

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE VICE-
CHANCELLOR AT THE LAUNCH OF AKUAFO HALL'S 70TH
ANNIVERSARY**

ADDRESS BY:

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VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

GREAT HALL

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON

Salutations and Protocol

- Our Guest Speaker - Minister for Food and Agriculture & Member of Parliament for Asunafo South, Honourable Eric Opoku;
- Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture & Member of Parliament for Ayawaso West Wuogon Constituency, Honourable John Dumelo;
- National Best Farmers Association of Ghana;
- Farmers of our dear nation;
- The Hall Master and Hall Council of Akuafo Hall;
- Alumni of Akuafo Hall;
- Fellows, Students and Staff of Akuafo Hall;
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen.

A Milestone of Excellence

It is a great honour for me to join you to mark a truly special milestone: the 70th anniversary launch of this Hall. It is also my pleasure to welcome you all past and present officers of the hall -

Council members, hall masters, tutors, staff, alumni and student executives. Your presence affirms the deep affection and commitment that this Hall inspires across the generations. I also extend a warm welcome to our special guests, particularly the Honourable Minister for Food and Agriculture and your able Deputy for making the time to participate in this grand launch marking a season of celebration for the Hall of Excellence.

For seven decades, this hall has been home to many young people and nurtured great minds including the former Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Aaron Mike Oquaye and Justice Prof. Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu. For the purpose of the much younger ones amongst us, it is worth noting that Akuafo Hall was an all-male Hall, until 1991, when its first batch of female students were admitted. One peculiar feature of Akuafo Hall is the institution of a chieftaincy system which plays an important role in student governance and serves as a symbol of our rich cultural heritage as a nation. It is therefore appropriate to leverage on this anniversary celebration to reflect on the impact of the hall and chart a formidable path in the years to come.

The theme chosen for this anniversary, "**70 years of cultivating excellence: Honouring legacy, inspiring tomorrow,**" is one that resonates deeply with the University of Ghana. For seven decades, Akuafu Hall has served our academic community well, embodying the spirit of its motto: *Laboremus et Sapiamus*—"Let us work and be wise".

The Legacy of the Farmers

As many of you know, Akuafu Hall was established with funds of Ghanaian farmers. Thus, Akuafu Hall reminds us about the immense contribution of Ghanaian farmers to the development of this nation and this University. It is often referred to as the "*Farmers' Hall,*" a title that carries with it a legacy of hard work, resilience, and growth.

Today, we honor that legacy not just by looking back at the past 70 years, but by looking forward to how that same spirit can fuel the future of Ghana's economy. It is therefore fitting that this launch is headlined by a critical discussion on "**Enhancing the Agribusiness Ecosystem: How can Ghana step up for her Youth?**"

A Call to the Next Generation

To our students and the young agricultural entrepreneurs joining us, this anniversary has been designed with you in mind. We have brought together a panel of experts who represent the pinnacle of leadership in the agribusiness sector to share insights that we hope will inspire your own journeys.

Our goal for today is simple: to ignite a conversation that bridges the gap between the legendary toil of our founding farmers and the innovative agribusiness opportunities of tomorrow.

Closing and Official Welcome

As Vice Chancellor, my role this morning is the simplest yet most important: to open the doors to this celebration. This anniversary belongs to the alumni who built the hall's reputation, the staff who maintain its standards, and the students who bring it to life every day.

We have an exciting programme of activities lined up for the anniversary, beginning with today's panel discussion. I encourage everyone to participate fully in the dialogues that will unfold.

On behalf of the University Management and the Akuafo Hall Council, I extend a very warm welcome to each and every one of you. Thank you for joining us to honour Akuafo Hall's legacy while inspiring tomorrow.

Welcome to the Great Hall, and Happy 70th Anniversary to Akuafo Hall!

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

March 5, 2026