

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH BY MR. GEORGE ASAMOAH-BAAH FCCA,
MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
BUSINESS SCHOOL**

DATE: JULY 22, 2017

Vice-Chancellor

Pro-Vice-Chancellors

Registrar

Provost of Colleges

Honourable Guest Speaker

Members of Convocation

Niimeɪ, Naameɪ, Nananom

Fellow Graduands

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I deem it a great honor to stand before you on this august occasion to deliver the valedictory address on behalf of the July 2017 graduating class. We are most grateful to you for taking some time off your busy schedule to join us in our celebration.

These years of hard work and successful completion of the course could not be possible without the unfailing grace of the Almighty God, who makes all things beautiful in His own time. We are very thankful to Him for keeping us and giving us the strength to not only finish but to finish well.

It looks like just yesterday when we attended orientation and had our first lectures in the University of Ghana, the premier university in Ghana. Time indeed flies!! Today we are gathered here to fulfil the final milestone in the journey towards acquiring a post graduate degree and this calls for celebration.

Fellow graduands, over the last few years we have put in much effort to learn a lot from our respective elective and core courses. We recall the immense effort we had to put in to grab concepts like Lagrange, Hypothesis Testing, Regression Analysis, and also doing research assignment using the R-Studio software under quantitative research methods. It was all fun and stressful but in the end we have all sailed through. Again, for the first time, some of us learnt the golden rule of Accounting, which is debit the receiver and credit the giver and I recall the struggle

some went through to overcome. Even though we passed the accounting paper, I believe we still cannot explain why asset has a debit balance and liabilities and capital have credit balances.

Memories of all the happy and challenging moments on this campus come to mind. We cast our minds back to days when we had to do some extra studying to prepare for difficult end-of-semester examinations. And for those who were working full time, we can think back on occasions of disappointment of being denied leave, which made studying very frustrating. There are countless stories of the activities involved in completing our long essays and thesis before deadlines; the search for relevant topics, the search for data from various institutions and then the usual search for our supervisors for their inputs.

For me the biggest take away of the graduate programme of the University of Ghana is the creative skills it offered. Perhaps, this has been made possible by teaching methodologies such as the writing of term papers, case study, book and article reviews and above all the long essays and thesis. These approaches to teaching are what make graduate programs unique compared to professional programmes. We have also gained public speaking confidence through the opportunities that were given us to make presentations in class. The group work also enhanced our team player skills and attitudes even though most of the time only few students participated while others were free riding. With hindsight, these

methods of teaching have been helpful, even though at the time we thought our lecturers were tasking us too much.

I must admit that the special programmes introduced by the University of Ghana such as the Weekend, Evening, Sandwich and Distant Learning programmes that allow workers the flexibility to maintain their jobs while studying at the same time, have contributed immensely to the human resource base of this country. I think it is about time, such tailor-made programmes are extended to PhD Degrees and replicated in other Schools of the University because the idea is excellent and should be given due consideration, bearing in mind the quote by Victor Hugo, 'that no army or no force in the world can resist an idea whose time has come'.

To those who intend to pursue further studies it is advisable that you take your studies extremely serious and you would surely succeed. It has taken a lot of time and material sacrifice for all the graduating students to have come this far. I for instance, had to take residence on campus in the second year, leaving my family to stay on campus usually on Wednesdays to Sundays just to be able to make time for academic work, not to talk of tight office schedules and religious duties as Elder in the Church of Pentecost where I worship. Thank God the sacrifices have paid off. Indeed, with hard work, coupled with the grace of God one is bound to keep succeeding. And always be guided by the words of Arthur Ashe, '*Success is a*

journey and not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome''.

Finally to my fellow graduating students, I congratulate you for being able to finish the academic race of your respective post graduate degrees, implying that a chapter in your lives has been closed and the doors for more useful chapters have been potentially opened. It is up to us to take advantage of the new opportunities by leveraging on the knowledge we have gained in this distinguished University to serve humanity and mother Ghana. The best place in life is reserved for those who can solve more problems for mankind. We should be prepared not only to pass academic exams, but also the trials and tests of life in general, because as Socrates put it 'an unexamined life is not worth living'.

Mr. Chairman, we want to use this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to our lecturers and administrative staff of the University of Ghana, not forgetting our spouses, parents, guardians, relatives and friends who have contributed in one way or the other to make our dream of earning post graduate degrees come through. We pray God's blessings for all of them.

Thanks a million for your attention.