

# Education

## Provide demand-driven, innovative teaching methods

• Anamuah-Mensah tells private universities

By Seth J. Bokpe, ACCRA

**A** FORMER Vice-Chancellor of the University of Education, Winneba, Prof. Jophus Anamuah-Mensah, is urging private universities to re-assess the situation resulting in the reduction of their enrolment figures and carve a niche for themselves.

That, he said, should focus on an area of study that was demand-driven and had unique innovative teaching methods that moved beyond dispensing information, to machine learning.

Speaking at the 16th graduation ceremony of the Methodist University College, he said, the move had become necessary in the face of a consistent reduction in enrolment in private universities which, according to him, may compel some of them to fold up.

### Challenges

Some of the challenges, he said, included declining enrolment figures since 2013/2014 academic year, financial challenges, lack of support, as well as interference from founders, lack of

credible and bold vision and competition from public universities, sometimes through strategies such as the creation of distance learning centres.

Backing the claim with data, he said in the 2013/2014 academic year, enrolment in private universities was 24 per cent of all university enrolment in the country; however it reduced to 22.5 per cent in 2014/2015 and then slumped to 14 per cent in 2017/2018 academic year.

### Examine affiliation system

He also called for an examination of the affiliation system, which he said also appeared to stifle growth of private universities.

"Mentoring universities should perceive the private universities that are affiliated to them as their campuses. This will enable them to make policies that will allow them to distribute excess of qualified applicants (depending on their programmes) to the campuses," he said.

Turning his attention to the government, he said there was the need for the regulatory bodies, tertiary institutions and other stakeholders, including industry players, to take a second look at the approach to running

## Quick Read

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educational consultant said, "the country needs reforms that will thoroughly transform the Ghanaian tertiary education system and give it capacity to meet prevailing needs of the country."

### The graduates

This year, 828 students graduated from the Methodist University College. They included 244 postgraduates, 442 first degree graduates, 116 diploma students and 21 certificate holders.

Ms Debora Titilope Ajiboye won the Overall Best Student Award.

The Principal of the university, Prof. Akwasi Asabere-Ameyaw, urged the government to extend free tuition, which is at public universities, to Ghanaians in private universities.

"In so doing, the fees paid by students in private universities will reduce significantly to enable us to take care of the large SHS graduates that may qualify to enter university in 2020. We are informed that 145,000 SHS graduates are to enter universities and that is an increase of 90,000," he said.

tertiary education in Ghana.

"The 204 institutions in the tertiary system should not be left to do what they want. They need to be differentiated and diversified and their mission clearly stated so that regulations could be put in place to avoid 'mission creep,'" he stated.

According to him, a clear national vision, with clear goals and timeliness, was needed to guide the process.

"As the government rolls out policies, including the One district, One factory and Ghana Beyond Aid," Prof. Anamuah-Mensah, who is an