

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS BY MR SAMUEL ABOAGYE ON BEHALF OF THE
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the University Council,

Vice-Chancellor,

Pro-Vice-Chancellors,

Registrar,

Provosts of Colleges,

Members of College of Humanities Advisory Board,

Distinguished Guest Speaker,

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Members of Convocation,

Niime, Naame, Nananom,

Parents and Guardians,

Fellow Graduands,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am humbled to deliver this address on behalf of the graduating Class of 2015. Truly, many of us are yet to fully believe that it is indeed over and that we are leaving the great walls of the premier University. After seemingly unending days culminating into many weeks, months and years of wondering; wondering whether we could make it to this day, finally here we are, indeed, as resplendent as we imagined it. Our most effusive appreciation; first to God and then to all

others who in diverse ways have made such a day possible, not forgetting our parents, lecturers, teaching assistants, non-teaching staff and fellow course mates, to name a few.

Our journey began almost four years ago when we first entered the unfamiliar confines of this great institution as curious minds eager to fill the unwritten chapters of our lives with new adventures. The beginning was doubtless confusing and bleak, yet as the months wore on, we gradually found our feet. Legon became another home from home as we made new acquaintances, some of whom we now call family.

Life in this institution has been characterized by profound uncertainty. We had to deal with the fear of running late for an early morning lecture, the intimidation of certain courses and the fluster of missing the deadlines for assignments. The late night toil in preparation towards an interim assessment or end of semester examination was also very tasking. Then came the anxious wait for the release of our examination results...I admit those were some of the longest waits of my life, especially where one thought a paper did not go too well. Like fleeting shadows, all the pain and frustrations faded away the minute our efforts were rewarded with the much coveted "A". Funnily enough and as typical of students, we were as quick to blame our ineptitude on our lecturers saying "He gave me a C, or D or F", and never, "I had a C, D, or F".

Today, we imagine the lecture halls where once we sat, leaning forward in our seats in rapt attention, pens and other writing materials at hand, once in a while erupting in laughter at what a lecturer or colleague said or did. Indeed, some of our most entertaining moments were found

within those halls, as well as some of our most sober...depending on which course or lecturer was involved.

As all these memories flashback, the true meaning of the Taoist's proverb: "The journey is the reward" comes to bear. We will forever treasure the important life lessons this journey has taught us; we have no regrets at all.

Fellow Graduands, as we revel in our victory over the odds, let us not be tempted to dwell on it forever. A greater responsibility knocks at our door; our lives will be forever altered after we toss our caps into the air. University of Ghana has instilled in us a tremendous passion for life and a burning desire to make a meaningful impact. In the words of the great Henry Ford: "Whether you think you can or think you can't, you are right". Thus, as graduates of the University of Ghana, we can do anything we set our determined minds on. The world pleads our developed minds for a change. Let us all rise to the task for we have all that it takes. Again, let us remind ourselves that if the mind can conceive it, then it can be achieved. However, just as we learned in class, success in life is no serendipity; it does not come by chance. Only the right blend of diligence, fierce determination, resilience and honesty can buy it. I therefore admonish that we commit ourselves to these values and the world will hear of us. Just as the University's motto opines, let us progress with integrity always.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a humble appeal to my fellow graduands: graduands please let us stand up and give a resounding applause to all parents and guardians seated here for their

toil and the hard times they have been through in making us who we are today. To the graduating class, I say congratulations; let us keep soaring on high for we can only get better.

Thank you...God bless us all, Amen