

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



COMMISSIONING OF UG STADIUM

ADDRESS BY:

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VICE - CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

FRI. MARCH 1, 2024

**SPORTS COMPLEX
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Your Excellency Vice President of the Republic of Ghana

Honorable Minister for Youth and Sports

Officials from the Ministry of Youth and Sports

Local Organizing Committee for the 2023 African Games

Ghana Sports Authority

Invited Guests

The Media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

University of Ghana is proud to host this iconic and magnificent stadium and other sports facilities.

The 13th African Games has brought enormous infrastructure development to the country, and the University of Ghana can boast of contributing and also benefiting immensely from the infrastructure projects.

Following the release of a 100-acre land at Borteyman to the Ministry for the construction of sporting facilities and the sod-cutting ceremony performed by His Excellency President of the Republic of Ghana in 2021, a state-of-the-art sports complex has been completed and commissioned by the President.

The University of Ghana now boasts of a newly constructed rugby stadium, warm-up track and field, and the completion of the University of Ghana

stadium. This investment promises to bring immense benefits to the development of sports in Ghana and the University of Ghana in particular.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana has always aspired and made efforts towards integrating sports into the academic curriculum. As champions and pacesetters, the university conquered Africa in tennis and won the West African University Sports Federation Games held at the University of Ile Ife in Nigeria this year. We have nurtured great athletes who are now in the various national teams, the likes of Azamati, who is now the national 100 meters record holder. The completion of these sport facilities will therefore complement efforts of the University Management to continue to promote sports in the country.

Let me now walk you through some facts about the stadium. The capacity of the stadium is 10,000 – 11,000. It has a VIP lounge, VVIP lounge, 3 sectors, several rooms which can be used for international competitions, with tracks and fields equipped with floodlights. As part of this project the Sports Directorate now has a modern and conducive office space, which arguably is the best in the country. The University of Ghana Sports Directorate has indeed played a very pivotal role in this narrative, liaising between the University and funders of the project.

The University of Ghana is hosting the Games Village at the UGEL Halls. Together with UGEL, the University gave the halls out to be refurbished and upgraded. We have also provided space to build three domes for clinic and hospitality.

Your Excellency, Honourable Minister, the University of Ghana is very conscious of the responsibility that goes with taking over these facilities after the games. The University is also aware of the perennial issues of maintenance and sustainability of such facilities and has braced itself. A committee was set up for the legacy project of the African Games well over a year ago to develop modalities for maintenance and a business model to run and maintain the facilities. After presenting their report, a broader committee has been formed to work on the operationalization of recommendations made. We are hopeful that by the time the stadium is officially handed over to the University, we will be prepared and ready to implement the legacy, maintenance, and sustainability initiatives.

We would like to assure you of our unwavering commitment to ensure that investments made in this project would yield enormous benefits for the foreseeable future.

On behalf of Management of the University we wish to express our sincere appreciation to His Excellency President of the Republic, Minister for Youth and Sports and the project implementation team for your commitment to the timely completion of the stadium.

We look forward to spectacular games and thrilling euphoria as we host the 2023 African Games from 8th- 23rd March 2024.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

March 1, 2024