



For Immediate Release

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**CALL FOR THE RESIGNATION OF PROF. AHMED JINAPOR ABDULAI AS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND PROF. AUGUSTINE OCLOO AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR-
GENERAL OF GHANA TERTIARY EDUCATION COMMISSION**

University of Ghana, Legon, 19th January 2026 – The University Teachers’ Association of Ghana, University of Ghana Branch (UTAG-UG), has taken note of various actions of the Director-general of the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC), Prof. Ahmed Jinapor Abdulai and his Deputy, Prof. Augustine Ocloo, that continue to negatively impact tertiary education institutions in Ghana, contrary to their mandate under the Education Regulatory Bodies ACT, 2020 (Act 1023).

Having come into effect on 21st August 2020, GTEC is mandated to carry out the following functions:

- (a) general; (b) advisory; (c) coordinating; (d) regulatory; (e) accreditation; and (f) any other function necessary for the attainment of the objects of the Commission.
- 1. The Commission’s core mandates include, “ensure that tertiary education institutions (a) apply the highest quality standards and relevance of teaching, learning and research programmes and outcomes, (b) promote equitable and inclusive access to all tertiary education programmes and services; (c) promote transparent governance and best practices, including reporting and checks and balances to ensure full accountability; (d) promote a culture of independent, lifelong learning and of scientific and technological inquiry among staff, students and the wider society”. However, GTEC has veered off these mandates and failed to uphold these statutory expectations.
- 2. Instead of executing its core mandate, the Commission has been reduced to tangential and sometimes frivolous actions, such as chasing people with “fake degrees”, while neglecting the fundamental issues affecting tertiary education in Ghana. Thus, the quality of education being provided by public tertiary educational institutions in Ghana is at an all-time low due to insufficient budgetary support – largely restricted to payment of salaries, inadequate

infrastructure, poor remuneration for lecturers, etc., and yet GTEC appears indifferent to these systemic problems that pose existential threats to tertiary education in Ghana.

3. Permit us to ask GTEC the following: (a) What is the expected student-to-teacher ratio in our tertiary education institutions, and what is the current ratio? (b) What infrastructure requirements does GTEC prescribe, and what is the current state of public tertiary education infrastructure? (c) What mechanism(s) has GTEC put in place to ensure these standards are met?
4. GTEC appears to have lost its way and is now being used to settle scores. Instead of promoting good governance in public tertiary education institutions, it engages in actions that undermine it. For instance, under what legal mandate did GTEC remove the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast, Prof. Johnson Nyarko Boampong? If GTEC claims regulatory authority, which specific provision in Act 1023 empowers such an intervention?
5. There is clear confusion at GTEC's leadership level regarding its advisory versus regulatory roles. Under the advisory role, GTEC is enjoined to, "recommend standards and norms on governance, financing, academic programmes, staff costs, accommodation and time utilisation, for the approval of the Minister". This is not an invitation to undermine the authority of Governing Councils of public tertiary education institutions. Yet under Profs. Jinapor and Ocloo, (a) Governing Councils of all the public tertiary universities, established by law, have effectively been rendered useless and powerless (b) Vice-Chancellors have been reduced to toothless bull dogs, nonentities and persona non grata on their various campuses, (c) decisions legally taken by Governing Councils of public tertiary institutions are reversed by GTEC without clear legal basis. How is GTEC able to overturn the decisions of institutions whose Councils it sits, and under what legal authority?
6. For the past three (3) years, Government has refused to grant clearance for recruitment – not even to replace those who resign, retire or pass away. This has increased lecturers' workload, damaged staff health and well-being, and reduced the quality of education. At the same time, adherence to the procurement law and its administrative bureaucracies is crippling teaching and research activities on our various campuses yet, GTEC remains adamant even though it is supposed to be the chief advocate for public tertiary education.
7. In a rather bizarre move, GTEC, through a letter dated October 1, 2025, directed that Lecturers retire on the day they attain 60 years as it pertains in other public sector institutions, instead of the end of the academic year through the roll-over system, as is

usually the practice, to ensure that academic activities are not truncated. The question that we ask is, if a lecturer's birthday falls in the middle of the semester and retires forthwith on attaining 60 years, forfeiting any offer of post-retirement contract, how do the students who have registered for the courses being taught by that person as well as project students being supervised by that person finish the rest of the semester and the academic year? Again, under what legal mandate did GTEC give this directive, subsequently followed up with a letter dated January 16th, 2026, requesting the submission of requests for post-retirement contracts? This is an administrative overreach aimed at micromanaging public tertiary education institutions contrary to the provisions of the 1992 constitution.

8. Granted that GTEC had legal authority (which it does not), to give the directive and make this request, is Prof. Jinapor saying that GTEC is more competent in determining the suitability of individuals to be engaged on a post-retirement contract across all disciplines in our public tertiary education institutions rather than the Governing Councils of these tertiary education institutions acting on the recommendations of the various academic units?
9. Post-retirement contracts are conditions of service negotiated and signed by Government and approved by Cabinet. Neither GTEC nor any individual has the authority to unilaterally alter these rights. They are entitlements, not privileges to be decided at the whims of any individual.
10. The leadership style of Prof. Ahmed Jinapor Abdulai and his Deputy, Prof. Augustine Ocloo, have been adversarial rather than cordial in engaging with managers of public tertiary education institutions, threatening and invoking the regulatory powers of GTEC at the least opportunity, even when it is contentious that such powers do exist. This has negatively affected staff morale across public educational institutions.
11. For instance, when SRC and GRASAG levies were increased at the University of Ghana following due process, simply acting on a false media report, Prof. Ahmed Jinapor Abdulai, as DG of GTEC, wrote to the University of Ghana and leaked to the media, requesting that UG rescinds the 25% increment in school fees, threatening serious regulatory sanctions if such decision was not reversed and refunds given to students by a certain date. This turned out to be a hoax as no such increment had been occasioned. He could have ascertained the veracity or otherwise of such a report through a phone call to the management of University of Ghana before misleading the public.
12. These recurring mishaps are not accidental – they represent a pattern of incompetent administration that undermines (a) academic freedom enshrined and protected in the 1992

constitution; (b) institutional autonomy essential to drive the national development agenda and (c) the vision and principles UTAG defended when opposing the now infamous Public Universities Bill. If these actions go unchecked, the consequences for Ghana's tertiary education system will be dire.

13. UTAG and other stakeholders in the public education space have engaged leadership of GTEC on many occasions to offer suggestions on best practices as well as collaborative approaches to enhancing the administration of public tertiary education in Ghana that ensures equity and highest quality standards, but these engagements have largely not yielded meaningful results.

OUR DEMANDS

- 1. UTAG-UG calls on the DG, Prof. Ahmed Jinapor Abdulai, DDG, Prof. Augustine Ocloo, to resign honourably by 31st of January 2026. Failure to do so will result in (a) a petition to the Chief-of-Staff for their removal (b) industrial action if necessary.**
- 2. Immediate enactment of a Legislative Instrument (LI) that will guide the implementation of Act 1023 to forestall future abuse of power by leadership of GTEC.**

We urge all other UTAG campuses and sister institutions to join this fight against tyranny, oppression, and administrative abuse, to restore sanity and hope to our public education institutions.

God Bless Our Homeland, Ghana! God bless UTAG!

Signed

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