

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH AT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH EXPANSION PROJECT**

ADDRESS BY:

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

**MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

- *Pro-Vice Chancellor (ASA),*
- *Provost of the College of Health Sciences,*
- *Deans and Directors,*
- *School Administrator,*
- *Faculty and Staff,*
- *Our Cherished Alumni,*
- *Distinguished Students,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Good morning and happy new year to you all.

I am delighted to join you this morning for the commissioning of four important additions to the School of Public Health: a **PhD Wing**, an **Alumni Lounge**, a **Baby Lounge**, and a **Canteen**. Each of these facilities has been designed not simply as brick and mortar, but as a tangible expression of our commitment — to excellence in research and teaching, to the well-being of our students and staff, and to a lifelong connection with our alumni.

This morning, I had the opportunity to tour some of your modernized classrooms and the new biometric system installed to monitor students' attendance at lectures. I am informed that this will also be extended to staff to verify overtime claims.

The School of Public Health in the last few years has expanded

its research capacity and collaborations in fulfilment of its mandate to train public health practitioners who will be leaders and change agents for health development in Ghana and the wider African context.

The PhD Wing is at the heart of our university's strategy to deepen research capacity and produce the next generation of thought leaders by providing dedicated space, quiet zones for concentrated work and meeting rooms for supervisory discussions. Commissioning of the PhD Wing advances the university's second priority to promote impactful research output and graduate training. This focused and well-resourced environment will strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration and raise the visibility of our doctoral outputs. In essence, this means higher-quality dissertations, more competitive grant applications, and greater capacity to lead policy-relevant research that benefits communities across our nation and beyond.

The Alumni Lounge responds to an equally important long-term objective which is to strengthen the bond between the School of Public Health and its graduates. Alumni are a living repository of institutional memory, a source of mentorship, and often our most effective ambassadors and partners. This dedicated lounge will

serve as a welcoming hub for alumni returning to campus, a comfortable venue for networking events, professional education sessions, and collaborative workshops with current students and faculty. By making space for regular, meaningful interaction, we not only honour the achievements of our past students but also channel their experience and resources into internships, research partnerships, and career pathways that enrich teaching and learning for generations to come.

The Baby Lounge reflects our commitment to inclusivity, dignity and support for all members of our community — especially student-parents and staff with caregiving responsibilities. A safe, hygienic, and private space for breastfeeding and childcare on campus reduces barriers that often force talented early-career scholars and staff to choose between family responsibilities and academic or professional advancement. By normalizing and supporting parenting within the academic environment, the Baby Lounge helps retain high-performing staff and students, contributes to mental and physical well-being, and ensures that capable individuals can continue to contribute fully to teaching, research and service without compromise. This lounge sends a clear message: that this university embraces all its people, in all

stages of life, with dignity and care.

The new Canteen completes this set of facilities by addressing a critical need: creating a healthy, accessible, and sociable dining environment. Mealtimes are not merely about nutrition; they are informal classrooms where ideas are exchanged, mentorship begins, friendship grows and collaboration is sparked. A modern canteen which provides varied and affordable meal options, and space for small-group conversations will enhance campus life, improve concentration and productivity, and provide a safe place for students and staff to connect. In supporting everyday well-being, the canteen indirectly supports higher academic performance and better research outcomes.

Ladies and gentlemen, these additions together with the existing academic facilities, faculty and staff form a strategic ecosystem — a place where rigorous scholarship is incubated, where our graduates stay connected and give back, where caregiving is accommodated with dignity, and where daily life on campus nourishes both body and mind. They reflect our belief that excellence in education and research must be accompanied by deliberate investments in people-centred infrastructure, a concept that I have personally upheld and promoted.

I wish to commend the Dean and Management of the School of Public Health, Director and staff of PDMSD, faculty, staff, students and alumni who supported these projects.

May these facilities serve us well, enhance productivity and inspire excellence.

Thank you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

(January 12, 2026)

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