

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**OPENING REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AT THE LAUNCH OF THE JUNIOR
CHAMBER OF THE GHANA NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

ADDRESS BY:

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025

UGBS Amegashie Hall

University of Ghana

- *Chief of Staff, Office of the President and Special Guest of Honour for this Launch, Honourable Julius Debrah,*
- *Minister of Education, Honourable Haruna Iddrisu*
- *Minister for Youth Development and Employment, Honourable George Opare Addo*
- *Member of Parliament for Ayawaso West Wuogon Constituency & Deputy Minister for Agric, Honourable John Dumelo*
- *Registrar of the University of Ghana, Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah,*
- *President of the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Stephane Meizan*
- *Managing Partner of Blacksmith Africa Consulting, Dr. Boahemaa Ntim*
- *Deans, Directors, Heads of Department*
- *Distinguished Representatives of the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry,*
- *Captains of Industry,*
- *Student Entrepreneurs,*
- *The Media,*
- *Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a profound honour and a distinct pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Ghana for the official launch of the *Junior Chamber of the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI)*.

We are especially grateful to have with us today such esteemed guests including senior government officials and key industry players. Your presence is not only deeply appreciated but also serves as a powerful reminder of the premium we all place on ensuring that our young ones contribute meaningfully to national development.

As a university, our aspiration is to transform lives and societies through unparalleled scholarship, innovation, and result-oriented discoveries. Strategic collaborations such as these are crucial to achieving this aspiration.

This programme also aligns perfectly with two of our Strategic Priorities – the first priority area *Transformative Student Experience* where learners are appreciated as co-creator and innovators and the fourth Strategic Priority which emphasizes *Engagement and Partnerships*. The University of Ghana recognizes the importance of building strong partnerships with industries, government, civil

society organization and other academic institutions. These relationships, grounded in mutual respect, catalyze innovation, reinvigorate our practices and amplify our influence.

We believe that meaningful partnerships are critical to advancing our mission of excellence in teaching, research, and service. Through collaborations with government, industry, academia, and civil society, we are able to expand learning opportunities for our students, drive impactful research, and contribute to national and global development.

This morning's launch is more than just a ceremonial event; it marks the beginning of a powerful and promising journey. A journey where our students, empowered by vision and supported by experience, will boldly take their place in shaping the future of Ghana's economy.

The establishment of this Junior Chamber reflects a shared belief that the development of our nation must be grounded in partnerships that link academia with industry. Through this collaboration between the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the University of Ghana, we are planting a seed

that we hope will grow into a thriving forest of young, resilient, and globally minded entrepreneurs.

At the University of Ghana, we are committed to nurturing students who are not only academically sound, but also socially responsive and economically agile. The Junior Chamber will offer a vibrant platform where entrepreneurial dreams can find structure, where bold ideas can be tested and refined, and where students can benefit from the mentorship, networks, and capital needed to bring those ideas to life.

It is this kind of practical engagement that strengthens university education, making it more purposeful. Whether it's through mentorship, networking opportunities, access to grants or business incubators, we envision a future where students will not just graduate with degrees, but with businesses, partnerships, and a strong sense of mission.

Let me take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its continued investment in youth empowerment, and to our faculty and staff for their consistent drive to link teaching and research to national development priorities. I also acknowledge the passion and leadership of the Careers and Counselling Directorate and the

University of Ghana Business School for championing this initiative from conception to execution.

To our students, this chamber is yours. Use it. Shape it. Grow with it. Let it be a launchpad for your aspirations, and a community where you can collaborate, learn, fail, rise, and ultimately thrive.

To our partners in government and industry: your continued support is vital. Let us deepen this collaboration so that together, we can build an entrepreneurial ecosystem that is inclusive, innovative, and future-ready.

May this initiative grow stronger with time, and may it empower a new generation of Ghanaian entrepreneurs who will lead with integrity, creativity, and vision.

Thank you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

2nd July 2025