**WELCOME ADDRESS BY REGISTRAR**

**OCTOBER, 2015, MATRICULATION**

Good morning Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the management of the University of Ghana, I welcome all of us to this morning’s ceremony.

We are gathered here this morning to matriculate students who have enrolled for courses leading to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates at the University of Ghana, in the 2015-2016 academic year. We will confer on these new students, membership of the University of Ghana, in line with article 31 of the University of Ghana Act, 2010, Act 806 which states that:

1. A student admitted to the University shall take the Matriculation Oath and sign the Matriculation Register.
2. (2) A student who fails to sign the Matriculation Register may be prevented from graduating by the University.

Visiting students and other short stay students who are studying at the University for one Semester or two semesters are not included in this ceremony. However, such non-matriculated students are expected to observe the same rules and regulations as matriculated students, while they are here.

At the University of Ghana the required dress for matriculation is a black gown worn over formal clothes. I am happy to see that our students are in appropriate academic dress for the ceremony.

The ceremony is in three parts.

Part 1. We will hear an address from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ernest Aryeetey. He will also tell us the significance of the matriculation oath and what the University expects from its students.

Part 2. Students will swear the Matriculation Oath to be administered by the Registrar of the University – this is the same oath on the website.

You will repeat the words of the oath after me when it is time for the oath.

After the Oath, one representative of the students will tell us the expectations of the 2015-2016 cohort of students AND ceremonially sign the *Matricula*; the Latin word for the Register. For this year we have selected a student from the Elizabeth Frances Sey Hall, to represent the students.

Part 3. The third part of the ceremony takes place in cyber space! For the first time, each student, whether resident or non-resident will go online and electronically sign the Matriculation Oath. That is the record that indeed you are here. I am informed that as at 7.00 a.m. today 3,200 students have sent in their registration online and indeed, accepted to abide by the oath that we are about to swear. Well done.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, this batch of new students have already set a few records in the administrative processes since they arrived on campus four weeks ago. I wish to congratulate all colleagues, at all the levels, for the roles they have played in the process of getting students involved in University activities.

I note that:

1. For the first time, the attendance of freshmen at orientation was so overwhelming that we had to order more chairs for the second day.
2. This morning they have chalked another first. This is the largest number of freshmen attending the matriculation for the regular programmes. All 5,000 plus matriculation gowns have been collected. I am told some students were unable to find gowns and had to come here without gowns.

Students, I hope that you will all return your matriculation gowns on time, so that you do not suffer any penalties.

2015 matriculation class, I look forward to seeing positive engagement in University activities throughout your stay in the University.

During the course of the year, the University will hold separate matriculation ceremonies for students in the Distance Education programme, the Sandwich programmes and the other programmes which will take off in the second semester. So, welcome to the University of Ghana

It is now time to call on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ernest Aryeetey, to deliver his address.

**Registrar**

**October, 2015**