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**COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES
(GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES)
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
JULY 20, 2018**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Friday, July 20, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Procession

- Members of Convocation
- Council

(The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose: Prof. Yaa Ntiamoa-Baidu,
Member of Council

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Prof. Kwame Offei,
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Academic and Student Affairs

Congregation Speaker: Ing. William Amuna

Valedictory Address: Ms. Abena Apraku

Conferment of degrees:

Presentation of graduands from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences
(Graduate and Undergraduate Programmes)

- PhD · MA/MPhil · MSc · MAgric
- MEng · DVM · Bsc

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

Recession

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

**OPENING ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
(REPRESENTED BY PROFESSOR YAA NTIAMOA-BAIDU,
MEMBER OF COUNCIL)**

Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provost and Deans,
Guest Speaker,
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Humanities,
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. Mr. Annan would have liked to be here today as the congregation ceremony scheduled for today and tomorrow will be the last during his tenure as Chancellor. Official duties however prevent him from being here.

As you may know, the University of Ghana adopted the collegiate system of governance in 2014, and since that time, congregation ceremonies have been organised on college basis.

Congregation ceremonies are very important to the University of Ghana because it provides us the opportunity to reflect on how well we are doing in terms of providing the needed academic services and corporate support to ensure that students graduate and graduate on time. Management of the University is committed to improving upon graduating rates and student satisfaction and will continue to do all in its power to provide students with a memorable student experience.

During today's ceremony, graduates and undergraduates of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences who have satisfied the requirements for graduation will be presented and graduated.

Graduands I wish you 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, it is my pleasure to declare this afternoon's assembly, duly constituted for the award of degrees to successful graduands.

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

Thank you.

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS PRESENTED BY
PROFESSOR KWAME OFFEI, PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR
(ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS)**

Chairman of Council representing Chancellor
Members of University Council
Pro Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Members of College Advisory Boards
Provost and Deans
Guest Speaker
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Humanities
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Alumni
Graduands
Parents / Guardians
Invited Guests
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

WELCOME

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to this congregation ceremony. A total of 3,184 students will be graduating at various levels from the four Colleges of the University, namely: College of Health Sciences; College of Humanities; College of Education; and College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

This afternoon's ceremony will confer degrees on graduate and undergraduate students from the College Basic and Applied Sciences.

Another congregation ceremony will be held in November this year for students from all four Colleges, and a third batch, made up mainly of Distance Education students, will graduate in April 2019.

Let me use this opportunity to express my gratitude to faculty, administrators and other stakeholders for their support in keeping alive our role as custodians and making this day possible. I will also like to appreciate the time parents and

invited guests have taken off their busy schedules to respond to our invitation to this ceremony.

Update on the State of the University

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, kindly allow me to provide update on exciting developments at the University of Ghana.

Admissions

Our admissions process reflects the diverse nature of our student population. I am happy to note that during the 2017/2018 admission cycle, a total of 14,128 students, made up of 11,707 undergraduates and 2,421 graduate students accepted offers of admission and enrolled in various programmes run on the Main, Korle-Bu and Accra City Campuses, as well as by Distance Learning. These numbers include 389 international/visiting students from across the world.

Review of 4-Year Degree Programme

After eight years of implementation of our 4-year undergraduate programme, the University has set in motion a process reviewing the 4-year degree programme and the Grading System. The report from the Review Team has already been discussed by Management, Colleges, and the Business and Executive Committee. The composite report is being finalized for implementation.

New Programmes and Courses

A number of new courses and programmes have recently been approved by the University Academic Board. These include the Executive Master of Science in Fisheries Administration and Management, Doctor of Philosophy in Health Physics and Radiation, and a functional law course for undergraduate students. The Academic Board has also approved revisions to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Master of Philosophy in Nursing and Midwifery programmes. The new courses would be made available once they receive accent by the National Accreditation Board.

The West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), has received international accreditation for its postgraduate programmes from the Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study programmes (AQAS), Germany, a noted body for accreditation of higher education institutions and programmes. This accreditation opens the doors for strategic collaborations with other institutions.

Governance

National Accreditation Board Cyclical Review

The University recently underwent a statutory cyclical review by the National Accreditation Board. The four day review focused on governance, institutional development, internationalization, growth, research and grants, community service, academic matters, future outlook, information resources and finances. Meetings were held with university management, faculty and staff, as well as with students. Management of the University is committed to implement the recommendations from the review, which will enable us improve on our efforts at providing high quality teaching, learning, and research experience for our students and employees.

Review of Collegiate System

Chairman of Council, the University adopted the collegiate system of governance in the 2014/2015 academic year, mainly to promote efficiency, reduce bureaucracy and free senior management to have time for the most important administrative functions. The statutes of the University were amended to make way for the creation of the four colleges, i.e. Basic and Applied Sciences, Education, Health Sciences and Humanities. Four years after the adoption of the system, a panel has been set up to review the collegiate system. The remit of the panel are to: review of the current collegiate system of governance with the view to identifying the short comings in the governance structure and making recommendations for improvement; make new proposals to improve the governance structure to achieve the twin goals of effectiveness and efficiency; and develop a set of governance principles,

policies, standards, and practices that optimally support the university's strategic priorities.

The panel, chaired by a former Vice-Chancellor of University of Ghana, Professor Akilagpa Sawyerr is currently interacting with major stakeholders of the University and will present its recommendations soon.

Strategy Execution

The nine strategic teams that were constituted in November 2016 to drive the transformational agenda of the University of Ghana have been working very hard and have already made some gains.

The Independent Power Supply Team

The University of Ghana currently spends about 29 million Ghana Cedis every year on electricity which is equivalent to 10 Megawatt amperes (10 MWA). The Strategic Team on Energy was therefore set up to find a sustainable way to reduce this huge cost by 40% using an energy mix (solar, biogas and others).

The Team in collaboration with the Electricity Company of Ghana has installed a net meter at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), which provides data on the amount of energy used at the Institute and the excess energy made available to the rest of the University. I am delighted to inform you that the data from March 2018 indicates that NMIMR pumped into the University system excess energy of 4,498 Kwh from the solar cell facility.

On the issue of double billing, the University of Ghana Electricals Unit and the Building and Revenue Unit of the Electricity Company of Ghana have estimated a reduction of the University's energy bill by 13% every month. This is based on a reconciliation of energy bills paid directly by residents and commercial tenants of the University.

Through an initiative of VSL Holdings a demonstration of the impact of using energy saving devices has been completed. This would be used as a basis for scaling up at other residential facilities. All the traditional halls of residence at

the University and some academic buildings are currently migrating from the use of CFLs to LED lamps.

The Danish Government is to provide funds towards the construction of a Biogas Facility at Livestock Production & Research Centre (LIPREC) to generate electricity to power the Research Centre and also for training purposes. This project if completed, will enable Livestock Production & Research Centre to properly manage its waste; produce manure, generate about 53,000KWh of electricity per annum and serve as a facility for teaching and research. The University is in the process of piping the biogas produced at the Alexander Kwapong Hall to the restaurant of the same hall for cooking purposes.

Arrangement for the refurbishment of streetlights (installation of 150 LED street lights) along major streets of the University of Ghana has been completed. Ministry of Energy is in the process of installing an additional 150 LED streetlights from Okponglo to the link gate, GIMPA.

As part of efforts to complete the University Stadium, the Energy Strategic Team is exploring the possibility of roof top solar or solar car ports as potential energy sources for the facility.

Bui Power Authority is to install a 600 kW wind turbine on UG campus. A site has been identified and they are waiting for the arrival of wind mast to gather data (wind speed and direction) before the installation of the wind turbine.

University of Ghana is to be a key beneficiary of the ongoing “Race to Retrofits & Renewables” Program under Compact II, which seeks to promote Energy Efficiency Retrofits and Renewable Energy technologies in selected public institutions. Four (4) buildings (Academic Affairs, Vice-Chancellor's Office wing, Great Hall and UGCS) were selected for the exercise. Preliminary Energy Audits and Investment Grade Energy Audits for the 4 buildings were conducted. The first phase of the implementation involves changing of: non-LED light fixtures to suitable LED fixtures; existing air-conditioning and refrigerating systems to suitable minimum 3 star rated inverter type air-conditioning and refrigerating systems; existing fans to super energy efficient fans; and the installation of 15 smart meters at the feeder level and at different floors along with internet communication system and software. The second

phase will see the installation of: Four (4) voltage stabilizers; and Solar PV modules for power generation.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the Ministers of Energy, Finance and Education and the Managing Director of the Electricity Company of Ghana Ltd., (ECG) for endorsing our initiative to migrate unto renewable energy. I would also like to acknowledge the technical support received from representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy, ECG, Energy Commission and members of the team from the University.

University of Ghana Regional / World Ranking Team:

Through the hardwork of the Team, the University of Ghana has been ranked within the 101-150 band on the Times Higher Education (THE) Golden Age University Ranking 2018. The Golden Age ranking uses Times Higher Education data to cast a spotlight on the world's best universities established for more than 50 years, but less than 80 years. Institutions from 44 different countries were included in this year's edition of the world's Golden Age University Rankings. Thus makes the University of Ghana the only ranked university in Ghana and the number one ranked University in West Africa.

Institutional Advancement Team:

The Team successfully spearheaded the launched of the 70th anniversary of University of Ghana on Tuesday 20th February, 2018 at the Great Hall on the theme “Celebrating Excellence, Shaping Futures.” As part of the anniversary, the UG Endowment Fund was also launched by the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on Monday 7th May, 2018. The Endowment Fund will be used to support scholarships, bursaries, tuition waivers, research grants for students and faculty, additional facilities and resources to enhance research and teaching through the provision of equipment, teaching aids and space, upgrading the quality of internet coverage in all University of Ghana campuses and improving on library resources.

I wish to cease this opportunity to reach out to all stakeholders to contribute generously to the fund.

The Green project Team is partnering a number of institutions to re-design our grounds to ensure that there are enough trees and green coverage, as well as develop and complete a waste disposal system that will rely on separation of waste, to serve as a model for Ghana. Some of the institutions and organizations that are supporting the University in this drive are; the Forestry Commission, ADRA, WECARE, Y & M Regeneration Limited and the Republic Bank. The tree planting and landscaping initiatives were recently launched in separate events under the auspices of the Green Team.

Since the launch of the tree planting exercise on 1st December, 2017, the Green Project Committee and the PDMSD have led the University Staff (TEWU, GAUA, FUSSAG and UTAG) and some Student Groups to plant over 7,500 tree seedlings on the main campus of the University and the Staff Village. The Green Project Committee and the PDMSD are also supporting two students groups, CIYZOE-Legon and Technology without Borders, to implement the University of Ghana Plastic Recycling Project (UGPRP) which begins in the 2018/2019 academic year. The project involves awareness creation aimed at attitudinal and mindset change, and to effect waste segregation at source. Special bins will be positioned at vantage points at the halls of residence and hostels for students to drop empty water sachets and plastic bottles.

A unique feature of this initiative is that it is students-led. I will like to commend the groups and entreat the entire students' body to embrace the concept to facilitate the proper disposal of waste on campus. As a prelude to the implementation of the project, the student volunteers have already launched a programme to discourage littering during this congregation. I am appealing to you all to cooperate with them and drop waste in the bins that have been provided.

In addition, plans are far advanced to institute a comprehensive waste management system for the University to serve as a model for the country. This will involve compost production using litter fall from trees and biodegradable waste from commercial centres and eateries. The compost that is generated will be used for grassing, horticulture and crop production by the University.

The University of Ghana Mining Research Group: Our Director of the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies sent out a message to the University research community on the need for the University of Ghana to provide a holistic solution to the “Galamsey” issue. Over 50 researchers from all Colleges of the University responded and came together to form the University of Ghana Mining Research Group. The broad objective of the group is captured in the acronym STIMULATE: Solutions Targeting Illegal Mining Using Legislation, Appropriate Technology and Education. The Group, with the support of Office for Research and Development and the Center for Climate Change and Sustainable Studies, organized a symposium on the theme “Engaging the Artisanal Mining Industry in Ghana: Practical Ideas toward Sustainable Livelihoods and Ecological Stability”. An interaction between the group and a team from the University of York has yielded some dividend with the later agreeing to commit some core funding to support its staff to do research work in Ghana. Members of the mining research group have also been involved in the roll out of the Government's flagship programme the 'Multi-Sectoral Mining Integrated Project' (MMIP) which is being implemented by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.

Research, Innovation and Development

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana is committed to re-defining itself as a research intensive institution and actively encourages faculty to engage in research activities. We seek to engage in policy relevant research that will inform the development agenda of our dear nation and the African continent at large. The University's investment in research is yielding fruitful results, and already the quantity and quality of research being carried out at the University of Ghana have improved tremendously. In addition, the University has won landmark research grants, which have been utilized to enhance its research profile. In view of this, the Office of Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) is taking the lead in ensuring that we meet our set goals.

Research, Faculty Development and Conference Grants

ORID received a total of 148 applications for conference grants. Out of this number, 72 grants with a total value of approximately US\$ 118,000.00 (one

hundred and eighteen thousand dollars) were awarded. The 11th call for proposals for research grants was made using the InfoEd Grants Management Software and yielded seventy-five (75) applications. Fifty-seven applications qualified for review and are currently being processed.

Agreements

From August 2017 to date, ORID has reviewed and signed 53 research agreements amounting to approximately Eighteen Million United States Dollars (US\$ 18,000,000.00). In addition, 13 MoUs, 1 copyright agreement, 2 Material Transfer Agreements and 1 non-disclosure agreement have also been signed.

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) won grants to initiate 16 new projects during the year. Altogether a total of 128 research projects were initiated at the Institute during the period under review. The Institute continued to function as the as World Health Organisation (WHO) recognised National Influenza Center for Ghana, the WHO Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio as well the WHO supported Reference Centre for the Identification of Rotavirus. It is also the Lymphatic Filariasis Support Centre for Africa, and host to the West African Centre for International Parasite Control (WACIPAC) project. It is worthy of note that the Institute continues to excel and has become a great icon in the world of health research.

Capacity Building

The University of Ghana and its consortium of five African partners have been awarded an amount of €1.3 Million (one million, three hundred thousand euros) from the European Commission within the framework of the EU-Intra Africa Mobility Programme to implement a project titled: Harmonization of Entrepreneurship Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (HEED-Africa) for a period of 5 years. The project seeks to facilitate academic mobility to enhance individual capacities and institutional capabilities in entrepreneurship across thematic disciplines in Africa. The programme will offer scholarships for Masters and PhD students as well as capacity building for academic and administrative staff of the partner Universities.

towards research as it strives to attain its vision of becoming a research-intensive university.

Innovation

The Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST) was established in 2012 to advance the development of Ghanaian industry through the conduct of industry-led research and serve as a vehicle for the transfer of knowledge, technology and innovation from the University to industry. The long term plan of the Institute is to establish a Science and Technology Park. This is intended to provide a holistic state of the art infrastructure for industrial research, transfer of technology and innovation.

The expected location will be at the link gate/GIMPA bypass which was originally zoned for a science park. This facility will be a property based development, providing the requisite infrastructure, associated services and modern amenities. The proposed Science and Technology Park will therefore be a master planned community with the establishment of specialized buildings and facilities to accommodate: Start Up businesses; Incubator Centres and Laboratories; Education/Research/Visualization Centres for programmes; “State of the Art” Office accommodation, facility and business to aid research and development among others.

The Institute has started helping students to set up their own ventures and develop skill sets in innovation and entrepreneurial training. This training shapes the mindset of students to holistically express themselves and act on their innate creative potential. It also creates sustainable model of environment where students are immersed into creative and entrepreneurial endeavors through collaborations, activities, and channeling their entrepreneurial potential into all facets of their lives. The Institute believes that today's skills are not necessarily the ones needed tomorrow. Therefore, our students should be given first-hand experience of the link between academics and entrepreneurship/innovation. It is usually said that today's digital natives are the most adept at using technology, but at the same time they are less certain of the innovative processes that created them. The younger generation needs to learn how to create value in the digital economy, and embrace the opportunities that abound in science and technology.

The West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) received a grant from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) for the production of early generation seeds in partnership with a private sector player, the Legacy Crop Improvement Centre (LCIC). WACCI is currently undergoing production of breeder and foundation seed of the three improved hybrid maize varieties released in June 2017. The project “Commercialization of West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement released maize hybrids for increased productivity in Ghana” seeks to improve household food security by facilitating the commercialization of the three WACCI hybrids.

Additionally, WACCI has led a consortium to win a US\$1 million grant from the African Union (AU) to work with government and industry partners on Crop and Soil Health Improvement for sustainable Agricultural Intensification towards Economic Transformation in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The 3-year project aims to address issues related to the food and nutrition security objectives of the African Union under its Competitive Research Grants Scheme supported by the European Union.

Faculty and Student Fellowships

Faculty members have also benefited from the Cambridge-Africa Partnership for Research Excellence (CAPREX), Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee (QES) Advanced-Scholars Grant, the Commonwealth Doctoral Scholarships and the Fox International Student Fellowship Scheme. For the CAPREX award five applications were recommended by University of Ghana to Cambridge for further matching, out of which three have been successfully matched to Cambridge-based collaborators with the remaining two likely to be matched with “South” collaborators with support from collaborators in Cambridge.

In collaboration with the University of Alberta (U of A), the School of Nursing and Midwifery (SoNM) won the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee (QES) Advanced-Scholars Grant. The Grant will give 7 faculty members of the School the opportunity for a minimum of 90 days stay in Edmonton, Canada. The scholars will have the opportunity of mentorship for research and grantmanship.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University will continue to dedicate resources

Partnerships/Collaborations

Partnerships are very critical in the delivery of relevant and comprehensive knowledge and skill sets to learners in higher education institutions. Effective collaboration with external stakeholders from various fields of specialization provide unique platforms for sharing knowledge and skills that are mutually beneficial. In furtherance of this ideal, the University has forged new institutional partnerships to promote research, exchange of students and faculty with a number of institutions in North America, Europe, Asia, Australia and Latin America. New partnership agreements are currently underway and expected to be signed soon.

The School of Engineering Sciences, the CLUE Incorporated from Japan and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) are monitoring the performance of the solar panel farm at NMIMR. The monitoring process includes monthly recording of the kilowatt hour excess electricity pumped into UG by the solar panels using a net meter installed by Electricity Company of Ghana. In order to evaluate the current state of each solar panel, the School of Engineering Sciences and CLUE Inc., will employ the use of drones equipped with infrared sensor to study the surface of the solar panels by flying over the panels. This will help to identify damages and micro cracks on the solar panels that are not visible to the naked eye but affects the conversion efficiency of the panels.

Following the signing of an MOU between the University and Toyota Ghana Limited in April 2017, the parties have gone a step further to put together a project Partnership Agreement which is being finalized for signing soon. Under the partnership, Toyota will support the School of Engineering by building an ultra-modern training Centre to train students, provide equipment worth \$2 million to the School over 10 years, provide a bus to convey students to the Centre as well as provide scholarship worth \$10,000 per year to brilliant but needy students.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the University of Ghana and Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) to establish a Research Chair in Petroleum Geoscience at the Department of Earth Science, College of Basic & Applied Sciences. The Chair seeks to strengthen Petroleum



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



Prof. Yaa Ntiamao-Baidu, Member of Council (Representing Chairman of the University Council) delivering the Welcome Address



Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor, at the ceremony



Prof. S. Kwame Offei, Pro. Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, presenting the Vice-Chancellor's address



Prof. Daniel Kwadwo Asiedu, Provost, College of Basic and Applied Sciences, acknowledging International Students of the College



Mr. Emmanuel Baidoo, College Secretary, College of Basic and Applied Sciences, speaking at the ceremony



Ing. William Amuna, Guest Speaker



Ms. Abena Apraku, delivering the Valedictory Address



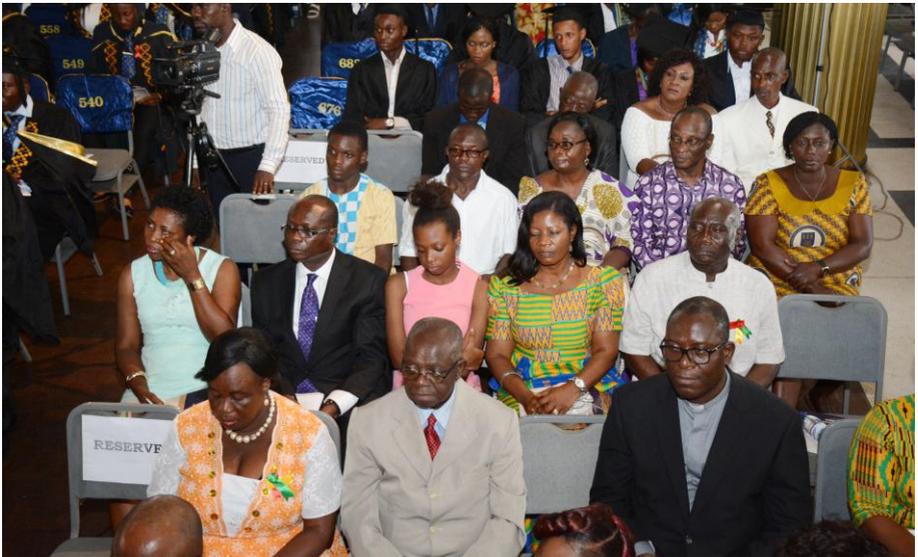
Graduands being congratulated by Officials and Dignitaries



Graduands at the Congregation ceremony



Graduands at the Congregation ceremony



Some parents, guardians and invited guests at the ceremony

Geoscience research and education capacity in the University of Ghana in order to support the optimal exploration, delineation and development of Ghana's hydrocarbon resources. Under the agreement, GNPC will commit \$1,000,000.00 (One Million US Dollars) to support the Chair.

Physical Development

Ladies and gentlemen, quality infrastructural facilities are critical to the achievement of the vision and mission of the University of Ghana. There are many ongoing projects on all our campuses, which will provide additional lecture halls, residential facilities and office spaces for our staff and students when completed. These projects include the multi-purpose School of Performing Arts facility, new blocks for the School of Pharmacy, multi-purpose GCB block, Faculty of Arts building, new blocks for Department of Earth Science, Extension to School of Public Health, Asphaltic Overlay of selected roads on campus and the UG Stadium. The following projects have been completed: Department of Economics Extension, Construction and Completion of 4 number B-Type Bungalows at Staff Village. The Confucius Institute building and the ultra-modern West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) building have already been commissioned. The next in line for commissioning is the multi-purpose building for the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI).

We like to express our gratitude to our local and foreign partners who have contributed to funding for these projects, and as a University, we will continue to prudently source for funds to complete the ongoing projects.

The Graduate Students' Association of Ghana (GRASAG-Legon) has commissioned a number of projects as part of the Association's contribution towards the attainment of the University's vision of becoming a world class research-intensive institution. These include four refurbished reading rooms and one television room at the VALCO Trust Hostel, as well as the refurbishment of an ultra-modern Research Commons at the Korle-Bu campus. I commend these initiatives by GRASAG-Legon and hope that students will make good use of these facilities.

ICT

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has made some progress in the provision of ICT services. A total of about 950 Wi-Fi Access

points have been installed in all the campuses of the University including the Research Centres and the Regional Distance Education Learning Centres. A progressive replacement and Wi-Fi network extension exercise is currently underway to address coverage and signal strength frustrations faced by students. The exercise is expected to be completed by the middle of the first semester of the 2018/2019 academic year. The University of Ghana Computing Systems (UGCS) has also received a 100 more Access Points to deploy at other critical places like the Library and departments in addition to some of the Halls.

The University has completed the deployment of a high-performance computing (HPC) infrastructure for West African Centre for Cell Biology and Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP). This is mostly available to the Centre but could be made available to other units based on agreement.

UGCS in collaboration with the University Archives has completed several digitization records. For the period under review, 455 items were added to the University of Ghana Institutional Repository.

Use of the SAKAI Learning Management System for the University's e-Learning programmes continues to improve with an average concurrent usage of 350 and an increase in courses created to 5, 611 as at the end of registration for second semester of 2017/2018 academic year.

Security monitoring of our infrastructure and services is currently ongoing. Security awareness bulletins are published weekly, and the UGCS has organized the first in a series of Cyber Security Awareness Workshops which aim at bringing awareness to the community on how to secure University and personal data.

Financial Aid to Students

Ladies and gentlemen, the Students Financial Aid Office (SFAO) has the mission of minimizing the financial barriers that prevent brilliant but needy students' access to studying at the University of Ghana. Donations to support needy students grew from approximately GH¢1,100,000.00 (One Million and One Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis) in 2016-2017 to approximately GH¢3,000,000.00 (Three Million Ghana Cedis) in 2017-2018 academic year,

representing about 155% increase over the previous year.

During the period under review a total of six hundred and fourteen students (614) out of nine hundred and twenty (920) applicants were awarded scholarships. This represented 66.7% of all scholarship applicants. The 614 scholarship awardees comprised 424 males representing 69.1% and 190 females representing 30.9%.

Management expresses its profound gratitude to all its revered donors for their regular support towards the reduction of the financial constraints of needy students.

Sporting Activities

University of Ghana Policy on Admission of Athlete Students (UG-PAAS), a policy that guides concessionary admission of students talented in sports who meet the minimum UG requirements is in its fourth year of operation. The first batch of students admitted through this policy would be graduating this year. The policy has so far admitted 200 students of which 68 are female and 132 are male. Five students who were enrolled through this policy have obtained scholarships and are currently pursuing further studies in the United States.

The University of Ghana Sports Fund (UG SPORT FUND) is an initiative to motivate and support talented and needy student athletes of the University of Ghana, and to attract potential talents for admission into the University. It is the first and the only sport fund in any public university in Ghana. The fund has enabled the Sports Directorate to sponsor 20 students comprising 4 female and 16 male.

Incoming Chancellor of the University

Ladies and gentlemen, the tenure of His Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan as Chancellor of the University of Ghana, expires on July 31st, 2018. Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse, who has been elected as the next Chancellor, will be sworn in by His Excellency, the President of the Republic, on August 1, 2018.

I wish to crave your indulgence to join University management to thank H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan for a very successful term, during which he achieved so much

for the University, particularly in the area of fund raising, and paving the way for fruitful collaborations and partnerships. We wish H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan well, even as we welcome Mrs. Chinery-Hesse, as the tenth Chancellor of the University, and the first female to hold this high office.

Well Wishes to Graduands

And now, to the Graduating Class who are the reason we are here today, as well as their families who have provided for them throughout their study period. For you graduands, this is a moment that comes with a strong sense of achievement. Today, the University is officially dispatching you into the wide world as its able ambassadors.

I urge you and by extension, the youth of this nation to aspire for the values of discipline, integrity, honesty, modesty and contentment in all your endeavors. Seek excellence, believe in yourself, work hard, plan ahead, be ethical in all your dealings and these virtues will guarantee you success. Eschew greed, quick fixes and crave for money, which are the roots of many evils in our society today.

I wish you well in your journey ahead, and once again, congratulate you on your achievements!

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.

GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY ING. WILLIAM AMUNA

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen.

Before I start my speech, I will like to take this opportunity to thank the University of Ghana for contributing to the person I am today and also for inviting me to deliver the commencement speech. I graduated from this august university with an MBA (Finance) degree sixteen (16) years ago. And that exposure, I believe, helped me transition smoothly into Management. Let me also congratulate all parents and guardians present for the support and guidance you have provided to your children. I know it is not easy, but for pulling through to get them to this level I salute you all.

Now to the graduating class of 2018, Congratulations!

My profile detailed my achievements but did not touch on my full life story. Dr. Kwame Nkrumah once said *“Those who would judge us merely by the heights we have achieved would do well to remember the depths from which we started.”* My father worked as a watchman at an educational institution. Life was very tough for my 9 siblings and I while growing up. But my parents, neither of whom was educated, ensured that all their children went to school. As a matter of fact, I was the first from either my paternal or maternal family to have a degree. Today, seven (7) out of their ten (10) children have a first degree. Education has changed the destiny of my family.

Many years ago, about 33 years, I was also graduating with a BSc Honors degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). Just like you, I was full of hope and expectations about my future. I believed that with hard work I could make it to the top in my professional practice and always remembered the last two lines of William Ernest Henley's Poem, *Invictus*, *“I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.”* It served as a reminder to me.

Last year, I had the opportunity to be the guest speaker at the congregation of KNUST college of Engineering where my second son was a Graduated of Electrical Engineering. He was following his older brother who had graduated

with a BSc in Electrical Engineering three years earlier. I told them the story of the watchman and his small watchmen children. But today I am not going to talk much about the watchman and his children. I am going to tell you what in my opinion could be a guide for your future aspirations.

There are three things I tried to achieve growing up as a young professional which I attribute to my successes today, that I will like you all to consider.

The three principles are, all I do must bring:

1. Honor to Myself
2. Honor to my Family
3. Honor to my Country

Being scientists, you are very smart people (not to say others are not smart). In order to bring honor to yourself, you need to understand that the first few years after graduation are very important to your career path. The first few years are the years I like to call your formation years. This is when you must develop yourself. Graduands, you must start working on yourselves now. Ensure that you keep educating yourself so as to equip you with the necessary skills to meet all challenges that would come your way. This is the time to dream, as dreams are seedlings of reality. Back your dreams with effort. Remember there is no free lunch and you must work hard to achieve those dreams. You can only fly if you learn to fly. Hard work truly pays and you must dedicate yourself to ensuring that you undertake all little tasks with zeal, determination and utmost commitment. I always attribute my successes during my career to doing the little things very well. Big things are made up of little things and when you do the little things well, you definitely will be doing big things very well.

Antonio Machado once said “Traveler, there is no path. The path is made by walking.” But with the advancement in technology, this old adage is losing its value. Graduands, seize the opportunity to build on what other people are doing and make them better.

Always remember that you will live a fulfilling life if you are honest and disciplined because whatever you have, whatever you own, whatever you do, will be through your hard work. In your daily lives, try to be fair to people you meet along the way because you don't know what tomorrow holds. Just look at

today, the watchman's son is now a former chief. A “nobody” can be “somebody” tomorrow. You must be time conscious. African time is an enemy to progress. I don't go to functions late and even at the wedding with my wife, we both arrived at the church 15mins before time.

You owe it a duty to bring honor to your family. Your families have sacrificed a great deal to bring you to this stage, and many of them never got opportunities near to what they have provided for you. Let's make them proud by bringing honor to the family. You need to know that any time you have to take major decisions, you will have to answer the question “will this bring honor or dishonor to my family?” I am always excited that whenever I am mentioned in the news, it is always for a good cause. Always for something that makes my family and loved ones proud. Graduands, I charge you to keep the smiles your family and friends have on, and always remember that your actions will have an impact on them. You must also remember to repay the kindness of the family by also investing in others in the family.

When I started working with the Volta River Authority in 1985, I made sure I supported my family the way I could to also help my brothers and sisters get to where I had reached. And I am always very proud and excited when I hear of their achievements. We must not reach the top and want to stay there alone. Once we get there, we must use the opportunity to carry those behind along with us. As a student at KNUST, I couldn't afford to buy a calculator. One day to my surprise, I got a parcel from a catholic priest, Monsignor Roger Aboteyuure and when I opened the parcel it was a calculator. When I graduated and started working, I was sent to the Pennsylvania State University in the United States of America for training in Advanced Power Systems. Out of my per diem, I bought 5 calculators and sent them to Monsignor to be given to needy students. Let's show love to our family, to the community and make sacrifices for the common good of people. Pope Francis summarizes this by saying

*“It is worthwhile to live as a family,
that a society grows strong, grows in goodness,
grows in beauty and truly grows if it is built on the foundation of the family.”*

Thirdly, let's bring honor to our dear country, Ghana. I have one policy and that is, wherever you find yourself, try to make the place better than you found it.

You must be a servant of the land. I am always proud to have been the Lead Commissioning Engineer of the Northern Electrification and System Reinforcement Project which extended electricity from the southern part of the country to the Brong Ahafo Region and the three northern regions. When I started working with the Volta River Authority, less than 25% of Ghanaians had access to electricity. Today outside South Africa, Ghana has the highest electricity access rate of 85%, making us a leader in Africa, south of the Sahara, where the sub-regional average is less than 35%.

We must seek to make life more comfortable for future generations. As a student at the Navrongo Secondary School, we used lanterns to learn. We had no electricity. You can imagine how excited I was the day I commissioned the Navrongo substation and we switched on grid power to Navrongo. I breathed in an air of achievement. I knew the impact of that small action on the lives of the children in Navrongo. Electricity is a catalyst to development, so I have dedicated my life to ensuring that every place in Ghana has electricity. That is my way of bringing honor to my country. I will urge you Graduands, to find what you love, what you are good at, and use that to bring honor to our country. Winston Churchill says “You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give”

Finally, I will urge you to believe in God and remember that every step along the way, God speaks to you. Sonnie Badu says in my favorite song, My Soul

Says Yes,
“Where you lead me, I follow
When you call me, I will answer
Oh my Lord please teach me how to know Your Way”

Let God lead you and make sure you listen to him.

Graduands,

In you we find people who can help increase yields from our fields
In you we find people who will help preserve our environment
In you we find people who will bring about development to our
country
In you we find hope

Graduands

Go bring honor to yourself, your family and our dear country!
Go bring honor to humanity!

Mother Theresa of Calcutta said “Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.” Just remember that the journey has just started and you are the master of your fate and the captain of your soul.

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THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS US ALL

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS DELIVERED
MS. ABENA APRAKU**

Madam Chairperson;
Vice-Chancellor;
Pro Vice-Chancellors;
Registrar;
Provosts of Colleges;
Deans;
Members of Convocation,
Parents and Guardians;
Fellow Graduands;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am highly privileged and humbled to be selected amongst my able and eminent colleagues to deliver this speech on a memorable day that marks the end of a remarkable four years of determination and persistent hard work. Together, we share our success story with all and sundry.

Madam Chairperson, it is fitting and proper on a historic day like this to reflect on how it all began four years ago. We all came through the prestigious gates of the University of Ghana as individuals with different backgrounds full of hopes and aspirations. Most of us did not know our way around and were uncertain what our years in school would bring. We had a good journey with some bumps along the way but we are grateful that we are seated here this afternoon not as strangers but as a family.

2 Corinthians 3:5 says “*Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy comes from God*”. We are thankful to God for how far he has brought us as individuals and as a class. “*Awurade ye da woase*”. To our lovely parents and guardians, you deserve a tap on the shoulders for a good work done, words are not enough to express how grateful we are for your support, care and invaluable advice. To our lecturers and all university staff, we say thumbs up for your hard work and dedication. We came as rough gems but thanks to your efforts, we are leaving refined and polished for the world of work. More grease to your elbows. Our lives as students would have been woefully incomplete without course mates, the friends and acquaintances we made along the way.

You brightened our journey and made it more memorable, we truly treasure you. To my fellow graduates, congratulations, you deserve a round of applause because we have made it.

Four years ago, we were tagged as freshers but here we are today ready to venture into the world and achieve new milestones in spite of the challenges, discomforts, sleepless nights and the fear of the unknown. We persisted because we believe that obstacles and trials are inevitable, however, once we overcome them, we only grow stronger and better. It is said that the purest ores are produced by the hottest furnace. I therefore believe that our time within the walls of this great university coupled with our individual experiences have adequately prepared us for the next chapter of our lives.

Fellow graduates, today, we are leaving this noble institution as better individuals not just because we possess certificates but because vital principles such as discipline, hard work, integrity and perseverance have been instilled in us. As we prepare to begin a new chapter in our lives, let us continue with diligence, integrity and humility. Irrespective of the hurdles we face, it should be our resolve never to relent or give up. These obstacles should rather encourage us to strive harder in order to attain our goals. I urge us all to strive for excellence in our various fields of endeavour because we each possess the potential to achieve greatness. The fear of failure should not prevent us from grabbing opportunities, instead we should view failure as a means to correct our mistakes, learn something new and reshape our aspirations and goals if need be.

Ed Macauley an NBA player once said *“You always have to give a hundred percent because if you do not someone somewhere will give hundred percent and beat you when you meet”*. I encourage us to always demonstrate commitment and give our best regardless of the compensation at hand. It should be our desire to leave a good mark wherever we go. We are capable of being world changers, entrepreneurs, job creators among others, thus let's not wait to be handed opportunities rather we should aim at making a difference which would impact individuals, communities, countries and the world at large.

Though our journey has not been all rosy, we cannot help but look back with smiles. I remember on my first day here, I did not think four years would pass so quickly. It felt like an eternity away but here we are today celebrating the end of

an important part of our lives. I am sure most if not all of us will miss everything about our great school especially students passing funny comments in class, the shouts of joy when a lecturer closes before time, a course rep prompting a lecturer when it is time to close, the excitement when an IA or exam goes well, class dinners and so on. Indeed, our experience here has helped us grow into wiser ladies and gentlemen who are capable of taking relevant decisions for the future. Fellow graduates, I entreat us to value and maintain the relationships we have built with each other over the years because we may not have the opportunity to interact as we are accustomed to.

Madam Chairperson, I conclude by saying that we each have our unique strengths and abilities. If a fish was judged by its ability to fly or walk it would be considered a failure. Thus, we should not measure our success based on what others are able or unable to do, instead we should utilise our God given talents and set standards that will make us proud as alumni of the University of Ghana. Congratulations to the class of 2018!

God bless the University of Ghana, God bless Ghana and God bless us all.
Thank you

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
(REPRESENTED BY PROFESSOR YAA NTIAMOA-BAIDU,
MEMBER OF COUNCIL)**

Distinguished Guest Speaker,
New Graduates,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

You agree with me that this afternoon's ceremony has been very successful. As we end the 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.

Our new graduates have all worked hard over the periods that they have been students at this University and they deserve all the laurels that they have acquired.

I congratulate you on your achievements and urge you all to be worthy ambassadors of the University of Ghana. I wish you success in your future endeavours. But whatever you do, always remember the University of Ghana and the University of Ghana's 70th Anniversary endowment fund.

On behalf of management, I would also like to thank all teachers and the management teams of the various units who have worked together to ensure that your stay in the university has been fruitful. The University appreciates all the efforts that have been put in this enterprise.

We are happy that so many family members and friends of the graduates were able to join in this celebration. I say a special congratulation to the parents of the graduates.

I also thank the guest speaker for today, for the very inspiring message to all of us. To our invited guests, alumni and friends of the University be assured that we appreciate your presence and participation in the ceremony. I wish everyone a safe journey back to your destinations.

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

Thank You.

