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**PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2010**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 8.30 a.m.** — Guests to be seated
- 8.45 a.m.** Procession:
Academic Staff
University Council

Dawuro
- 9.00 a.m.** National Anthem
- 9.05 a.m.** Chairman of Council welcomes guests and declares Congregation duly constituted: Justice Dr. S. K. Date- Bah
- 9.10 a.m.** Vice-Chancellor's Address: Prof. Ernest Aryeetey

Interlude: Ghana Dance Ensemble

Address by Guest of Honour:
Her Ladyship Justice Mrs. Georgina Theodora Wood

Valedictory Address: Mr. Evans Adjei Ashong

Interlude: University of Ghana Jubilee Choir

Conferment of degrees:
• School of Graduate Studies
• College of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences •
• Faculty of Science
• Faculty of Engineering Sciences
• Faculty of Law
• Business School
- 1230 p.m.** Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

Recession:
University Council
Academic Staff

OPENING ADDRESS BY JUSTICE SAMUEL DATE-BAH, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

Members of University Council

Vice-Chancellor

Her Ladyship the Chief Justice, who is the Guest Speaker for today,

The Registrar

Members of Convocation

Nananom, Niimej, Naamei

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Alumni of the University

Graduands

Distinguished Invited Guests

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I have great pleasure in welcoming you all to this November Congregation. This November, like the last, I am again standing in for the Chancellor to preside over Congregation, on his behalf. Again, I extend the Chancellor's greetings and best wishes to Congregation. He is unable to be with us today, but he will be with us in March 2011.

I am mightily glad that normalcy has resumed on this and other campuses of the public universities of Ghana and that you are able to join us today for this November Congregation to award degrees from the School of Research and Graduate Studies, the Business School, the College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Engineering Sciences and the Faculty of Law. We all know that university life is highly integrated and what affects one part affects the whole. Thus I am sure that the whole of the university community and indeed the whole nation heaved a collective sigh of relief when UTAG members resumed their lectures. I trust that with the cooperation of all stakeholders life at Legon has returned to normalcy for good. As indicated on this occasion last year, your Council is mindful of the fact that knowledge creation and interpretation are, of course, the business of universities and that this business is a key element in the knowledge-based economy that Ghana will increasingly have to rely on. Accordingly, let me reiterate that Council will do all that we can to ensure efficacy in Legon's fulfillment of its national role in this respect.

That is why council enthusiastically backs the vision of our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ernest Aryeetey, to fast-track the transformation of this University into a world-class one. This vision, outlined by him in his speech at his induction in August this year, entails the rapid scaling up of research and innovation at Legon. Your Council has considered his vision and embraced it enthusiastically. Council, therefore, urges all

the various publics of this University to buy into this vision. The foundation for this acceleration in the pace of research has already been laid in the last couple of years. We now have a Pro-Vice-Chancellor, in the person of Professor Yaa Ntiamao-Baidu, in charge of research and innovation to spearhead this movement, under the broad direction of the Vice-Chancellor and Council. Council is quite optimistic about the direction of change at Legon.

Last year when I addressed the November Congregation, a new University Council had recently been sworn in. Being my first address as Chairman of Council, I took the opportunity to address a number of core issues and to assure the gathering that Council would do all it could to defend relentlessly the institutional autonomy and academic freedom of the University. I made this statement, mindful of the fact that this academic community owes an obligation to the country, continent and the society in which it is located, as well as to humanity in general, to advance the learning and knowledge that will enhance societal well-being and development. This is even more imperative, given the fact that the university operates with funds largely generated from taxpayers.

At this point, I would like to publicly express Council's appreciation to the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Professor J. E. A. Mills, the Parliament of Ghana, the Minister for Education, Honourable Alex Tetteh-Enyo, and the Attorney-General's Office for the various roles they played in ensuring the enactment of the new University of Ghana Act, that has recently entered into force. The Act seeks to deepen the independence and academic freedom of the University, which we believe are very essential to the effective operation of the University.

Given the level of autonomy and independence expressed in the University of Ghana Act, which I have already referred to, it is important for us as a University to clarify for ourselves the relationships between us and central government and other State agencies. In order to assist Council in doing this, a small team has been put together by Council to examine the contents of our national Constitution, the University of Ghana Act and other Acts which have a bearing on the matter and advise. It is my sincere hope that when this exercise has been completed, it will help in no small measure to clarify our lines of authority and accountability.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am sure that you share with me the belief that there are good grounds for optimism about the future of Legon. On that hopeful note, let me proceed, without much further ado, to declare this assembly as duly constituted for its statutory purpose of awarding degrees to successful graduands and receiving the Vice-Chancellor's Report. Let me be the first to congratulate our graduands on their splendid achievement.

I will now call upon the Vice-Chancellor to give his Report.

ADDRESS BY VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR ERNEST ARYEETEEY

SALUTATION

Chairman of the University Council;
Your Ladyship the Chief Justice and Guest Speaker;
Honourable Minister of Education;
Honourable Ministers of State and Members of Parliament;
Members of the University Council;
Pro-Vice-Chancellors;
Registrar;
Vice-Chancellors, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, and Registrars of sister Universities;
Members of Convocation;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Niime, Naamei, Nananom;
Graduating Students;
Parents and Guardians;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would also like to welcome you all to today's Congregation ceremony, which is my first since assuming office as Vice-Chancellor. Students from the Faculties of Law, Engineering Sciences, Science, College of Agriculture, Business School and Graduate School who completed their programmes of study in the 2009/2010 academic year will be graduating today, and I trust that all of you gathered here will do all you can to ensure that today's ceremony is indeed a memorable one, particularly for the graduands.

I will use this address to touch on a number of issues that are of significant interest to this University and also to its stakeholders.

GOVERNANCE

I took office as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana on August 1, 2010, following on the heels of Professors Alexander Kwapong, Daniel Adzei Bekoe, Akilagpa Sawyerr, George Benneh, Ivan Addae-Mensah, Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere and Clifford Nii-Boi Tagoe. It was always obvious to me that managing this University was going to be a huge new challenge, and I thank my predecessors for the solid foundation they laid. At my induction, I outlined my vision for making the University of Ghana a world-class university, producing students with the same levels of learning that can be acquired from better endowed universities in other parts of the world. I outlined the

characteristics of world class universities, and I crave your indulgence to repeat some of these:

- World class universities are likely to have structures and characteristics that differentiate them from other universities.
- World class universities have a strong culture for learning as opposed to simply being institutions for providing degrees.
- They generally appeal to students from different parts of the world. Their degrees are respected the world over.
- They are more likely to develop courses and programmes that are dynamic and respond to changing times and societal circumstances.
- World class universities are more likely to protect their rich histories by preserving structures and building on these over time.
- World class universities pay attention to ethics in education, and tend to have higher standards set for students and faculty, and these are known and accepted by all.
- World class universities do far more research than others, and attach considerable importance to graduate training.
- They have governance structures that have evolved slowly and survived the test of time.
- Their faculty members publish in the best international journals in all disciplines.
- Faculty members of world class universities are often able to work across disciplines.
- Students of world class universities have a culture of learning and social interaction that sets them apart from others.

It is thus obvious that being world class is the ultimate goal of a university community and shows its willingness to work towards higher standards. I see no reason why the University of Ghana cannot reach this goal, if we set clear timelines for its achievement, and all stakeholders; management, faculty, administrators and students work hard and plan towards meeting the requirements.

In working towards achieving this goal, I have received numerous memoranda from colleagues on how we can reform the governance structure of the University, to assign more responsibilities to Deans and Heads of Department and to ensure that the work of the University is carried out in a more efficient manner. I thank the entire community for the goodwill displayed so far, and look forward to working closely with all to bring the University up to the standard we set for ourselves.

In my opinion, we have at least started on the path towards attaining this standard, having initiated reforms in governance, admissions and the management of municipal services. Earlier, changes were made in academic programmes, operations and

infrastructure over the past ten years or so, based on the objectives set in the 2001- 2010 Corporate Strategic Plan, as well as on the recommendations of the Visitation Panel, and the work of the Visitation Report Implementation Committee (VRIC). We will soon be tackling reforms in examinations and the management of student records.

The 1961 Act governing the University has been replaced with a new University of Ghana Act (2010). The revision takes account of changes that have occurred, both in the University and in the nation as a whole, since the original Act was promulgated, and seeks to enable the University undergo transformation and modernization to keep pace with trends and practices in modern chartered universities worldwide.

The new Act seeks to modify the role and composition of the University Council, and to restructure and reorganize the existing organizational structure of the University. The Act further seeks to strengthen the position of the University Governing Council and office holders in the performance of the functions prescribed for them, and strengthens student representation in governing bodies as pertains in similar institutions elsewhere. The spirit of the Act is to emphasise the known position that the University of Ghana, like other public universities, is an independent institution that is publicly funded. It is not a Ministry, Department or Agency of Government (MDA) and should not be treated as such by any of its stakeholders. As Vice-Chancellor, I will work to preserve the independence and integrity of this institution at all times.

A Strategic Intent Committee, appointed by my predecessor, Professor Clifford Tagoe, to contribute towards the preparation of the 2011-2020 strategic plan, listed the following as some of the major issues which needed to be addressed to guide the University's new plan: the introduction of policy frameworks on mentorship and quality assurance, the provision of adequate funds for research, and the establishment of functional centres of academic excellence.

The new statutes of the University have undergone a number of revisions, and are close to being adopted. The statutes have also seen some revisions to governance structures, appointment and promotion requirements and disciplinary procedures. As we proceed and plan towards achieving the implied objectives, it is important that Units and Departments initiate their own specific plans, which are unique to their strengths and needs and which feed into the general University plan on achieving definite targets. In this way, all the smaller plans will join together and work towards the realization of the larger, University of Ghana plan. As every Unit proceeds to set its own targets, it is important that each places its priorities within the context of the larger plan.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University Council last semester approved the establishment of an Institute of Environment and Sanitation Studies in the University.

It would be recalled that Government had, on the occasion of the University's 60th anniversary, announced a gift of GH¢60 million to the University. The then President suggested that part of the amount be used to establish such an Institute, which will have as its core functions; the establishment of teaching programmes and training to educate and produce post graduates to PhD level and mid-career environmentalists and practitioners; addressing the enormity of the implications of development and the environment; and mitigating the changing and increasing risks to human health caused by poor sanitation.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Restructuring of Undergraduate Programmes

Mr. Chairman, your Ladyship, ladies and gentlemen, undergraduate programmes in the Sciences and Humanities have undergone extensive restructuring, with many new courses and programmes introduced, and existing ones being revised. Credit obtained at Level 100 now counts towards graduation, and the grading system has been overhauled. While thresholds have been raised, we believe our students are up to the challenge, and that the quality of graduates from the University can only be improved by this.

Other features of the restructured undergraduate programmes are the re-introduction of continuous assessment for all undergraduate programmes in the Sciences and Humanities, the reduction of class sizes, and the ceding of some of the duties of lecturers to graduate and teaching assistants under close supervision.

The age of admission for mature students has been lowered to 27, and from next academic year, this category of students will also be admitted to Level 100. The requirements for progression from one level to the next have been revised, and five University-required courses have been introduced, which all undergraduate students must pass before graduation.

A unique general education programme has been introduced, which is intended to provide a rewarding experience for all students who undertake undergraduate studies in the University. The interdisciplinary courses in the programme are intended to foster broad student familiarity with key advances in the humanities, science and technology.

It is expected that these compulsory courses will, in combination with students' main areas of study, produce students who are equipped to meet the development needs of Ghana and Africa, and equip graduates of the University of Ghana to be confident, well-rounded scholars, capable of holding their own with graduates from any part of the world.

A Bachelor's degree programme in Public Health has been introduced. The programme

is designed to develop middle level public health practitioners who will work at the district and programme level in the Ghana Health Service and in its allied institutions.

There has been a change of name and re-designation of degree programmes in the Department of Home Science. The new name is Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, and the name change is to reflect the extensive review which programmes in the Department have undergone. The reorganization will also give more opportunities to Senior High School students offering Home Economics, who have often been limited in the courses available to them at the tertiary level.

There has also been a change in name of the Department of Biochemistry to the Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, to conform to recent changes in the course content and programmes offered by the Department.

Information and Communication Technology

The University's ICT-based Distance Education Project was launched in December 2009, and the University now boasts of a world class Network Operating Center (NOC). The NOC is the nerve center for the University's revamped wide area network and will serve the University's connectivity needs for a long time to come.

The next steps are to convert the University's paper-based distance education programme to an ICT-based one and to introduce an e-learning system by December of this year. This is expected to improve on the quality of teaching, learning and research at the University.

We also plan to roll out wireless connectivity in academic, administrative and residential facilities throughout the main University campus during the first quarter of 2011, which will dramatically improve access by staff and students to the university's network resources.

Disruption of Academic Calendar

The University lost three weeks of the academic year through the recent strike embarked on by the University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG). We are pleased that the strike action ended amicably, and that our teaching staff will soon receive that which is due them. However, the strike action has resulted in extensive disruption of the academic calendar, and the end of semester examinations will now continue into the New Year, which is certainly not a pleasant situation for any of us. It is my hope that in the future, we will find ways of addressing our grievances without resorting to measures which result in such disruptions.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

The School of Research and Graduate Studies has been restructured, with the unit responsible for coordinating graduate studies and reverting to its original name; *School of Graduate Studies*. The mandate of the School has been expanded to include:

- promoting the development, diversification and effective delivery of post-graduate programmes to address emerging national and global issues.
- accreditation of all faculty teaching and supervising graduate programmes to maintain high standards and ensure high quality graduate programme output.

A new unit: the Office of Research, Innovation and Development, has been set up to promote, coordinate and facilitate the University's research enterprise. An acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Yaa Ntiamoa-Baidu, has been appointed, and heads the unit.

The Research Committee, on behalf of the University of Ghana Research Fund, called for proposals once in the 2009-2010 academic year. The Committee had previously awarded a total of 31 research grants (for the 1st and 2nd calls for proposals) which are still in operation with breakdown as follows:

No. of Research Grants Awarded

Faculty	1st Call For Proposals	2nd Call For Proposals	Total
Arts	8	1	9
Science	1	5	6
CHS	2	-	2
Law	4	-	4
Engineering Sciences	1	2	3
Social Studies	-	2	2
CACS	-	3	3
ICT Directorate	-	1	1
UGBS	1	-	1
Total	17	14	31

- The total amount awarded as research grants amounted to GHC346, 035 for the 1st Call and GH¢330,450 for the 2nd Call.
- A total of 35 conference grants amounting to \$45,305 (GH¢64,333) were awarded from the start of the 2009-2010 academic year

The University has recently been awarded a \$1.8 million grant over a two year period (October 2010 to September 2012) by the Carnegie Corporation of New York under their Next Generation of African Academics Initiative. The project seeks to enhance the University's capacity to deliver post-graduate programmes and faculty research output. This grant is additional to the earlier award of a \$2 million grant to the Balme Library for the establishment of the Research Commons to enhance graduate student training. The project will support the following:

- the training of 20 PhDs focusing on three disciplines :
 - Computational Science (Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science and Computer Engineering);
 - Biosphere Studies (Insect Science, Environmental Science and Biodiversity Studies); and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sociology, including Social Work. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 MPhil student research projects; • refurbishment of selected post-graduate facilities; • proposal writing training workshops for faculty; and • knowledge and skills enhancement training for post-graduate students. 	

Many of our graduate programmes have been revised to make them more market driven, and new programmes have been introduced, the most recent of which are:

- sandwich Master of Arts programmes in e-Business and Marketing Strategy; and Marketing Management, in the Department of Marketing and Customer Management of the University of Ghana Business School.
- Master of Arts, Master of Philosophy and Doctoral programmes in Migration Studies run by the Faculty of Social Studies;
- Master of Philosophy programmes in Management Information Systems and Operations Management and the Department of Operations and Management Information System;
- A Master of Philosophy programme in Nuclear Science and Technology at the School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences;
- M.Eng, M.Phil, and Ph.D programmes in Agricultural Engineering have been introduced with specializations in Soil and Water Engineering, Machine Systems Engineering, Post Harvest Engineering, and Irrigation Engineering.

We have been able to effectively enforce the policy of using the PhD as the basis for academic appointments. At the same time, the University has made available substantial funds through the Staff PhD Research Grant Award Scheme to provide support for academic staff to study towards attaining terminal degrees.

Based on the recognition that there is the need to integrate sports into the academic programme of the University, a *Sports for Academic Credit* Programme has been approved. The programme, when fully rolled out, will enable students to earn credits for sports and sports-related courses, which will count towards their total credits earned.

The programme will be limited to students who train and compete for their halls of residence, the university and/or the nation. Students can earn a maximum of three credits per year on the programme.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Financial Aid and Scholarships

The Students Financial Aid Office (SFAO) continues to provide among other things, financial assistance to 'needy but brilliant students' who, without such assistance, might not be able to readily meet their educational or other expenditure at the University. The office continues to engage in sustainable fund-raising efforts and activities in order to make funds available for student awards.

The Office receives support from the University, organizations and individuals, and it is anticipated that with time, the base of support will be broadened to include a wider range of donors. Some of the organizations currently supporting the activities of the SFAO include:

- GETFund
- Fidelity Bank Ghana Limited
- The Trust Bank Limited
- EcoBank Ghana Limited
- Barclays Bank Limited
- Christ Anglican Church (University of Ghana)
- International Central Gospel Church (Legon Branch)
- The Vine Group Inc. (USA)
- HFC Bank Ghana Limited
- Ghana Reinsurance Company
- All Nations International (USA)

- Chaplaincy Board (University of Ghana)
- Legon Interdenominational Church (University of Ghana)
- Educational Pathways International (USA)
- Tertiary Educational School Trust (TEST) for Ghana (UK)
- Fosuaba Scholarship for Female Students
- The Visa Group
- K.N. Owusu Foundation

Since the office was set up, it has awarded scholarships to about 998 students and disbursed over GH¢223,000.

For the 2010-2011 academic year, 205 continuing students have so far applied for financial aid. Out of this number, 133 students were awarded a total amount of GH¢43,053 with the University contributing GH¢25,617.65 and other sponsors contributing GH¢17,947.75. Awards ranged from GH¢287 to GH¢418, and this academic year, a new feature of the awards was that some students received a book allowance of GH¢50 each.

Additionally, the Office administers a number of foreign scholarships: All Nations Educational Scholarship and Educational Pathways International, which sponsor not only tuition and residential fees, but also provide funds for books and living expenses. These two organizations currently sponsor a total of 21 students.

The Financial Aid Office also offers part-time campus job opportunities to students in the ICT Directorate, University Hospital, Internal Mail Office, Information Centre and the Financial Aid Office.

I take this opportunity to encourage both corporate institutions and individuals to donate to the University through the Needy Students Fund, and also to consider offering employment to our students. The University is considering setting up various assistance schemes based entirely on academic merit, to work alongside the need-based ones. The rationale behind this is to encourage excellence and competition in all of our students and to reward them for exceptional academic work.

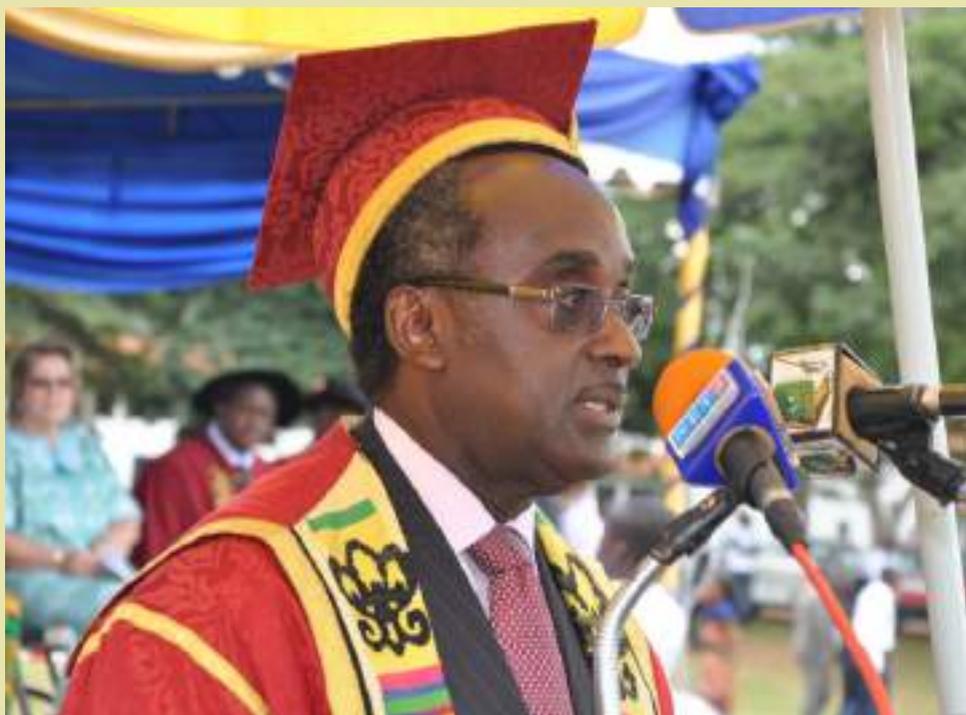
The University continues to receive funding from individuals and organizations for the sponsorship of scholarships and academic prizes. At present, we have over 30 such prizes for various categories of continuing and graduating students. I encourage others to join in this noble venture, which serves as encouragement to students to work hard to excel in their various courses.



A section of the Academic Procession at the Congregation grounds



Members of Convocation in a group photograph after the ceremony



Justice Samuel Date-Bah delivering his Welcome Address



Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor, addressing the gathering



Lady Justice Georgina Theodora Wood, Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana, delivering the Guest of Honour's Address



Evans Adjei Ashong delivering the Valedictory Address.



Some officials at the Congregation. From right Mr. Enoch A. Amartey, Director, Academic Affairs, Prof. Yaa Ntiamoah-Baidu, Ag. Pro-Vice Chancellor (ORID), Prof. Kwesi Yankah, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (ASA) and Dr. J. S. Annan, Deputy Minister of Education (Tertiary Education)



PhD graduands (in front row) singing the University Anthem



Graduands at Congregation



PhD graduands, Dr. Mercy Osei and Dr. Kofi A. Osei being robed by Mrs. Stella Dovlo



Graduands being congratulated by Officials and dignitaries

Student Accommodation

The first phase of the hostels project embarked on a few years ago has been completed, and a number of students are currently housed in the complex, which has been named after Dr. Hilla Limann, President of the Third Republic. It is hoped that the entire complex will be ready for occupation by the end of this academic year. It is our intention that in the next few years we will be able to decongest the halls of residence, so that we have no more than 3 students per room in the traditional halls, and that we will also be able to upgrade the facilities in the halls. I am happy to announce that, following the fruitful interactions with students, University of Ghana Enterprises Limited (UGEL), has agreed to a significant reduction in the rent paid per semester for the new hostels.

Student Discipline

The University, in the latter part of last academic year, embarked on a number of planned interventions to arrest deteriorating conditions in the halls of residence, caused largely by congestion. Unfortunately, some students embarked on various actions in protest against these interventions, including the disruption of examinations and the heckling of officials of the University. I am sure that you will all agree with me that such behaviour has no place in the University of Ghana, and I hope that in the future, all of us, students and staff alike, will seek to explore dialogue instead of confrontation when we face challenges or have questions about policy decisions in the University.

Very soon, it will be time for student elections, and I hope that this time around, the elections will be held in a peaceful manner, and that there will be no irregularities.

Sexual Harassment Policy for the University

The University is strongly opposed to sexual harassment and sexual abuse in any form, and also seeks to provide an atmosphere of work and study in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Council has approved a sexual harassment policy for the University, to ensure that all persons who participate in the University's programmes and activities do so in an environment free from intimidation, exploitation and abuse.

The policy seeks to ensure that the University community is educated on what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual abuse, takes measures to avoid its occurrence and that appropriate action is taken against perpetrators of sexual harassment and sexual abuse.

Security Issues

Mr. Chairman, your Ladyship, ladies and gentlemen, security on the various campuses of the University has been stepped up, and I am glad to report that we have seen a

marked decline in the number of violent robberies and attacks. We have, however, had a recent spate of incidents including break-ins into parked cars, pedestrians having their bags and cellular phones snatched, and confidence tricksters fooling students into giving away valuable items, such as laptop computers and jewelry. I entreat all of us not to be complacent, but to continue to secure our offices, homes and rooms and to be on the lookout for any criminals who might seek to compromise the safety of our campuses. We are also working on strengthening our security services and boosting the morale of staff in the unit.

Infrastructural Development Projects

Chairman of Council, Madam guest speaker, ladies and gentlemen, since the last Congregation, work has continued on a number of infrastructural development projects which when completed, will go a long way towards solving some of the problems of the University in terms of lecture and office space, staff and student accommodation, and recreational facilities. Some major structures that have been completed or are close to completion are: the new LECIAD building, the Alumni Centre, the Central Science laboratories and the Faculty of Engineering Sciences complex.

Our attention is now focused on finding the resources to complete the several uncompleted projects littered around the campus. When these are finally completed, hopefully soon, we will direct our energies towards finding appropriate permanent structures for the Faculty of Social Studies and other units without permanent structures, including the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Psychology.

GRADUANDS

Output and Performance

Mr. Chairman, your Ladyship, ladies and gentlemen, a total of 2446 students are graduating today. This number includes 1050 post graduates, including 15 Doctoral graduates, many of whom are University of Ghana faculty members; 1040 undergraduates and 356 diplomates. 15 percent of the undergraduates obtained first class degrees, 34 percent second class upper division and 41 percent second class lower degrees. 15 percent of the diplomates obtained distinctions.

Well Wishes

I congratulate our graduands, and I am sure you are all very excited to have finished your studies and begun another stage in your lives. Yes, you have worked hard to come this far, but I can assure you that what lies ahead of you will be even harder. As you begin this new stage of your lives, I hope that the values of hard work and discipline will be your benchmarks as you enter the world of work. Let truth and honesty be your

trademarks, and while these may not necessarily make your lives any easier, they will definitely ensure that you can stand up to any test or challenge that may come your way. I wish you well, and challenge you to not see this event as marking the end of your education, but rather as the beginning. I am hopeful that many of you will consider further studies, and at least some of you will take up careers in academia, to impart knowledge to future generations.

My address would be incomplete without an acknowledgement of the dedication and sacrifice of the parents and guardians of our graduands. I salute you, and entreat you to continue to nurture and encourage them as they move into the next phase of their lives. It is my prayer that you will all live long to reap the returns on your huge personal, emotional and financial investment.

Once again, congratulations to the graduands. Mr. Chairman, your Ladyship, ladies and gentlemen, I am grateful for your attention.

**ADDRESS BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR, LADY JUSTICE MRS.
GEORGINA THEODORA WOOD, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

Chairman and Members of University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice Chancellor
Provosts, Deans, Directors, Heads of Department
Niimeh, Naameh Nananom, Togbewo
Members of the Diplomatic Corps Alumni of the University Graduands
1 invited Guests
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express gratitude and appreciation to the Vice-Chancellor and management of this great University for inviting me to be the Guest of Honour at this Congregation that is to confer degrees on graduands from various units within the University. A graduation ceremony is in a sense simple, yet highly exhilarating.

Its simplicity may be 'inferred from the series of simple procedures expected to be followed' by all those graduating. Indeed, the happy looks written in the faces of smartly dressed graduating ladies and gentlemen, and their parents, says that at long last, the struggles through lecture notes and the burning of the proverbial midnight candle is now behind you.

May I extend warm congratulations first to all parents who are here to support your wards; but certainly to all graduands of University of Ghana Business School, the Science Faculty, Faculty of Engineering Sciences; College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, as well as those graduating with post graduate degrees in other disciplines.

Mr. Chairman, on this memorable occasion, I would like to share some few thoughts, mainly with those graduating, and also with the distinguished members of the university community; indeed all of us gathered here. Being a product of this great University myself, I went through these great walls of Legon at a time this premier institution of higher learning in Ghana was much less populated, and the general ambience was much more suitable for academic work. On a lighter note, because the female population was not that high, the competition to join the club of 'internalists' was not that keen. The current graduating student on the other hand, has had the privilege of access to technologies which were missing in our days, and have had instant access to global data bases and a wealth of information at the simple touch of a button.

Education is an important pathway to progress and to development, not only of one's self but also of the nation. In the fast-changing contemporary world, education has become ever more valuable and a priceless instrument for preparing the young and not so young for the marketplace and for enhancing their contribution to society. What you graduands have received from the University of Ghana will therefore be vital for your future. I am glad to be here with you today to participate in this rite of passage before this splendidly-robed academic community, well-wishers and the general public. Several generations of students have participated in similar ceremonies over the years on this campus. They have all carried with them into the world of work and of life a University of Ghana education which has stood them in good stead. I am proud to proclaim that mine has stood me in very good stead.

The marketplace of the twenty-first century requires great adaptability. No longer can one enter into employment in one particular occupation or role and hope to retire from the very same occupation or role. These days, in the course of one's career, one often needs to change roles and re-tool for new roles. A broad but rigorous education that builds a capacity for flexibility and adaptability in the workplace is thus particularly necessary for our times. Therefore, the ability of our Universities in Ghana to lay a solid foundation for inventiveness, innovation and flexibility in our work force will greatly contribute to our competitiveness as a nation. From what I have learnt from my recent interactions with members of the Legon academic community, I am confident that Legon is heading the right direction to attain these prized attributes of modern education. Legon's education combines specialization with a prescribed minimum of general education.

This is the heritage which has been passed on to Professor Ernest Aryeetey, the new Vice-Chancellor of Legon, to build on. I am sure that all of us here today wish Professor Aryeetey every success in his endeavour to lead this University to new heights. I have had the opportunity of interacting with him and learning about his vision for this University. It is an exciting vision that aims at consolidating the work of his predecessors and transforming this University into a world class one. I am confident that the Vice-Chancellor will provide the leadership required to achieve his vision and make this University one that we can all continue to be proud of. It is indeed a proud heritage that he has to uphold and I have no doubt that he can count on our support and goodwill.

Dear Graduands, both you and I consider ourselves proud alumni of the premier University. And we leave the walls of Legon, proud of the noble virtues instilled in us by this great University. I refer to the virtues of high academic standards, independent thinking; as well as integrity. With these presumed attainments, the University is today seeing you off at her portals, in the hope that these virtues will be eventually utilized in

the solution of national problems. You are henceforth, not students but ambassadors of the great tower of learning, called Legon. You let the university down if you falter in public life; but you lift high the University's banner if you excel in your work.

The University anthem, which you will all sing to end today's ceremony, says it all:

Let the Great Tower of learning inspire both young and old. May we proceed in unity, to uphold the public cause. Arise O Legon, Defend the cause of Freedom, Proceed in truth and Integrity to make our nation proud.

The more challenging aspect of today's ceremony, is that as from today, you have become individuals asserting your independence and in a sense gaining your freedom. What the University has done is to equip you with the basic tools, indeed the capacity with which to face the world. The implication is that as from today, you are the master of your own destiny, indeed the captain of your soul. The mentality of operating under the tutelage of an institution is being lifted today; the past excuse or being only a student, no longer holds.

This thought can be comforting, but also frightening! Remember however that there is no challenge which is insurmountable. The depth and value of the capacity built in you here, should depend on how you exploited the opportunities made available while you were here as a student. Getting a good class or academic grade is no doubt important equipment for living. It is great to aim at a first class, a second upper grade, or obtain a perfect grade point average and so it is important to write an award winning thesis, long essay, or project work.

The comforting reality though is that, you may not be the only man or woman of distinction, competing to step into the world of work. Experience and research have indeed shown that a first class or second upper degree is no longer enough. The world of work is becoming more and more competitive as you all know. Obtaining an excellent class or grade is therefore important; but it is not the be-all and end-all.

A recent research survey on the employment scene reveals that several employers look for graduates who make a difference, with good communications skills, great ICT propensities, a high sense of initiative, and enormous self-confidence. These traits remarkably, cannot be simply learnt or imbibed from the Jones Quartey Hall, the Chemistry Lab, the 'N' Block, or the Busia Hall. But these are skills that complement a first class or good grade, to lend it the much needed distinction in the world of work.

The opportunities for these, however, abound in a University of this calibre. Tertiary institutions like this premier University are indeed great nursery grounds for leadership, and so truly, the world of work, begins here at Legon. For you graduands, it began with

opportunities for leadership and confidence-building in the various societies and clubs you join; the public lectures you attend; the university F M station where you volunteered your services; the editorial work you do in the various hall journals; the junior common room governments, the SRC general assemblies; the opportunity to be electoral commissioner, or President or even a Chief Justice, in your hall of residence.

Such roles present golden opportunities which have in the past been successfully exploited. Unfortunately, these roles have occasionally been abused or perverted to the detriment of students. Such perversions find expression in the get-rich-quick mentality emerging among some student office holders, collusion to rig JCR or SRC elections, and sometimes the embezzlement of funds, which appear to be on the rise in student life. Let's not forget that an undisciplined student eventually becomes an undisciplined public servant; and a corrupt student leader betrays the malpractice and stigma wherever he/she goes.

Happily, I have been informed that the University has recently launched a new degree program that among other things, introduces very interesting compulsory courses such as critical thinking, and numeracy skills, as well as ensures that topics on gender and readership form an integral part of a course in Liberal and African Studies. I am also reliably informed that an innovative leadership project has started within the University's Sports Directorate. These new developments point to attempts being made by the University, to respond to emerging needs in the society.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to see this University and others instill in students the essence of community work while they are students. I believe that part of the reason why those of us in law and the administration of justice are having some difficulty getting lawyers to engage in pro bono work on a sustained basis, stems from the fact that we have had no grounding in this aspect of tertiary education. Today, community work is an integral part of the curriculum in several universities across the world. The concept has started in some private universities and indeed primary and secondary schools in the country, and I would be happy to see it taken up in an state universities. A community-based project may be undertaken as an integral part of the curriculum to earn academic credit but it can also be made compulsory in student hall week celebrations, such that hall weeks are not just for fun and fanciful behaviour, but also for learning and impacting on communities around the student. The idea is to establish an organic link between students and the world out there, and indeed link academic work to social realities very early in the student life.

For the University Ghana, the grounds for this are particularly fertile since there are several communities and settlements now encircling the campus, but which feel organically detached. These settlements should not be mere neighbourhoods; they should also be laboratories for learning and skills testing. I believe that in the process

these activities will help to reduce the mystery surrounding the ivory tower, make university education more society- friendly, and enabling the tax payer to commit themselves even more readily to funding tertiary education. More importantly, they instill in us the spirit of sacrifice and servanthood critical to a successful career in public service. In several world class universities, organic links between universities and communities have helped to create employment for graduands, and also raise funds for the University.

I understand that throughout the world, community projects by Universities have helped to generate a class of people they call *academic citizens*, referring to academics whose very noble intellectual pursuits make them citizens of the communities they study. *I urge the University to make the concept of academic citizenship, a goal in the university's vision.*

I congratulate you all. **Y**ou have every reason to be happy and to celebrate your achievements, but be reminded that you have acquired knowledge and skills that must be put to good use for the benefit of our dear nation. Some of you will be returning to your previous employment; others may be seeking new employment. Whatever category you belong to, the challenge is for you to put to good use whatever skills and knowledge you have acquired during the period of your training. You must be mindful of the fact that you constitute part of the next generation of leaders of our nation. Given the small proportion of our population that is lucky enough to secure the advantage of tertiary education, all who graduate from our Universities, and particularly from this premier University, are destined for a leadership role in our society. This leadership entails responsibility. I urge you to reflect on the implications of this responsibility. It is obvious that much is expected of you by our society. You owe an obligation to lead lives worthy of emulation.

So, as you enter the world, do not pervert the new laurels you sacrificed to obtain, nor be tempted to descend into arrogance, looking down on the base heights by which you did ascend to the top. Indeed the higher you climb the social ladder, the more humble you should feel as a leader. Education indeed is meaningless unless it helps to mitigate the canker of poverty, ignorance and disease afflicting mankind; and you, as ambassadors should lead the crusade of using education to transform the destiny of Africa.

My final words to you are that you must remember that the training at this University was preparation for life and not necessarily preparation for a particular type of employment. You should, therefore, look out for opportunities for making an impact and contributing your quota to the development of our nation.

Congratulations once again to all you graduands.

May God bless us all! Thank you.

VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. EVANS ADJEI ASHONG

Chairman and Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Her Ladyship the Chief Justice,
Distinguished Guest Speaker,
Pro-Vice Chancellors of this University and other Universities present,
Registrar of this University and other Universities present,
Provosts, Deans and Directors herein gathered,
Honourable Ministers of State,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Members of Convocation,
Niime, Naame, Nananom, Invited guests,
Fellow Graduands,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am highly elated to stand before you on this august and momentous occasion, to deliver the Valedictory Address on behalf of the 2010 graduating class. Indeed, it was just four years ago that we gained admission to this prestigious University to pursue our dreams, goals and aspirations in life, and so soon today we are all set to graduate.

We thank God for making this dream come true; if for nothing at all, for achieving the dream of becoming a university graduate.

Many of us were happy when we received our admission letters to study in this prestigious and premier University of the Nation. It was mixed feelings for most of us when we arrived on campus. The much heard about First Year University Examinations, and the prospect of meeting old and new friends were some but few of the initial expectations and anxieties. Yet, little did we know that University education comes along with a lot of responsibilities. We can reminisce on those interim assessments (LAs), assignments, independent library research, examinations, long essays and the most uncomfortable anxiety of waiting for examination results. Many of us really prayed for miracles, sharing bad moments when our results did not go well and having a great time when we had grades higher than we expected. Most people said "I had A or A-" when the results went well but when they are disappointed in the results they would say "the lecturer gave me B, B-, C or D."

We also cast our minds back on times that we were reprimanded when our mobile phones rang in class and we refused to own up; days of rushing for lectures, booking of

seats, *burning the midnight candles* and those hectic days of joining very long queues to have a signature appended to our documents during registration.

Yet, despite all these, we had great moments such as making new friends. While some of them were a bad influence on us others enriched our lives. We equally remember the Hall weekend activities, drink-ups, relationships started, popularly known as "grabbing" and a number of disappointments or heartaches we would rather forget about! On the whole, the four year period has been hard work and perseverance coupled with fun and pleasure.

Mr. Chairman, even though we can never understate the wonderful and invaluable contribution of the university to our success, we met some challenges during our stay and studies here which we wish would be addressed by University authorities. These include problems with respect to academic facilities and residential accommodation. To this end, we are grateful to University authorities for enhancing residential accommodation, the recent one being the Limann Hostel. We however plead that the university looks once again at the fees charged to make them more affordable.

Another challenge was overcrowding at lecture halls; we suggest that there should be more lecture rooms to ease the overcrowding during lectures. We are thankful that most of our departments and halls are now I.C.T friendly. The online registration programme is a great milestone achieved by the University, but we would like to see the network system become more reliable than it has been so far. But even as we reflect on these challenges, I must admit that these challenges have actually groomed us into becoming more versatile and resilient and have contributed immensely to making us much stronger and mature people. I believe my colleagues and I would now be able to face the outside world as we move out of the sheltered walls of this institution.

Today is indeed a great and new day, the day that the Lord has made and we will like to thank God for bringing us this far. We would also like to thank the university and all others who have contributed enormously to help us achieve this milestone. To university authorities, lecturers, officials and staff of this university, we are grateful to you.

My fellow graduands, I wish to remind all of us that life outside the University will be full of new challenges and sometimes hardship but it will require hard work, persistence, determination and a focus on God to make us succeed. I strongly implore each and every one of us to transform and translate the knowledge, skills and values that we have acquired in the University of Ghana to help solve the myriad of problems in our country and the world as a whole. I wish to throw the challenge to my fellow graduands to join in the effort to help solve environmental problems, particularly issues of climate change and global warming which is now a major challenge in the world. Let

us research more, question set norms and come up with new truths leading to a change in the way things are done, in order to make Ghana, Africa and the world a better place.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the 2010 graduating class, I would like to acknowledge all parents and guardians for the pivotal role they have played in making our stay here worthwhile. I humbly ask all parents and guardians to proudly rise as we give them a rousing applause for all they did to make us achieve this feat.

To my fellow graduands, I say congratulations, I urge you all to keep on studying hard to soar to greater heights in order to build a better world for a better tomorrow. In fact there are more challenging times ahead even as we develop our careers whether in industry or in academia. I encourage as many of us to consider coming back to undertake postgraduate studies.

To conclude, I urge you all to constantly address your minds to the motto of this great University - *Integri Procedamus*, meaning progress with integrity. May this be your watch word, even as it is mine. Let us strive to proceed with integrity. So that instead of saying 'Yes we can!' we should rather be saying, "YES WE HAVE!" because once we have studied at this prestigious university, we have already made it.

God bless Ghana
God bless the University of Ghana
God bless us all
Thank you very much.

