

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



OPENING & MAIDEN MATRICULATION OF UG TARKORADI CITY CAMPUS

ADDRESS BY:

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

SAT. MARCH. 9, 2024

**UG TARKORADI CITY CAMPUS
TARKORADI**

HRM Nana Kobina Nketsia V, Paramount Chief (Omanhen) of the Essikado
Traditional Area and President of the Traditional Council,

Honourable Regional Minister,

Other Esteemed Traditional Rulers present,

Pro-Vice Chancellors,

Registrar,

Provost of the College of Education and other Provosts present,

Dean of the School of Continuing and Distance Education,

Other Deans and Directors,

Ag. Principal of The Takoradi City Campus,

Chairperson and Members of the City Campus Implementation Committee,

Faculty, Staff and Students,

Alumni and Friends of the University,

The Media,

Specially Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is heartwarming to be back home on this positive note for the official
opening of the University of Ghana Takoradi City Campus (UGTUC) and its

maiden matriculation ceremony. *(Maybe I qualify to say I am a “Tardi Girl” having lived in Sekondi and schooled in Takoradi.*

I am excited to see the realization of the University’s aspiration to extend its premium services to other regions across the country through the establishment of City Campuses. Exactly a week from today, we will be performing a similar ceremony at Kumasi to officially open the Kumasi City Campus as well.

The Takoradi City Campus started in 1962 as Takoradi Workers’ College. It was the regional branch of the then Institute of Public Education, and currently serves as a learning centre for our Distance Education programmes. After extensive consultation and recognizing the need for our presence in the region, Management of the University made arrangements to elevate its status to a City Campus from the 2021/2022 academic year.

As Vice-Chancellor, my aim is to bring the quality education offered at the main Legon campus to the City Campuses to enable us to have manageable numbers across the campuses to ensure quality teaching, learning and effective mentoring to nurture our students into citizens who are responsive to global challenges.

The Takoradi City Campus has accreditation to offer Bachelor of Science programmes in Administration with specializations in Insurance, Public Administration, Banking and Finance and Health Services Administration. Be assured that these programmes are comparable to programmes offered at the Legon and other campuses and are delivered through globally recognized and contemporary training modules. The programmes have been carefully

designed and tailored to meet the skills and development needs of individuals and firms, particularly within the catchment area.

The Management of the University is committed to continuously improving the teaching and learning environment, creating serene leaning spaces, with top notch faculty and staff to guide our cherished students. Provisions are also being made to incorporate co-curricular activities to provide holistic development.

With the strategic location of the campus in the heart of the port and oil city, we are determined to expedite action on infrastructural development to make it the preferred City Campus for students. We look forward to creating a world-class City Campus with the full complement of facilities and services to support the realization of the University's mission and vision.

I wish to commend the City Campus Implementation Team for your commitment to this task and to urge you not to rest on your oars to ensure that the established City Campuses are well resourced and nurtured to a state of semi-autonomy.

Mfantsefo se “adze wO fie a, oye.”. I encourage you to patronize the unparallel services being offered here at the Takoradi City Campus and recommend same to family and friend desirous of a world-class training from the premier University in Ghana.

On this note, I would like to thank you for your kind attention.

MATRICULATION ADDRESS

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2023/2024 matriculation ceremony. Hearty congratulations to all of you fresh men and women who have gained admission to pursue various programmes of study here at the University of Ghana Takoradi City Campus. We are honoured that you made University of Ghana your first choice, having decided to pursue higher education and worked extremely hard to qualify for admission to the premier university in Ghana. Indeed, you could not have made a better choice as your academic journey ahead promises to be rewarding, fulfilling, and enlightening within this conducive learning environment coupled with lectures from excellent faculty, and support services from committed staff. The University of Ghana has endless possibilities to offer.

As a tradition of the University, matriculation ceremonies provide an opportunity for newly admitted students to be officially inducted as Junior Members of the University community. During the ceremony, you will be expected to take the **Matriculation Oath** which is a solemn pledge to be obedient to the Vice-Chancellor and all those in whom authority has been vested in this University. It is an undertaking to be of good behaviour, throughout your time as students here, promising to maintain order and discipline in everything you do. On February 17, your colleagues had the opportunity to participate in this all-important ceremony at the Legon Campus.

As students, you are expected to contribute your quota to enhance the University's image wherever you find yourself, ensuring that you do not do

anything to bring the name of the University into disrepute. I encourage you all to participate actively in all University activities and be committed to your studies.

Dear students, you have joined us at a time when the University is committed more than ever to transform student experience to be at par with world-class universities in advanced countries. Through the Vice-Chancellor's digitalization agenda, lecture halls have been refurbished and fitted with state-of-the-art technologies to enhance teaching and learning. The Takoradi City campus has not been left out. Under the one student, one laptop initiative (1S1L), 384 laptops have been distributed to needy and brilliant students to support academic work. Sod-cutting ceremonies have been performed for the construction of Hotspot Comfort Zones. These are serene spaces to provide students opportunities for relaxation in between lectures. With the official opening of the Takoradi City Campus, you can be assured that efforts would be scaled up to rope you unto these programmes.

You may have heard about the UG@75 anniversary which was observed in grand style last year. As a legacy project for the 75th anniversary celebration, a Student Experience Centre will be constructed. The project as envisioned will be a one-stop centre with the full complement of resources, services and opportunities tailored towards student needs.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Let me now turn my attention to admission updates. For the 2023/2024 academic year, the University received a total of **60,044** undergraduate applications. We were, however, able to admit a total of **29,758**. Out of the number admitted, **11, 548** students made up of **56.6%** females and **46.4%** males enrolled for various programmes in all our campuses.

Breakdown of Enrolment According to Colleges

COLLEGE	ENROLLED STUDENTS
College of Health Sciences	791
College of Humanities	4,366
College of Basic and Applied Sciences	2,557
College of Education	2,081
City Campuses	1,753
Total	11, 548

The University is committed to its policies which provide higher education opportunities to applicants who would not have had access through:

- The Affirmative Action Policy for Women;
- Concession for applicants from Less Endowed Schools;
- Admission of Student Athletes;
- Admission of Students with Special Needs;

Unfortunately, the University turned down the applications of many qualified individuals who wanted to study at the Legon campus because of inadequate facilities and resources to support the large intake. We therefore encourage prospective students and guardians to seriously consider the programmes on offer at the various City Campuses to increase their chances of gaining admission to pursue a programme with the premier University.

Statistics from the Takoradi City Campus indicate a total of 24 fresh students have enrolled for this academic year. Though there are no international students from this year's enrolment, we look forward to welcoming them in order to enrich the educational experience of students and make them culturally adaptable to contribute positively to an increasingly diverse world.

With our collective support, we are hopeful to increase this number in the coming years to build a vibrant and exciting learning community.

ACCOMMODATION

Management is committed to exploring all possible avenues to provide decent residencies for students across all campuses to ensure that, students have the peace of mind to pursue their academic work.

(We could add on if there are specifics plans for the TCC).

FINANCIAL AID

The University of Ghana continues to promote an inclusive learning environment for all, irrespective of financial status. Along these lines, the Student's Financial Aid Office, with support from donors bring respite to the numerous needy and brilliant students. During the 2022/2023 academic

year, the University of Ghana out of its internally generated funds awarded 280 students tuition scholarships. The SRC also funded 238 tuition scholarships. Beyond this, our external partners supported nearly 2000 students with partial and full scholarships.

Needy students are encouraged to look out for calls for various scholarship applications on the University's website and via mail to apply. Administrative Officers could be contacted for details. Students could also explore the Students' Loan Trust Fund for financial support. Contact details to the fund have been provided in your admission letters.

SECURITY ON CAMPUS

Security is everyone's responsibility, from personal safety, safekeeping of personal belongings to protection of university properties. The University of Ghana has deployed a number of measures to protect lives and property and maintaining law and order. Students are however cautioned to avoid isolated places, especially at night and report every unusual occurrence promptly to the security office for immediate action.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

It is said that a healthy mind lives in a healthy body. Ensure that you engage in healthy lifestyles; eat the right kinds of food, have regular exercise and rest properly to give your body the needed vitality to pursue your academic goals. Remember that it is compulsory for all fresh students to be medically examined. Please ensure that you undertake the medical examination, it is for your own good.

COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The University is an exciting place but can also be emotionally stressful. The Careers and Counselling Centre has therefore been set up to provide guidance and counselling services. **Plans are underway to extend their support services to the Takoradi City Campus.** Once they set up, take advantage of their professional services, and speak to the counsellors about your emotional and psychological wellbeing.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

As young adults, you have a lot of energy, ambitions, and dreams. Channel your energy and curiosity into productive ventures. Engage in extra-curricular activities, join helpful associations and clubs, engage in volunteerism, learn a skill, and develop any innate talent you may have. Chase your dreams and be the best versions of yourself by the time you complete your programmes.

EXCELLENCE, DISCIPLINE AND RESPONSIBILITY

As students, ensure that your actions are guided by the core values of the University; loyalty, respect, integrity, and commitment. Excellence in your academic journey can only be attained if you have the right balance of studies, recreation, and religious activities.

Please note that the University is governed by rules and regulations and breaking these rules attracts various forms of sanctions. Always be conscious not to involve yourselves in group actions that will land you in trouble with university management. I urge you to read the University Regulations for

Junior Members and acquaint yourselves with expected behaviours as Junior Members. Also, access your e-mails regularly, visit the University's website www.ug.edu.gh and social media handles for updates and notices.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I urge you to always keep the primary aim of being here in mind and work judiciously towards achieving it.

On behalf of the University Council, Management, Members of Convocation and on my own behalf, I congratulate you once again on your admission and welcome you warmly to this exciting learning community. I wish you a pleasant and fruitful stay. Thank you and God bless you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

(March 9, 2024)