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**COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND
COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES
(UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES)
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
NOVEMBER 15, 2019**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Friday, November 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Procession

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

National Anthem

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

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Rev. Prof. Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi
Provost, College of Health Sciences

Congregation Speaker: Mr. Olumide Olatunji,
Managing Director, Access bank

Valedictory Address: Dr. Ama Akoma Essuman

Conferment of Degrees:

Presentation of graduands from the College of Health Sciences and
College of Basic and Applied Sciences

- BDS · MBChB · BSc (Med. Science.) · BPH
- BPharm · Diploma in Agriculture

Chancellor dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

Recession

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

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

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

Good morning.

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

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

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

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

This year has not been without some challenges, as it happens in any human institution. My personal concern has been that the name and reputation of the University would be preserved under any circumstances. It has therefore been worrisome on those occasions when especially press coverage of certain situations has carried the risk of tarnishing the image of the University in the media. One such occasion relates to the difficulties newly admitted students encountered in securing on-campus accommodation.

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

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

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

I repeat that the University of Ghana will not condone any form of sexual harassment, and mechanisms are currently being championed by the Vice-Chancellor to ensure that there would be zero tolerance to such abuses.

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

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

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

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

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

It is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give a report at Congregation, on developments in the University over the last academic year. I now call on Rev. Prof. Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi, Provost, College of Health Sciences to present the Vice-Chancellor's report.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS
(PRESENTED BY REV. PROF. PATRICK F. AYEK-KUMI
PROVOST, COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES)

Chancellor
Chairman and Members of Council
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provosts and Deans
Guest Speaker
Chairman and Members of Advisory Boards of College of Health Sciences and College of Basic and Applied Sciences
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Alumni
Graduands
Invited Guests
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

It is my pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor to the third session of the November Congregation ceremonies for the 2018/2019 cohort.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, from July 2019 a total of 9,273 students who completed their studies at the University during the 2018/2019 academic year would have graduated by the end of the November Congregation sessions. This is made up of 6,103 undergraduate and diploma students as well as 3,332 graduate students, including 146 PhD students. I am happy to announce that a total number of 423 students are graduating this morning.

This ceremony is dedicated to undergraduate and diploma students from the College of Health Sciences and College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

THE STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

Academic Affairs of the University

Admissions

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

Accommodation

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

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

Worthy of note is that on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, a sod-cutting ceremony was held for the construction of a state-of-the-art annex facility for Commonwealth Hall by the Old Vandals Association (OVA) and their partners, KPMM Civils Limited with a possible completion of the first phase (2500 beds) within one year. This project is expected

to deliver fully-furnished 4660-bed facility, made up of 302 one-bed block, 552 two-bed block, 3806 four-bed block and 32 two-bedroom lecturers flats among others.

Affiliation of Six Colleges of Education to University of Ghana

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

In consonance with the above, six public Colleges of Education have been assigned to the University of Ghana with effect from October 2019. The Colleges are Accra College of Education, Enchi College of Education, Evangelical Presbyterian College of Education at Amedzofe, Peki College of Education, Gbewaa College of Education at Pusiga, and Mount Mary College of Education at Somanya.

Strategic Directions

Madam Chancellor, strategic teams were set up in November 2016 to drive the transformational agenda of the University of Ghana. The Independent Power Supply Team is spearheading the efforts to re-condition the biogas plant at Hilla Limann Hall to generate gas for the four new Halls.

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

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

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

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

Distinguished guests, a fundraising strategy to modernize laboratories and research facilities at the University of Ghana has been developed by the Laboratory Modernization Implementation Committee as part of the strategic initiatives. Establishing state-of-the-art laboratories and developing world-class facilities at University of Ghana will help bridge and better link theory and practice. A well-resourced University with modern facilities for research can help deliver and advance Ghana's national agenda of self-sustaining development, as well as meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063.

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

Research Grants

Madam Chancellor, the Office of Research, Innovation, and Development (ORID), is spearheading the University's vision of becoming a world-class research-intensive institution. For the 2018-2019 academic year, the Office processed about 81 research grant

agreements with a total grant value of over US\$ 42.5 million (Forty-Two Million and Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars). This represents over 1,000% (one thousand percent) increase in grant revenue over the last three academic years.

African Centres of Excellence (ACE) Projects

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

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

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

Allegations of Sexual Harassment

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

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

Meanwhile, the University has created an anonymous e-mail address and a WhatsApp platform to facilitate and create easy avenues

through which all such sexual harassment cases may be reported. We particularly encourage people who may have fallen victim to such unfortunate incidents to take advantage and report them for redress.

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

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

Financial Aid to Students

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

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

Sporting Activities

The University of Ghana Policy on Admission of Athlete Students (UG-PAAS), which was launched in the 2014/2015 academic year forms



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



**Rev. Prof. Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi, Provost, College of Health
Sciences, delivering the Vice-Chancellor's Address**



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



Mr. Olumide Olatunji, delivering the Guest Speaker's Address



Dr. Ama Akoma Essuman, delivering the Valedictory Speech



Graduands at the Congregation ceremony

part of a broader UG sports strategy. So far, a total of Three Hundred and Fifty-Eight (358) student-athletes have been admitted through the policy; One Hundred and Ten (110) females and Two Hundred and Forty-Eight (248) males.

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

Well Wishes to Graduands

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

I, therefore, pray that your commitment to obtaining knowledge would not end with your graduation but that you will continue to seek knowledge to enable you to make significant changes in your lives and in society as a whole.

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

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

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY
MR. OLUMIDE OLATUNJI**

Chancellor of the University of Ghana
Chairman and Members of the University Council
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs)
Registrar
Provosts
Deans & Directors
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Boards of the College of
Health Sciences and College of Basic and Applied Sciences
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Alumni
Graduands
Invited Guests
Members of the Press Corps
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank the Vice-Chancellor of this great institution for the honour of invitation as the guest speaker of this year's congregation for the College of Health Sciences and the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

I fondly recall that my graduation was one of the best days of my life, I'm sure that feeling is same for most of you graduands seated here today. Thankfully it marks the beginning of another exciting chapter in your lives – a chapter of hope, opportunities and greatness.

To our graduands, I say a big "Ayekoo" because you have fought a good fight and stayed focused throughout your journey here. Most of you here have spent at most six years on this campus within which I believe, you have learnt some great lessons from your faculty and peers in ensuring a brighter future ahead.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, you would agree with me that life is all about storytelling and we all love good stories, don't we? I'm sure many of you graduands have read if not heard great stories about personalities who changed the status quo in history, the likes of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Nelson Mandela, Sir Sam Jonah and many others. My question to you today is a simple one: What story will you create for yourself 10 to 30 years from today? Will your story be worth reading, emulating and celebrating?

Well, you can look at this in two ways. First, some of these great achievers did not set out in the first place to create a great story for themselves; it was a matter of time, chance, opportunity and their determination. For others, it was a deliberate path they couched and charted to create great stories about their lives, careers and exploits. Whichever way you look at it, the outcome is the same.

So, I have come to share with you today, interesting thoughts and insights on how you can create great stories for yourselves as you leave the confines of this great institution, and in doing so I will demonstrate to you why this is necessary for the future.

In a recent report shared by Ernst & Young (EY), Africa's youth population is said to be growing at a faster rate than in any other continent. Going by the rate of growth, 1 in every 4 young people will be an African by the year 2050 (and this could actually happen much earlier than the projected date). That will make Africa the youngest continent with a median age of 25. This incontestable demographic asset shows that African youth and more specially, Ghanaian youth can be the future of global workforce for the world. We can sell our skills, knowledge, etc. beyond the continent.

As today's millennial, your role then is critical to national development. You find yourselves in a unique period in history, where unlike many decades ago, you have the opportunity to change the narrative or perception about Africa, by creating great stories for yourselves whether it is in health, agriculture, business, finance or trade.

One of the major ways you can succeed at changing this narrative is by seeing the world through a global lens. The subject of globalization cannot be over-emphasised. For instance, the performance of a health professional in Ghana like yourself should be able to match that of another health professional in Iceland or Norway, both countries are currently ranked as the World number 1 and 2 respectively in the 2018 Global Healthcare Access and Quality Index. [Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study on Healthcare Access and Quality (HAQ) Index].

This same report places Ghana as the 16th best among 48 African countries understudied, when it comes to healthcare service. So why not among the top three or the first? Well, reaching that goal will rest on your shoulders as graduands who have a unique opportunity of changing the narrative. It starts with all of you seated here today!

To change the narrative, you must be ready to improve and add value to what we already have in terms of health care delivery, so that like other developed nations, Ghana soon becomes a preferred African hub for quality health care delivery in the coming years.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the quality of a nation's health care delivery undeniably has an enormous impact on its economic growth. Many developed nations have significantly enhanced their health revenues through a deliberate attempt to deliver top-notch services that attract scores of people from everywhere across the various continents. Parameters such as education have also set some countries apart from the rest; almost every young graduate you see today wants to further their education in England, Germany and other European countries among others.

Should the same be said of Ghana when it comes to health delivery in the next decade or so? Yes, I believe so and why not? We can make this change happen.

So dear graduands, before I take my seat I would like you to write down these five very important steps you can use in creating that great story I shared earlier on:

1. Create a philosophy and personal vision for yourself.
2. Identify and build on your strengths.
3. Change your mindset.
4. Train, retrain and upgrade your craft.
5. Be a high performer at all times.

Finally, I would like to remind you not to forget that both the College of Health Sciences and the College of Basic & Applied Sciences, provide some of the best trainings you can undergo in the country. So I entreat you today not to take your years of training for granted. Let your faculty be proud that they taught you well by your actions, but above all, let yourself be proud of who you eventually become in the future.

In whatever field you choose to operate, seek opportunities and within them, you will find that a whole world of opportunities will be unlocked. On this note, I say 'Integri Procedamus': let us proceed in integrity.

Long live University of Ghana and long live its graduates

God bless us all.

Thank you.

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS
BY DR. AMA AKOMA ESSUMAN**

Chancellor
Chairman and Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice Chancellors
Registrar
Members of Convocation
Graduating Students
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am grateful and amazed that such a big responsibility and honour of being valedictorian for the Colleges of Health Sciences and Basic and Applied Sciences was bestowed on me. When I wrote my BECE in 2010, a sign which read, “Greatness does not depend on size”, hanged above the door of the examination venue. Perhaps, this has been proven true in my case, considering my size and the great platform on which I stand this morning.

Many of us graduands started together in the first year where all students of the Sciences took the same required courses. We were fresh and excited at our newly acquired independence until we started facing the realities it came with. You had to find your way to “night market” as the food will not find its way into your stomach. Interim assessments did not care whether you attended the lectures or not, or whether you stayed up all night studying. Along the way, we split into various sub-groups at different points, according to our chosen professions. The challenges continued. I recall that the support staff of the University embarked on a massive strike leaving us to sweep our classrooms and the school compound before lectures could begin. During our time almost all the College buses broke down. Students of the College had to compete for spaces on the few buses available, marking territories with books, bags, leaves from trees, sand and the occasional fork or spoon.

This journey to our degrees was fraught with challenges that required a display of inner fortitude, but today the memories bring laughter as we look back with the friends we made along the way, thanking God that we have arrived at the finishing line. Each one of us is here today because someone or a group of people believed in us, invested in us and helped us along our journey. The University has been the training ground for us for the last couple of years and for that, we are grateful. To the faculty who taught us and led us to our various professions and where necessary extended hands of friendship and encouragement, thank you. Thank you to students who helped lighten our loads in various ways, thank you. Today, my parents are seated among the Congregation. Believe me when I say they represent half the support and half the pressure. This is true not just for me. I believe I speak for my fellow graduands when I say to all loved ones, parents, guardians, spouses, children, siblings, friends and well-wishers: thank you for the equal parts of support and pressure you gave us. Thoughts of the sacrifices you made and the expectations you had were enough to keep us working hard to make you proud.

My middle name is Akoma. That is the Akan word for heart or in our medical parlance the - cardium or cardio – as in the word, cardiology. Akoma can also mean compassion or patience. However, my favourite meaning of the word is courage, and that is the biggest lesson life has taught me in this University.

Members of the graduating class, take a moment to look around you. Look at one another. Behind these faces lie stories of courage, known and unknown. Seated here today are men and women who were brave enough to come back to school after years of work, to pursue their dreams of being health professionals and agricultural scientists. Some got married. Some went on to have a baby or two. Some started businesses: restaurants, food blogs and barbering shops, while others produced magazines to enrich the lives of their colleagues. Some even volunteered almost every week to teach and mentor 'kayayei' and their children in Accra. These are people who had the courage to love and to lose. Some even dared to try again. Through the years, some failed several times – wrote papers over and over, and found their names

below the red line again and again. Yet they are here with us today because they picked themselves up and tried one more time. That is courage!

We complain a lot about all that is wrong with the world and with our country. We complain about our leaders, forgetting that they are only a sample of our population. Maybe we forget that the alleged corrupt leaders, angry doctors, screaming nurses, nonchalant allied health professionals and pharmacists, and dishonest scientists that we criticise so much, once had the opportunity as we have today to choose the kind of legacy to leave for our country. I hope we choose to continuously offer quality services to our clients - in knowledge, skill and attitude. I hope we have the courage to take care of ourselves too- saying no when we need to and learning to collaborate as we go along. In the light of recent events, I hope we find the courage to seek help when we feel that all is not well. I did, and today I add my voice to the many trying to erase the stigma from mental health issues. Burn out and depression among healthcare workers are real and growing. We need help, and it's ok to go for it.

A line in our University anthem admonishes us to “proceed in truth and integrity”. Living by this mantra in our world is difficult, especially in these times. It puts a person at risk of being odd and it takes a great deal of courage to stand by these words. Will you live in integrity even if that makes you unpopular? Will you speak truth even if it lands you in unsolicited troubles? Unfortunately, this is not what we see around *in recent times*. Proceeding in truth and integrity requires suffering, sacrifice and service – loving service. This may seem challenging, yes! but it is the honourable way to go as we enter the world of work.

My aim here today, ladies and gentlemen, is to inspire us to live the rest of our lives with courage. In a piece he wrote for GNOMIC magazine, my classmate, Dr. Joseph K. Nyamison stated: “Never forget others will find their feet when you stand. When one man finds courage, it quickly goes viral.” To buttress this point, allow me to borrow the words of one of Marianne Deborah Williamson’s poems. This poem is very old but its words still ring true and will be for generations to come. In these

words, I find the strength to stand fear in the face.

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate; our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, ‘Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?’ Actually, who are you not to be?” You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. It’s not just in some of us; it’s in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

So, after 4 or 6 years of gruelling training (or maybe longer, because it certainly hasn’t been an easy ride for all of us), November 2019 is here... and so are we!. On the 15th day of November, as the team of scientists from the Class of 2019, groomed, bred and duly launched from University of Ghana, Legon, in the heart of Accra, we say, “watch out world; here we come!” Thank you.

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

Members of Council

Vice-Chancellor

Pro-Vice-Chancellors

Registrar

Chairman and Members of Advisory Board of the College of Health Sciences and College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Members of Convocation

Distinguished Guest Speaker

New Graduates

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

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

The University appreciates the efforts that have been put into this enterprise by all stakeholders.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you all for coming and God bless us all.

