

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH AT THE LAUNCH OF THE SECOND EDITION OF
THE CORPORATE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

ADDRESS BY:

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

**VVIP LOUNGE
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA STADIUM**

- *Corporate Executives,*
- *Representatives of participating organizations,*
- *Members of the University Community,*
- *Invited Guests,*
- *Director for Sport and Wellness and other staff of the Directorate*
- *The Media*
- *Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Good morning.

I am honoured to welcome you to the official launch of the **Second Edition of the University of Ghana Corporate Football League** — an initiative conceived to bring together the energy of our university community, the discipline of corporate teams, and the joy of the beautiful game of football. I am grateful for the invitation to be part of this event and for the collective effort that has brought us to this exciting moment.

When we launched the inaugural edition, we set out to do the following as we played matches, we wanted to:

- Strengthen the relationship between the university and corporate institutions.

- Provide an exciting atmosphere for corporate institutions to connect beyond the regular business meetings.
- Develop, nurture and grow friendships across departments and organizations.
- Promote employee wellness.
- Celebrate talent on and off the field.
- Create a tradition that reflects the values of the University of Ghana.
- Leverage on sports to pursue common interests and development goals.

The first edition achieved that — and more. It taught us what works, where to improve, and how sports can knit people together. The second edition we are launching today builds deliberately on these lessons. This year's league is about scaling impact. We have listened to feedback from players and spectators, and we have strengthened partnerships with sponsors and media.

A lingering question on the minds of some people may be; why does a university — a place primarily devoted to teaching, learning and research — invest time, energy and resources in running a corporate football league? The answer is simple yet

profound: **sport is an essential complement to education.** It nurtures leadership, discipline, teamwork, resilience and strategic thinking — competencies that classrooms alone cannot instil fully. When colleagues swap boardroom suits for jerseys, they learn about collaboration and teamwork, strategic thinking, and the commitment required to succeed. These same lessons improve workplaces, advance learning cultures, and make us better citizens.

Organising the Corporate Football League also advances organisational wellbeing. Regular physical activity reduces stress and improves mental health; teams that train and play together communicate better at work; and the sense of belonging that comes from shared goals strengthens institutional loyalty. For our sponsors and corporate partners, the league is an opportunity to invest in human capital, demonstrate corporate social responsibility, and connect with the vibrant youth and academic community at Legon.

Looking beyond the university, we must recognise that sport — particularly football — is a powerful engine for **national development.** Consider the ways sport contributes to progress:

- Health and productivity: Greater participation in sport reduces

the burden of non-communicable diseases and raises the general fitness and productivity of the workforce.

- Skills and employability: Sports programs open pathways for coaching, sports science, event management, media, and logistics — creating jobs and careers beyond the pitch.
- Social cohesion and inclusion: Football brings people across ethnic, generational and social lines into a common space. Shared support for a team fosters national unity and peaceful social interaction.
- **Youth development and talent pipeline:** University leagues are crucial stepping stones for young talent. By investing in coaching, refereeing and scouting at the university level, we strengthen the pipeline that feeds regional and national teams.
- **Economic activity and community development:** Matches generate local business for vendors, create opportunities for small-scale entrepreneurs, and can help catalyse investment in sports facilities and infrastructure.

When universities take responsibility for promoting sport, they unearth talents, invest in sharper minds, healthier bodies, stronger communities and ultimately creates a more cohesive community.

As we begin this second edition, let us commit to showcasing the best of what sport can be: fierce in competition, magnanimous in victory, humble in defeat, and always respectful of the opponent and the rules. To our players: play hard, play fair, and be ambassadors of the University of Ghana's values. To our coaches and officials: maintain the highest standards of safety and fairness. To our sponsors and partners: thank you — your support is the lifeblood of this league. And to the students, staff and community members here today: bring on the cheer. Your support transforms every match into an unforgettable experience. In closing, remember that every kick, every pass and every save in this league has the potential to ripple far beyond the field. By nurturing sports here at Legon, we contribute to healthier citizens, more vibrant communities, and a stronger nation. Let the Second Edition of the University of Ghana Corporate Football League be a model — for quality, for inclusiveness, and for impact.

It is now my pleasure to declare the Second Edition of the University of Ghana Corporate Football League officially launched. May the games be safe, the competition fair, and the spirit uplifting. Thank you — and let the football begin!

Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo
Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana &
Vice-Chair of the ARUA Board

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