



UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR
PROF. AKWASI ASABERE-AMEYAW

AT THE SPECIAL CONGREGATION
FOR THE AWARD OF HONORARY
DOCTORATE DEGREES

DATE:
AUGUST 14, 2014

VENUE:
PROF. JOPHUS ANAMUAH-MENSAH CONFERENCE CENTRE

Your Excellency, the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana;

Your Excellency, Dr. (FIt. Lt) John Jerry Rawlings, former President of the Republic of Ghana and Mrs. Konadu Agyemang Rawlings;

Your Excellency, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, former Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Mrs. Abdulsalami Abubakar and other family members and friends of the General;

Prof Jophus Anamuah-Mensah, the 2nd Principal and 1st Vice-Chancellor of our prestigious University and Mrs. Anamuah-Mensah and the friends of Jophus;

Members of the Council of State;

Hon Deputy Governor of Niger State, Nigeria;

Honourable Minister of Education, Honourable Regional Minister, and every Minister/ Commissioner of State at this ceremony;

Chairman of UEW Council, Dr. Emmanuel K. Andoh and Chairmen of the Councils of Sister Universities;

Members of the University Council; Honourable Members of Parliament;

Your Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps;

Hon. Municipal Chief Executive of Winneba Municipality;

Presiding Member and other Members of the Winneba Municipal Assembly;

Neenyi Ghartey VII, Omanhene, and other Members of the Effutu Traditional Council;

Omanhene of Ajumako Traditional Area and his entourage

Omanhene of Techiman Traditional Area, Oseadeyeayo Akumfi Ameyaw IV and his entourage and all the good people of Techiman at this ceremony;

Your Royal Highness, Eminent Emirs from the Niger State accompanying the General;

Colleague Vice-Chancellors - Prof J.S. Kumah (UMaT); Prof Samake (University of Letters, Bamako) and other Vice-Chancellors and Rectors of Sister Institutions of Higher Learning;

Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Very Rev. Fr. Prof. Anthony Afful-Broni, and Pro-ViceChancellors of sister universities;

The Registrar, Dr. C.Y. Akwaa-Mensah, and Registrars of Sister Institutions; Principals of Colleges of the University and other very Senior Management Members of the University;

Deans of Faculty, Directors HoDs and Coordinators; Professors; Members of Convocation;

Ag. Director General of Ghana Education Service, Mr. Charles Tsega Aheto;

Commandant of the Ghana Police Command and Staff College - Asst. Commissioner Mamme Tiwaa Addo- Dankwa and other Service Commanders and very Senior Security Officers;

Heads of Institutions;

Alumni of UEW;

Senior and Junior Staff;

The Clergy/Imams;

The Press, Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Welcome

On behalf of the Management of the University of Education, Winneba, and on my own behalf, I warmly welcome you all to this special gathering. In a very special way, I express our profound gratitude to His Excellency, the Vice President of the Republic who is representing the President, His Excellency, John Dramani Mahama.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: Today marks a very important day in the history of the institution as we celebrate the 4th Special Congregation. Today is a day set aside to shower praise on those who deserve to be praised, appreciated and honoured for their immense efforts, dedication and contributions to the maintenance of peace, good governance and development of Society and the people of African in general.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests: It is worthy to note that this ceremony was preceded by a special lecture yesterday, August 13, 2014. The Topic of the lecture was: 'The Role of Education in Developing Society', and was eloquently delivered by His Excellency, Alhaji Abdulsalami Abubakar, a retired General of the Nigerian Army and former Head of State and Commander-In-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. General (Rtd.) Alhaji Abdulsalami Abubakar has made and

continues to make significant contributions to the political and social development of Nigeria, the West African Sub-Region and Africa as a whole. At a time when Nigeria doubted the emergence of a transformational leader who would return the nation to constitutional rule, the Gentle General emerged to lead his people to democratic and constitutional rule. Your Excellency, we welcome you to Ghana and to the University of Excellence. On behalf of our prestigious University, I express our gratitude to you for accepting to be honoured by us. We are proud to be associated with you. I wish to use this opportunity to welcome your spouse Mrs. Abubakar and all your family members, friends and political figures who accompanied you to receive our prestigious award.

Brief History of University of Education, Winneba

Your Excellencies Distinguished guests: today is a day which calls for a careful reflection on the life of the institution. Just a little over 20 years (September 24 will be exactly 22 years), this university was established as the tertiary component of the 1987 Educational Reform and under the academic tutelage of the University of Cape Coast by the PNDC Law 322 by the merger of existing diploma-awarding colleges of education namely: Advanced Teacher Training College (Winneba), Advanced Technical Teachers' College (Kumasi), College of Special Education (Mampong-Akwapim), National Academy of Music (Winneba), St. Andrew's Agricultural Training College (Mampong-Ashanti), School of Ghanaian Languages (Ajumako) and Specialist Training College (Winneba). The University was established with a special mandate of producing professional educators to spearhead a new national vision of education aimed at redirecting Ghana's efforts along the path of rapid economic and social development. The University is expected to play a leading role in our country's efforts to produce scholars whose knowledge would be fully responsive to the realities and exigencies of contemporary Ghana and the West African sub-region. As a University, we have been consistently and religiously committed to our mandate.

The first batch of 481 students of this institution was enrolled in November, 1992. The university gained autonomy from the University of Cape Coast in 2004 by the University of Education, Winneba Act 2004 (Act 672). The University can now boast of a student population of 44,280 (40% females) spread over four campuses at six sites and 25 Distance Education Study Centres. For the past five years, we have consistently graduated not less than 10,000 professionals every year. Cumulatively, we have graduated a total of over 100,000 teachers and other professionals since the inception of the institution. Ladies and gentlemen, the path

of excellent progress was created and we are treading on it, and in gratitude.

Your Excellencies: Leadership of this institution is committed to building a fifth campus - The College of Distance Education and Extension Services - at Techiman. We have started putting up the needed infrastructure - we desire to be there by September 31, 2015. Nananom, the good people of Techiman, Bono Abakan, I cry out to you for support. You have provided land for the project – we know your capabilities - we need financial support in addition. Our appeal is extended to all - nothing is too small - together we can make an impact.

Distinguished Guests: It will be highly unfair, if not an error, to talk about the history of this great institution without making reference to some distinguish personalities who played key roles which led to the birth of this institution. Two of them we are privileged to honour today. These are: The First President of the Fourth Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Ft. Lt. (Rtd.) Jerry John Rawlings and the second Principal and first Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Jophus Anamuah-Mensah. It was during the tenure of office of His Excellency Ft. Lt. (Rtd.) Jerry John Rawlings as Head of State of the nation that the Winneba Advanced Teacher Training College and six other Diploma Awarding Institutions were provided the Legislative Framework, PNDC Law 322 to establish a public University College of Education (UCEW). Your Excellency Dr. (FIt Lt.) John Jerry Rawlings, former President of the Republic of Ghana and the Commander-In-Chief of the Ghana Armed Forces, it is not my responsibility to read your credentials/profile at this ceremony, and I will not do so. We are honouring you, Your Excellency, for your selflessness, your passion and love for education, and for establishing the University College of Education of Winneba which has transformed into the University of Education, Winneba. We recognize the bold decision you took to reform the educational sector when you were the Head of State of our dear country, Ghana. We are proud of you, and to associate with you. We welcome you to the University which you helped to establish. We attribute our achievements to your bold decisions. We thank you for allowing us to honour you.

Prof. Jophus Anamuah-Mensah, the first Vice-Chancellor of this prestigious institution played an instrumental role In the University's attainment of an Autonomous Status in 2004. Furthermore, the eminent scientist, science educator and astute administrator and his team provided the first documented framework (strategic plan, 2004-2008) to direct the growth and development of this institution. Prof., we are very proud to be associated with you. We welcome you to the institution which you set structures for its growth and development. We are happy that you agreed for us to show appreciation to you. Prof, we have commissioned the writing

of the history of the first two decades of the University and your name will appear boldly, and in golden letters.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is important to mention that the labour of these noble men has not been in vain. Efforts have been made over the years to see to the sustainability and advancement of the University's initiatives and development. Today, the institution continues to produce teachers who provide quality education at the pre-school, primary, Junior and Senior High Schools as well as teachers for our tertiary institutions and educational administrators and to research into educational issues. The University continues to host the National Centre for Research into Basic Education (NCRIBE) which conducts research into basic education in Ghana. Outputs from these researches have fed into the growth of Basic Education in Ghana. The University's Distance Education programmes are unsurpassed in quality and have been expanded to various locations in the country. As many as 25 study centres have been created across the country and this has lessened the pressure on existing facilities and increased the number of students who enroll on our programmes. Our ICT infrastructure is among the best in the sub-region and enables us to provide quality teaching that enhances comprehension and research.

Graduating Doctoral Students

Your Excellencies, a little over three years, in a special arrangement, 9 Malian students enrolled on our Doctoral programme. I am happy to announce that as many as 7 of them have submitted their theses and have been assessed and found to be of high quality. The Board of our Graduate School recommended to the Academic Board that they qualify to be awarded Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Mr. Chancellor, with permission from you, we want to officially admit them to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at this ceremony. Your Excellencies, the other two will be graduated in November this year. We congratulate them all. We are particularly grateful to the Graduate School and the Faculty of Language Education for this feat.

Conclusion

I am happy to report that in twenty-two years, our achievements are tremendous. There have been systemic and sustained improvements in all our activities; the infrastructural expansion has been exceedingly great; we have significantly improved and enhanced our internet infrastructure; the computer population has

been significantly improved.

Our staff is committed to the realization of the vision of the University. A lot has been achieved just over two decades, but I must admit a lot more needs to be done. I am optimistic, together we shall excel.

Acknowledgements and Gratitude

I wish to express my appreciation to all staff of our great institution for a wonderful support. Management is appreciative of our students' unequalled comportment. We equally want to appreciate the support from the Ghana Government and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. We also sincerely appreciate the support from Vodafone Ghana towards the provision of a scholarship scheme which provides support for needy but brilliant female science students and also for supporting our distance education programmes. We are grateful to the African Virtual University for the establishment of ODeL Centre in our institution. On behalf of Management of the University I express appreciation to the Management of UniBank Limited for the 4-wheel vehicle donated to the University yesterday to support the conduct of research. We continue to solicit support from all who have.

We appreciate the good works of our predecessors - Professor Ampeney, Professor Pecku, Professor Anamuah-Mensah (past Principals), Dr. Bannerman, Professor Djangman, Mr. Jude Buckner, Rev. Dr. Buama (past Council Chairmen), Professor Montford, Professor Joppa, Professor Gadgabui, Professor Avoke, Prof E.N. Abakah (past ProVCs). Prof. Tuah, Prof Awuah, and Prof Sobotie (past Principals), Hon. Ben Kpodo (immediate past FO) and Mrs. Bannerman (immediate past Librarian).

I equally wish to express my profound appreciation to the Chancellor (Alhaji Asoma Banda) and the Council Chairman (Okofu Amoako Bondam III) for the wonderful support.

We appreciate the role of everyone in our development efforts. Thank you all for a wonderful support. May the Good Lord Bless Us All.