

“Strengthening Capacity in Public Ethics and Professionalism is a Prerequisite for Effective Local Governance” – Prof. Awortwi



29th August, 2025: The Director of the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS), Prof. Nicholas Awortwi has added his voice to ongoing discussions on professionalism and ethical conduct in the country's local governance system. At the 2nd Prof S.N. Woode memorial lecture organised by the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) in Accra, Prof Awortwi stressed on the need to strengthen the capacity of local governance practitioners in ethical conduct and professionalism to ensure effective service delivery at the local level.

The lecture, which was under the theme: “Building capacity for professionalism and ethical conduct in Ghana’s local governance system,” reflected the core values championed by the Institute’s Founding Director, Professor Samuel Nunoo Woode throughout his public life.



He reminded participants at the lecture to emulate the remarkable legacies of Prof. Woode whom he described as an astute administrator and distinguished scholar whose legacy was marked by integrity, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to the highest standards of public duty. He also implored them to uphold these values in the performance of their public duties at the local or national level.

Prof Awortwi expressed worry about the declining state of professionalism and ethics of public administrators some of whom Prof. Woode had devoted his life to build, nurture and deploy at the national and local levels. He therefore, questioned among others if such administrators could truly serve the public interest without the unwavering commitment to integrity.



The lecture brought together very important persons from academia, the judiciary, government functionaries, friends and family of the late Prof Woode as well as stakeholders and practitioners in the civil and local governance sectors. The main lecturer for the 2nd Memorial Biennial Lecture was the renowned local governance scholar, Prof. Kwamena Ahwoi.