



# LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF GHANA

## **LAG STATEMENT AT INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY 2024 COMMEMORATION SYMPOSIUM BY THE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES, UG**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, all protocols observed, it is with great pleasure that I join you today, on behalf of the Linguistics Association of Ghana (LAG), to commemorate the 2024 International Mother Languages Day. This year, we come together to celebrate the overarching theme of **"Multilingual education – a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning."** This theme serves as a strong reminder of the profound significance of multilingualism, not only in shaping educational paradigms but also in fostering intergenerational knowledge transfer.

As an association dedicated to the study and promotion of language, linguistics and linguistic diversity, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of recognizing and preserving mother tongues. These languages are not merely tools of communication; they are the very foundation of cultural identity and serve as conduits for transmitting heritage, wisdom, and traditions across generations. It is imperative that they be esteemed and upheld, rather than trivialised or marginalised.

In tandem with the celebration of linguistic diversity and multilingualism, we recognize the undeniable necessity for proficiency in multiple languages in our increasingly interconnected global society. The ability to communicate across linguistic boundaries has transitioned from a mere advantage to an essential skill in today's world. Multilingual education stands as a cornerstone for fostering understanding, collaboration, and inclusivity on a global scale.

We take advantage of this auspicious occasion to commend the Parliament of Ghana for the recently proposed reform to their Standing Orders to allow the use of native Ghanaian languages in parliamentary discourse. This initiative bears testament to the recognition of the intrinsic value of our indigenous languages, and represents a significant stride towards linguistic inclusivity and representation in formal settings. However, we acknowledge that the



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successful implementation of such a policy demands resolute determination and the establishment of concrete measures.

The provision of logistical support such as interpreters, interpretation equipment, and comprehensive language education programs is pivotal to sustainably integrating multilingual practices in arenas such as the Parliament.

As we commemorate this International Day, let us fervently reaffirm our commitment to championing and nurturing linguistic diversity, embracing multilingual education, and fortifying our collective resolve to erect inclusive linguistic frameworks that amplify the voices of all language communities. It is incumbent upon us to not only advocate for linguistic diversity but also to effectuate tangible initiatives that facilitate the seamless integration of multiple languages in various spheres of societal operation.

In conclusion, I implore each and every one of us to stand in unity and solidarity to uphold the intrinsic value of linguistic diversity, champion multilingual education, and ensure that our collective efforts lead to the creation of inclusive linguistic frameworks that amplify the voices of all language communities. Thank you, and may we continue to work together towards a world where mother languages and linguistic diversity is celebrated and cherished.

Happy International Mother Language Day!

Thank you.