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**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
(GRADUATE PROGRAMMES)
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
NOVEMBER 16, 2019**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Procession

- Members of Convocation
 - Council
- (The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose: Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse,
Chancellor

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu
Vice-Chancellor

Congregation Speaker: Mrs. Emi-Beth Aku Quantson

Valedictory Address: Mr. Michael Goka

Conferment of Degrees:

Presentation of graduands from the College of Education

· BA · BSc · Diploma

Chancellor dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

Recession

(The Congregation is asked to remain seated until officials and graduates have left the Hall.)

**OPENING ADDRESS BY
MRS. MARY CHINERY-HESSE, CHANCELLOR**

Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provosts, Deans and Directors
Guest Speaker
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Education
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Alumni
Graduands
Invited Guests
Members of the Press Corps
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning

I would like to welcome all of you gathered here on this important occasion.

During today's ceremony, undergraduate students from the College of Education, who have satisfied the requirements for graduation, will be presented and graduated.

Ladies and gentlemen, the 2019 Congregation ceremonies are programmed to span three days, delivering seven sessions. It is evident that the number of students graduating from the University of Ghana is increasing each year. We deem it a good opportunity on these occasions to reflect on how well Management, faculty and staff are discharging their responsibility of providing the appropriate academic services and support, to ensure that students have a positive experience, and also satisfy the requirements for graduation and, indeed, are able to graduate on time.

I can assure you, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, that Management of the University remains committed to improving upon graduation rates and student satisfaction. University Management undertakes as well, to continue to do all in its power to provide students with a memorable experience.

This year has not been without some challenges, as it happens in any human institution. My personal concern has been that the name and reputation of the University would be preserved under any circumstances. It has therefore been worrisome on those occasions when especially press coverage of certain situations has carried the risk of tarnishing the image of the University in the media.

One such occasion relates to difficulties with newly admitted students securing on-campus accommodation.

University Management recognizes that the current number of beds cannot cater for all of our students, and is therefore engaging with various private entities towards the provision of additional hostels in the near future.

We have in this regard taken note of the positive contribution of some alumni in resolution of this particular problem. I refer to the Old Vandals taking the initiative of providing hostel facilities. As has happened with other prestigious Universities around the world, it is to be hoped that the alumni of the University of Ghana would be more intimately involved, among other things, in the provision of facilities and mobilization of resources, especially through the Endowment Fund.

The University was also rocked by allegations of sexual harassment involving some members of faculty. I am satisfied with the measures put in place by management of the University to interrogate the issue, while warning all against indulging in behaviours that contravene the University's Code of Ethics. University Management is fully committed to ensuring that the campus environment would be completely free from all forms of sexual harassment.

I repeat that the University of Ghana will not condone any form of sexual harassment, and mechanisms are currently being championed

led by the Vice-Chancellor, to ensure that there would be zero tolerance to such abuses.

Global statistics lend credence to the fact that such negative practices are common in universities around the world. Management is determined to set an example worthy of emulation by other similar institutions by putting in place robust policies towards this end.

I encourage all our students to take advantage of the structures put in place, and report such behaviours', if they occur. I give the assurance that no one will suffer any form of victimization as a result of reporting.

To our graduating students, I hope that on the occasion of your graduation, you will take stock of what you have achieved and make a conscious decision to let your experiences guide you in your future endeavours.

You have played your part, by putting in enormous amount of hard work, spending sleepless nights burning the midnight oil. Your presence here this morning is proof that your efforts have not been in vain. I take the opportunity to wish you the graduands, who are being presented today, the very best on this very important occasion. We share in your joy on the successful completion of your programmes of study and we are very proud of you.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to declare this morning's assembly, duly constituted for the award of degrees of the University of Ghana to successful graduands.

It is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give a report at Congregation, on developments in the University over the last academic year. I now call on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, to present the Vice-Chancellor's report.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS BY PROF. EBENEZER ODURO OWUSU

Chancellor
Chairman and Members of Council
Pro-Vice Chancellors
Registrar
Provosts and Deans
Guest Speaker
Chairman and Members of Advisory Board of the College of
Educations
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Alumni
Graduands
Invited Guests
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the fifth session of the November Congregation ceremonies for the 2018/2019 cohort.

This ceremony is dedicated to students of the College of Education. A total of 930 students are graduating this morning.

THE STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

Academic Affairs of the University

Admissions

The University of Ghana enrolled a total of 18,212 (Eighteen Thousand, Two Hundred and Twelve) applicants, made up of 15,167 undergraduate and 3,045 graduate students into various programmes mounted at its campuses in the 2019/2020 academic year. The total enrolment this year shows a 51:49 female to male ratio) which implies that 9,288 females enrolled compared with 8,924 males. By this feat, the University has already exceeded its target of achieving a female to male enrolment ratio of 50:50 by the year 2020.

Accommodation

The University's capacity to undertake any further investments to augment the housing stock has largely been impeded by judgment debts and other financial obligations. The University, has for some time now decoupled admission from accommodation. University admission is, therefore, not linked to the provision of beds hence students have had to compete for the few beds on a first-come basis.

Towards addressing the accommodation challenge, and in anticipation of the influx of the first cohort of graduates from the Free Senior High School Policy, Management is considering various approaches towards improving the situation. Currently, the University of Ghana's Land Lease Committee is in negotiation with a number of private bodies to expand housing options on campus. The Students' Representative Council of the University has also initiated a process of embarking on a 2500-bed capacity hostel project.

Worthy of note is that on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, a sod-cutting ceremony was held for the construction of a state-of-the-art annex facility for Commonwealth Hall by the Old Vandals Association (OVA) and their partners, KPMM Civils Limited with a possible completion of the first phase (2500 beds) within one year. This project is expected to deliver, fully-furnished 4660-bed facility, made up of 302 one-bed block, 552 two-bed block, 3806 four-bed block and 32 two-bedroom lecturers flats among others.

Affiliation of Six Colleges of Education to University of Ghana

Madam Chancellor, as you may be aware, the Government of Ghana has initiated policy reforms in teacher education to improve the quality of teaching and learning at basic schools. As part of the reforms, all 46 public Colleges of Education are being converted into University Colleges of Education of public universities that train teachers through a special affiliation agreement for a transitional period of four years to deliver the new four-year B.Ed. curriculum. This agreement is expected to guarantee the institutional integration of Colleges into their affiliated Universities.

In consonance with the above, six public Colleges of Education have been assigned to the University of Ghana with effect from October 2019. The Colleges are Accra College of Education, Enchi College

of Education, Evangelical Presbyterian College of Education at Amedzofe, Peki College of Education, Gbewaa College of Education at Pusiga, and Mount Mary College of Education at Somanya.

Strategic Directions

Madam Chancellor, strategic teams were set up in November 2016 to drive the transformational agenda of the University of Ghana.

The Independent Power Supply Team is spearheading the effort to re-condition the biogas plant at Hilla Limann Hall to generate gas for the four new Halls.

Through the instrumentality of the team, the Chief Executive Officer of Virtual Security Africa (VSA)/Aventura has made a commitment to supply, install and commission a solar backed CCTV Surveillance System at the University of Ghana. The initiative forms part of the corporate social responsibility of the company and the personal capacity of the CEO as an alumnus of the University. The University is grateful to VSA for this noble gesture.

As part of the efforts of the team, the University recently gave approval for Bui Power Project to undertake geological and geotechnical surveys, and transmission right of way needed to conclude the feasibility studies for a proposed 2.5 Mw solar project.

The Green Team Project is also advancing on its mandate of increasing tree density, ensuring green coverage of campus grounds, developing paved walkways and improving waste management. The team has also earmarked a number of activities on the main campus this year. The University of Ghana Plastic Recycling Project's (UGPRP) effort at institutionalizing source segregation of waste in the university community is commendable. So far, it is estimated that about 23 metric tons of plastic waste has been collected and transferred for recycling. The recycling project is spearheaded by students.

Fundraising Strategy to Modernize Laboratories and Research Facilities at the University of Ghana

Distinguished guests, a fundraising strategy to modernize laboratories and research facilities at the University of Ghana has been developed by the Laboratory Modernization Implementation Committee as part of the strategic initiatives. Establishing state-

of-the-art laboratories and developing world-class facilities at University of Ghana will help bridge and better link theory and practice. A well-resourced university with modern facilities for research can help deliver and advance Ghana's national agenda of self-sustaining development, as well as meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063.

It is expected that all stakeholders will join our four-year fund-raising campaign to mobilize the target of US\$ 500 million needed to modernize our laboratories when the initiative is rolled out later this year.

Research Grants

Madam Chancellor, the Office of Research, Innovation, and Development (ORID), is spearheading the University's vision of becoming a world-class research-intensive institution. For the 2018-2019 academic year, the Office processed about 81 research grant agreements with a total grant value of over US\$ 42.5 million (Forty-Two Million and Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars). This represents over 1,000% (one thousand percent) increase in grant revenue over the last three academic years.

African Centres of Excellence (ACE) Projects

Madam Chancellor, I am happy to report that during the year under review, the University of Ghana won funding to set up three Centres of Excellence under a funding arrangement by the Government of Ghana and the World Bank. These centres are part of the Africa Centres of Excellence (ACE II) Projects. They are:

1. Africa Centre of Excellence for Agricultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship
2. West African Genetic Medicine Centre
3. West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens and Non-Communicable Diseases (WACCBIP & NCDs)

The establishment of these centres will go a long way to dedicate funding for research and training of PhD students in Agriculture, Public Health and Medicine.

Allegations of Sexual Harassment

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, following the recent media reports of alleged sexual harassment cases involving some faculty of the University, Management has taken steps to enforce its Anti-Sexual Harassment regulations. Following the broadcast, Management set up a five-member Fact-finding Committee chaired by Her Ladyship Justice (Rtd) Vida Akoto-Bamfo to conduct an inquiry into the matter.

I am happy to inform you that the Committee submitted its report to me on Tuesday, 12th November, 2019. Management will, therefore, study the report and ensure implementation of the recommendations using the appropriate adjudicatory processes stipulated under the Basic Laws and other policies of the University.

Meanwhile, the University has created an anonymous e-mail address and a WhatsApp platform to facilitate and create easy avenues through which sexual harassment cases may be reported. We particularly encourage people who may have fallen victim to such unfortunate incidents to take advantage and report them for redress.

In response to the ongoing discussion on how to tackle sexual harassment issues going forward, the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA) has been tasked to lead in developing a training programme to educate members of the UG community on what constitutes harassment. It is envisaged that in the not too distant future, every employee of the University of Ghana would be trained in understanding what constitutes sexual and gender harassment and how to respond to it, as a victim. Once the framework is developed, it is proposed that the training would be available both online and in other formats and will also be extended to students.

We are counting on CEGENSA to consult widely and come up with a training programme that is suitable for the University of Ghana, and which will deal decisively with the issues relating to sexual harassment.

Financial Aid to Students

Ladies and gentlemen, the Students' Financial Aid Office has made it possible for less endowed but brilliant students to have equal access to quality education at the University of Ghana. I am glad to note that there has been an increase in donations from approximately GH¢ 1,000,000.00 (One Million Ghana Cedis) in the 2016/2017 academic year to approximately GH¢ 3,000,000.00 (Three Million Ghana Cedis) in 2017/18 academic year. This represents 155% increase over the previous year.

During the period under review, a total of Six Hundred and Fourteen students (614) out of Nine Hundred and Twenty (920) applicants were awarded scholarships. This represents 66.7% of all scholarship applicants.

Sporting Activities

The University of Ghana Policy on Admission of Athlete Students (UG-PAAS), which was launched in the 2014/2015 academic year forms part of a broader UG sports strategy. So far, a total of Three Hundred and Fifty-Eight (358) student-athletes have been admitted through the policy. One Hundred and Ten (110) females and Two Hundred and Forty-Eight (248) males.

Already, the UG-PAAS Policy has yielded some significant results. I am pleased to report that Mr. Benjamin Azameti, a level 300 Marine & Fisheries Science student of the University of Ghana is the fastest human in Ghana and a current 4x100 African gold medalist. Worthy of mention is Ms. Grace Obour, a level 100 Sports and Education student who is the 400 metres champion in Ghana, 6th best in Africa and 42nd ranked in the world. Similarly, the University's male basketball team has remained unbeaten in Ghana, West Africa, and Africa since 2013.

Well Wishes to Graduands

To you, ladies and gentlemen of the graduating class, as we celebrate this milestone with you, I would like to conclude with the words of Winston Churchill: "Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm".

I, therefore, pray that your commitment to obtaining knowledge does not end with your graduation but that you will continue to seek

knowledge to enable you to make significant changes in your lives and in society as a whole.

As you move on to the next stage of your lives, remember to uphold the values of the University – Respect, Commitment, Integrity, and Loyalty.

I wish you all the best in your individual endeavours. Once again, congratulations.

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY
MRS. EMI-BETH AKU QUANTSON**

Madam Chancellor
Vice-Chancellor
Chairman and Members of Council
Pro Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provosts, Deans and Directors
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of College of
Education
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Alumni
Graduands
Invited Guests
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Class of 2019 congratulations. You made it!!! I would like for you to take a moment and just scream because you've done it!

Many said if you didn't pass BECE, you wouldn't amount to anything and then it was SSCE or WASSCE and here you are graduating from the prestigious University of Ghana, College of Education. Congratulations!

To put this in context, according to a World Bank data on education in Ghana as at 2016, graduates from tertiary education were reported to be 90,942 for both sexes. Class of 2019, you have joined the ranks of the elite and already have all you need to succeed.

It hasn't been an easy journey for many of you. As distance learners in particular who must have been juggling many responsibilities including fulltime jobs, starting families, pursuing your own business and being there for family and friends. Your determination has already taught you how to make the best of circumstances while striving for what you want. You have also already experienced first hand, the cost of data and the impact of the Communications Service Tax (CST). Your determination has been key in getting this degree.



Officials, Members of Convocation, Guest Speaker and Valedictorian in a group photograph



Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse, Chancellor, delivering the Opening Address



Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor, delivering the Vice-Chancellor's Address



Prof. Michael Tagoe, Ag. Provost, College of Education, acknowledging International Students of the College



Mrs. Mercy Haizel-Ashia, Registrar, delivering the Opening Remarks at the ceremony



**Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah, College Secretary,
College of Education**



**Mrs. Emi-Beth Aku Quantson, delivering the
Guest Speaker's Address**



**Mr. Michael Goka, delivering the
Valedictory Speech**



Graduands at the Congregation ceremony



Parents, guardians and invited guests at the ceremony

For the female graduands in particular, I give you an extra hearty congratulations for managing your school work with all the unpaid housework you do and the multitasking that almost seems ingrained.

Once you have burnt the midnight oil to submit an assignment, or leveraged on the intellect of your friends to find the right answers, while persuading your support system to give you more money, you already know the tricks of survival in the next phase. Determination is an understatement in your case.

I graduated in 2007, what in my mind was not too long ago. I know how it feels like to sit in your seat, excited but also afraid of the next chapter. Unsure of what will happen after this celebration: will I land a good job? Will I be able to turn all my dreams into reality? And what if it all fails? I was even more worried about failing, as I was familiar with this phenomenon. I graduated with honours instead of the higher honors, which I planned to obtain. I wish I could say that all those questions will fade and that you will find all the answers. You will find some but most of the time you figure it out on the go. Even 12 years after graduation, I can tell you, that the fear never goes away. Once you get a job, you have a fear of losing it, or not making enough money or not being promoted or not being satisfied in your job. Although I also don't have all the answers, I can assure you that the journey itself is a source of satisfaction and you can draw confidence from your successes.

Life is not a smooth ride for anybody regardless of who you are and how many resources you have. There will always be curveballs and unlike in class where there is a right answer that your professor has up his sleeve, there are no guaranteed right answers: one right decision may still lead you to a bad outcome and a bad decision may still lead to a good outcome. There are no straight answers to the questions which life offers. However, there are experiences that we can all learn from and as I share my story, I hope this would be one of them.

When I was asked to give the congregation speech, I was pleasantly surprised; how did I get to this point to be recognized by the prestigious University of Ghana as someone worthy to speak to this

graduating class that has already experienced so much? To show you how my journey shaped me, I will share three stories from my life with you.

The first story is about small beginnings. While I was in the university like you, I had a dream of starting a coffee shop. I had a Kenyan friend, living in Ghana, with whom I had long talks regarding my plans. The smell of coffee alone made my heart skip a beat so why not start a café myself, I thought? Well first of all, I couldn't afford a coffee machine and didn't even know where to get one locally. Secondly I had no idea where to get coffee or how to make it and third, my target market had no money.

My dream of a coffee café turned into a student café, isn't that failure? You could see it as failure if you take out the value which that experience taught me. Suddenly, I had to figure out how to hire and train staff, how to put in procedures for production and accounting and how to design and build on the space I identified on the lawn of my university campus. These are just to name a few examples. It wasn't what I had dreamed but just by trying, I learnt so much, I learnt how to pitch my idea to reluctant students who became my co-founders. I learnt that when others see you striving they can identify ways to help. An example was my architecture lecturer, Mr. Evans-Anfom who brought my vision to life on paper, free of charge. My staff also brought unique perspectives which drove the vision. So while my small beginning might not have worked out the way I wanted, I treasure this experience for what it taught me. Things may not work out as planned but don't get stuck on the plan and miss out on the fun and experience. Cherish your small beginnings, as they can be the start to greater things in your life.

The second story shows the value of having faith and making the jump. I quit my very well paying job to become an entrepreneur. Sounds pretty crazy right? Why give up your comfort and security? Making this change forced me to reflect on how we actually measure success. What do you consider a successful life? Have you thought about it?

There is a skew in our society where your self-worth comes from your title or the organization that you are associated with and this

prestige takes precedence over everything. It takes precedence over whether you are happy, whether you get to spend time with your family, whether you are healthy, or if there is anything you would rather do. And of course, how much money you make is more important than how you make that money. So, after landing my first job which was a dream job, it was a bit radical, 6 years later to take the risk to step into entrepreneurship. It was incredibly scary and all the fears I felt when I sat at my graduation resurfaced. Had I just messed up my life? Would I ever recover?

Two things helped me to move beyond fear. First, I went skydiving, I jumped out of a plane. There is something about flying in the air with no anchorage that makes you believe you can do anything easily. Second, I made the mistake of socialising with entrepreneurs who encouraged me to take the bold step, yet I hesitated. How did I hack this? I began softly, I transitioned into consulting (self-employment), working almost 5 jobs at a time to maintain my lifestyle. Even though technically I was a “consultant” in each case, the truth was, I had 5 full time jobs with flexible work hours. While doing this I attended coffee industry conferences and took classes to get up to speed with knowledge on coffee and prepared to launch my big entrance into entrepreneurship. By stroke of luck and opportunity from my consulting ventures, I found my first location for my coffee shop and began. I learnt that you can learn anything. My training was in accounting and business. My passion turned out to be coffee. Through continuous education online and beyond, I learnt new skills and adapted to new challenges, so have a little faith, prepare and learn what you need to evolve.

The third story relates to our purpose. In transitioning from my well-paying job, there was always a drive to do more and have more impact. It wasn't enough to make money or provide services that saved others money. Who was I impacting and what difference did I make?

This drive formed the foundation for Kawa Moka and our growth. We have created value through a product that is processed locally and is enjoyed locally. Kawa Moka has grown into a full scale coffee manufactory, obtaining our green coffee beans directly from women farmers in Leklebi in the Volta Region of Ghana and roasting at our well equipped industrial roastery.

Moving from small beginnings, we made the jump and grew into manufacturers and who knows, perhaps one day we will take our place in history with the giants like Nestle and Unilver. I would never have known what we were capable, had we not tried. I would never have known what I was capable of if I hadn't asked myself whether I was happy with the impact I was making and where I was. I understood where I was coming from and leveraged on that. Let your experience leverage your future, dig deeper and grow from every learning moment. Each one of you has a story to tell. Each one of you will always have a story to tell. What is your story today? What will be your story in five or ten years? Your hard work, attitude and resilience will decide what your story would be. May your stories always be inspiring and fulfilling.

So on your day of graduation, a day when you celebrate a milestone achievement, I challenge you to build the businesses you wish could exist. Only you could bring them into existence. Change the work culture. Explore life outside your comfort zone. Get to know yourself. The journey will not be easy but you just might be invited to speak to a group of intelligent, enthusiastic young graduands and impact their lives. How cool would that be?. Do not forget, you're already there. You're a graduate. So believe in yourself, honour your small beginnings, don't be afraid to make the jump and never stop evolving to fulfil your purpose.

Thank you.

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED
BY MICHAEL GOKA**

Chancellor of the University
Chairman and Members of the University Council
Vice Chancellor
Pro-Vice Chancellors
Registrar
Provosts, Deans, and Directors
Heads of Department
Guest Speaker
Faculty
Parents and Guardians
Fellow Graduands
The Press
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to you all.

I am indeed, honoured and humbled to be selected as the valedictorian for this session of the November 2019 Congregation of the College of Education of the University of Ghana. I am truly grateful for the opportunity. Indeed, today is an important day in our lives as it marks a major turning point.

A few years ago, ladies and gentlemen, like actors and actresses in the movie theatre, we took the stage to study at the University of Ghana. Through thick and thin, we have managed to get to this stage, where our exit from the stage is being celebrated in grand style. The four-year journey on the UG bus has certainly, not been an easy one. The sleepless nights, especially those that immediately preceded, the end-of-semester examinations and the extraordinary heartbeats that come with the release of examination results were some of the difficult but interesting moments we recount today and will forever remember.

I recall those days during examinations when one would get close to the examination hall and see colleagues revising notes that one did not know existed in the lecture slides until that last hour. Very discouraging, wasn't it? All those dreadful moments have been replaced with beam of smiles on our faces this morning.

Madam Chancellor, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, distance education at the University of Ghana, as in any other institution, has its challenges which, when resolved, would make further studies a great joy, especially for workers like some of us. First it would be very much appreciated if lecturers of the various courses could meet students for tutorials, at least, once before examinations. Secondly, if tutorial schedules could be communicated to both students and lecturers before the start of the semester, it would help students plan effectively and benefit fully from such important tutorial sessions.

Fellow graduands, we have successfully accomplished our mission of writing another chapter of our books of life's accomplishments. Though it has not been easy arriving at this height, we are proud of ourselves today because our tireless efforts supported by the grace of the Almighty God have paid off. As we enter into or return to the world of work, let us not postpone, what we can do today. I came across an inscription that read, "For credit, come tomorrow" – a clear indication that tomorrow never comes. Let us do our very best at the right time without procrastinating. I am quite confident that Ghana's premier university, the University of Ghana, has adequately prepared us to face the world and achieve great things.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I have always believed that learning ends when man dies. And I would entreat all of us, the indefatigable Class of 2019, never to stop learning. Let us not be too proud of and so content with our first degrees. We may not know when these first degrees will become the basic requirement for a job that used to take on holders of Basic Education Certificate. Even though success in life is not all about one's academic qualification, let us not lose sight of the fact that one's academic qualification can be a master key that can open the door of success.

Before I return to my seat, may I seize this opportunity to say a very big thank you to all lecturers and staff of Ghana's premier university – the University of Ghana – for their immense contributions to the grooming of the many graduands who have congregated here in the Great Hall this morning.

To you our parents, guardians, families, friends and colleagues at work, we say a very big thank you for all that you have done and continue to do.

Congratulations, Class of 2019. May God bless us all in our future endeavours.

Thank you.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY
MRS. MARY CHINERY-HESSE, CHANCELLOR**

Members of Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of
Education
Members of Convocation
Distinguished Guest Speaker
New Graduates
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

As we end this ceremony, I would like to salute all who have worked hard to ensure a successful ceremony. I especially recognize all the teachers, the management teams and staff of the various units, who have worked together to ensure that the time that our graduates spent in the University has been fruitful.

The University appreciates the effort that has been put into this enterprise by all stakeholders.

New graduates, you have all worked hard during the time that you have been students at this University; you deserve the laurels that you have acquired.

Never forget that you are special, having graduated from the premier university in Ghana. As you step out today into the world with your certificates in your hands, always be conscious of the fact that successful graduates who excel in the school of life are the University's best asset. The more you shine in the world of work, the more you bring glory to Legon.

I am recruiting you to be part of the brigade, dedicated in your attainments in whatever station you find yourselves, to uplift the image of your alma mater, in order to improve how we are ranked globally in the academic world. I urge you to maintain your links with the University, and to be active members of the University of Ghana Alumni Association.

You have graduated with knowledge and skills which are essential for the development of Ghana, the continent of Africa and indeed the world at large. You have been given so much, and it is just fair that you also give back to the society which has nurtured you. I wish you every success in your future endeavours. Hearty congratulations.

We are happy that so many family members and friends of the graduates were able to join in this celebration. I have no doubt that the graduates appreciate the sacrifices and prayers of parents, guardians, spouses and friends. Let us recognize their contribution with a clap offering.

I thank our guest speaker as well as our invited guests, alumni and friends of the University for your presence and participation in the ceremony. I wish you all safe travel back to your homes.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is now my duty to declare today's congregation officially dissolved.

Thank you all for coming and God bless us all.

