

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS AT UNIVERSITY OF GHANA'S MAIDEN
VIRTUAL CONGREGATION CEREMONY**

Madam Chancellor,
Mr. Vice Chancellor,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen;
And last but not the least,
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 make 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 full 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. Ayeeko.

Thank you for your attention.

Yvonne Atakora Obuobisa
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