

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



UG@75 ANNIVERSARY LECTURE ON GHANA'S ENERGY SECTOR

THEME:

“ENERGY TRANSITIONS: REFLECTIONS ON THE STATE OF GHANA'S OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY”

ADDRESS BY:

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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023
GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**



Minister of Energy, Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh,

Chairperson for the 75th Anniversary Lecture on Energy, Mr. Kweku Andoh
Awotwi,

Members of the University Council,

Member of Parliament for Ayawaso West Wuogon, Hon. Lydia Seyram
Alhassan,

Member of Parliament for Kwadaso Constituency, Dr. Kingsley Nyarko

Pro-Vice Chancellors,

Registrar,

Provosts, Deans, Directors, and Heads of Department,

Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Students,

Corporate Executives of Institutions within the Energy Sector,

Invited Guests,

The Press Corps,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure and singular honour to welcome you all warmly to the University of Ghana, on the occasion of the inaugural public lecture marking its 75th anniversary.

The University of Ghana has over the past decades built an image as one of the leading universities in Africa and undoubtedly the best tertiary institution in Ghana, confirmed by the latest Webometric Ranking of World Universities.

While celebrating this remarkable feat, we are energized to continue to distinguish ourselves as an academic centre of excellence for teaching, research and community service both on the domestic and international front.

As a means of contributing toward the execution our mandate to make the University of Ghana increasingly relevant to national and global development, the 75th Anniversary Planning Committee has outlined a series of lectures to engage the public on topical issues of national concern. Ladies and gentlemen, we do not seek to engage in the usual rhetoric or “talk show” but aim at pushing the conversation a notch higher to get policy makers and relevant stakeholders to act. It is against this background that we have assembled the key players in the industry to have an intellectual dialogue on Ghana’s Energy Sector on the topic: “**Energy Transitions: Reflections on the State of Ghana’s Oil and Gas Industry**”. It is expected that outputs from this lecture and the discourse that will follow will feed into policy decisions that will contribute to advancing the energy sector.

In accordance with achieving Sustainable Development Goal 13, global conversations on the need to take urgent action on climate change and its impact has heightened the push to transition from fossil-based fuels to cleaner energy sources with possible implications for Ghana’s oil and gas industry. As one of the major contributors to the gross domestic income of the country, there is the need to have this dialogue to explore the historical trajectory of the oil & gas industry, the current state of affairs, and ways through which the nation can safely transition to obtain optimum results.

Through this platform, the University of Ghana is setting the pace within institutions of higher learning in the country, to spark an intellectual discourse on how to position our country strategically to have a just transition.

I extend a special invitation to you to join us for all our public lectures which target specific sectors including the economy, sports, public health, culture and national development, among other sporting, humanistic and simply fun activities. Please refer to the inside cover of the brochure for details and mark your calendars accordingly.

Ladies and gentlemen, before I take my seat, permit me to introduce to you our distinguished Chairperson for this evening's lecture. He is a gentleman with a lot of clout in the mining and energy sectors both domestically and internationally.

Profile of the Chairperson

Kweku A. Awotwi is currently the Board Chairman of United Bank for Africa (Ghana) Ltd, the Multimedia Group Ltd in Ghana, and the non-profit sports for development organization, Playsoccer Ghana which he cofounded in 1999. He has been the past Board Chairman of Stanbic Bank (Ghana) Ltd (2012 – 2018), Ghana's Volta River Authority (2017-2021), and a Board member of several energy and mining organizations across Africa, including Ghana Upstream Petroleum Chamber, which he was instrumental in setting up during his tenure as EVP/MD at Tullow Oil UK plc.

An electrical engineer by training, Kweku started out his career designing integrated circuits for ITT and GE/RCA respectively between 1984-1988. He worked for Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation between 1990-1998, where he left as Business Manager of the Primary Aluminum Business Unit; served as Managing Director, Strategic Planning & New Business Development for Ashanti Goldfields Company from 1998-2004; Chief Executive of Ghana's Volta River Authority (2009-2013); and most recently, Executive Vice President and Managing Director of Tullow Oil plc (UK) and Tullow Ghana Ltd, respectively from 2018- 2020.

In between these corporate assignments, he has been involved in a number of entrepreneurial ventures in energy and mining across Africa, including the 360 MW Kpone independent power project, which he cofounded, developed, and which reached commercial operation in 2019; Midway Resources International, a junior oil and gas exploration company, where he was CEO, and a gold mining company that is currently listed in Hong Kong.

Mr. Awotwi has an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, Stanford, California, and a B.S in Electrical Engineering, Economics and Political Science from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

Ladies and gentlemen, we could not have found a more suitable person for this role than Mr. Kweku Andoh Awotwi. Please help me welcome him to make his initial remarks.

Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

25th January, 2023