

Opening Address by the Chancellor
His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan

Members of the University Council
Members of Convocation
The University of Ghana Alumni,
Mr. Vice-Chancellor and other Officers of the University
The Guest Speaker for the Occasion
Graduands
Nii mei, Naa mei
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a statutory requirement here at the University of Ghana that a congregation composed of the members of the University Council, members of Convocation and the Alumni shall be held at least once in a year, for the purpose of receiving reports, and of witnessing the ceremony for awarding degrees, diplomas and certificates, and for any other purposes determined by the Chancellor. In part fulfillment of this requirement for the current academic year, a congregation was held five (5) months ago in November last year for some academic units of the University. We are gathered here this morning for another congregation, for the remaining academic units, except the College of Health Sciences, whose day comes two (2) weeks hence at this same venue. Ladies and gentlemen, let me first of all welcome all of you to this morning's congregation.

Ladies and gentlemen, the fact that we have in recent times had to hold a number of congregations in a year points up one inevitable development – growth in student numbers. From very humble beginnings, a little over 60 years ago in 1948, and with a student population of just 49, the University of Ghana is now snowed under with more than 34,000 students! Since it is everywhere acknowledged that the problems of higher education are those posed by growth, I would like, with your permission and indulgence, to devote the Chancellor's opening remarks at this congregation to the subject.

Ladies and gentlemen, Martin Trow, one-time Professor of Sociology in the Graduate School of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley, writing for the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education in 1973, captured the situation as follows:

“Growth poses a variety of problems for the educational systems that experience it and for the societies that support them. These problems arise in every part of higher education – in its finance; in its governance and administration; in its recruitment and selection of students; in its curriculum and forms of instruction; in its recruitment, training and socialization of staff; in the setting and maintenance of standards; in the forms of examinations and the nature of qualifications awarded; in student housing and job placement; in motivation and morale; in the relation of higher education to the secondary school system on one hand, and to adult

education on the other - growth has its impact on every form of activity and manifestation of higher education”.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana, faced with growth and its vitiating impacts, has, for about the past two (2) decades, had to grapple with problems in all the areas mentioned by Trow in the above excerpt. So much has been achieved, yes, but because there is still so much more to do, so little seems to have been done. It is against this background, ladies and gentlemen, that the University of Ghana proposes to launch an Endowment Fund later this year. If the problems of higher education can be reduced to the problems of growth, the problems of growth can, in turn, be reduced to those of inadequate resources. The point, then, for this brief focus on growth and the problems it creates, is to enlist the support of all stakeholders and friends of the University everywhere for the University of Ghana Endowment Fund when the time comes.

Ladies and gentlemen, with this statement of intention and the related appeal for support, I now declare this morning's assembly as duly constituted for the purpose of receiving a report from the Vice-Chancellor, and for awarding degrees, diplomas and certificates to graduands.

I now invite the Vice-Chancellor to present his report to Congregation.”

Chancellor's Closing Remarks

“Members of the University Council
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We have come to the end of this morning's Congregation and I should proceed to formally bring the ceremony to an end. Before I do so, however, permit me to make one or two remarks.

First, I wish to congratulate graduates on their achievement and to wish them the very best in their future endeavors. My advice to you is that wherever you go after leaving here, you should, in whatever capacity you find yourselves, be guided by the values of the alma mater. Always remember that here in this University, men and women march to a banner which reads: ‘Integri Procedamus’.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Vice- Chancellor, Professor Clifford Nii Boi Tagoe, for all the services he has rendered to the University these past few years he has been Chief Executive of the University. Professor Tagoe's term of office as Vice-Chancellor comes to an end on 31" July, 2010 and will not be with us on the dais when Congregation meets again in November this

year. We say thank you and good-bye to Professor Tagoe in advance and in addition to whatever else the University might decide to do to honor him when the time comes. Professor Tagoe, the University of Ghana's sincerest appreciation to you for everything you have ever done for her and will continue to do in the future.

And now, Ladies and gentlemen, on this note, I declare today's congregation dissolved. I wish you all the very best for the days ahead."