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**JULY 2020 CONGREGATION
(A VIRTUAL CEREMONY)**

**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
(UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SCHOOL OF LAW)
&
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
(UNIVERSITY OF GHANA MEDICAL
AND DENTAL SCHOOLS)**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, July 30, 2020

- 10:00 a.m. - Cultural Procession (Pre-recorded)
- National Anthem
- Introductory Remarks: Mrs. Mercy Haizel-Ashia, Registrar
- Welcome/Declaration of Purpose:
Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse, Chancellor
- Vice-Chancellor’s Address:
Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor
- Congregation Speaker:
Mrs. Yvonne Atakora Obuobisa
- Valedictory Address: Ms. Amanda Nutakor
- Conferment of Degrees:
Presentation of graduands from the College of Humanities (School of Law)
- Presentation of graduands from the College of Health Sciences
(University of Ghana Medical School & University of Ghana Dental School)
- MBChB
 - BDS
- Chancellor dissolves Congregation
- University Anthem
- 11.04 a.m. - Cultural Procession (Pre-recorded)

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY
MRS. MERCY HAIZEL-ASHIA, REGISTRAR**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen joining us from all over the world,
Our special graduates for this morning,

Good morning.

On behalf of management, employees, and students of the University of Ghana, I welcome you to the University's maiden virtual graduation ceremony.

The decision to hold a virtual ceremony was necessitated by the current national safety guidelines for meetings involving large numbers.

Today's congregation is dedicated to the undergraduate students of the University of Ghana School of Law, which is a composite part of the College of Humanities and the University of Ghana School of Medicine and School of Dentistry, of the College of Health Sciences.

These students are being graduated 'out of turn', so to speak, because they are required to have their certificates, to enable them continue with their professional training, which should start from August, 2020.

It is important to note that only students who registered to participate in today's graduation will be presented at this ceremony.

However, the list of the entire graduating class, can be found in the online congregation brochure. The University will later gazette the official pass list, showing the class of degree obtained by each student, in a Special University Reporter.

Graduation details for all other final year students will, therefore, be announced after the completion of the University's examinations processes.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my privilege and honour to call on the Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse, to deliver the formal welcome address and the declaration of purpose.

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

Chairman and Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provosts, Deans and Directors,
Guest Speaker,
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Graduands,
Guests from all around the world,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning.

I welcome you all to this virtual ceremony. During today's ceremony, undergraduate students from the University of Ghana School of Law in the College of Humanities, and the University of Ghana Medical and Dental Schools, in the College of Health Sciences, who have satisfied the requirements for graduation, will be presented and graduated

Ladies and gentlemen, the Corona virus pandemic has completely changed the world as we know it. Activities such as visiting family and friends, attending social gatherings and indeed congregation ceremonies such as this one, have had to be redesigned, in order to safeguard our health and wellbeing, and curb the spread of the disease. I know that members of the graduating class would have liked to gather with their classmates, friends and family in the University's Great Hall to share this special day, but I am sure that you will all agree with me that under the circumstances, a virtual congregation ceremony is the best choice.

University Management has worked hard to ensure that you have a memorable ceremony that is as similar as possible to a face to face one, and I trust that this will be a memorable occasion for us all.

I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my immense appreciation for the steps taken by the University Management to ensure the safety of employees and students during these unprecedented times, and also the successful roll out of a system to continue academic work online. By all accounts, in spite of initial challenges, this project has been very successful. Soon, the last batch of final year students will complete their examinations, and thus bring the 2019/2020 academic year to a close. The clinical year for the Medical and Dental students will however, continue and end in November, 2020.

Ayekoo to management and students and indeed all faculty, administrators and staff involved in this endeavor.

I would also like to acknowledge the leading role played by scientists and staff of the University's Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens and all other frontline workers in the University who have contributed in various ways to the management of COVID-19 in Ghana. We salute you and appreciate all your efforts, especially the successful sequencing of the genome of the virus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic, by scientists of the University of Ghana.

As you are well aware, the University is preparing to receive the products of the first batch of the free SHS programme. The innovations thrust upon us by COVID-19 have afforded us the opportunity to explore both conventional and non-conventional ways of opening up access to higher education to these prospective students.

As the University works to complete the physical infrastructure to receive these students, we are also improving our IT infrastructure to strengthen our ability to offer a blended approach to teaching and learning.

Many of our students will be proceeding either to undertake further training in Law, Medicine and Dentistry, or to start practicing in their chosen professions.

I am sure that most of us taking part in today's ceremony have followed with interest, discussions on the calls for reforms in legal education in Ghana. In April this year, the President of the Republic was slated to open a major international conference on the future of legal education in Ghana, organized by the University of Ghana School of Law.

With participation of experts in legal education in Ghana, many other parts of Africa and from Europe and the United States, the conference was expected to result in policy and legislative proposals that would address the many challenges of legal education in our country today: from entry requirements and admission numbers; curriculum reform, teaching methodologies and examinations, to financing and long term outlook.

The conference has been postponed to next year because of the pandemic, and I am sure that we all look forward to the deliberations resulting in the much needed reforms in the training of lawyers in Ghana.

In the meantime, I charge you, our graduating law students, to pledge to do your best to uphold the spirit and the letter of the law and the ethical standards of the noble profession that you have chosen to pursue.

In the wake of COVID-19, we are witnessing many innovations in the legal sphere. E-Justice, long overdue, is picking up fast, and many more court processes are being filed electronically now. These developments point to one thing: as you prepare yourselves to enter the legal profession of the twenty-first century, you must appreciate the critical role you must play in the governance of our nation, and you must be prepared to do this in the context of the electronic and digital revolution that has only just started.

To our graduating Medical Doctors and Dental Surgeons, you are starting your profession at a time when the world is experiencing the Covid-19 pandemic and health workers are disproportionately affected. These times have re-emphasized the importance of our health care workers and the sacrifices that they make on a daily basis to ensure the health and safety of us all.

As you join your colleagues on the frontline of the fight against COVID-19 and other diseases, I wish you every success, and may you be safe in whatever professional setting that you find yourself in.

To all 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. The road ahead will call for more hard work and dedication, and I wish you all the best.

You have played your part, by putting in enormous amount of hard work, and spending countless hours studying. Your efforts have certainly not been in vain, and we salute you all as you complete this journey today.

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 programme of study and we are very proud of you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, on his re-appointment to a second term. Professor Owusu, I salute you for your many achievements in your first term, and wish you every success in your second term, that starts in a few days, on August 1, 2020.

Now, distinguished 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 the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, to present some highlights of the Vice-Chancellor's report.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS BY PROF. EBENEZER ODURO OWUSU

Chairman and Members of the University Council,
Pro Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provosts, Deans and Directors,
Guest Speaker,
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Graduands,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

We welcome all our viewers to the first ever virtual Congregation ceremony for the 2019/2020 cohort of students. For this cohort, the University of Ghana is expecting to graduate a total of 14,295 students, comprising 964 students in non-degree programmes, 8,236 undergraduates, 4,668 post graduate students and 427 PhD students, with 6,807 being females and 7,488 being males.

This ceremony will graduate 133 students of the School of Law, Medicine and Dentistry; a figure comprising 88 students of the School of Law and 45 students of the School of Medicine and Dentistry. Other ceremonies will be organized to graduate the rest of the cohort of the 2019-2020 graduating class.

The State of the University

Academic Affairs of the University

Madam Chancellor, following the directive issued by the President of the Republic of Ghana on March 15, 2020, for all educational institutions in Ghana to be closed down until further notice, management rolled out the online teaching and learning programme to ensure that the Second Semester of the 2019-2020 academic year would be completed successfully. We fully activated the UG Sakai Learning Management System and arranged with Vodafone Ghana to distribute limited data to enable faculty and students work off-campus. We also collaborated with telecommunications companies

to whitelist all UG academic resources and created a help desk to provide technical support to faculty and students.

It was heartwarming to witness many innovations with faculty employing additional e-resources to complement the use of the UG Sakai Learning Management System.

On 31st May, 2020, the President announced that the final year tertiary level students could resume lectures, management met with stakeholders and decided to continue with the online teaching and learning programmes for final and continuing students, while affording final year students who so wished to return to campus to use on-campus resources the opportunity to do so.

The University successfully conducted the end-of-semester examinations from June 8, 2020 to July 3, 2020. Provision was also made to receive registered final year students who wanted to relocate to campus to use on-campus resources from June 15, 2020. Make-up lessons were arranged for final year students who could not participate in the Online Teaching and Learning programme to take their examinations by August 1, 2020. This batch of students will finish their examinations by August 30, 2020.

The online arrangement for teaching, learning and examinations was largely accepted by faculty and students. Management is grateful for the co-operation of all stakeholders. A special recognition to you students, who have braved all odds and adjusted to complete your programmes.

Accommodation

The University has for some time now, decoupled admission from accommodation, due to some financial obligations and judgement debt which have affected its capacity to undertake further investment to augment the housing stock.

To address the accommodation challenge which will be posed by the influx of the first cohort of graduates from the Free Senior High School policy, management is considering various approaches including an off-campus arrangement to identify suitable private residential facilities and recommend same for interested students.

Strategic Direction

Madam Chancellor, strategic teams which were set up in November 2016 to drive the transformational agenda of the University of Ghana, have continued to put in excellent work, thereby creating a better University.

Fundraising Strategy for the University of Ghana Endowment Fund Ladies and gentlemen, the Development/Major Donor Fundraising Unit of the Office of Institutional Advancement launched a fundraising drive dubbed '20 for 20' Fundraising Campaign in December 2019 to raise a minimum of GHC 20 million in 2020 for the University of Ghana Endowment Fund. The money would be raised from: (i) Alumni (ii) Faculty, staff and students of the University of Ghana (iii) Major Donors (iv) Foundation and (v) Corporate Entities.

Sports and Games

Ghana Universities Sports Association (GUSA) Games

The University of Ghana hosted the 26th Ghana Universities Sports Association (GUSA) Games from 3rd to 19th January, 2020. The games, which recorded the highest spectatorship in the history of the competition, saw the UG team winning 12 Gold (4 more than in 2018), 21 Silver (13 more than in 2018) and maintaining the 19 Bronze medals it had won in the 2018 Games. Congratulations to the Sports Directorate and the Local Organizing Committee for the hard work and class they demonstrated!

World Public Speaking Championship 2020

The University of Ghana Debate Society successfully defended the World Public Speaking Championship at the Assumption University in Bangkok, Thailand, in January 2020. This feat was achieved by Mr. Kwaku Apreku Agyepong, a level 300 student of the UG School of Law.

UG School of Law

Virtual Seminars on Implications of Covid-19 for Governance and Justice

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the Covid-19 brought in its wake a wave of innovations. The University of Ghana School of Law successfully initiated a series of virtual seminars on the implications of Covid-19 on delivery of justice and governance in Ghana. This arrangement brought together highly experienced legal luminaries from academia and industry across law schools and institutions in the country to share ideas on possible and realistic ways of dispensing justice and implementing interventions in the face of the pandemic.

UG's Contribution to the National Management of COVID-19

The University of Ghana's contribution to the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been very impressive. The University's flagship Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), and the West Africa Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) have strengthened capacity for testing systems nationwide. More so, the NMIMR has served as Ghana's biggest COVID-19 testing Centre.

Doctors of the UG Medical School as part of the Case Management Teams, are involved in the setup, operationalization, and provision of care to COVID-19 patients at National Treatment Centres and in developing treatment guidelines for COVID-19 case management.

The threat posed by the coronavirus to the public necessitated strict adherence to safety measures and interventions recommended by public health scientists at the School of Public Health (SPH), working with the national case management and contract tracing teams.

The School of Pharmacy on the other hand has developed and manufactured an alcohol-based hand sanitizer in line with WHO recommendations; the product, known as UG Sanitizer – Pharmol, has been approved and registered by the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA). The Department of Psychology and the Careers and Counselling Unit are also offering counselling services to Covid-19 patients to help them cope with stigma. Further, the University's Emergency Response Team

has joined forces with the National Contact Tracing Team to manage the response to the pandemic.

Well Wishes to Graduands

COVID-19 has taught us many lessons we are yet to fully appreciate. One that has stood out for me is to value our interdependence as a human community.

During these COVID days, the University has received many donations to support its fight of the pandemic. One such gift was from Mr. Lei Liang, an alumnus who studied BSc. Administration (2007 to 2012). He made a generous donation of 6000 face masks to the University. We also appreciate the wonderful contribution of students of the School of Public Health who serve as volunteers on the University of Ghana Emergency Response Team (UG-ERT). They engaged those operating at the campus markets through sensitization talks and creating more awareness on the use of the personal protective equipment (PPE).

To prepare for the reopening of the University Basic Schools, some other students dedicated time and effort to put together the information package to promote effective infection prevention control.

I believe you have all, in very significant ways, also been able to lend a helping hand to someone and made great personal sacrifices to protect others.

I would like to conclude with the words of Madison Alcedo: “Ambition is the path to success; persistence is the vehicle you ride in”.

I, therefore, pray that your commitment to obtaining knowledge does 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. You must recognize that the pandemic has had adverse effects on the economy and various sectors. Various initiatives have been rolled out to contain these effects. You must remain focused and

contribute meaningfully to what is essential in your field of study. I would entreat you to make your lecturers and parents proud by demonstrating initiative and creativity in these unusual times. Your sacrifices, especially during the latter part of this academic year, are laudable and I hope these have shaped you for a better future.

I call on you, in this period of COVID-19, to continue to keep yourselves and others safe by observing the safety protocols. Always remember that, stigma makes a precarious situation worse. Do not reaffirm existing stereotypes about persons who have been infected by or recovered from the disease, but let your words spread hope. As the President of the Republic of Ghana says, “this too shall pass”.

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

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY
MRS. YVONNE ATAKORA OBUOBISA**

Madam Chancellor,
Mr. Vice-Chancellor,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,
Our esteemed 2020 graduands from the Colleges of Humanities and Health Sciences;

It is a great honour to be here to address your graduating class at this year's maiden virtual congregation as the guest of honour.

This is the first of its kind and must make all of us who are a part of it, special.

As I prepared for this special event, several competing themes run through my mind and I wondered which would be best to talk to you about.

I finally settled on briefly talking about making good use of the opportunities that come your way. An opportunity is a time or a set of circumstances that makes it possible for you to do something.

Every single day, you will be presented with myriads of opportunities to build your character and push you forward towards your goals. On the contrary, you will also be presented with endless opportunities to develop negative tendencies in your lives that will eventually cripple your flight to the top.

You know by now that the career paths you have chosen put you in the top notches of professional careers worldwide and this comes with responsibility. You will end up as lawyers, dentists and doctors. Opportunities abound for you to contribute in diverse ways to your families, your communities and our beloved nation at large.

You have an opportunity to continue to learn. For those of you here, you still have your professional examinations ahead of you to qualify you to practice.

After school however, you have to continue to learn if you want to be successful in your profession. Learning is not a chore but a big opportunity and makes the difference between the average and the savvy. Those who take advantage of learning, fast track their progress to the top. Learning in our age has become far more accessible and easy but of course, so have distractions to learning increased. It is up to you, to take every available opportunity to continue to learn new and better ways to become the best in your field of expertise.

Remember that an opportunity is a time or a set of circumstances that make something happen. The opportunity to wake up one hour earlier to study, to spend thirty minutes on research each day, to read new cases are opportunities you should take advantage of.

The opportunity to choose to put learning apps on your devices and listen to new ways to get better will depend on you. As you drive to work or to school, you probably will spend about an hour and half each day. This will translate to between 365 to about 547 hours in a year which also translates to between fifteen to twenty two days. Think about the enormous opportunities twenty two days of learning can bring to you. Use that time profitably. It is when we take advantage of time and the circumstances around us, that we create opportunities that make big things eventually happen to us.

Lastly, the opportunity to work is a great privilege. We work not just to enrich ourselves but to enrich our communities and nation. You realize that others who have not had the opportunity to study in higher institutions of learning like you are nevertheless working to contribute their quota to the building of their society. To whom much is given, much is expected. Grab every opportunity to give back to your community for then providence also gives you better opportunities to push you forward in your career paths. The opportunity to help and

give back when chosen over solely getting rich will in the long run make you successful professionals.

Take advantage of every opportunity to push you towards your goals. To live healthy, productive and fulfilled lives and be an inspiration to many others who look up to you. I hope to meet many of the graduating law students in court in the near future either at the bar or on the bench. For the graduating medical class, I hope to hear of your, expanding the frontiers in the medical field.

I wish you the very best. Congratulations. Ayeekeo.

Thank you for your attention.



**Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse
Chancellor**



**Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu
Vice-Chancellor**



**Mrs. Mercy Haizel-Ashia
Registrar**



**Prof. Raymond A. Atuguba
Dean, University of Ghana School of Law**



Prof. Margaret Lartey
Dean, University of Ghana Medical School



Prof. Ebenezer Anno Nyako
Ag. Dean, University of Ghana Dental School



Mrs. Yvonne Atakora Obuobisa
Guest Speaker



Ms. Amanda Nutakor
Valedictorian

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED
MS. AMANDA NUTAKOR**

Madam Chancellor,
Chairman and Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Pro Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provosts, Deans and Directors,
Guest Speaker,
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Fellow Graduands,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am honoured to stand before you today to deliver the valedictory speech on behalf of the inspiring, and undeniably brilliant, graduating class of 2020.

Without doubt, our journey has been a long and challenging one. An Arabic proverb states that: “He who has health, has hope; and he who has hope, has everything.” We have practically experienced the import of this saying in 2020. The onset of the global pandemic in March proved to us that the good health of our bodies and minds is of utmost importance.

This is why today, there is greater significance attached to the celebration of our graduating medical doctors, dental surgeons, who will proceed after this, not only contribute to the general healthcare system of our country, but also, to help in the universal fight against the deadly virus.

We are truly grateful to our medics, including my own father, who happens to be a general surgeon, without whom, I must say, some of us might not have participated in this ground-breaking occasion - University of Ghana’s maiden virtual congregation! Yes, we have braved all odds and I am proud to say that we did so excellently. Graduating Class of 2020, congratulations!

For all of us we have created a lot of memories during our time as students of our various schools. Some positive, others not so much.

About four years ago, and for some of us, three years, and for others as much as six years, we were all excited and anxious to begin our various studies at Ghana's premier university. We believed that the degree would open up various doors to success, with some of us merely yearning to be accepted into the prestigious circle of 'learned' individuals, whilst others dreamed of securing enough finances to take a first-class flight to famous tourist destinations with Bali on top of the list!

We all came in confident of our chances to achieve our goals, due to our intelligence. After all, we are smart, aren't we? Some of the best students of our various high schools. However, we were wrong.

After our first week of lectures, our spirits dropped. 'Where are we going with this?', some of us asked ourselves as we observed our reading lists continuously piled up with cases and other reading materials. Confusion and agitation gripped us, when we struggled for hours to find materials in the law library, only to realize that we were searching at the wrong place to begin with! As for reading and understanding the complex texts and cases assigned, that was a whole other concern we all grappled with during our first days. Despite this, semester by semester, we got accustomed to the pace at the School of Law and, gradually, everything got better for all of us. I believe our compatriots from the University of Ghana Medical and Dental Schools will have their own stories and moments of trepidation.

Without doubt, we would not be here today if not for our parents and guardians who invested in us in all aspects, to ensure our success. They have worked hard and even made sacrifices for us to be here today. Unfortunately, some of them are no more with us, although they supported us at the beginning of our studies. I have to say, we are eternally grateful to our parents, guardians and other loved ones for everything they have done for us throughout this exciting, but demanding journey.

Our utmost appreciation also goes to our lecturers for their patience, guidance and encouragement throughout our time here. Without their

advice, mentorship and direction, we would not be able to say that we have victoriously attained a BDS, an LLB, or an MB ChB. Some of them, notwithstanding their own personal challenges, went the extra mile to motivate us and consistently provided updates during the online classes and online examination period. Words cannot express our gratitude to them for that.

We are also beyond thankful to the other University staff who have contributed to creating a conducive and efficient learning environment during our studies here. We therefore say a big thank you to the helpful and considerate librarians, IT personnel, janitors, national service personnel and other support staff, without whom our studies would have proved to be much more difficult than they already were.

It is necessary to mention that although we overcame the struggles of our first semesters studying law, other major setbacks came into the picture threatening to take away our opportunity of making it to this congregation. There was the interruption of on-campus classes, followed by anxiety and depression caused by the limited knowledge of our future. Would the class of 2020 really graduate in 2020? Finally, the University of Ghana came through with the online classes, which although brought us hope, also came with a myriad of other technological, technical and domestic issues. Whilst some of us were struggling to get internet connectivity, others were battling with power and technology problems.

In spite of all this, I must not forget to say that we have had amazing and truly phenomenal moments as a class during this journey as well. A number of us excelled in certain subjects notoriously known for being difficult and almost impossible to top. Maybe some years from now, we will not remember the details of some things we studied, but surely, we will remember the laughs and jokes we shared when studying some remarkable cases such as ‘*Glah v. The Republic*’ and ‘*R v. Brown*’, which made the study of law a positive and humorous experience. Even though the coronavirus pandemic took away our opportunity to have our last Law dinner and make memorable experiences, we nevertheless triumphed in creating unforgettable moments online. We stood united as a class to protect our interest multiple times during difficult situations. Our class and Law Students’ Union representatives also exceeded all our expectations and proved to us that, indeed, in

difficult times, true leaders are not only courageous on behalf of their followers, but are also the most determined problem-solvers. For their hard work and perseverance, we, as a class, will forever be grateful. Look at us now, the Class of 2020, the class that overcame the challenges caused by the deadly coronavirus pandemic, and managed to perform creditably. Overall, at the University of Ghana's Dental School, School of Law, and Medical School, we have built connections and friendships which would certainly last a lifetime.

Most of us from the School of Law aspire to become lawyers, and that is why from here, we wish to undertake the Professional Law Course at the Ghana School of Law and, eventually, be called to the bar. I trust that success would come to each and every one of us who has decided to start this next stage and is working and studying tirelessly to be accepted for the competitive professional course. I look forward to seeing all of us excel and take up influential leadership positions in government and other institutions.

Fellow graduands, our real journey did not begin when we went for our first lecture at this University. Our true journey begins today. With a BDS, LLB or MBChB in hand, we seek greater heights, both personal and professional. We enter the world outside the walls of our beloved university and aim to excel, not as against others, but as against ourselves. I truly believe that the biggest motivation for greatness is to compete, not against others, but against yourself. We must all strive to be better tomorrow than we are today, for everyone's path is different and it is only you who can measure how far you have come.

A big thank you to everyone once more, as well as the University of Ghana as a whole, for making today possible.

Congratulations once again Class of 2020, I wish you all the best!

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

Members of Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
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 virtual event. I especially recognize all the faculty members, management teams and employees at the various units of the University, who have worked together to ensure that the time that our graduates spent in the University has been fruitful.

The University appreciates the effort that has 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, and you deserve the laurels that you have attained.

Never forget that you are special, not only because you have graduated from the premier university in Ghana, but also because you are the first batch of students in the University's 72-year history, to be graduated in a virtual ceremony.

I urge you, wherever you find yourself, to do whatever you can to uplift the image of the University of Ghana. Do your best 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 your contribution to the legal, medical and dental fields in Ghana and beyond, and I wish you every success in your future endeavours.

It is my prayer that all your professional dealings will be characterized by honesty and integrity.

I think that a major advantage of having a virtual ceremony is that a much larger number of family members and friends of the graduates are able to join in the ceremonies, regardless of their physical location. Let us all take a moment to appreciate the sacrifices and prayers of parents, guardians, spouses, family and friends of our graduates, who have contributed so much to their success.

I also thank our guest speaker, alumni and friends of the University for taking time to participate in this virtual ceremony.

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

Thank you all for joining in, and may God bless us all.

