OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

COMMISSIONING OF THE GRASAG-UG SUMMER HUT COMFORT ZONE CONSTRUCTED BY THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF GHANA, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA CHAPTER (GRASAG-UG)

ADDRESS BY:

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
LEGON

Pro-Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs,

Registrar,

Provost of the College of Humanities,

Dean of the School of Graduate Studies,

Dean of Students,

Deans and Directors,

President of GRASAG-UG and executives,

Graduate students,

Invited guests, Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning.

It is a pleasure to join you today for the commissioning of the GRASAG-UG Summer Hut Comfort Zone. This occasion represents more than the unveiling of a physical structure. It reflects our collective commitment to Transforming the Student Experience and creating an environment in which every student can learn, interact, collaborate and thrive.

At the University of Ghana, we recognise that the university experience

extends beyond lecture halls, laboratories, libraries and examinations. While academic excellence and research remain central to our mandate, the spaces in which students relax, exchange ideas, build friendships and develop a sense of belonging are equally important to a fulfilling university experience.

It is in this spirit that the University has, in recent times, witnessed the construction and commissioning of several Student Hotspot Comfort Zones across campus. These include the UG Alumni Association Hotspot Comfort Zone, commissioned in July 2025; the First Bank Ghana Hotspot Comfort Zone, commissioned in November 2025; the Rt. Hon. Alban Bagbin Hotspot Comfort Zone, commissioned in December 2025; and the Akuafo Hall Hotspot Comfort Zone, commissioned in March 2026.

These initiatives form part of the broader programme under my administration to enhance the student experience through digitalisation and the provision of student-centred facilities. They demonstrate our recognition that improving university life requires deliberate investments in the spaces and services that support our students beyond the formal

classroom.

Today's commissioning is another important step in that direction.

The University of Ghana Business School remains the largest school by student population within our graduate community. It houses and has produced people in academia, government and politics, corporate spaces and entrepreneurship. Consequently, providing an appropriate environment for graduate students to relax, interact and engage in informal academic discussions is both necessary and timely.

Although the UGBS Graduate School building already has a lounge in its basement, its seating capacity is limited. The Summer Hut Comfort Zone therefore provides an additional space to complement the existing facility and respond to the needs of our growing graduate student population.

We envisage that this facility will serve as a welcoming environment where students can take breaks between lectures, exchange ideas, build meaningful relationships and collaborate beyond formal teaching and learning sessions. Sometimes, a conversation outside the lecture room can inspire a new research idea, strengthen a professional relationship or

open the door to an important collaboration. We hope this space will facilitate many such opportunities.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to commend the Sadick Abubakari-led GRASAG-UG administration for this timely and commendable initiative. Student leadership is most impactful when it moves beyond identifying challenges to developing practical solutions that improve the lives of the people it represents. This project is an example of how student leadership can contribute tangibly to the development of our University.

I also encourage subsequent administrations of GRASAG-UG to sustain this spirit by pursuing innovative, practical and student-centred projects that respond to the evolving needs of graduate students. The true measure of student leadership is not only the activities undertaken during a tenure, but also the lasting value created for the University community.

I recall vividly an engagement I had with student leaders at the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge in February this year. During that meeting, a student

leader from the Korle-Bu Campus asked when satellite campuses would also benefit from the Student Hotspot Comfort Zones programme. I assured the student leaders that Korle-Bu and our other campuses remained very much on our minds and our heart.

Today, I am pleased that the UGBS Graduate Campus is benefiting from this programme. This is an encouraging development, and I hope that, as resources and opportunities permit, we will continue to explore ways of extending similar student-centred interventions to other parts of our University community.

To our graduate students, I wish to emphasise that you are important partners in the growth and development of this University. Through your research, innovation, academic engagement and service, you contribute significantly to the University's mission. Initiatives such as this Summer Hut demonstrate that your contribution can also be reflected in the physical and social environment of our campus.

The University remains committed to fostering a supportive, inclusive and conducive environment in which students can pursue their academic ambitions. We understand that student welfare and academic excellence

are not competing priorities; they complement each other. When students have access to appropriate spaces and facilities, they are better positioned to interact, recharge and make the most of their university experience.

However, the commissioning of this facility also comes with a responsibility. I therefore urge GRASAG-UG and the entire graduate student community to take collective ownership of the Summer Hut. Let us keep it clean, protect its facilities, use it responsibly and ensure that it remains safe, welcoming and accessible to its intended users.

This facility should not only serve the students who are here today but should also remain a valuable resource for future generations of graduate students. Its sustainability will depend on our collective commitment to preserving and maintaining it.

I wish to express my appreciation once again to GRASAG-UG, the relevant University authorities and all individuals and stakeholders whose contributions have made this project possible. Your efforts reinforce the importance of partnership between student leadership and

University management in advancing a shared vision for student development.

As we commission this facility, let it stand as a symbol of collaboration, thoughtful leadership and our shared commitment to improving life at the University of Ghana.

It is my sincere hope that the Summer Hut will become a vibrant space for relaxation, friendship, intellectual exchange and community building among our graduate students.

It is therefore my pleasure to officially commission the GRASAG-UG Summer Hut Comfort Zone, for the use and benefit of the graduate student community of the University of Ghana.

May this facility serve its intended purpose and remain a lasting contribution to the University we are all proud to call our own.

Thank you, and God bless us all.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

October 21, 2026