

**OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**



**ADDRESS BY**

**THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AT THE 3RD KWAME GYEKYE MEMORIAL LECTURE**

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

**MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026**

**GREAT HALL  
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON**

- *Your Excellency Shem Amadi, Kenyan High Commissioner to Ghana*
- *Emerita Prof. Takyiwaa Manuh, Vice President (Arts Section), Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences*
- *Dr. Nancy Myles Baffour Gyamfi, Distinguished Lecturer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kwame Gyekye Memorial Lecture*
- *Prof. Wazi Apoh, Dean, School of Arts*
- *Other Deans, Directors and Heads of Department present*
- *Family and friends of Emeritus Professor Kwame Gyekye*
- *Faculty, Staff and Students*
- *Invited Guests*

Good afternoon.

It is with great honour and excitement that I accept to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kwame Gyekye Memorial Lecture—an event that continues to celebrate not only the legacy of a towering philosopher, but also the enduring relevance of African thought in shaping our contemporary world.

At the University of Ghana, we are guided by the following core values: integrity, commitment, respect and loyalty. These values resonate profoundly with the philosophical vision of Emeritus Professor Kwame Gyekye. His work consistently calls on us to think deeply, live ethically, and build societies grounded in

reason, communal responsibility, and human dignity. Today's lecture is therefore not merely commemorative; it is a continuation of an intellectual journey he helped to chart.

The theme of today's lecture - "*Prophecies in Contemporary Ghanaian Politics: Reflections from Kwame Gyekye*" - invites us into a conversation that is at once familiar and complex.

In Ghana, as in many parts of Africa, religion plays a significant role in shaping how people understand events, make decisions, and interpret the world around them. At the same time, we live in an era that increasingly emphasises data, evidence, and scientific reasoning, especially in matters of governance and public policy.

And if we are honest, in moments such as election seasons, these two ways of interpreting events sometimes meet in very interesting ways. One might listen to a political analyst presenting polling data, and shortly afterwards hear a confident prophetic declaration about the same outcome. It can make for lively conversations, sometimes even heated debates, across homes, campuses, and media platforms.

But beyond the humour and everyday observations lies a deeper set of questions, questions that are both philosophical and practical. How do we, as a society, engage different ways of

knowing? How do we ensure that our public discourse remains thoughtful, responsible, and grounded? And how do we navigate these issues in ways that promote both understanding and national development?

These are not questions with quick or simple answers. They require careful reflection, openness to dialogue, and a willingness to think critically about our assumptions. This is precisely why gatherings such as this are so important.

As a leading institution of higher learning, the University of Ghana sees its role not only as transmitting knowledge but also as creating spaces for meaningful conversation, spaces where complex issues can be examined with intellectual rigour and mutual respect.

We are particularly proud that this conversation is being framed through the intellectual legacy of Kwame Gyekye, whose work reminds us of the richness of African philosophical traditions and their relevance to contemporary challenges.

Ghana's continued progress depends, in no small measure, on the quality of our public reasoning. Whether in politics, policy, or everyday life, we must cultivate habits of careful thinking, respectful engagement, and a commitment to truth.

This is where the university community has a special responsibility. Our students, scholars, and alumni must be equipped not only with knowledge but with the intellectual discipline to assess claims, weigh evidence, and contribute constructively to national conversations.

As we proceed this afternoon, I encourage all of us to listen attentively, reflect deeply, and engage thoughtfully with the ideas presented. Let us approach the discussion with curiosity and a readiness to learn from one another.

Before I take my seat, let me express my sincere appreciation to the Department of Philosophy and Classics, the Gyekye Family, members of the planning committee, and all partners who have made this event possible. Your commitment ensures that the intellectual legacy of Emeritus Professor Gyekye continues to inspire generations.

I also look forward with great anticipation to the lecture by our distinguished speaker, Dr. Nancy Myles Baffour Gyamfi, whose reflections I am confident will challenge, enlighten, and provoke meaningful dialogue.

You are most welcome to the University of Ghana and to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kwame Gyekye Memorial Lecture.

**Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo**

**Vice-Chancellor**

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2026**