of the anniversary celebration and other special initiatives like the “one student, one laptop’, classroom modernization and hotspot comfort zones. I would like to appreciate support from the following:

- Graduate Students Association (GRASAG, Legon)
- SRC Development Fund Board
- Corporate Bodies – Grace-Filled Ventures, Energy Commission, GRIDCO, Ghana Chamber of Bulk Oil

Distributors, Bulk Oil Storage and Transport, New York
Construction Mall

- Bank of Ghana, FNB Bank, Ecobank, Republic Bank, Stanbic Bank, Stanbic Insurance and other financial institutions
- Phoenix Insurance, Mainstream Insurance, Google LLC
- Media Partners: Multimedia, Citi FM/TV, GBC, Radio Univers
- UG Alumni Association, UG Alumni Association UK-Ireland and Liberia (UGAAL), and the Church of Pentecost
- Internal Units – Department of Economics, West Africa Genetic Medicine Centre
- Various individuals

The 75th Anniversary Planning Committee has also identified two fundraising firms to raise funds for the UG@75 legacy project and other infrastructural projects at the University. This morning we signed the contracts to pave way for the process to begin.

You Excellency, Ladies and gentlemen, over the years, the University of Ghana has built a reputation as an academically strong institution, making it one of the preferred choices for academics, researchers, and students on the continent and beyond.

Since its establishment 75 years, UG has nurtured great minds who have contributed significantly to global and national development in practically all spheres of human endeavour. The history of our dear nation Ghana cannot be written and completed without acknowledging the instrumental contribution of men and women of valour who received their training from the University of Ghana.

Right from independence, through the various dispensations of our history as people, the nation has benefited from some of the finest UG brains for national development. In the field of Science, Applied Science, Business, Arts and Humanities, UG has been at the forefront of groundbreaking research and innovations. UG has produced astute legal luminaries who have distinguished themselves not only within the national jurisdiction but also on high-profile international assignments. Same can be said of the

education sector where we are pioneers in the tertiary education landscape.

When it comes to politics and governance, the impact of UG's distinguished alumni is felt both far and near. Out of the five Presidents of our fourth republic, three are UG alumni. In business, finance and economics, UG has produced astute bankers, captains of conglomerates, finance and economics experts, just to name a few. On the media landscape, UG's products have left indelible footprints as broadcast journalists and media practitioners. The University boasts of distinguished public servants, people in governance, diplomats, revered traditional rulers and amazing personalities in culture and the creative arts industry. Just name the field and UG's got the men and women blazing the trail there. As a university, we are super proud of our graduates and their distinguished service to humanity.

If the development of a society hinges on education and training, then the University of Ghana obviously needs to be applauded for spearheading tertiary education in Ghana, the West African sub-region and beyond.

My vision as Vice-Chancellor is to create a culture that promotes research, teaching and learning, administrative processes and

extension activities driven by technology and anchored in humanism. This vision aligns with our aspiration, as a University, to become a “*world class research intensive university*” with a mission to “*create an enabling environment that makes UG increasingly relevant to national and global development through cutting-edge research as well as high-quality teaching and learning*”.

Pertaining to students, my goal as Vice-Chancellor is to train students who are critical thinkers, technologically adept, humane, culturally sensitive and ready to provide leadership for the country, the continent and the world at large. Irrespective of the programme pursued, we are focusing on developing 21st century citizenry skills of our students and getting them ready for the fourth industrial revolution.

As we look forward to more prosperous years ahead, it is only right to acknowledge the goodness of God in the affairs of the University. From a humble beginning with very few students at the Achimota School, the University of Ghana has experienced tremendous growth in student population, teaching and non-teaching staff, academic units and programmes of study, among others.

On this glorious occasion, Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I can't possible end my remarks without acknowledging the pivotal role played by all stakeholders contributing to our enviable status as the leading university in Ghana, second best in West Africa and among highly ranked universities in the world.

1. To our cherished students (both past and present), thank you for making UG the most preferred university.
2. To our faculty and staff (past and present), we appreciate your dedicated service to the cause of the University.
3. To our alumni, we thank you for making the University proud in your respective fields of endeavour.
4. To our partners and donors, we appreciate your strategic collaborations.
5. To institutions who work closely with the University, we cherish your support. Special mention goes to the Honorable Ministers of Finance and Education for their support as we have tried to surmount challenges of our immediate past and present, and finally,

6. To the President of Republic, Your Excellency, we are very grateful for your unwavering commitment towards the University of Ghana.

Mr. President, while expressing our sincerest appreciation to you, I make a request for you to support our legacy project, the Student Experience Centre, to make our students experience a memorable one, as we seek to provide them with a holistic student experience.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, in wrapping up, UG says thank you to God and to all who have supported us for the past 75 years. We look forward to God's blessings as we re-energize for a more impactful 75 years and beyond. "The God of heaven will make us prosper and we his servants (students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends of UG) will arise and build" Nehemiah 2:20.

Long live University of Ghana and long live Ghana.

I thank you for your attention.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

11th August 2023