

**REMARKS FOR H.E. THE PRESIDENT**  
**ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF**  
**GHANA ON FRIDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2015**  
**COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES, DELIVERED BY THE HON.**  
**MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

Chairman and Members of the University Council,  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Honourable Ministers of State,  
Guest Speaker,  
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Basic and Applied  
Sciences,  
Members of Convocation,  
Staff and Students,  
Alumni,  
Graduating Class of 2015  
Invited Guests,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me much pleasure to join the University of Ghana to present students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences for graduation at the July, 2015 Congregation ceremony.

I congratulate all the students of the College on their graduation from this great institution of higher learning, of which I am also an alumnus. The Government of Ghana will continue to look for closer partnerships with the institutions of higher learning to propose solutions based on sound research, in order solve problems and to meet the needs of the nation.

I am informed that the first cohort of eight (8) Veterinary Doctors are to graduate from the School of Veterinary Medicine, under the College of Basic

and Applied Sciences, since the establishment of the School of Veterinary Medicine and subsequent admission of students in the 2009/10 academic year. I wish to recognize the University, the College administration and all those who brought the School into being.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express felicitations to the PhD students who are graduating today. It is gratifying to note that the University's drive to become a research intensive University is achieving results, especially in the basic and applied sciences, the engine for our national development.

Please allow me to share some interventions at the tertiary level of education with you, with special emphasis on the University of Ghana. I note the Vice Chancellor's appreciation for support from the Government and wish to thank all private donors to the University.

In our bid to close the gap with industry, the Ministry of Education organized a 2-day conference with all relevant stakeholders to help find a lasting solution to this issue.

The conference came out with a 16-point communiqué to inform policy. Prominent among them were the institutionalization and the prolonging of the period of internship for students. The National Council for Tertiary Education in collaboration with COTVET has set up an industrial liaison desk to strengthen the partnership between Education and Industry.

I am happy to note and do commend the University of Ghana for attracting two of the regional centers of excellence into the country and by extension the KNUST, for attracting one. The total project amount is US\$24. The Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Education has played its part in ensuring the success of the project. We look forward to great results in

delivering regional, demand-driven, quality training and applied research in partnerships with regional and international academic institutions as well as relevant employers and industries.

In 2014, government completed the ICT distance education project at the University of Ghana under a Chinese government funded loan. The project created modern facilities at each of the regional centers of ICDE by building a minimum of a fifty (50) seat computer laboratory, a video conference center connected to Data Centre at the Legon Campus over the Vodafone National Fiber Backbone.

In our bid as a government to close the gap with industry, the Ministry organized a 2-day conference with all relevant stakeholders to help find a lasting solution to this issue.

The conference came out with a 16-point communiqué to inform policy. Prominent among them were the institutionalization and the prolonging of the period of internship for students to enable them appreciate what is taught in class and at the work place and also the involvement of industry and employers in the labor market in the design of Education and training curricular.

In furtherance with the Ministry's post-2015 science education agenda, the Ministry of Education and the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO will host an Africa Regional Conference and Exhibition from the 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 under the theme: *'Harnessing Light and Light-based Technologies for Africa's Development'* as part of the celebration of International Year of Light and light-based Technologies IYL, 2015. The International Year of Light stands to promote the central role of light in enhancing the many opportunities derived from the utilization of light and

light-based technologies for the welfare of humankind. We look forward to the active participation of graduates from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

Through a closer cooperation between government and institutions of higher learning, we can work to formulate policies through sound research outputs

Now to the graduating Class of 2015: I congratulate each and everyone of you. I urge you all to become worthy ambassadors of your alma mater, while allowing your lives to impact positively, various communities and the nation as a whole.

I also take this opportunity to salute all those who have supported you through your education; parents, family, the university, they deserve to share in your joy today. Congratulations!

I wish you the very best in all your future endeavours.

May God continue to bless our homeland Ghana.

I thank you all for your kind attention.