Valedictory Speech Delivered By Prince Kwame Senyo

Chairman of Council;

Vice Chancellor;

Pro-Vice chancellors;

Registrar;

Guest Speaker;

Members of Convocation;

Deans;

Members of Faculty;

Graduating students;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My heart is filled with ginormous joy and happiness to present the valedictory speech at this graduation ceremony. I wish to congratulate all graduating students for a job well done. Some years ago we were issued with admission letter inviting us to embark on the journey towards achieving post-graduate degrees from this great institution. That day, graduation seemed so far away and seemed like forever. But look how far the Lord Almighty has brought us. Many of you will bear me witness that, the journey to securing a post-graduate degree from this prestigious institution of ours is rigorous, torturous and a herculean task. Time they say is the healer of all wounds. I can vividly recall the 7:30 am examinations, late night studies, Sunday group discussions and field assignments.

Therefore, I understand how some of us are much palliated to have finished school and I wouldn’t be mistaken to hear a lot of us saying they have closed the chapter on education. But I tell you this, you can’t out run education as it is imbued in all spheres of life and the longer you live the more you learn. I can’t remember a time in my life when education wasn’t the focal issue. My perception about education at infancy was about making good grades and toping the class but, this view changed as I rose through the academic ladder to realize that education has more to offer than good grades. Nonetheless, I don’t regret having those thoughts since in this part of our world, more premium is placed on marks rather than the ability to innovate. I can proudly say that those grades got me to where I am today.

My post-graduate education altered my personality for the better and to me, change is good because we learn and grow through change. I read a quote that sums up why most of us are deemed fit to be graduating today and it reads “*education isn’t what you learn; it’s about what you do with what you learn*”. I entered graduate school with the mind of writing codes, fixing computers, building networks and doing some hacks. But to my amusement, the codes were already there, the computers fixed and the networks up and running. However, my study required me to harmonize these independent components for a business to make profit. What a mumble jumble. The worst of it all, was that I had to come from home to school every day since I couldn’t get an accommodation on campus. During the course work, most of my classes started from 7:30 am and ended at 5:30 pm. Imagine the stress I went through, jumping from one “*trosky*” to another, walking from Pentagon to Business School and sometimes begging people for lifts from the Law Faculty to TF hostels, where I would continue my journey home. But look at me today, I am a manifestation of hard work, determination, commitment and relentless spirit.

To all graduating students, I say we have all overcome many challenges to get to where we are today, and every one of us has achieved success in our own ways. The University of Ghana does not only provide quality education, but also ensures that students are built socially and academically. As such, we should be grateful to the University of Ghana for providing us with a conducive environment to learn from each other, and to think for ourselves. From tomorrow, we are starting the next phase of our lives, and there will be many more difficulties and setbacks ahead of us. However, with persistence, courage and ability, we are trained by this great institution to tackle all challenges, achieve greater successes and make a difference in our community. Fellow graduating students, today is our day but let me hasten to remind you to shorten the joyous parties; because we happen to live in a very unstable world. You can have the best grades, be the smartest, come from the richest families, have all the connections and even the direct line to the President but I tell you, nothing is guaranteed anymore. Therefore, foldup your sleeves and lets get to work to transform our dear mother Ghana. Let’s not bury our talents like the proverbial lazy servant in the Holy Bible, but make optimum use of them to project the image of our beloved alma mater. Intergri Procedamus! I ask that, we uphold the motto of our school and bring positive sustainable change wherever we find ourselves. To industry, we can boldly say bring it on and will definitely find a match because, we were not just trained to read books and be verbose, rather our skill sets acquired through these years of study have adequately prepared us to face the job terrain head-on. I believe each of us here is capable enough to make significant change in the job environment therefore, give us the chance to prove ourselves and you will not regret it.

No one succeeds without the help of others. Therefore, I would like to express my gratitude to my mum, Mercy Yeboah for forcing me those days to do my homework before taking my meals after school and my dad, Anthony Senyo for being the voice that soldiered me on during trying periods of my studies. I would also like to thank my supervisors Dr. Erasmus Addae and Dr. Richard Boateng and our Head of Department Dr. John Effah, who have respectively made me a better and refined person both socially and academically. I wish to thank all lecturers and staff of the Department of Operations and Management Information systems in the Business School and all my class mates for their support during my studies. I also express my unplumbed gratitude to my family members, friends and all those who contributed to my life and education over the years and not forgetting my dear one, Sandra Folikumah for believing in me to the extent that I began to believe in myself.

Lastly, this august ceremony won’t have been successful without tremendous efforts from different individuals such as security, ushers, drivers, the media, “parrazzies”, cleaners, top management, invited guests, families, and friends. Therefore, as a sign of our maturity, I thank you all on behalf of all graduating students for your inordinate efforts. God bless the premier University of Ghana, God bless Ghana, and us all; and till we meet again, I leave you with these words.

“**Never say a task is difficult to complete but rather complex to comprehend but with the right motivation, you can always overcome**.”

Thank you all.