

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES CELEBRATION OF THE DAY OF SCIENTIFIC RENAISSANCE OF AFRICA (DSRA)

THEME:

“CELEBRATING SCIENTIFIC RENAISSANCE OF AFRICA: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO THE CONTRIBUTION OF SCIENCE TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT”

ADDRESS BY:

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

**MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022
CEDI CONFERENCE CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Pro Vice-Chancellors,

Registrar,

Provost of the College of Humanities and other Provosts present at
this ceremony,

Deans, Directors, Heads of Department,

Our Distinguished Speakers,

Faculty and Staff,

Past and Present Senior Officers of the University,

Alumni and Students,

The Media,

Invited Guests,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

A very good morning to you all.

I am excited to be here for the climax of activities organized by the College of Humanities towards the celebration of this year's Day of Scientific Renaissance of Africa (DSRA). As you may be aware, the core objective of this celebration is to remind African governments and people of the critical roles played by Science and Technology in national development. The celebration is also held in commemoration of the continent's great contribution to the rise and development of modern-day Science and Technology.

This year, for the first time, the University of Ghana is actively participating in the celebration as a strategy to drive the overall growth of the University as a world-class research-intensive university and to draw attention to the scholarly works, innovations and development championed by members of the community including faculty and students.

To ensure that the day reflects the depth and diversity of research and innovation emanating from the University, each College was tasked to host a series of activities that showcases the contribution of its' constituents to the global advancement of knowledge. The

university-wide participation is, in part, intended to indicate the variation in science and its pluralistic nature. As part of activities for the DSRA organized by the Department of Linguistics (my department), I listened to Prof. Felix Ameka, a renowned linguist at the University of Leiden, talk about science as “a mindset to understand nature, life, humans and non-humans”. Science is about knowledge production which has to be pursued collaboratively. For a well-functioning society, knowledge production in the life sciences is only effectively applied when it is contextualized in its history, culture and languages. And the College of Humanities seem to have understood this very well.

I must indicate that the College has simply been phenomenal and outstanding. It took the idea and literally run with it. I am extremely delighted to note that following a successful launch of the celebrations held on 1st June, 2022 on the theme “*Celebrating Scientific Renaissance of Africa: A Holistic Approach to the Contribution of Science to National Development*”, a series of college-wide activities including Public Lectures, Exhibition of Scholarly Works, Roundtable Discussions, Seminars/Webinars, Artistic Performance, Workshops on Scientific Writing, and Open Day have

been organized by various constituent units of the College (Departments, Schools, Institutes and Centres).

I would like to commend the Provost, Professor Daniel F. Ofori for his exceptional leadership and for rallying all Deans, Directors, Heads of Department and the College Research Board as well as Implementation Committees to develop and implement activities marking this celebration. I applaud you, Provost, for keeping the buzz for this celebration and widely promoting the planned activities.

In our aspiration to become a world-class research-intensive University, we do not merely seek to produce ground-breaking research published in top-tier journals but we seek to also to positively impact society, through offering suggestions for problem solving, providing scientific basis for decision making, and more effective and efficient policy alternatives for reforms and development of our dear nation. As I speak, the University of Ghana, in collaboration with Conversation Africa, is organizing a workshop on how to communicate our research/scientific findings

to lay audiences. These are some of the initiatives that my administration is leading to bridge the gap between researchers, policy makers and (if you like) the ordinary people.

As Vice-Chancellor, I will continue to drive the aspirations of the University through these and other similar initiatives. Remember, two key words underlying my leadership are technology and humanism. We want to use diverse means to bring our research closer to the people who matter. Reinvigorating impactful research in the (applied) sciences and humanities (which is my first KSO) requires this kind of sustained enthusiasm that I have seen in the College of Humanities this past month.

Today, we are here to climax the college-level celebrations through the Exhibition of scholarly works of faculty members and a Roundtable discussion. The carefully selected distinguished speakers from the College of Humanities who represent various units of the College with diverse areas of specialization will cover topics including: promoting equal opportunities for male and female researchers; research funding; improving the capacity of

African researchers; improving publication and webometric ranking of African Universities; research collaboration and last but most importantly dissemination of findings and transfer of knowledge/technology to industry.

We invite you all to join us back here at the Cedi Conference Centre on Thursday, June 30, 2022, for a high-level panel discussion on the theme “*Ghana Asks: Legon Answers*” with specific focus on the challenge of managing plastics. There will also be an interactive session with the accomplished academics and industry experts on the topic.

On this note, I wish you a fruitful session and thank you for the invitation to be part of this celebration.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

27th June, 2022