

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



HOPSA UK@35 FIRE AND ICE BALL

ADDRESS BY:

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

HOPSA UK



Fellow Hopsans and Members of Hopsa UK

Special Invited Guests

Generous Patrons

Other Alumni Groups

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening,

I am elated to virtually participate in the celebration of HOPSA UK's coral anniversary. I was indeed honoured by the invitation to share in what has been themed the HOPSA-UK@35 Fire and Ice Ball. When you are dealing with HOPSANS, you can always expect something phenomenal. Although my busy schedule would not permit me to join you in person, I am glad that technology has found a way of bringing me to you all. What a way to

climax my birthday celebration today, than to share in the joys of my HOPSA-UK sisters who are commemorating the thirty-fifth year of their Association's existence.

I extend a hearty and warm Congratulations to all HOPSA UK members. Indeed, 35 years of the establishment of an Association outside its familiar Ghanaian territory is no mean feat. Such a celebration calls for extended periods of sober reflection and account taking, and I trust that each one of us seated here, or joining in virtually has taken count of our gains and losses over the last thirty-five years. As we prepare to take baby steps towards approaching the next 35 years, we need to strategize and correctly position ourselves while strengthening our resolve to increase our fortunes and minimize our losses. This will enable us to make significant and lasting impacts

in the lives of the individuals we will encounter in the coming years.

The theme undergirding the yearlong celebrations, **‘35 trailblazing years, together in sisterhood we rise!’**, is indeed suitable, as it chronicles the achievements of HOPSA-UK over the past years, provides opportunities for sober reflections and introspection, and subtly instructs us on the way forward. That said, we can all agree that we rise by lifting others and considering that we have all had a fair share of life’s travails, we can confirm that we could not have made it this far without each other’s support, the opinions and advice of our families, friends, and individuals, and our strong HOPSAN sisterhood.

Today, we all stand proud because of the sound transformative training we received at Holy Child School

during our formative years. Some of us went there when we were as young as 11, 12, 13. Some a bit older – 15 or 16. But still nimble enough to be moulded the Holy Child way. We have risen through the rank and file in our various organizations and societies, and championed the cause of gender equality and equity by rewriting the narratives that hitherto were stereotypical in nature. Regardless of the obstacles that life brought our way, we have managed to raise responsible children, maintained our positions as homemakers while impacting societies and institutions both home and abroad, hence I am certain that posterity will judge us kindly.

As we celebrate, we remind ourselves of our School's motto Facta non verba, Actions not words. I can confidently assert that many of us has lived up to the words of our

school's motto by remaining resilient, applying ourselves in our fields of endeavour, sowing seeds of dedication coupled with hard work and also persevered against odds to ensure that we attained our goals and chalked numerous successes in our chosen fields. Today, we stand tall and proud, counting the gains that HOPSANS have contributed to homes, institutions, companies, and countries around the world.

On such a memorable evening, I would like to commend HOPSA-UK for the sterling contributions it has invested towards the growth and sustenance of our alma mater, Holy Child School. Indeed, the journey has not been smooth sailing, but your invaluable support has been instrumental in the progress of an institution we are all privileged and proud to be associated with. I will urge you

that as we celebrate, let us not back bench the reason for our celebration which is the School. Given the demand and desire for secondary education (and rightly so), challenging economic situations, the complexities of raising children and young people in the 21st century, the School Administration has a herculean task of maintaining the discipline and standards that many of my generation and earlier are used to. I urge Hopsa UK to use its resources, networks and collective experience to provide support for the School. If a legacy project is not already in the works, I urge the Association to institute one, as a means of providing a lasting memory of this coral anniversary and giving back to the School that provided the solid foundation for what we have become today. I am confident that the Administration and staff, current and

prospective students and parents will be indebted to you for such an initiative. The path to achieving this will not be easy but given the tenacious attitude that I hear HOPSA UK has, I am certain this is more than achievable.

What pleasantly surprised me about Hopsa UK was when I learnt that you have a choir. It reminded me of schola cantata and Mr. Solomon (our music teacher back then). I hope there are some 'scholaristic' voices in there. I must commend you all for keeping such an initiative alive and running. I can tell that kind of commitment requires a lot of consistency and dedication, considering that each of you is saddled with tons of responsibility, but I trust the love and support you draw from each other keep you going at all times.

We cannot celebrate this anniversary without giving honour and recognition to whom it is due. Let me first and foremost pay homage to God for his goodness and grace over HOPSA-UK. Indeed, God's faithfulness, protection and providence have left a long-lasting impact on the lives of the Association's members. He deserves all the glory and honour for how far this Association has come, and HOPSA-UK deserves some applause for allowing Him to take the reins of these celebrations right from the onset, by commencing with a Thanksgiving Service.

On such a memorable night, it is only right to celebrate the three nuns through whom the vision of establishing Holy Child School was birthed, without their resilience and dedication, what we now refer to as our alma-mater would have remained a dream. In the spirit of

appreciation, allow me to doff my hat in recognition of all headmistresses (past and present), Board Chairs and members, Reverend Sisters and priests, teachers, administrative and support staff, students and of course HOPSANs around the world for keeping hope alive. Each of you has made invaluable contributions that has always made our Alma mater relevant and dominant.

Let me also commend the current leadership of HOPSA-UK, the tenth administration I'm told, for their efforts and dedication. Kudos to the team that also took charge of planning the yearlong celebrations, I'm sure each of us has had some memorable moments and experiences as well.

Finally, permit me to congratulate HOPSA-UK once again on attaining this 35-year mark, Ayekoo! You just have to do a rerun for me when next I am in the UK. Your

celebration is well-deserved, and I trust that the next 35 years will be filled with bliss, great testimonies, teamwork, unending successes, strong bonds of commitment and friendship. I look forward to a more functional Association which the School as its focus, and one that provides exceptional support for its members.

May the coming thirty-five years continually confirm that our success is highly dependent on each other so that our sisterhood grows in strength.

Do enjoy this Fire and Ice Ball, and be sure to network, interact, sing, and dance while you relax and dine.

Have a great evening.

Facta non verba.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

Hopsa UK@35 Fire and Ice Ball

September 30, 2023