

# Legon Hall re-launches alumni association, launches 65th milestone

By Kwaku Mensa-Bonsu

**L**EGON Hall, the premier hall of residence of the University in Ghana, is 65 years old. Tomorrow, April 6, the hall will relaunch its once very vibrant alumni association. The event will also be used to launch its year-long 65th anniversary celebrations.

Legon Hall, the first university hall of residence in Ghana, continues to set the pace in the history of the country. Its alumni have scored many firsts and continue to set the pace for others to follow.

## Legon Hall and the Fourth Republic

In this Fourth Republic, Legon Hall holds the rarest distinction as the only hall of residence in Ghana that has produced two Vice-Presidents and two Presidents of the Republic.

Professor John Evans Atta Mills of blessed memory (January 1997-January 2001) was the first home-bred university graduate to become Vice-President.

The second Legon Hall produced Vice-President was Mr (Paa) Kwesi Bekoe Amisshah-Arthur (July 2012 - January 2017).

For the highest office of the land, the Presidency, President Mills (January 2009 - July 2012) was the first product of any university in Ghana to become President of the Republic, scoring a double first.

Now to the icing on the cake. President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana (January 2017 to date) is also an alumnus of the Great Legon Hall.

The hall that comes any close to us is Commonwealth Hall, with President John Dramani Mahama in both roles as Vice-President (January 2009 - July 2012) and President (July 2012 - January 2017). Our compliments to our Vandal brothers from up Legon Hill.

Someone remarked light heartedly that the Legon Hall alumni who have occupied the two highest offices in the land all have very long names, with President Akufo-Addo having the longest!!!

Dr Edward Mahama, as well as Dr Kwadwo Afari-Djan, are among our long list of very distinguished alumni.

## President Akufo-Addo graces occasion

So tomorrow our most distinguished alumnus, President Nana Akufo-Addo, will be our Special Guest of Honour and

will perform the relaunch of the Legon Hall Alumni Association.

He will also launch the 65th anniversary celebration of the hall at the Legon Hall Quadrangle by the fountain in front of the dining hall, supported by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Prof. Ebenezer Oduro-Owusu, himself a distinguished alumnus of Legon Hall, and the Legon Hall Master, Mr Alfred Quartey.

Mr Quartey, Prof. David Atta-Peters, the immediate past Hall Master, and the Hall Council extend, with great pride, an invitation to ALL ALUMNI of the hall to the relaunch of the alumni association and the launch of the 65th anniversary celebrations.

## Great men of the hall

Legon Hall has produced thousands of great men, and women, who have contributed immensely to the development of the country in every sphere of life.

Some of our pioneer students are still alive and we look forward to seeing them, especially Dr E. M. Debrah, the exquisite diplomat; Prof. Amonoo, the French scholar, and Prof. de Graft Johnson, the renowned sociologist.

We shall also be delighted to receive Mr J. H. Mensah, our first JCR President and, by extension, the first ever JCR President in Ghana; Prof. Daniel Adzei-Bekoe, a former Hall Master and former Vice-Chancellor of Legon, and Mr Amisshah-Arthur, the immediate past Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana.

I know Ambassador James Aggrey-Orleans will lead a strong team of diplomats, including Ambassadors Godwyll, William Brandful, Paa Kow Bartels-Kodwo, Kwadwo Wadie, Naval Capt. Baffuor Asaase-Gyimah (Our Beer), among many others.

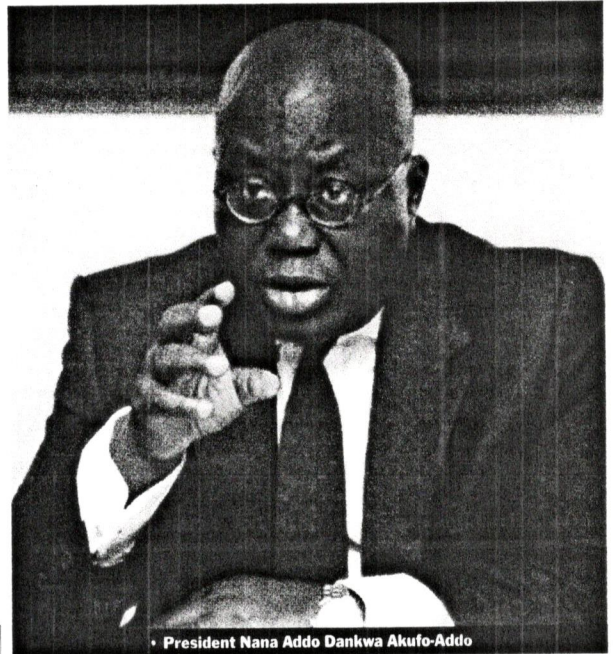
From the political world we want to see our Honourables, led by Alan Kwadwo Kyerematen, Boakye Agarko, Ambrose Dery, Alban Sumana Bagbin, Cletus Avoka, Nana Akomea, Yaw Barimah, Nii Allotey Brew-Hammond (Chairman of PPP) and the many others past and present who my old mind cannot recall immediately!!

From the Judiciary we expect to see Justices Opoku-Acheampong, the Judicial Secretary, Sule Gbadegbe, Isaac Douse, Richard Apaloo and other distinguished alumni who serve at various levels of the Bench.

From the Bar there are thousands, but I know Tsatsu Tsikata will be there, and so will Philip Addison, Kobina Beecham, Yeboa Amoa, L. S. Nsiah Akuetteh, Paul Acheampong, K. Ankamah, Augustine Ahamey, David

Kudoadze, Kwaku Ansah-Asare, Salathiel Doe Amegavie, George Sarpong (not the soldier) and Major George Sarpong (ret'd).

From the world of business and finance we expect, among many others, Alhaji Dr Gibirine Adam of EPP Books, Nii Komietteh Botchway



President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

(past President of the Legon Hall Alumni Association); Paa Kwesi Yankey (immediate past Chairman of the University of Ghana Alumni Association), Yoofi Grant, Youkou Korsah, Kofi Owusu-Hemeng, Prof. Stephen Adei, Derek Obuobi, Eden Bentum Takyi-Micah, Ohene Kofi, Takyi-Asiedu, Peter Yarquah, Peter Kofi Tassie, Monsieur Tonui, David Amevor, Kofi Sarpong (my first roommate on E Block), Alex Kwadwo Boateng, Dr Samuel Nii Ashong, Dr K. K. Sarpong, Yaw Kyei-Manu, Kwabena Antwi, Dr P. C. Ankrah, Dominic Sori Payida, Nii Christian Johnson, Richard Awuku-Aboagye and others (again old age is failing me!!).

Mr J. Y. Kwofie (former IGP), Dr Wiredu (former Director-General, Ghana Immigration Service) and Brigadier-General B. F. Kusi (Onassis) will lead the security agencies team, which will include Evans Klutse (Customs), Lt Col Bampoe, J. Larweh, etc; while our medical team will feature Drs Ben Baako, Prof. Ayeh-Kumi (Provost, College of Health Sciences), Dela Dovlo, Henry Holbrook-Smith (Similoo), Samuel Ohene, Daniel Quayay, among many others.

From the media we expect a strong representation led by Ransford Tetteh of the Daily Graphic, Ben Ephson of the Daily Dispatch, Kwasi Twum of Multi Media, Alhaji Abubakar Sidick of Radio Unvers, Bola Ray of Starr FM, Emmanuel Adoayi Addo of AdMedia, and others.

## Our ladies

Legon Hall now has ladies and so Eccles Andoh (President of Legon Hall Senior Common Room), Rebecca Donkor and DSP Halima Boakye, please get the ladies to be there.

Sixty-five years is worth celebrating and so Ladies and Gentlemen of the Premier Hall, please come and join the President, the Vice-Chancellor of Legon and the Legon Hall Master tomorrow at the hall.

From the university campus, we expect our fellows, past Hall Masters, led by Prof. William Asomaning, Mr Kwesi Jonah and Mr M. K. Gyasi; past Senior Hall Tutors, all our professors and senior members, past JCR presidents and other hall officers to join the vice-chancellor at the ceremony.

The occasion will also be used to remember our distinguished alumni who have gone before us, such as Oyeeman Wereko Ampem (former Chancellor of the University of Ghana), Rt Hon. Peter Ala Adjetey (past Speaker of Parliament), Rev. Dr Abraham Ako Akrom (past Hall Master), Prof. Ebenezer Laing (past Hall Master), Dr Jean Nelson Aka, Oseadeeyo Nana Addo Dankwa, the Okuapehene; Edward Kojo Saliha, Moses Yaw Akraasi of Country Kitchen fame, Dr L. T. Ofori, who won the inter-hall cross-country race three consecutive times for the hall; Efo Kojo Mawugbe, the playwright; Dr K. K. Marfo, a former Deputy IGP; the exquisite Komla Dumor, Prof. Ebenezer Kweku Awotwi and the many other departed distinguished alumni.

Legon Hall salutes you all and we wish you peaceful rest in the Lord.

On the occasion of the launch of the 65th anniversary celebrations the hall and the relaunch of the Legon Hall Alumni Association, let us all come back home in fulfilment of our hall motto: CUI MULTUM DATUM (To whom much is given, of him much is expected).

Please call your roommates and friends and let's see you all in the hall. The time is 7 p.m. tomorrow April 6.

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