

VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. MALVIN OFOSU-BOATENG AT THE CONGREGATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, SATURDAY, 21ST JULY 2018.

Chairperson of the University Council

Vice Chancellor

Pro-Vice Chancellor

Registrar

Provosts and Deans

Specially Invited Guests

Parents and Guardians

Fellow Graduands

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to you all.

I thank the Lord almighty for presenting me with such an opportunity. I am especially grateful to my parents who could not be prouder of me today, for their loving support.

It is with great delight that I stand here to present the valedictory speech at this august occasion. I must say that even though I have been chosen as valedictorian, today is not only my day to shine but for us all. Everyone here today deserves commendation for completing another milestone.

Class of 2018, Congratulations!! Today, we gather here to close the last chapter of our stay in this university. Indeed, the last 4 years have been filled with so many memories, some of which bring smiles to our faces and some which until this moment, fill our eyes with tears. Casting our minds back to the very first day we stepped on campus as freshmen, we can say with great conviction

that indeed the journey has been long. The sleepless nights, struggles, hard work, and sacrifices have finally paid off and led to this euphoric day.

I recall vividly the morning of the School orientation, the way we tried to socialize and avoid the awkward phase of the unknown. Four years down the line, we have formed friendships that can stand the test of time.

Madam Chairperson, against the sweeping backdrop of events, are moments we will forever relish albeit with mixed feelings which remain golden to us. We will all remember the impression we had about Legon being a “chilling place”.

The struggle however, was so real that even during drink ups and parties, people came along with lecture slides. Social trips to the beaches were no exception. The long laboratory sessions, the overwhelming lecture and examination schedules, the struggle to meet deadlines of assignments and the late-night group discussions will not be forgotten any time soon. The countless nights also spent camping in the rooms of colleagues in preparation for papers the next day due to power outage at certain sections of campus will forever be imprinted on our minds. Amidst all the conviviality, Legon imbibed in us the awareness and utility of time.

Ladies and gentlemen, virtually every one of us at one point chased the bus leaving campus at dawn to Korle Bu for clinical rotation. There were days one had to start dressing up in the hall and finish up in the bus. Those who were numb by the incessant alarms gradually became athletes overnight, for they had to sprint from Pent, Commonwealth and the traditional halls to catch up with the bus. ‘Dada Bees’ also became ‘okada’ passengers just to keep up as the going got tough. We will surely miss these days.

Indeed, the strife for academic excellence has not been easy and the common thread that runs among us all is the spirit of perseverance to keep moving forward no matter what. For those of us who thought we would never make it to this day, take a good look around. We made it!!!

Madam Chairperson, our story would not be complete without acknowledging the people who in diverse ways, have contributed to our success story today. To our Lecturers, we will forever remain indebted to you for your tutelage, words of wisdom and good counsel. I can never end this speech without mentioning Dr. Mansah Fredua-Agyeman for her constant motivation and words of encouragement. Thank you because without your help I wouldn't have been where I am today. To the Administration, we say thank you, for creating the conditions to help us succeed and I know that creating the conditions to help and witness us succeed is one of the most satisfying, motivating and joyous feelings that a leader can have.

To our parents, guardians and friends, we treasure your unconditional love and support and we hope we made you proud. We can in no way repay you for the invaluable effort you have expended on us but be assured and encouraged in the knowledge that whatever good we do and whatever contributions we make to society is the multiplication of your efforts in each and every one of us.

As we embark on the next chapter of our lives, I have no doubt that this institution has equipped us with the necessary tools to take on societal problems. Thus, wherever we find ourselves, I urge us to tackle challenges, achieve greater heights and impact a positive change in our dear motherland, Ghana. This ceremony is an indication that we have approached the Rubicon; especially when the healthcare and educational system of our nation Ghana, is at the tipping point. Its salvation and redemption lie in how we discharge our duties. May we not only proceed in integrity but also with impeccable character and efficiency for the sake of the Ghanaian people.

As we go into the world, I want it to be made known, that at some point, we are bound to stumble as we try to find our feet. We are bound to experience disappointments, difficulties and setbacks. However, through these challenges we must have in mind these words by Frank A. Clark, **“If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn’t lead anywhere.”** Our best successes often come from our greatest disappointments. So, keep striving forward and like the phoenix, you shall emerge from the ashes.

Madam Chairperson, it is my singular honor to conclude with spirit filled words I heard eons ago. When people sit, we must stand. When they stand, we must stand out. And when they stand out, we must become the standard for Ghana, Africa and the world at large.

Thank You.