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**COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
JULY 23, 2016**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, July 23, 2016 9.00 p.m.

Procession

The Congregation is asked to stand

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose:

Justice Prof. S. K. Date-Bah, Chairman of Council

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Cecilia Afua Lodonu-Senoo

Conferment of Degrees: Presentation of graduands from College of Health Sciences

- | | | | |
|---------|-------|---------|----------|
| • PhD | • Msc | • MBChB | • BPharm |
| • Mphil | • MPH | • BDS | • BSc |

Conferment of Degrees: Presentation of graduands from College of Education

- | | | |
|---------|-------|-----------|
| • MPhil | • BSc | • Diploma |
| • MA | • BA | |

Valedictory Address: Ms. Michael Siaw Larbi

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

The Congregation is asked to remain seated until all officials and graduands have left the Hall.

**OPENING ADDRESS PROFESSOR SAMUEL KOFI DATE-BAH,
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Hon. Minister for Education
Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Health Sciences and
College of Education
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Graduands,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University, I welcome you all warmly to this morning's ceremony. I also extend Mr. Annan's greetings and best wishes to all of you gathered here on this important occasion.

This ceremony is part of the first set of congregation ceremonies for the 2015-16 cohort of graduating students; the second set of ceremonies will be held in November. The 2015-16 cohort of students is the second to be graduated since the University of Ghana adopted the collegiate system of governance; the sessions have therefore been organised, college by College.

I take the opportunity to wish 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 and diplomas 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 invite the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ernest Aryeetey, to present his report to congregation.

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT CONGREGATION
BY PROFESSOR ERNEST ARYEETAY**

Your Lordship Justice Samuel Date-Bah, Chairman of the University Council;
Members of the University Council;
Pro-Vice Chancellors;
Registrar;
Provosts;
Our distinguished Guest Speaker;
Members of College Advisory Boards;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Members of Convocation;
Niimeɪ, Naameɪ, Nananom;
Invited Guests;
Parents and Guardians;
Graduating Students;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Welcome

It is my pleasant duty to warmly welcome you to today's congregation ceremony. This is the first of two sets of graduating ceremonies for students who completed their studies in the 2015/2016 academic year. The second set of ceremonies will be in November 2016. A total of four ceremonies will be held over two days to award degrees and diplomas to a total of 3590 students graduating from our four Colleges. The graduating students are made up of 2142 diplomates and undergraduates and 1448 post graduates. The post graduates include 57 new PhDs, many of whom are staff of the University. I take this opportunity to congratulate students, faculty and other employees whose hard work and commitment have made this possible.

State of the University

Chairman of Council, as I leave office as Vice-Chancellor at the end of July, I would like to use this occasion to give an overview of the state of the University of Ghana over the period of my stewardship. It has been six years since my induction into office as Vice-Chancellor, and in my induction speech, I spelt out a vision of what I felt needed to be done to make the University of Ghana a world-class

university. Since then, I have worked with colleagues, students and stakeholders of this University in order to make this vision a reality. I appreciate the very significant contribution that the University Council has made in this endeavour, providing advice and taking difficult decisions. The support received from other members of University Management is most appreciated. The Business and Executive Committee and the Academic Board have been extremely helpful as sounding boards for many initiatives.

Chairman of Council, ladies and gentlemen, I will touch on the seven areas identified in my vision statement, steps taken in pursuit of the vision, what has been achieved and what remains to be achieved. The areas are:

- Promoting Academic Excellence through Enhanced Teaching and Learning and Leadership Training
- Promoting Academic Excellence through Significantly Expanded and Relevant Research and Extension
- Overhaul of Governance Arrangements in Administration, Teaching, and Research
- Better Management of University Assets and Facilities
- Scale-up Efforts Towards Equal Opportunity in Gender Diversity
- Enhanced Fund-Raising Activities at Unit and Central Administration Levels
- Mainstream and Enforced Structures and Processes for Monitoring and Evaluation

PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH ENHANCED TEACHING, LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The University has pushed steadily towards significant improvements in teaching and learning, with a major concentration on quality assurance and the provision of new equipment. These efforts have been rewarded with significant improvement in the performance of students and faculty.

UG Rankings Improve Significantly

In the most recent Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, The University of Ghana is ranked 7th in Africa, making us the highest ranked university in the West African sub-region. The rankings take into consideration teaching (the learning environment), research (volume, income and reputation), citations (research influence), industry income (knowledge transfer), and

international outlook (staff, students and research). It is important to observe that UG rankings have consistently improved across all the major ranking organizations, and I acknowledge the hard work of all who have contributed to our rise in the rankings.

Development of Guidelines for Promotion of Academic Senior Members

The Basic Laws of the University required the University Appointments Board to develop guidelines for the promotion of all categories of staff. In line with the requirement, Management appointed a Committee of Experts to propose appropriate guidelines for consideration by the University Appointments Board, Academic Board and University Council. Council has approved the implementation of the guidelines for promotion of academic senior members, and Management is putting in place measures to ensure the implementation of the guidelines.

New Structure of PhD Programmes

A new structure for PhD programmes in the university came into effect from the 2013/2014 academic year. The key additions to the programme are compulsory course work, a year of practical research training on a project, and a formal defense of research proposals. The idea is to give UG PhD programmes a clearer structure while making them internationally competitive. The number of PhD programmes has risen sharply and so has the number of PhD students.

Publication of Readers

As part of the efforts to enhance the quality of teaching at the University of Ghana, and to aid accessibility to published historical material, management supported the development of “Readers” or collections of related essays on a discipline or sub-discipline. The exercise which was to mark the University of Ghana's 65th Anniversary, has so far resulted in 44 Readers being published, with another 12 in the pipeline. The project has been the most significant initiative at book publication in any African university so far. The books should provide very useful reading material for our students and other African students.

Procurement of Science Equipment

In 2011, management developed a programme for the acquisition of modern equipment for the various units of the University undertaking scientific research. Under this programme, a GC Mass Spectrophotometer was acquired, and a nitrogen plant was installed at Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research for the use of scientists in the University. XRD equipment was installed at the

Departments of Physics and Chemistry, and NMR equipment installed at the Department of Chemistry. Additional equipment for general purpose use in the sciences was also procured. In 2015 a new programme for the acquisition of additional science equipment with a focus on Engineering and Health Sciences was initiated. The total outlay for the purchase of science equipment so far is estimated at \$7.5 million.

ICT Based Distance Education Project (Chinese Phase 2 Project)

Ladies and Gentlemen, in April 2010, a contract was signed between the University of Ghana and Unisplendour Software Company for the implementation of an ICT Based Distance Education Project. All the deliverables of the project have been completed and equipment and facilities acquired as part of the project are currently in use.

As part of the project, an Integrated Digital Mobile Learning Platform has been deployed for Distance Education students, providing a convenient and secure environment for learning and real-time interaction between faculty of the School of Continuing and Distance Education and their students. Further to this initiative, the Sakai eLearning Software for Collaboration and Learning has also been deployed on UG servers for module creation by faculty and staff. This is currently being used by faculty as a major tool for providing eLearning to students on the Distance Education programme.

Also under the project, Regional Learning Centers have been refurbished and fitted with computer laboratories, video conference rooms, and smart classrooms. Additionally, under the project, machinery for a new printing press has been delivered for installation.

Improvements in ICT Infrastructure

A fiber network has been deployed on the main Legon Campus as well as the City and Korle-bu campuses, to extend internet connectivity to academic buildings and student residential halls. A major Wi-Fi deployment has been completed on the main campus so that faculty and staff to give access to network resources anywhere on campus.

The Livestock and Poultry Research Centre (LIPREC) in Nungua, Soil and Irrigation Research Centre (SIREC) in Kpong, and the Forest and Horticultural Crops Research Centre (FOHCREC) in Kade, have all been connected by fiber to the main campus.

Other work done in the field of ICT infrastructure includes:

- An upgrade of the University of Ghana Data Centre and the deployment of a Private Cloud Infrastructure with data storage of 120Terrabytes and 240 MW standby power from two generators
- The increase of bandwidth from 2 STMs (300Megs) to 5 STMs (750Mbps)
- The establishment of a secondary Disaster Recovery (DR) Data Centre with backup storage of 120Terrabytes and a capability for real time data replication between primary and backup data centres.
- The deployment of a foundation infrastructure for a High Performance Computing Cluster to provide the needed computer resources to support research simulations and processing of complex algorithms.

A Computerized Integrated Hospital Information System was implemented on the back of a revamped, robust network infrastructure. Also, we have begun the move towards the use of tablets for Board and Committee business, to reduce the University's paper consumption and improve its carbon footprints credentials. Discussions are underway with a service provider to reach agreement for special discount pricing to support University-wide rollout of the initiative.

Major Physical/Infrastructure Developments

A number of major physical development projects were either initiated or restarted during my tenure and are in different stages of completion. These include:

- Redesigning and naming of major intersections
- Completion of Crèche
- Construction of Small Animal Teaching Hospital
- Asphaltic overlay of selected roads and construction of pedestrian walkways
- Construction of offices and laboratories for School of Pharmacy
- Extension to Department of Earth Science
- Refurbishment of Cafeteria at the Korle- Bu campus
- Renovation of Staff Bungalows
- Construction of Ph.D Building
- Construction of Climate Change and Sustainable Development Building
- Construction of Graduate Block for Business School

- Construction of Banking Square
- Construction of major entrance gates with access control
- Extension to Nutrition and Food Science Department
- Restoration of University's main entrance
- Construction of Staff Canteen at Registry
- Renovation of Students' Hostels at Korle Bu campus
- Construction of Office Extension to PDMSD
- Construction of New Comfort Zone
- Construction of 8 New Units for Staff Village
- Extensions to UG Hospital
- Construction of new Auditorium for Economics Department by Bank of Ghana
- Completion of GCB Complex
- Completion of ISSER Conference Centre

Rehabilitation and Decongestion of Halls of Residence

The process of decongesting halls of residence started in the 2011/2012 academic year, with major rehabilitation work done in the halls of residence. This included the refurbishment of Dining Halls and the acquisition of generators for halls of residence. Additionally, security in the halls of residence was stepped up, and students were issued with new ID Cards with security features to reduce the number of unauthorized persons entering student facilities for unlawful purposes.

Students testify that they are now more comfortable and feel more secure, and that their rooms and the halls of residence in general are now more conducive and enable them to enjoy the right frame of mind for academic work.

PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDED AND RELEVANT RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Office of Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) was established in 2010 to promote and manage research in the University and also help raise the profile of research, as part of the effort to transform UG into a world-class research-led institution. In 2011, the first substantive Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Development was appointed to help in re-shaping and enhancing the research profile of the University.

Since the establishment of ORID, remarkable gains have been made in terms of research at the University, key among them being the enhancement of the UG Grants portfolio, which is funded entirely from Internally Generated Funds (IGF); policies that govern the conduct of research have been developed and approved; the establishment of a technology transfer office which is shaping the manner in which the University engages with industry, capacity building initiatives for faculty, staff and students, research uptake and dissemination of research to make research by UG faculty more visible to the public. Also, with the appointment of Research Development Officers, ORID is now able to capture more data on proposals being submitted from the various units of the University as well as provide grants management services to faculty members.

In making a case for transforming University of Ghana into a Research University, the University has developed four centres of excellence with a focus on four distinct thematic areas:

- Malaria Research
- Enhancing Food Production and Food Processing
- Trans-Disciplinary Research into Climate Change Adaptation
- Development Policy and Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation

Working Groups for research in the four thematic areas have been set up and provide a multidisciplinary research platform to foster collaboration among researchers from various Colleges, Schools and Institutes of the University, as well as other institutions, so as to move forward the growth and development agenda of Ghana and the wider world. In the 2014/2015 academic year, each of the four Centres of Excellence was given one million Ghana cedis as seed money for its research/operations. Since then, a number of them have been able to mobilize additional funding for research work.

Other structures and policies put in place to enhance research include:

- i. Incentives for productive staff including paid visits to established research centres in the developed world, travel and accommodation funds to attend conferences and present papers etc.
- ii. Continuous capacity enhancement and mentoring programmes
- iii. Research environment and infrastructural enhancement
- iv. Creation of congenial environment for intellectual freedom
- v. Monitoring and evaluation of research practice

- vi. Work experience, community service and industrial involvement
- vii. Increase in proportion of graduate students

Applications for support for faculty research from internally generated funds are accepted in 3 grant categories with ceilings of GH¢7500 for seed grants, GH¢40,000 for Investigator-led grants, and GH¢120,000 for Large Multi-disciplinary grants.

From 2008 to date, a total of 182 grants have been awarded from Internally Generated Funds, with a total amount of GHS 5,098,254.00 all. Out of this number, 95 have been successfully completed.

External Research funding in the University in the 2014/2015 academic year came up to a total of GH¢52,524,883.11, and in the 2015/2016 academic year, we have so far recorded research funding of GH¢11,062,698.30.

ORID is involved in the administration of various capacity building initiatives, such as the Intra-ACP projects, TDR International Postgraduate Training Scheme (2015 – 2019), Cambridge-Africa Partnership for Research Excellence (CAPREx) and, Building Stronger Universities in Developing Countries (BSU) Initiative (Phase 1 & 2).

The University of Ghana was selected by the World Bank to receive a total of USD 16 million to enable it to establish the West Africa Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) and also to Develop the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) into an African Centre of Excellence for training plant breeders, seed scientists and seed technologists. WACCBIP will provide Masters, PhD and Post-doctoral level training, and conduct research focused on cell and molecular biology of common diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis while WACCI is to be developed as a sustainable Centre of Excellence to train more plant breeders who will develop superior climate-smart and resilient varieties of staple crops of the West African sub-region as a means of increasing productivity. The two projects are expected to be implemented over a three year period.

OVERHAUL OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

A significant recommendation of the Visitation Panel which reviewed the work of the University in 2006 and 2007 was for the university to reconsider its governance arrangements with a view to enhancing effectiveness and efficiency. Taking a cue from this, a number of initiatives have been undertaken.

The Collegiate System

Following the acceptance of the report of the Governance Review Committee, which suggested that the University of Ghana should take a definite decision on whether to adopt the collegiate system, the Executive Committee in April 2011 appointed consultants to study in detail the collegiate system and other systems of university governance and advise on the model best suited to the needs of the University of Ghana. After extensive consultations, the University Council approved the adoption of a decentralized system of administration under four colleges, Health Sciences; Humanities, Education and Basic and Applied Sciences; starting from the 2014/2015 academic year. The Colleges are each headed by a Provost, with Departments grouped into Schools, each headed by a Dean.

The collegiate system is intended to decentralize the academic and management functions of the university, and to make the process of decision making shorter and more structured. The leadership of the various colleges have been given adequate leeway to facilitate decision making at the college-level, and to boost financial autonomy. In terms of administrative structures, many of the functions previously carried out at the centre are now being done at the College or School level. All of these are with the aim of ensuring less complexity in decision-making processes, and providing prompt and efficient service to all our stakeholders.

The four Colleges are each doing very well, and a thorough review of the system will be conducted at the end of three years.

BETTER MANAGEMENT OF UNIVERSITY ASSETS AND FACILITIES

Ladies and gentlemen, the approach to enhancing the management of the University's assets and facilities has involved the reorganization of the Physical Development and Municipal Services Directorate to provide for additional qualified professionals to take responsibility for the management of the University's assets and facilities. This has seen significant improvement in their management, with more timely interventions in the maintenance of facilities. The re-organisation of PDMSD is still on-going.

Master Plan, Africa Integras and Legon City Project

Major initiatives undertaken in the last 6 years include the development of a master

plan for the University, and the commencement of the Africa Integras and Legon City projects. The University of Ghana has struggled to hold on to lands that have been assigned to it for present and future use. The University's assets are threatened by rapid urbanization and the related rapidly growing demand for land in Accra. In the effort to ensure that the University derives as much benefit as possible from the land available to it, both for current and future purposes, the University is updating its master plan. This is intended to guide land use with a view to enhancing efficiency in the use of University of Ghana lands.

The Africa Integras project involves the construction of buildings for each of the 4 colleges, the Institute of Applied Science and Technology and residential facilities for students. When completed, the Africa Integras project would increase available floor space for academic work by 60% and effectively satisfy the University's space requirements for the next twenty years.

As part of the plans for Legon's future development, it is proposed to develop a modern mixed-use development on 100 acres of University land, in the Okponglo-Bawaleshie-Trinity Theological Seminary enclave to be known as "Legon City".

University of Ghana Medical Centre

In June 2011, Cabinet gave approval for a loan facility from Israel for the design, construction, and installation of medical equipment for a 617-bed Teaching Hospital facility for the University of Ghana, at a total cost of USD217,000,000. Construction commenced in April 2013 and is expected to reach practical completion by the end of July 2016. As a turnkey project, the contractor is required to hand over a state-of-the-art hospital equipped for training of health professionals, research and service delivery at a quaternary level.

The project is being undertaken in 3 phases. In Phase 1, facilities for Surgery, Radiology, Internal Medicine, Pharmacy, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Anaesthesia, Medical Education, Accidents and Emergency Services, Laboratory Services, Mortuary, and Pain Management have been provided.

ENHANCE FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES AT UNIT AND CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION LEVELS

University Management worked closely with the Alumni Council to organize fund-raising events for projects initiated by the Council. Management also worked closely with the Students Financial Aid Office to raise funds for providing

assistance to needy but brilliant students. The fund has grown steadily over the years, as has the number of individuals and corporate bodies contributing to the Academic Prizes Fund.

The University Council has approved the creation of an Office for Institutional Advancement for the University, and efforts have started for the recruitment of a Director and other staff for the unit.

MAINSTREAM AND ENFORCE STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

University of Ghana Strategic Plan

- The University has a new strategic plan for the period 2014 to 2024, which is to provide strategic direction to the University.

With a focus on nine strategic priorities:

- Research,
- Teaching & Learning ,
- Internal Stakeholders
- Gender & Diversity-
- Institutional Processes
- Financial Performance
- Asset Management
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- External Stakeholders;

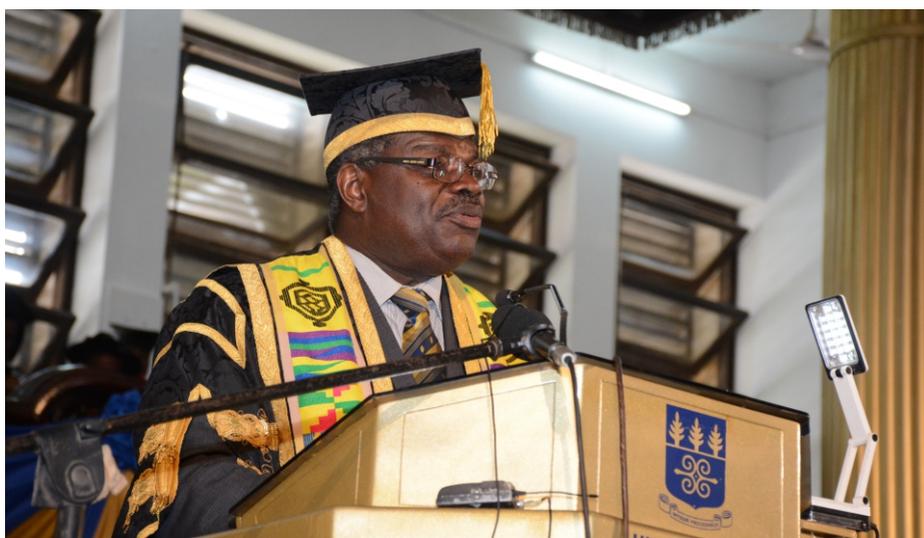
and guided by the core values of Integrity, Commitment, Respect and Loyalty; the stage is set for the University of Ghana to take its rightful place as one of the best institutions of higher learning on the African continent, and to work toward becoming a world class- research intensive University.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I must say that I have had a very fulfilling tenure as Vice-Chancellor, and I leave it to you and to posterity to measure and assess my performance.

To the Chancellor, the Chairman and members of the University Council, management, officers of the University, staff, successive student leaders and other stakeholders of this University, I owe a debt of gratitude to you for your support and commitment. As a University, we would not have been able to make the strides



Justice Prof. S. K. Date-Bah, Chairman of Council delivering his Welcome Address



Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor, addressing the gathering



Professor Yao Tettey, Provost, College of Humanities, acknowledging International Students of the College



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



Mrs. Lodonu-Senoo delivering her Address



Mr. Emmanuel Boadi Amofo, delivering the Valedictory Address



Graduands seated at the Congregation ceremony

we have over the past six years without your commitment and support.

As Professor Ebenezer Oduro-Owusu takes office as Vice-Chancellor in a few days, I expect that you will all rally round him and offer the needed support to take the University of Ghana to the next level. Professor Oduro-Owusu, I wish you well as you take up the mantle.

Well Wishes to Graduands

Now to our graduating students:

This is really your day, because you have worked hard, and you deserve every bit of the honour on this occasion. You are at the threshold of the next phase of your lives, which presents so many opportunities, yet so many challenges. Today's world offers young graduates so many potential positive outcomes, it also presents many pitfalls along the way. I urge you to take every situation as a learning opportunity; and exercise temperance in all your endeavours. Work hard, dream big, plan ahead and be ethical and honest in all your dealings, and you will be well on the way towards success. The future may not be given, but there are limitless opportunities out there. Go out, be innovative, and conquer the world.

I wish you all the very best.

Thank you all and God bless you.

GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS DELIVERED
MRS. CECILIA LODONU SENOO

His Lordship Justice Samuel Date-Bah
Chairman of Council of the University of Ghana
Members of the University Council
The Vice-Chancellor
Pro Vice-Chancellors
Members of Convocation
Niime, Naamei, Nananom
Graduating Students
Parents and Guardians
Members of the Press
Distinguished Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour and a great pleasure to have been invited to share this important occasion with you as the Guest Speaker. Congregation, also called Commencement Day in other dispensations, is a milestone event on the calendar of a university or a college as it happily marks the end of a period of toil for all stakeholders involved in the enterprise of training our young men and women while at the same time, signifying symbolically the threshold for the commencement of a new life for our graduands who would soon enter into the world of work, to contribute their quota to national development, utilizing the skills and knowledge that they have acquired. I warmly congratulate our Graduating students for their hard work, commitment and perseverance that has brought them this far. I also thank Management, lecturers, administrators, parents and all other persons who supported in diverse ways in making their training possible.

Mr. Chairman, I have learned that this noble University has recently made changes in its system of governance that culminated in the adoption since the 2014/2015 academic year, of a collegiate system of management and the establishment of four (4) new colleges, these being, the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Education, Health Sciences and Humanities. These changes that have occurred, have involved a decentralization of the hierarchical structure of the university geared towards removing bureaucracy which would facilitate the internal system

of work of the University for faster decision-making, greater efficiency and productivity to further propel the University to pursue its vision of transforming itself into becoming a world-class research-intensive university by the year 2024, as articulated in the University's current strategic plan. We congratulate the University for the very bold steps it has taken that bring great hope for the future. We are all greatly inspired by the signs of progress in the University very visibly evident in the physical environment of the University and the recent exciting news of the Times Higher Education University Rankings that Places the University of Ghana in the position in Africa and, undoubtedly, in the first position in the West African sub-region. We once again warmly congratulate the leadership of the university for this feat and for the determination to sustain and extend the premiership position of this great institution well beyond the walls of this country.

Mr. Chairman, I note that this morning's congregation ceremony is jointly being held for graduands from the College of Health Sciences and the College of Education and it includes both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Proud, triumphant and memorable as this occasion may be for our graduands, it also calls for great reflection by not only the graduating class, but also all of us here who have met to share in the events of the day who may look back into our own lives to see what we have made of the opportunities we have had in life from the education received here or elsewhere, where our contribution to national Development is concerned. For the younger ones here today, we may stand well inspired to follow the footsteps of our senior brothers, sisters or friends who are graduating today.

For our graduating students some of whom may have mixed feelings as to what may be in store for them for the future, this event may symbolize a ticket into a world in which to gloat over our achievements noting that fewer of you in your generation managed to get the opportunity to have an education to the level at which you are being celebrated today. To others it might mean the beginning of riches as your education could propel you to positions of authority and privilege which could empower you to have access to resources not available to others. To yet others, this is an occasion to prepare us to soar into the world in confidence to put our skills, knowledge and abilities to the test in the service of humanity. Irrespective of how you feel today my dear graduands, remember that your education has come at a cost to a great many people including the taxpayer whose toils provided the resources for your education. We owe it a duty then to give back to society and more so in this present generation where globalization and the deployment of information technology in the new information age to get things

done have brought great competition between people and nations. Your education must therefore be put to use to benefit others both within your immediate and extended spheres of influence especially those who have not been as privileged as you, in order that you may contribute to the total transformation of the nation.

Dear graduands, it is not the big things that make the difference but probably the small, simple, everyday positive self-application to the demands of one's environment that cumulatively provides the means to arriving at the quantum change and transformation that our society needs, although some of you may be superbly gifted and could well go an extra mile in providing for the needs of society. Put in another way, it is not possible for any one individual to single handedly transform society, for that will amount to failure given our human limitations. One can however make great impact in one's immediate sphere of influence at the workplace, within the family and in the local community beyond which further linkages can be built to cause ripple effect for positive change. But just how can we begin? We must first understand who we are and the fact that we are created to be inherently gifted and also different from one another and make an impact. We should in this process endeavor to not live in the shadow of another but learn how by our inner nature, education and upbringing, creatively contribute to society's well-being. Personal integrity, which is the motto of our alma mater and which you have been sensitized to repeatedly, having been a member of this noble university community, should be your guiding principle as you strive to serve your country and society. Be compassionate in all your dealings and see the good in others who in more ways than can be realized, constitute at any point in time, part of the support structures you need to succeed.

While noting that you have social obligations to the country and the world at large to improve the lives of people, it must also be stressed that due to the numerous socio-economic challenges facing most economies including Ghana, it is difficult for governments to generate enough jobs for their citizens including university graduates. This is in sharp contrast to what prevailed some decades ago when the possession of a university degree, was a guarantee for decent paying job and a future life of luxury and fulfillment. The situation is entirely different now as graduate unemployment is a common phenomenon. Things have changed in your time and it is unlikely that all of you graduating today may be readily engaged by the government.

What do you have to do in such an unwelcome and daunting situation as this dear graduands? You definitely need not be let down. Nelson Mandela in his Long Walk

to Freedom has stated “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. The education you have received from this University, no doubt, has made you versatile and creative minded. I will entreat you to let this principle guide you to take full control of your destiny in a manner that would bring positive change to society and mankind. There is no real magic formula for success in life and the things you have learnt here are the basic building blocks of your future life.

Many of you graduating today are of diverse medical science background and are either medical doctors, allied health professionals, nurses or pharmacists among others. Those of you from the College of Education may be media, information and communication or education and leadership experts. Irrespective of your expertise, skills or competencies, society is looking up to you as agents of change, growth and transformation. You must remember that our country is plagued with numerous healths, environmental, social, political and educational problems. Do think about these. As professional men and women you occupy very important and respectable positions in our society that has struggled constantly to bring good health and social justice to its people. Be fully committed to this cause as you enter into the world of work.

It is not only in being employed by government that you can put your expertise to the benefit of society. You can also take initiative to further develop your skills in the areas of your training and through individual efforts, partnerships and collaborative endeavours, establish private business enterprises that can help in the development of the private sector which can more quickly propel this nation forward. You can set up private hospitals, medical laboratories, schools, media houses leadership training institutions and NGOs in this endeavor. As a personal example and from my formal training, I have personally founded and managed my organization, Hope for Future Generations (HFFG) that is rendering dedicated service throughout the ten regions of the country for the benefit of the most vulnerable and deprived members of our communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, sustainable development cannot be achieved without assuring that all women and men, girls and boys, enjoy the dignity and human rights to expand their capabilities, secure their reproductive health and rights, find decent work, and contribute to sustainable economic growth that will contribute to ending poverty.

Given my passion for addressing the vulnerabilities of women and children, I

founded HFFG 15 years ago, in June 2001. HFFG is a woman and children focused Non-Government Organization with a vision to adequately inform and empower members of its beneficiary communities to enable them take critical decisions that will improve their quality of life. The goal of HFFG's work has been to contribute towards the reduction of maternal, neonatal and child mortality and Morbidity in the targeted communities. The resolve of HFFG to champion equal opportunities for women and children is based on several empirical studies that confirm vulnerable groups such as women; young people, persons with disability and the aged continue to suffer disadvantages in terms of access to various public goods and social services.

The history of HFFG began with my provision of psychosocial support and counseling to Persons Living with HIV in Elmina. Together with a volunteer, we worked diligently to improve upon the quality of life of those women and gave them hope. Today, through hard work and partnerships, HFFG has extended operations from Elmina to all 10 regions of Ghana, and through the dedication of 76 staff, has touched the lives of women and children in over 600 communities. HFFG's various programme interventions in the areas of maternal, neonatal and child health, youth empowerment, HIV prevention, care and support, economic empowerment, sanitation and hygiene, food and nutrition, Malaria and TB as well as Ebola and Cholera prevention has yielded results and earned the organization these noble awards over the years:

1. Best Local NGO Partner of Ghana Health Service (GHS) Western Region for 2015 (Feb 2016)
2. International Award: European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) Grundtvig Award for Excellence in Adult Education (Portugal, 2015)
3. Certificate of Recognition for rendering invaluable service to development of Education in Central Region from the Methodist Education Unit, and Ghana Education Service (2010).
4. Most Outstanding Collaborating Organization (GHS, Central Region, 2007)

As we prepare to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of HFFG in September 2016, I intend unveiling a flagship project: HopePal - a project targeting persons with disability. Notwithstanding the passing of the Disability Act ten years ago, persons with disability in Ghana continue to be an impoverished marginalized group who

has been deprived of quality health, education and social services. I wish to urge all Graduands to strive to be a voice of the voiceless while we journey into the world of work.

Dear Graduands, the journey has not been easy; there have been challenging times ranging from dwindling donor resources to complexities in the dynamics of governance structures at the national, decentralized and most especially community levels. However, through all these challenges, I have developed personally as an individual learning to reach out to people in need and also learning from them as groups of people in ways that have made me a better person and enriched my outlook to life.

Dear Graduands do not be afraid to be fearless; you must have goals although you will have fears about achieving them. It is nonetheless, the way you handle those fears that will determine whether or not and how quickly you will achieve your goals. Remember, not everything or task you undertake can be successful. When it is not successful, learn from your mistakes, and take the necessary remedial measures on the next project.

It will be useful to remember there are challenges ahead of you. I wish to urge you to accept however that you have got what it takes to make it, guided by your training, skills and the right attitude to life. You must when you meet challenges, confront them aided by the confidence and the resilience you are made of and seek support and assistance from others more experienced in solving life's problems. In my view, the following core values have contributed to the successes realized by HFFG: Professionalism, Team work, Honesty, Accountability, Nondiscriminatory attitudes, Dedication and Openness. Application of these values has enabled HFFG to sustain partnerships with 22 national and international development partners including the UN System, UKAID, USAID, SIMAVI of the Netherlands, Plan Ghana, and the Ghana AIDS Commission. It is my hope fellow Graduands, that you will adopt these values in all aspects of your lives.

Although it may not be easy to discern, every success you chalk is added to the world's accomplishment. Your individual successes benefit society as a whole because when you succeed, you lighten the burden on your fellow man. While we all align our development priorities to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is essential for us to demonstrate commitment to contributing in diverse ways to make the world a better place to live. Imagine if every one of you lived up to his or

her own potential; think about how amazing that would be, and much better the country would be.

Everybody has a dream. Everybody also wants to move as far as he can. Everybody says he is a good dreamer; a big dreamer. What we need now and beyond is not just good or big dreamers. We need leaders/graduates who can dream, work towards the dreams and make them happen to benefit people. In other words, we need people who can deliver the promises, who can make sure that the poor, sick, people with no formal education or needy will not be left behind in our quest for improved lives. Knowing these would have made the journey a little easier and frankly, less frustrating and painful at times. Graduating students, I encourage you to keep these lessons close by for easy reference. You can even build on this list by talking to other professionals and noting their career lessons.

I wish you all great success with your future careers, and congratulations again on being part of the 2016 graduating class.

Thank you.

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY
MR. EMMANUEL BOADI AMOAFI**

Chairman of the University Council;
Vice Chancellor;
Pro-Vice Chancellors;
Registrar;
Provosts and Deans;
Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Specially Invited Guests;
Parents and Guardians;
Fellow Graduates;
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning to you all.

It is a great honour and pleasure to be given the opportunity to deliver the valedictory address this morning. Someone told me that speeches of this nature should be all inspiring, elaborate and provide pieces of advice which the graduate can take forward with them.

Today, I reflect on our time spent here and wish to share with you our hopes for the future, and indeed, for the future of our beloved University, and nation at large

I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all my fellow graduates on reaching an important milestone in our scholastic journey.

Today is truly ours, a day in which we reminisce upon and celebrate our diligence, discipline, struggles and even tears that went into the hard work that has yielded success. It does not need to be over-emphasized that sitting here today among us are world-class health professionals, educationists, renowned experts in other notable fields and world leaders.

Mr. Chairman, the vision of this noble University, which is to become a world-class research-intensive University over the next decade, I must say, is close to full attainment. The very fact that most students undergo a stage of research work for the attainment of a degree is a critical step in the right direction. To this effect, there have been remarkable benefits obtained in the field of research. Some of us in

certain disciplines can never forget our bitter sweet experiences with laboratory animals.

A number of us were painfully bitten by rats in an attempt to administer antipsychotic drugs while the ladies, fearful as some of them were screamed their lungs out just at the sight of these animals. All in all, the experiences and skills that we have obtained will be essential assets to us as we begin the next chapter of our lives.

Time indeed flies. It seems as though it was but yesterday that we stepped foot into this prestigious University as freshmen. With our heavy bags on our backs, University maps in our hands, and confusion in our minds, we struggled to find our feet in this new academic environment.

At the very beginning of this journey, we entered into these gates, some of us with a very distinct picture of our destination and others not so clear, because they were still recovering from the shock of not being admitted into medical school. But one thing was certain; there were numerous opportunities available to us. Classes later were in full swing and the everlasting laboratory sessions began. There were countless nights we stayed up late in group discussions going through textbooks, PowerPoint presentations and handouts to improve our understanding in our various disciplines.

It was also not uncommon to find students hanging around internet hotspot areas on campus to check on academic materials online to be abreast with current information. With high hopes, we were overdosed on so much information that we deliberately became dumb and walked like hunchbacks to examination centres, for fear of losing all information should someone suddenly tap us on our shoulders.

Can you imagine? Those of us in school of pharmacy ended the first semester writing twelve (12) papers in ten (10) consecutive days. Isn't that fascinating? And mind you, a pass mark of 55 was needed to make those papers, unlike the 50 pass mark, which is the case for most disciplines in the University. No wonder the school is notably referred to as the “school of pressure”, SOP. I believe that our colleagues in the other disciplines also had equally pressured moments during their years of study.

It wasn't all work though. We were excited when time was fast-approaching for the annual Dean's Cup tournament, social trips, dinners and week celebrations. I can

assure you, we had enough fun to put our books away for a while and run to them after. Some of my colleagues enjoyed all-expense paid educational trips, others went through the emotional highs of being “grabbed and de-grabbed”; but for those of us who gnashed and scored 4-0, there are better options out there.

Our years here as students were also laden with a few challenges: the ever present “dumsor” which disturbed teaching, learning and even cooking, the lack of funds for students' project work, and last but not least, the insufficient buses to convey the ever-increasing numbers of students to Korle-Bu on clinical rotations and lectures.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the University will take pragmatic steps to rectify these challenges.

On behalf of my colleagues in the College of Health Sciences, we applaud the university's initiative, particularly concerning the establishment of the University of Ghana Medical Centre, which seeks to promote advanced medical training in West Africa and create job opportunities for us. Also, the introduction of the regional learning centres as tutorial and examination venues has benefited students offering courses under the distance learning programmes especially with regards to transportation and accessibility to quality education.

On such an august occasion as this, it would be ungrateful on our part if we do not recognize the people who guided and supported us through this journey, the people who often made life easier and less cumbersome.

We were more than fortunate to have lecturers who helped us along the way. In one way or the other, they always knew how to bring out the best in us; whether it was the welcome incentive of chocolates for the best student in an interim assessment, or, a good counsel when we needed one.

We can in no way repay you for the priceless time and effort spent on us, but we can assure you that we will positively contribute our quota to society and make University of Ghana proud.

To our families and friends who always supported us, and lent an empathic ear to our frustrated rants, you have also played an integral role in bringing us to where we are today and for this we say thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, some of us plan to further our studies; others are aspiring to enter the world of work. Whatever we choose to do next, we can rest assured that having gone through our years of quality education and training at the best University in West Africa and the seventh best on our continent, we can and we will definitely succeed.

In conclusion, our societies need us to quench the fire of laziness, bribery and corruption; promote the spirit of resilience and end injustice. Again, as we approach elections, let us not become victims of political thugs; stirring up violence among families and friends.

Instead, let us go out as proud graduates of this noble university, ready to positively impact our societies.

To the graduating class, I leave you with a food for thought as quoted by President Barack Obama: 'Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We carry the change that we seek'. BE THAT CHANGE!!!

Class of 2016, I say *Ayeko*

God bless University of Ghana, God bless our nation Ghana and God bless us all!!

THANK YOU

**CLOSING REMARKS BY PROFESSOR SAMUEL KOFI DATE-BAH,
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Hon. Minister for Education
Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Health Sciences and
College of Education
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Fresh Graduates,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

As we end this ceremony, I would like to salute all who have worked hard to ensure a successful event, especially all those who played various roles in the planning and organisation of this event. Over the past seven years that I have been Chairman of Council, we have seen innovations that have gone a long way to improve the students' experience. This is commendable.

Our new graduates have also worked hard over the periods that they have been students at this University and they deserve all the laurels that they have acquired. You, our new graduates, have been part of the changes that have taken place at the University of Ghana over the past few years; we look forward to receiving some of you back soon, as faculty or as administrators, to support the university's drive to become a research-intensive University.

I congratulate you on your achievements and urge you all to be worthy ambassadors of your *alma mater*. I wish you success in your future endeavours.

Our thanks also go to all teachers, the management team and the managers of the various units, who have worked together to ensure that your stay in the University has been fruitful. The University appreciates the effort that everyone has put into this enterprise.

We are also happy that so many parents, guardians, family members and friends of

the graduates were able to join in this celebration.

To our Guest Speaker for today, invited guests, alumni and friends of the University, we appreciate your presence and participation in the ceremony. I wish you all a safe journey back.

As we all know, this is the final congregation ceremony to be attended by Professor Ernest Aryeetey, as Vice-Chancellor. On behalf of the University Council, I take this opportunity to thank Professor Aryeetey for successfully steering the University for the past six years. I know that it has not been an easy task, and I am sure all gathered here today join me to salute you for performing so well and leading the University to achieve so much. We wish you well in your future endeavours, and trust that you will continue to champion the cause of the University.

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

Thank you.

