

Govt subvention to public universities to be reformed —Prof Yankah

BY ABIGAIL ANNOH

THE government subventions to public universities would soon be structured along institutions capability to produce graduates that meet industry demands.

The Minister of State in Charge of Tertiary Education, Prof. Kwesi Yankah said the move had become necessary to bridge the widening gap between education and

industry which had resulted in high redundancy in the country.

He was speaking to the media on the sidelines of the 39th Management Day of the University of Ghana Business School (UGBS) held in Accra on Wednesday.

The annual event is aimed at fostering a harmonious relationship with industry players to harness the delivery of business education to ensure efficient performance in the corporate world.

It was on the theme: "Entrepre-

neurship, a Catalyst for Ghana's Socio-Economic Development."

Prof. Yankah noted that to the extent that institutions do not fashion out innovative programmes and courses or review existing ones to fit into the national vision, the government might be forced to withdraw budgetary allocations to such schools.

"We are looking at re-engineering our budgetary allocation to public universities to be sensitive to national needs so that for instance

if you promise to run a technical university to respond to a particular need and you deviate from that agenda, you certainly are not going to receive any financial support as the programme you are running is not crucial to industry needs," he stressed.

The professor clarified that the idea was not to make some subjects extinct in the universities but to build a quality human resource base capable of transforming the economy through innovation and entrepreneurship.

"Admissions are dwindling across the universities, parents are becoming reluctant to sponsor their children through the university for fear of not getting a job afterwards and students are becoming reactive to the courses offered hence there is a need to put measures in place to synchronise education to market needs," he observed.

Speaking at the seminar, Prof. Yankah urged the UGBS to collaborate with language departments in the university to address the language deficit in the country that prevent budding entrepreneurs from expanding their scope of businesses to foreign countries.

"You should be able to train

innovative entrepreneurs who are adaptive and responsive to this digital age beyond Ghana. Ultimately, it is bilingualism that will open up opportunities to broaden the geographical reach of local entrepreneurs," he said.

The Vice President of the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), Mr Humphrey Ayim Dake asked that more experiential knowledge should be given to students to prepare them adequately for the job market.

"Let us ensure that all stages of apprenticeship or internship are made compulsory and strictly monitored to balance the classroom work with industry," he stated.

Professor Joshua Yindenaba Abor, Dean of the UGBS said the school was partnering with the government and other business entities to establish an incubator, accelerator and co-working space to help nurture business ideas of students.

He said the school was also working on other projects to encourage hands-on business development activities "to hone students' abilities and interest in developing start-ups right here on campus before they exit the school."



• Prof. Yankah (middle) interacting with some of the students
Photo: Michael Ayeh