



Adult learning critical in transforming lives of Ghanaians — Prof. Tagoe

PROFESSOR Michael Tagoe, Provost, College of Education and Dean of the School of Continuing and Distance Education, University of Ghana, has called on government to see adult learning and education as critical in transforming the lives of Ghanaians.

He said adult learning and education creates responsible citizens with the requisite skills, civic knowledge and civic values.

He said the University of Ghana would continue to work with the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) to achieve this noble objective through their regional learning centres.

Prof. Tagoe made the appeal in his closing remarks at the 70th Annual New Year School and Conference at the University of Ghana.

The 70th Annual New Year School and Conference, which took place from January 14 to 18, was held under the theme: "Building Strong Institutions for Democratic Consolidation in Ghana".

It was organised by the School of Continuing and Distance Education of the College of Education, University of Ghana, in collaboration with the Ministry

of Local Government and Rural Development.

Prof. Tagoe said the School of Continuing and Distance Education would collaborate with the Ministry of Local Government and the Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

This collaboration, he said, would ensure that decisions taken at the New Year School and Conference were implemented at the grassroots to improve decision making and participation which holds the key to the rapid development of districts and municipal areas.

He said what the Annual New Year School and Conference seeks to do is to offer individuals the platform for the dispassionate discussion of topical issues of national and international concerns.

He said this year's theme and sub-themes were to highlight how after 26 years of constitutional rule our institutions remain weak, and to generate the needed discourse on the need to strengthen these institutions.

"No country can develop with weak institutions as these contribute to the reversal or erosion of democratic dividends. This has been highlighted by different speakers throughout the School," he said.

He said there was no better way for bolstering what the various speakers had said, than to reiterate the point made by the keynote speaker, Prof. Joseph Aye of the Political Science Department of the University of Ghana.

He said, "Prof. Aye asserted that building strong institutions for democratic consolidation entails reconstructing the Ghanaian state and society to internalise the values of developmental governance capacity".

Prof. Tagoe said individuals constituted institutions and that it is individuals who can make institutions strong.

"It is therefore, our collective effort and responsibility to work towards strengthening our institutions. I would want to reiterate my earlier call for responsible citizens," he said.

He said the nation needs a new breed of Ghanaians who would be able to exercise Article 41(f) of the 1992 Constitution "protect and preserve public property, expose, combat misuse, and waste of public funds and property".

He said this would only be achieved when the nation had Ghanaians who are bold and champion the values of integrity and honesty; declaring that "this is where adult learning and education become



•Prof. Tagoe

necessary".

Prof. Samuel Kwame Offei, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Academic and Students Affairs, University of Ghana, urged the School of Continuing and Distance Education to put in place an inclusive and participatory process to track, monitor and evaluate progress in the implementation of the recom-

mendations from the New Year School.

"Keep up the momentum of engaging all groups of stakeholders, especially Parliament, the Judiciary, the Executive, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), MMDAs, civil society, the private sector and other specialised agencies," he said. -GNA.