

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE ONE STUDENT ONE LAPTOP INITIATIVE

THEME:

“SUPPORTING THE NEEDY STUDENT IN THE NEW VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT”

ADDRESS BY:

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022
R.S AMEGASHIE AUDITORIUM, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

His Excellency Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana;

Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum; Guest

Speaker, Dr. Emmanuel Adu-Sarkodee;

Pro-Vice-Chancellors; Registrar.

Provosts, Deans and Directors;

Dean of University of Ghana Business School, Professor Justice Bawole; School Administrator and Heads of Department in the Business School; Faculty, Staff and Students of the University and others joining us;

The Media; Invited

Guests;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning to you all and a warm welcome to the University of Ghana and in particular, the University of Ghana Business School. While extending my best wishes to you in the new year, It gives me so much joy to be starting off the year on this benevolent note of giving back to less-privileged members of the University community through this proud and commendable initiative of the University of Ghana Business School with support from our generous sponsors.

The University of Ghana Business School has once again distinguished itself as a formidable unit of the University, setting the pace on this highly commendable venture.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour for me to be here today as Chairperson for the launch of the Laptop Award ceremony, on the theme: **“Supporting the needy student in the new virtual learning environment”**.

I am exceptionally excited about this initiative as it aligns with my vision and indeed that of Government, to increase access to online teaching and learning resources in our educational sector.

As VC, my second KSO is to develop technology-driven and robust processes in research management, teaching and learning and other institutional processes. And what we are doing today directly support the realization of this KSO.

It is a glaring fact that with the advent of COVID-19, the virtual mode of teaching and learning has been mainstreamed. This mode which is technology-driven requires students, staff and faculty to have access to personal/handheld smart devices. This initiative is therefore very timely and thoughtful, targeted at the most vulnerable within the community who could potentially be disadvantaged due to their inability to acquire such devices to facilitate their studies.

Prof. Justice Bawole, Dean of UGBS and your hardworking team, together with all who have supported the realization of this worthy course, I say

'ayekoo' for spearheading this initiative for our needy students. This obviously demonstrates the tenacity of the leadership and management of UGBS, with the support of the dedicated team of staff, committed to promoting the University's vision of becoming a world-class University.

Ladies and gentlemen, during this ceremony, about forty (40) laptops will be given out to students identified through a rigorous process of selection. This laptop award is a giant step which complements existing opportunities by the University to bridge the inequality gap in accessing quality education. This undoubtedly makes the University not only academically sound but more importantly, socially responsive.

The agenda to provide laptops to students to facilitate their academic work has been on the front burner and as you may recall during my induction speech, I made a special appeal to HE Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic, who is a cherished alumnus of this great University to assist the University in that regard.

In furtherance of the aspiration of providing a laptop to each student, a committee has been constituted to spearhead this vision and ensure its realization.

Your Excellency Alhaji Bawumia Vice-President of the Republic, your dedication and commitment to the government's agenda of digitalization has been widely noted and commendable. It is known fact that technology is a key driver of economic growth. Application and integration of technology allows for more efficient production of goods and services and its payment as well as ensuring innovation and improvement in processes. In effect, this translates into a more productive economy. As a champion of the digitalisation agenda, we are hopeful that we could count on your usual support to make the one-student-one-laptop aspiration a reality.

The need for our students to own laptops for their studies is needed now more than ever because this new order has come to stay and as institutions of higher learning, we must take practical steps to make teaching and learning easier and effective for our staff and students. The University has

taken faculty and staff through various forms training, geared towards ensuring a seamless process of transition.

Your Excellency, Honorable Minister of Education, Special Guest of Honour, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is my belief that this launch will serve as a major springboard to the realization of the vision of one student, one laptop and motivate corporate institutions and individuals to support this worthy course.

I thank you for your kind attention.