

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR DELIVERED AT THE
INAUGURAL LECTURE OF PROFESSOR DANIEL KWABENA TWEREFU**

ADDRESS BY:

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

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

- *Pro Vice-Chancellors,*
- *Registrar,*
- *Our Distinguished Lecturer and Director of Academic Quality Assurance, Professor Daniel Kwabena Twerefou,*
- *Provosts, Deans, Directors and Heads of Department,*
- *Former Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors, Registrars and Other Officers of the University of Ghana,*
- *Corporate Executives,*
- *Members of the Diplomatic Corps,*
- *Esteemed Traditional Rulers,*
- *Eminent Clergy,*
- *Faculty, Staff and Members of Convocation,*
- *Alumni and Students,*
- *Family and Friends of the Lecturer,*
- *Invited Guests,*
- *The Press,*
- *Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.*

Good evening. It is my pleasure to chair this evening's inaugural lecture as we celebrate one of our distinguished scholars from the Department of Economics on his promotion to the rank of Professor.

It is often said that the greatness of a nation is measured not merely by the wealth beneath its soil or the abundance of its natural resources, but by the wisdom with which it stewards those resources. History reminds us that natural wealth alone does not guarantee prosperity. Rather, it is the quality of institutions, governance and leadership that determines whether a nation's resources become a blessing for generations or a burden for posterity. It is within this context that today's lecture is situated.

In his inaugural lecture, "**Ghana's Stewardship Paradox: Rich in Resources, Poor in Governance**," our distinguished lecturer, Professor Daniel Twerefou invites us to reflect on one of the defining questions of our time: How can a country so richly endowed with forests, rivers, minerals, fertile lands and biodiversity continue to struggle with environmental degradation and the sustainable management of these very resources?

The title is timely and provocative. It reminds us that environmental stewardship is not simply an ecological concern. It is a governance challenge, an economic challenge

and, ultimately, a human development challenge. I am sure the lecture will stimulate thoughtful discussion on how Ghana can better manage its natural wealth in ways that secure prosperity for both present and future generations.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is precisely why inaugural lectures remain one of the University's most cherished academic traditions. Beyond marking the promotion of distinguished scholars to the rank of Professor, they demonstrate our commitment to Impactful Research, our second strategic priority, by bringing scholarship into the public domain to stimulate debate, inform policy and contribute to national development.

Before our distinguished colleague takes the podium, permit me to share an abridged version of his profile. I encourage you to read the full profile at your leisure, for it reflects a remarkable academic journey and a distinguished career of scholarship and service.

PROFILE OF THE LECTURER

Professor Daniel Kwabena Twerefou is a Professor of Economics at the University of Ghana. His career spans more than two

decades of teaching, research, policy engagement and institutional leadership in environmental and natural resource economics. His work bridges academic research and policy to advance sustainable development, with major contributions in climate change, energy economics, environmental governance and sustainable development in Ghana and Africa. He has also played a significant role in strengthening higher education through quality assurance, curriculum development, institutional reform and the mentorship of future economists.

Educational Background and Professional Qualifications

Professor Twerefou holds a PhD in Economics from the Moscow State University of Instrument Engineering and Computer Science (1996–1999), an MSc and BSc in Mathematics from the Peoples’ Friendship University in Moscow, and completed his secondary education at Pope John Secondary School and Nkawkaw Secondary School. His strong foundation in mathematics and economics has underpinned his work in environmental valuation, climate modelling, energy economics and development policy.

Professional and Leadership Experience

Professor Twerefou joined the University of Ghana in 2000 and

was promoted to Professor in 2024. Since 2020, he has served as Director of the Academic Quality Assurance Directorate (AQAD), where he has strengthened quality assurance systems, digitised course and lecturer evaluations, championed AI integration into higher education, and led the development of self-paced pedagogical training. Under his leadership, AQAD was elevated from a Unit to a Directorate. Earlier, he served as Dean and Head of Department at Accra Technical University, contributing to curriculum reform during its transition to degree programmes. He also serves on several statutory and ad hoc university committees, including chairing the committee that developed the University's Artificial Intelligence Guidelines.

Consulting Experience

Professor Twerefou has consulted extensively for organisations including the World Bank, UNDP, AfDB, UNECA, IMF, EPA Ghana and NDPC. His major assignments include updating Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions, developing the Low-Carbon Development Strategy, Natural Capital Accounting Framework, Sustainable Development Goals framework for West Africa, and a Natural Resource Revenue Forecasting Model for Ghana, reflecting his strong influence on environmental and

resource policy.

Public Service and Contributions to Professional Development

Professor Twerefou has served on several national policy and advisory bodies, including Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions Committee of Experts and the National Mitigation Assessment Team. He also served on the UNESCO Commission for the Humanities and has led initiatives to strengthen quality assurance, teaching and learning policies, and professional development within higher education.

Teaching and Mentoring: Bridging Environment and Development

Teaching and mentorship remain central to Professor Twerefou's career. He teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in environmental economics, climate change, microeconomics, applied mathematics and statistics across several University of Ghana units. He has supervised over 20 PhD candidates, more than 100 masters students and about 30 undergraduate students. Beyond Ghana, he has served as a visiting scholar at several international universities and teaches environmental economics for the African Economic Research Consortium,

helping to build research capacity across Africa.

Research Interests and Publications

Professor Twerefou's research focuses on environmental and natural resource economics, climate change, energy economics and sustainable development. As a founding member of the Ghana chapter of the Environment for Development Initiative, he has advanced collaborative research and policy engagement. He has attracted substantial international research funding and authored over 60 academic publications and approximately 70 technical reports. His work has earned more than 1,500 citations and has been recognised in the AD Scientific Index 2026, ranking him among the top 9% of researchers at the University of Ghana and the top 5% of scientists in both Ghana and Africa.

Professional Affiliation, Conferences, Workshops and Editorial Experience

Professor Twerefou is an active member of leading professional associations, including the African Association of Environment and Resource Economists, the European Association of Environment and Resource Economists, the African Economic Research Consortium and the Environment for Development

Initiative. He regularly presents at international conferences, serves as a resource person for organisations such as UNECA and UNDP, and contributes to scholarly publishing through editorial board and peer-review responsibilities for several academic journals.

Family

Prof. Twerefou is married to Prof. Ildikó Csajbók-Twerefou of the Department of European Languages, University of Ghana. They are blessed with three children Stella Akoma Twerefou, Christine Asantewa Twerefou and Marcell Abrah Twerefou. Outside academic commitments, he enjoys socialising, music, movies and dance activities that replenish his intellectual energy.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have just been introduced to the scholar. We now have the privilege of hearing from the scholar himself. It is my singular honour to invite Professor Daniel Kwabena Twerefou to deliver his inaugural lecture titled "**Ghana's Stewardship Paradox: Rich in Resources, Poor in Governance.**" Thank you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

July 30, 2026

