

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



SOD-TURNING FOR WAGMC MULTIPURPOSE GENOMIC MEDICINE COMPLEX

ADDRESS BY:

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

**MONDAY, JULY 4, 2022
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Pro Vice-Chancellor;

Registrar;

Provosts;

Deans and Directors;

Heads of Department;

Faculty and staff; Dear

students;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning.

Exactly **251 days ago** today, when I became Vice-chancellor of the University of Ghana, I laid-out a bold vision to reinvigorate all aspect of the University's activities through SIX Key Objectives or KSOs. As we celebrate my 250th day milestone, I am very pleased to see that several of the plans we have been working on and discussing in various committees in the University are beginning to become reality.

This morning, we are here to witness one such success; the construction of a multi-purpose genomic medicine complex for *Wag- mick* (WAGMC); I will leave the WAGMC Director to tell us more about the specific elements of this beautiful facility in his own remarks.

However, I have been following the progress of this World Bank funded Genetic Medicine Centre of Excellence for some time, and I must say, I am impressed with what I see, as well as what I have been hearing, sometimes on my travels, from their competitors outside Ghana, about the promise of this Centre. I understand when the World Bank recently completed the mid-term review for all its Centres of Excellence, WAGMC was ranked the No.1 Performing New Centre in Ghana; congratulations to Prof. Fiifi Ofori-Acquah and his team. I am looking forward to more successes in the coming years from you and your team, including the successful completion of this building project on time, and **under budget.**

I expect this facility to help WAGMC to contribute to at least FIVE of the KSOs I outlined as part of my vision for the University of Ghana.

- 1. Reinvigorate impactful research in the (applied) sciences and humanities, resulting in increased research income, exponential growth of research outputs such as publications, improved citations, and vibrant community engagements. *I am confident the global leadership in SCD research that the Centre is renowned for will not only continue but grow especially in genomics.***
- 2. Develop technology-driven and robust processes in research management, teaching and learning, and all other institutional processes. *To this end, I am pleased that the auditorium in this new facility will be equipped with SMART technology to help enhance many of your activities, especially the teaching of your international faculty.***
- 3. Strengthen traditional revenue streams and expand alternative income sources to meet our debt obligations as well as our current institutional needs and ensure the robustness of mechanisms for the prudent management of resources to guarantee value for money, and safeguard sound decision**

making in all transactions to ensure success and avoid failures and debts. *I look forward to hearing more about how this genomics complex will help generate alternative income for the Centre and for the University.*

4. Increase UG's visibility and hence rankings by, among others, ensuring a strong web presence through aggressive propagation of our achievements and outputs via appropriate (social) media/web outlets. *I know that WAGMC is quite adept at visibility. Indeed, the aerial view of this new building cannot be missed from the skies. I understand the personal inspiration for this design is the "Catamaran", a yacht featuring two parallel hulls of equal size, that provides stability to the watercraft from its wide beam. May this catamaran bring you more stability, visibility, and success in the pursuit of new knowledge in genomic medicine.*

5. Finally, the fifth KSO that I believe this new facility will help us to achieve is "To Create a sense of ownership and commitment among students, faculty, staff, and alumni to promote creativity

and innovation. I know the team has already used innovative ways in the tendering process for this construction, which will ultimately bring substantial savings to the University, so I know the team understands and know what is meant to be innovative. I have also read from the reports of the Committee, which I set up to oversee this construction, that there has been extensive engagement with multiple stakeholders, including, I am pleased to say with the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and UGMC. These are your two immediate neighbors, so keep up the dialogue with NMIMR and UGMC, to help foster a sense of ownership of this new facility not just among those who will eventually occupy the building, but among the wider university community. I have also seen from the drawings, that students and staff have not been left out of the “Catamaran”, and that you have made provisions for classrooms, a postgraduate student room, computer lab and seminar rooms, and staff recreation room.

I promised I will leave the Director to tell us more about the specifics of this facility, I hope I have not listed everything that there needs to be known about this new building.

To close, I feel very proud of the accomplishment of WAGMC, and will continue to support this Centre as it pushes forward with new programs in alignment with the vision and mission of the University of Ghana.

To the contractors, Global Management Construction and Five Star Engineering, I understand, this is your first contracts with the University, welcome to the University of Ghana; you will find that we are a very reasonable institution to work for. I am looking forward to this new partnership we have signed with you; I can assure you that the University will honour its part of the agreement, and so I expect that you will do the same, and together we will complete this magnificent construction on time and under budget.

Thank you.

Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

Sod-turning of WAGMC Building

04-07-2022