

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



2022 ALUMNI LECTURE DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR D.K. OSEI

THEME:

LIBERAL DEMOCRACY: THE NEW UTOPIAS AND THE AGE OF DISORDER

ADDRESS BY:

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

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022
GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**



Our Distinguished Lecturer, Amb. D. K. Osei,

Honourable Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration,

Honourable Akosua Frema Osei-Opare, Chief of Staff of the Republic of Ghana
(*Speaker for the 2021 Alumni Lecture on Social Protection in Ghana*),

H.E. Mr. Sugandh Rajaram, Indian High Commissioner to Ghana,

Members of the University Council,

Pro Vice-Chancellors,

Registrar,

Provosts, Deans and Directors,

Chairperson and Members of University of Ghana Alumni Association Council,

Heads of Corporate Institutions present,

Cherished Alumni of the University,

Faculty, Staff and Students,

Invited Guests and Dignitaries present,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

The Press,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen in the Great Hall and those joining us across our social media platforms;

Good evening.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all warmly to the 2022 Alumni Lecture which happens to be the 32nd alumni lecture on the occasion of the University of Ghana's 75th Anniversary.

Over the past decades, proud alumni of this prestigious university who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields of endeavour have mounted this platform and shared riveting and instructive presentations with the audience. The topics cut across multiple disciplines: from finance and economics, governance, education, national development, health and religion among others.

A key feature of the Alumni Lectures is the intriguing topics (*as what will be delivered this evening*) which often sets participants wondering what to expect. I will share a few of them with you (*in no particular order or preference*) as we go down memory lane since the inception of the Alumni Lectures in 1974.

I wonder how many of you present at this lecture recall or had the opportunity to participate in any of the following lectures;

- Getting the Economy Moving – A layman's view by Prof. George Benneh in 1981

- Recognition of Achievement – A Tool for National Development by Dr. (Mrs.) Sylvia Boye in 1998 – (*She is a regular patron of our public lectures; I suppose she is present at this lecture*)
- Air, Water, Place, People and Health by Prof. K. Frimpong-Boateng in 2002
- Vaccines and Public Anxiety by Dr. Anarfi Asamoah-Baah in 2015

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I dare say that some of these topics are as relevant today as when they were first delivered.

In today's lecture, Ambassador Daniel Kufour Osei, one of the astute diplomats within the West African Sub-region whose foreign service career spans over four decades, a former Secretary to Ex-President Kufour and proud alumnus of the University, carries the audience through a lecture titled "***Liberal Democracy: The New Utopias and The Age Of Disorder***".

Reading through the abstract, I must admit that the one page write-up is succinct and well-written, and I have no doubt that we will be treated to a captivating presentation.

The lecture will provide the framework to critically analyze the theory and practice of liberal democracy which supposedly, is largely considered as the ideal form of government. I believe the lecture will shed some light on the woes and wins of this system of governance.

With this information age, comes a new demand and approach to running liberal democracies. Citizens no longer wait till an election period to express their opinion on how well nations have been run.

Hopefully, at the end of the lecture we will be able to come to a firm conclusion of whether liberal democracy is indeed the ideal form of government for all nations? Or it is time to go back to the drawing board as captured in the abstract.

Before I take my seat, I would like to inform you that, as part of activities marking the University of Ghana's 75th anniversary, a number of Public Lectures on topical issues of national concern have been planned. Kindly refer to pages 16 and 17 of the programme brochure for details and block the dates. Please join us, as we engage in these constructive dialogues in a quest to work towards national development collectively.

Thank you for your attention and for making time to join us.

Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

November 17, 2022