

On Behalf of the Director General, Ghana Health Service
Delivered by Dr. Claudette A. Diogo, Office of Pharmaceutical Services
At the Launch of the 90th Anniversary Celebrations of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana
Forecourt, Christ Presbyterian Church, Akropong-Akuapem | Friday, 1st May 2026

The President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana, Dr. Paul Owusu Donkor
Distinguished Members of the PSGH Executive Council
Nananom, Distinguished Pharmacists, Partners in Health
Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of honour that I stand before you today on behalf of the Director General of the Ghana Health Service, **Dr. Samuel Akoriyea Kaba**, to convey his warmest congratulations to the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana on the launch of your **90th Anniversary Celebrations**.

Ninety years. Nine decades of *science, service, and sacrifice*.

When **twenty-six pharmacists** founded this Society at Hansdrug Hall, Accra, on 19th December 1935, Ghana was still the Gold Coast. There was no Republic, no Ghana Bar Association, no Ghana Medical Association. PSGH stands as the **oldest of our nation's flagship learned professional bodies** — twenty-three years older than both, and older than the Republic itself (PSGH, 2024).

That founding band of twenty-six has grown to **over five thousand pharmacists**. From one pharmacy school at KNUST in 1953, we now have **seven accredited training programmes**. From a handful of colonial dispensaries, we now serve Ghanaians through nearly **four thousand community pharmacies** — and **more than eight in every ten Ghanaians** turn to a pharmacy when illness strikes (Adomako-Kwakye et al., 2019). That is not a profession on the margins. That is the frontline of Ghanaian healthcare.

Your theme — *“Science. Impact. Legacy. 90 Years of Pharmaceutical Excellence”* — is not merely commemorative. It is a declaration backed by evidence.

On Science. From **Act 64 of 1961**, through **Act 489 of 1994**, to **Act 857 of 2013**, every major pharmacy law in Ghana bears PSGH's imprint. In April 2020, our Food and Drugs Authority became **only the second regulator in Africa** to attain WHO Maturity Level 3 (WHO AFRO, 2020); and in 2023, Ghana became the **first country in the world** to approve the R21 malaria vaccine.

On Impact. Ghana's malaria deaths fell from **2,799 in 2012 to just 151 in 2022** — a **ninety-five per cent reduction** — because pharmacists kept quality-assured antimalarials on every district shelf (NMEP, 2023). Maternal mortality has been **more than halved**, from 499 to 234 deaths per 100,000 live births (World Bank, 2024). HIV treatment coverage rose from **one per cent in 2004 to over sixty per cent today** — every dose dispensed by a pharmacist (Mensah et al., 2023). In one Kumasi hospital, pharmacist-led stewardship cut hospital-acquired infections **from 17.5 to 6.5 per cent in seven months** (Amponsah et al., 2023).

On Legacy. Adverse drug reaction reports grew **tenfold in six years** — from 13 to 126 per million Ghanaians (Sabblah et al., 2024). The 2024 launch of the **SEAPS Project** and the **PSGH Research Fund** proves that at ninety, this Society is not retiring. It is reinvesting.

At Ghana Health Service, we see your impact every day — in antimicrobial stewardship, maternal health, malaria, HIV, NCDs, and supply-chain resilience. Pharmacists at every level are central to our shared mission of **leaving no Ghanaian behind**.

We commend PSGH for launching this anniversary here in Akropong-Akuapem — a bold signal that quality healthcare must reach **every corner of our nation**, not only our cities. We also commend the recognition of young scholars today; investing in the next generation of pharmacists is investing in Ghana’s future health.

The Ghana Health Service reaffirms its commitment to deepening collaboration with PSGH — to advance **Universal Health Coverage**, integrate pharmacies through **Pharmacy First**, expand local manufacturing, and build a resilient health system worthy of the next ninety years.

To the leadership and members of PSGH — **happy 90th Anniversary**. We are proud to call you partners. We are prouder still to call you **friends in this mission**.

Ayekoo, PSGH.

Long live the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana.

Long live the spirit of Amicus Humani Generis — Friend of Humanity.

Long live Ghana.

Thank you.