

# ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDIA, ARTS AND COMMUNICATION (UniMAC) AT THE SPONSORSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY BY THE LEBANESE EMBASSY AT UniMAC

His Excellency the Ambassador of Lebanon, Maher Kheir

The Pro Vice-Chancellor of UniMAC, Prof. Winston Abroampa

Rectors of the Constituent Institutes of UniMAC

The Acting Registrar, Mrs. Patience Sowah

The Director of Finance, Mr. Francis Obeng

Deans, Directors of UniMAC

Heads of Departments and Senior Members Herein Gathered

Distinguished Awardees

Staff and Students of UniMAC

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning

“Education is the passport to the future for tomorrow belongs to those who prepares for it today” [Malcom X].

This quotation by Malcom X sets the tone for our ceremony today and I am happy, once again, to see this day come true as we support our financially-challenged students to excel and complete their university education with the requisite mental wellbeing needed for studies.

Malcom X reminds us that education is your passport, an opportunity to travel, explore and be a change maker in the future unknown for tomorrow’s society. And, I am of the firm believe that this, rare opportunity given us, will impact generations unknown.

His Excellency, it is not always gratifying to give when you have a tall list of commitments. I and the entire UniMAC family, appreciate this continuous gesture. I am saying this on the back of the fact that Lebanon is facing an unprecedented war back home where every little resource, commonsensically, must be channeled to support and make better the lives of the Lebanese people at home. But you chose to give to UniMAC and to these students gathered here.

I trust that you believe in the popular maxim that, the more you give, the more you receive. May, this act of giving return to you and the Lebanese people a million-fold in blessings and goodness.

This blessing, I believe is, divine as we just celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr. A season of compassion, forgiveness and solidarity. One, only true Muslims understand its impacts. May this season cause us to believe in humanity and forgive ourselves for all the wrongs, trusting that Allah is merciful. I therefore say, Eid Mubarak to all our Muslim brothers and sisters.

Talking about Eid, I am reminded that Easter is just around the corner. A time of great sacrifice, love and forgiveness. This award ceremony is sandwiched between two holy periods and the spiritualists would say, great things cast their shadows in signs and wonders. Easter is the greatest act of giving, a sacrifice of the highest act of love, and we are grateful this event is happening now. Happy Easter in advance to all Christians here!

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, UniMAC's Relationship with the Lebanese Embassy predates UniMAC. It was a relationship nurtured during the days of the erstwhile Ghana Institute of Journalism, when I became a Vice Rector. Since, we metamorphosed into UniMAC, we have continued to cultivate a mutually respectable relationship with the Lebanese Embassy and its Ambassador to Ghana, His Excellency Maher Kheir. As the Vice-Chancellor now of UniMAC, last year we paid a courtesy call on him to commiserate with him and the Lebanese people for the unfortunate war going on back home. This year, we have held a mini lecture organized by the Ambassador on the topic, "Media Literacy and Artificial Intelligence: Preparing Students for the Future." Dr. Anwar Kawtharani, Dean of the School of Education at the Lebanese International University (LIU),

delivered the lecture to students and faculty, and at the end of it, we cut a big cake to celebrate our friendship.

The Ambassador always makes time to attend our events. Your Excellency, I am very grateful you made time to honour the invitation to my Investiture, thank you.

With such a strong relationship, this award ceremony is one of the many benefits of friendships. I am happy to say that this is the third formal awards ceremony on sponsorships by the Embassy of Lebanon. The first ceremony for the 2022/2023 academic year, we had twelve (12) students benefiting from this scholarship. In the 2023/2024 academic year, we saw twenty-one (21) students being given respite financially and this year, the 2024/2025 academic year, we will witness twenty-six (26) students being given this rare gift to continue their education in peace.

The breakdown for the twenty-six are as follows: twenty (20) students from the Institute of Journalism; two (2) from the Institute of Film and Television and four (4) from the Institute of Languages. The numbers not only attest to the increasing support we are receiving from His Excellency, but also, our oneness as UniMAC with equitable distribution across the board.

Now to the awardees, note this: Many are called but few are chosen (Mathew 22:14). Remember that you are the lucky ones who found yourself at UniMAC and to also benefit from this amazing scholarship scheme by the Embassy of Lebanon in Ghana. This is a great opportunity to set you ahead so you could learn harder; earn your scholarship every day. Be reminded of what sets you apart from the rest and be the shining example to your colleagues and faculty.

We would be here to celebrate with you at the end of the journey when you pick up laurels for first classes and special awards. But, my most important advice to you today is, remember to pay this forward in the years to come. As said by His Eminence Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu, “Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world”. In essence, one good turn, always deserves another.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, let today’s scholarship awards ceremony by the Embassy of Lebanon remind us to “be the reason someone smiles. Be the

reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness of people” (quotation by Roy T. Bennet, from the book “The Light in the Heart”).

The world is full of good people doing good deeds, be good to humanity and remember that, “nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work” (unknown); trust me, you will definitely receive your blessings from doing good.

To His Excellency Maher Kheir, we say, to the world you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world to them; continue to do the good you do.

Thank you and God bless us all!

**PROFESSOR ERIC OPOKU MENSAH**  
**VICE-CHANCELLOR, UniMAC**  
7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025



**UniMAC**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MEDIA, ARTS AND COMMUNICATION**