



# 6<sup>TH</sup> COMMENCEMENT LECTURE

THEME:

**SECURING THE ENVIRONMENT:  
CHALLENGING THE GALAMSEY  
MENACE IN GHANA**



**THUR. 29TH  
JAN. 2026**



**9:00AM  
PROMPT**



**AUDITORIUM, MULTIPURPOSE  
BUILDING, UESD CAMPUS**



## Securing the Environment: Challenging the Galamsey Menace in Ghana

Illegal small-scale mining (galamsey) remains one of the most pressing environmental challenges facing Ghana. While mining contributes to national development, unregulated activities have led to widespread land degradation, pollution of water bodies, destruction of forest reserves, and loss of livelihoods. These impacts threaten public health, food security, and the sustainability of future development.

Securing the environment requires a holistic approach that combines strong regulation and enforcement with community engagement, environmental education, and sustainable livelihood alternatives. Galamsey thrives where poverty, unemployment, and limited opportunities persist, making it essential to address these root causes alongside environmental protection efforts.

Academia and research institutions play a critical role by generating knowledge, promoting innovation, and translating research into practical solutions such as land reclamation, water restoration, and environmentally responsible enterprise. Through teaching and outreach, universities can shape attitudes and empower communities to become stewards of the environment.

The University of Environment and Sustainable Development (UESD) is mandated to provide higher education, research, and outreach focused on environmental stewardship and sustainable development, with the aim of generating practical, policy-relevant solutions that support national development and improve the wellbeing of communities.

In line with the University mandate, the University of Environment and Sustainable Development (UESD) is committed to advancing environmental sustainability through teaching, research, policy advocacy, and community engagement, with a strong focus on translating knowledge into practical solutions that support national development and environmental governance. The University offers relevant programs like Aquaculture Management, Environmental Economics, Nature Conservation Management, and other initiatives like the MasterCard in partnership with McGill University Nkabom Collaborative project which focus on promoting alternative livelihoods in agro-waste processing and aquaculture technology, empowering youth and reducing dependence on illegal mining.

This is a call to action for graduates, academia, government, traditional authorities, industry, and civil society. By acting ethically, collaborating effectively, and protecting our land, water, and forests today, we secure Ghana's future and ensure that development and sustainability advance together.

# Program Outline

9:00 – 9:10 a.m. Students/Faculty/Staff/Guests Seated

9:10 – 9:12 a.m. Procession by Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Management, Special Guest of Honour/Keynote Speaker/Other Dignitaries.

9:12 – 9:15 am Opening Prayer – Dr. Michael Larbi Odame

9:15 – 9:20 am UESD Anthem

9:20 – 9:25 am Purpose of Gathering – Mrs. Mary Abena Agyepong

9:25 – 9:30 am Introduction of the Chairman – Prof. Daniella Delali Sedegah

9:30 – 9:40 am Acceptance and Welcome Address by the Chairman – Prof. Eric Nyarko-Sampson

9:40 – 9:50 am Spoken Word Performance – Ms. Celestine Eyram Akpalu

» Presentation on environmental degradation, livelihoods, and sustainability

9:50 – 10:15 am Goodwill Messages from Stakeholders (25 minutes)

» Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources – 5 minutes

» Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – 5 minutes

» Minerals Commission / Water Resources Commission – 5 minutes

» Civil Society / Environmental Advocacy Group – 5 minutes

» Abuakwa South MCE/ Community Representative – 5 minutes

10:15 – 10:20 am Introduction of the Guest Speaker – Prof. Edward Wiafe Debrah

10:20 – 11:00 am Commencement Lecture / Address – (Keynote Speaker) Prof. Gibrilla Abass

11:00 – 11:45 am Panel Discussion - Moderated by Dr. Rahmat Quaigrane Duker

» Introduction of Moderator and Panelists

» Panel deliberations

» Questions and comments from the audience

11:45 – 11:50 am Key Highlights for Public Communiqué – Prof. Richard Amfo-Otu

» Summary of major resolutions, recommendations, and action points

11:50 – 12:00 pm Submission of Speech and Public Communiqué to Vice-Chancellor

12:00 – 12:10 pm Chairman's Closing Remarks

12:10 - 12:15 pm UESD Anthem

12:15 – 12:20 pm Vote of Thanks – Dr. Ebenezer Atter

12:20 – 12:25 pm Closing Prayer – Dr. Fatima Eshun

Recession:

» Chairman

» Vice-Chancellor

» Pro-Vice Chancellor

» Management

» Special Guest of Honour/Keynote Speaker/Other Dignitaries

# UESD Anthem

**Composed by : Dr. Godfred T. M. Akuffo (Dept. of Gen. Studies.)**

## ***Stanza 1***

We rise in the east, as the rise of the sun  
The height of wisdom inspired by HOPE  
We are trained to secure the environment  
Where humans and nature live in harmony  
All hail our home of excellence  
All hail our home of great tenacity  
Where our minds are shaped to change the world  
To improve the lives around the Globe.

## ***Chorus***

UESD in honesty we thrive  
UESD, to identify opportunity  
By perseverance we will overcome  
UESD enterprising.

## ***Stanza 2***

The start of an era, the first of the east  
Where restoration is our top priority  
We are skilled to secure the environment  
For greener tomorrow, starting today  
All hail our home of excellence  
All hail our home of great tenacity  
Where our minds are shaped to change the world  
To safeguard the future, yet unfurled.