

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS AT THE INAUGURAL GHANA HIGHER
EDUCATION SUMMIT**

ADDRESS BY:

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**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026
CEDI CONFERENCE CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

- *Hon. Dr. Clement Abas Apaak, Deputy Minister of Education and MP for Builsa South, representing The Special Guest of Honour, H.E. Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana,*
- *Emeritus Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Keynote Speaker,*
- *Other Distinguished Panellists,*
- *Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors and Heads of Higher Education Institutions present,*
- *Provosts, Deans, Directors and Heads of Department,*
- *Representatives of Government, Industry and Civil Society,*
- *Chief Executive Officers and other Corporate Executives,*
- *Development Partners,*
- *Members of the Diplomatic Corps,*
- *Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni,*
- *The Media,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen.*

Good morning.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural Ghana Higher Education Summit and to the University of Ghana.

On behalf of the University, I extend a warm welcome to all

participants who have joined us from across Ghana and beyond for this important national conversation. Today, we gather not merely to discuss the future of higher education, but to examine one of the most pressing questions confronting universities everywhere: *“how do we sustainably finance higher education while ensuring that it remains inclusive, accessible, excellent, and relevant?”*

The theme of this Summit, **“Universities at Crossroads: Charting Sustainable Funding Pathways for Inclusive Higher Education,”** captures the challenge before us as well as the opportunity it presents. Higher education has never been more important to national development than it is today. Universities are expected to produce the next generation of leaders, drive innovation, produce impactful research that addresses societal challenges, support economic transformation, and contribute solutions to increasingly complex global challenges. Yet, the resources required to fulfil these expectations continue to dwindle.

Across the world, governments are grappling with competing demands on public resources. At the same time, universities are being called upon to expand access, strengthen research, deepen digital transformation, and enhance student success. The tension

between growing expectations and constrained resources is real. It is one that institutions across Africa and indeed across the globe continue to navigate.

In Ghana, the conversation has become particularly urgent. We must ask ourselves difficult but necessary questions;

- *How should higher education be funded in the years ahead?*
- *What responsibilities should be borne by governments, universities, industry, philanthropists, alumni, students, and society at large?*
- *How do we create financing models that are equitable and sustainable while preserving quality and expanding opportunity?*

These are questions that demand collective reflection and collective action.

The University of Ghana believes that these challenges are best addressed through dialogue, partnership, innovation, and evidence-based decision-making. That is what informed the establishment of the Ghana Higher Education Summit. Our objective is not simply to diagnose problems confronting Higher education but to collectively

identify practical pathways for strengthening the resilience and sustainability of our universities and ensuring that higher education continues to serve as a powerful force for national development.

This maiden edition focuses on financing higher education, and it brings together an exceptional group of stakeholders whose experience and perspectives are indispensable to this journey. We are honoured to host university leaders, policymakers, researchers, industry representatives, development partners, alumni leaders, and students. Your presence underscores the importance of this conversation and your commitment to shaping the future of higher education in Ghana and beyond.

Indeed, one of the central messages of this Summit is that sustainable funding cannot be achieved by any single stakeholder acting alone. The future of higher education depends on stronger partnerships across sectors. It depends on innovative approaches to resource mobilization, entrepreneurial thinking within our institutions, meaningful engagement with industry, robust support for research and innovation, strategic philanthropy, and active alumni participation. Most importantly, it depends on our collective

willingness to embrace change and reimagine the university of the future.

At the University of Ghana, we have embraced this challenge through our commitment to research excellence, strategic partnerships, digital transformation, and sustainable resource mobilization. We recognize that universities must be proactive in creating value, demonstrating impact, and diversifying their sources of support. However, we are equally aware that lasting solutions require collaboration across the entire higher education ecosystem.

I am particularly pleased that this Summit is intended not as a one-time event but as the beginning of an ongoing national platform for dialogue on Higher Education advancement and sustainability. The conversations we have today should not end when we leave this auditorium. Rather, they should inform policy, inspire partnerships, influence institutional strategies, and generate concrete actions that strengthen our universities for generations to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we commence this Summit, I encourage each of us to engage openly, think boldly, and contribute constructively. Let us challenge assumptions, learn from best practices, and explore innovative

ideas with an open mind. The future of higher education in Ghana is too important to be left to chance. It requires deliberate action, collective responsibility, and visionary leadership.

To all participants, thank you for being part of this historic inaugural Summit. I look forward to robust discussions, meaningful recommendations, and a shared commitment to building stronger, more resilient, and more inclusive higher education institutions.

It is now my pleasure to declare the Ghana Higher Education Summit 2026 officially open.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

August 26, 2026