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Press Release

UTAG/TUTAG Leadership Meets Vice President HE Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang

Leadership of the University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG) and the Technical University Teachers Association of Ghana (TUTAG), led by the National Presidents, Prof. Mamudu A. Akudugu (UTAG) and Prof. Uriah S. Tetteh (TUTAG), held a significant meeting with Her Excellency Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, Vice President of the Republic, at the Accra International Conference Centre yesterday 21st January 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to congratulate the Vice President and the President, HE John Dramani Mahama, on their victory in the December 2024 general elections and to reaffirm our readiness and availability to partner with the government in pursuing the national interest. The delegation took the opportunity to discuss issues of critical importance with the Vice President. Specifically, pressing challenges facing higher educational institutions and the nation were discussed. These included:

- Infrastructure deficits that hamper the academic and administrative functions of universities.
- High student-to-lecturer ratio affects the quality of teaching and learning.
- Deteriorated Conditions of Service of University Staff.
- Poor national research funding undermines innovations and knowledge transfer.
- Legal framework for the Ghana Universities Superannuation Scheme (GUSSS).
- Fight against illegal mining (galamsey) and its negative environmental impacts.
- National security challenges and issues of peace.

Her Excellency Prof. Opoku-Agyemang expressed her gratitude to UTAG and TUTAG for the congratulatory message and assured the Associations of her and the government's commitment to addressing the challenges discussed. As a former Vice Chancellor, the Vice President underscored the need for universities to be innovative in working with government and other stakeholders to resolve their challenges. While highlighting the pivotal roles of universities in finding solutions to national challenges, she expressed worry about the increasing politicisation of university campuses, which, in her view, threatens academic freedom and standing. As an academic herself, HE

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Prof. Opoku-Agyemang noted that university campuses should be safe spaces for academics to speak freely on national issues using their research findings and facts available to them without political biases. She admonished the academic community to guard against the potential threats the politicisation of university campuses poses to academic freedom.

The discussions were open, constructive, and centred on achieving mutual goals to improve Ghana's higher education landscape and promote the national interest in general. On behalf of the delegation, the National Secretary of UTAG, Prof. Eliasu Mumuni, thanked the Vice President for making time out of her busy schedule to engage the two Associations. He assured her of the desire of UTAG/TUTAG to work collaboratively with the government and other stakeholders to address the challenges facing higher educational institutions and the country. The Vice President was accompanied by Hon. Nana Oye Bampoe Addo, Deputy Chief of Staff (Administration) and Hon. Augustus Goosie Tannah, Presidential Advisor Responsible for 24-hour Economy and Accelerated Export Development.

Thank you.



Prof Mamudu A. Akudugu
National President



Prof Eliasu Mumuni
National Secretary

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