

**ADDRESS AT THE
CONGREGATION CEREMONY FOR COLLEGE OF HEALTH
SCIENCES (CHS) & THE COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED
SCIENCES (BCAS)**

By

**OLUMIDE OLATUNJI
MANAGING DIRECTOR
ACCESS BANK (GHANA) PLC**

NOVEMBER 15, 2019

Chancellor of the University of Ghana

Chairman and Members of the University Council,

Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs)

The 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 Chairman 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, just like I'm sure is the feeling for most of you graduands seated here today. Because, 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 do love a good story don't we? And 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, worth emulating and worth 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 I will demonstrate to you why this is necessary for the future.

In a recent report shared by 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 of which currently rank as World Number 1 and Number 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 3 or the Number 1? 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, over 500 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 just 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 for 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 5 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 character 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 the University of Ghana. And long live its graduands.

God bless us all.

Thank you.