

# Govt urged to increase support to private universities

By Emmanuel Ebo Hawkson,  
ARMAHIA

**T**HE Vice-President of the Ghana Christian University College (GCUC), Reverend Dr James Yamoah, has appealed to the government to support private universities and also extend scholarships to students in those institutions.

At this year's graduation and matriculation ceremony of the college at Armahia in the Adentan Municipality, he said such support would go a long way to further improve tertiary education.

"The parents of our students are also taxpayers and will be grateful to government for this gesture," he said.

## Ceremony

The ceremony was held on the theme: "The Role of Independent Universities in Nation Building".

Two hundred and eight freshmen and women were matriculated, while 56 students who had successfully completed their studies in Theology, Pastoral Ministries and Development Management graduated on the occasion.

## Private education in Ghana

Per statistics provided by the

National Accreditation Board (NAB), there are 10 public universities and 81 private tertiary institutions offering degree programmes in the country.

Operators of private universities have constantly appealed to the government to assist them due to the huge vacuum they fill with regard to tertiary education.

At a meeting in Koforidua in April 2017, the Private Universities Association of Ghana (PUSAG) asked the government to advance policies that would help resource private universities.

According to the External Affairs Chairman of PUSAG, Mr Ebenezer Appiah Kubi, private universities were finding it difficult to stay in business due to financial challenges.

"There is the ever-present lack of finances for expansion, research and infrastructure among others. Libraries are ill resourced and laboratories face acute shortages of materials.

"We think private universities should not be deprived of government

intervention such as from the GETFund, state scholarships and research grants and subsidies for infrastructural expansion," he said.

## What has the government done?

To help alleviate hardships facing private universities, the government



• Rev Dr James Yamoah, Vice President, Ghana Christian University College

some time ago granted the institutions tax reliefs and scrapped the 25 per cent corporate tax they were expected to pay.

In the 2018 budget read in Parliament on November 15, 2017, the Finance Minister, Mr Ken Ofori-Atta, revealed that private institutions would no longer be required to pay corporate tax.

"It is government's intention to support the sector in order to position Ghana as the premier hub for higher education in the sub-region as well as attract critical foreign direct investment into the sector.

"In view of this and also as part of

government's strategy for the long-term development of a base of human capital fit for a changing world, we will grant relief from corporate income tax paid by privately-owned and managed universities in order for profits to be ploughed back to expand or maintain facilities," he said.

The move was welcomed by private universities, with stakeholders urging the government to do more to help make the country's education system very competitive.

Writer's email:

[emma.hawkson@graphic.com.gh](mailto:emma.hawkson@graphic.com.gh)