

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**VICE CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS AT THE DEAN'S HANDING OVER CEREMONY
– UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SCHOOL OF LAW**

ADDRESS BY:

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

THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2025

**SCHOOL OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

- *His Lordship the Acting Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana, Justice Paul Baffoe-Bonnie,*
- *The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Dr. Dominic Ayine,*
- *Justices of the Supreme Court of Ghana, notably His Lordship Justice Gabriel Scott Pwamang,*
- *The Deputy Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Dr. Justice Srem-Sai,*
- *Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research, Innovation and Development of the University of Ghana, Professor Felix Ankomah Asante,*
- *Provost of the College of Humanities, Professor Joseph Awetori Yaro,*
- *The President of the Ghana Bar Association, Mrs Efua Gharthey,*
- *The Secretary of the Ghana Bar Association, Mr. Kwaku Gyau Baffour,*
- *The President of the Greater Accra Regional Chapter of the Ghana Bar Association, Ms. Isabel Boaten,*
- *Learned Members of the Bar and Bench,*

- *Distinguished Members of the General Legal Council of Ghana,*
- *The Outgoing Dean of the University of Ghana School of Law,*
Professor Raymond Atuguba,
- *The Incoming Dean of the University of Ghana School of Law,*
Professor Peter Atupare,
- *Deans, Directors and Heads of Units of the University of Ghana,*
- *Members of the School of Law Management Committee*
- *Faculty and Staff of the School of Law,*
- *Alumni,*
- *Students,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen:*

Good afternoon.

It is an honour and a pleasure to join you today for this important milestone in the life of the University of Ghana School of Law – the handing over of leadership from our distinguished Dean to another. I am glad to be here to join you to celebrate someone who has made a truly lasting mark on our university - Professor Raymond Atuguba, or as I like to call him, *my Dean*. You see, that's my remotest

connection to legal education, hoping that that will earn me at least a diploma in law, if there's anything like that.

In every university setting, and especially within the University of Ghana, the office of Dean is not just a position of administrative responsibility but also one of vision, courage, and service. **Vision**, because the world we live in as academics is in a constant state of change and it takes a visionary to chart a path that propels the institution a thousand steps farther and higher than where it was when they assumed office. **Courage**, in that a leader must take bold – and sometimes unpopular – decisions. And **service**, because the Dean must balance and serve the interests of faculty, staff, students, and the broader university community. These are the hallmarks that have defined Dean Atuguba's tenure. Today, as we witness the end of a race well run and the passing of the baton, we pause to celebrate excellence, continuity, and the promise of a bright future.

On behalf of the University community, I extend my deepest gratitude to the outgoing Dean, Professor Raymond Atuguba, for his exceptional leadership. Professor Atuguba has been many things over the past six years - leader, innovator, diplomat, mentor - but most of

all, a builder. He's changed the story of the School of Law. When we talk about transformation, we usually think of it as a buzzword, but Professor Raymond Atuguba has shown us what it *actually* looks like.

Over the past six years, he has guided this School with purpose, professionalism, and poise. Under his tenure, the School of Law has made great strides that have brought pride not only to its members but to the entire University of Ghana.

Among the many notable achievements, permit me to highlight a few that I have been involved in, directly and indirectly:

- During his tenure, the School successfully hosted the **first-ever International Conference on the Future of Legal Education in Ghana and Africa** in 2021, drawing academics, lawyers, judges, policymakers, and students from across the continent. This event, attended by the heads of all three arms of Government, not only fostered critical reflection on legal education reform but also affirmed the School's leadership in shaping the future of legal scholarship in Africa, and opened the

doors to further research and academic collaborations in the School of Law.

- Through Professor Atuguba's leadership, the School **expanded its research footprint**, establishing a research fund and launching impactful initiatives and policy dialogues in areas such as constitutional law and governance, technology and data governance, human rights and justice, and ocean governance, among others. These efforts have positioned the School as a hub for progressive legal thought in Africa.
- Professor Atuguba's commitment to continually improving the teaching and learning experience has been evident in the outstanding performances of our law students at national and international competitions. Year after year, they have visited my office to present various awards and trophies, raising high the flag of the University – and indeed, the entire nation. It is thus of no surprise that the University of Ghana School of Law annually maintains the highest pass rates into the Ghana School of Law.

- Professor Atuguba is also a connector. He has a passion for international collaborations. Over the years, he's quietly built a global network for the School, creating partnerships that have opened up opportunities for research, exchange (for faculty staff and students), and fresh ideas. He's helped make the School of Law a player on the world stage.
- And then there's his love for new ideas—he's expanded the academic offerings with creative new programmes, including master's degrees not only for lawyers, but also for professionals in other fields who need to engage with the law. That's bold thinking, and it's made legal education more accessible and more relevant.

The School's curriculum review and digitisation efforts have been exemplary. By embracing more flexible, practice-oriented teaching while enhancing digital access, the School has aligned seamlessly with the University's broader vision of academic transformation.

- He's overseen real infrastructure development. The groundbreaking for the new School of Law building complex brought us all great joy and hope, and we eagerly anticipate its speedy completion.
- Perhaps more importantly, he's invested in faculty and staff development. Staff and student welfare has remained a priority for Dean Atuguba. We have seen improvements in administrative systems, increased opportunities for staff development, and stronger student engagement.

On a personal note, I've always appreciated his wisdom. Whenever I needed a sounding board, Professor Raymond Atuguba was there - with quiet, thoughtful counsel. Always calm, always kind, always on point.

Ladies and gentlemen, these accomplishments are no coincidence. They are the result of deliberate, strategic leadership and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Dean Atuguba, your tenure has left a legacy that will endure, and on behalf of the entire University, I applaud your service to the University of Ghana School of Law, the College of Humanities and the University as a whole. Now

that you are stepping down, I must say I'm very much looking forward to chairing your inaugural lecture early next year. That will be another chance to reflect on your journey, and to celebrate your scholarship.

To our incoming Dean, Professor Peter Atupare, congratulations on your appointment! You assume this role at a time of both great opportunity and great responsibility. We are confident that you will build on the strong foundation you inherit and advance the School's vision even further, with your ideas, energy, and unique leadership.

Management of the University remains committed to supporting the School of Law in its mandate to train the next generation of legal scholars, private practitioners, and public servants – not only for Ghana but for the continent and the world.

Let me conclude by acknowledging all Faculty, Staff, and Students of the School. The strength of this institution lies not only in its leadership but in the collective commitment of its community. I urge you to continue to work together to uphold the School of Law's reputation as a beacon of legal excellence.

Professor Raymond Atuguba, thank you for being such a gift to the University of Ghana. You've led with heart, with vision, and with purpose. And don't worry, we're not letting you go too far. You'll always be *our dean*.

Once again, congratulations to both the outgoing and incoming Deans. We wish you both success in your next chapters.

May God bless the University of Ghana School of Law.

May God bless the University of Ghana.

May God bless our homeland Ghana.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

31st July 2025