

VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY MS. YVETTE NERQUAYE- TETTEH AT THE
JULY 2017 CONGREGATION OF THE COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

Mr. Vice – Chancellor,

Parents and Guardians,

Fellow graduates,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen. All protocols observed. A pleasant morning to you all.

I feel elated and greatly humbled to be selected from amongst great minds in this college to deliver this speech on an occasion which marks the end of our four-year sojourn in this great university. It is said that strength and growth come mostly through continuous effort and perseverance. The value of perseverance in any kind of success story cannot be understated. With our heads high up, we can say that indeed we were committed to our cause, persevered, sacrificed and above all, fought hard to see our dreams come to reality. I would, therefore, like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all my fellow graduates on reaching this important milestone in our scholastic journey. Yes, we made it.

Glory be to the Almighty God for making this day a reality because some could not live to see this day. We greatly appreciate the presence of our parents and family here on this august occasion to share in our joy. Dear parents, we are eternally grateful to you for being the pillars behind our successes.

And to our lecturers and mentors, we can definitely say that we are better refined than we were some four years ago because of your commitment to imparting knowledge and providing

guidance. ‘‘Ayekoo’’ to the supporting staff of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences and the entire University of Ghana fraternity for the diverse support they have offered us from the very first day we entered this campus till now.

Our story would not be complete without acknowledging the active roles our incredible friends played in making our study sessions, field trips and our overall stay on this campus enjoyable. You played an integral part in the memories we have experienced here and we are grateful.

Aristotle once said, ‘‘the roots of education are bitter, but the fruits are sweet’’. Some of us entered into this noble academic environment with a clear picture of our destination, and others not so much. Whatever our reasons were for choosing the University of Ghana, I believe we were not disappointed because this land provided us with a myriad of opportunities to discover ourselves. Dear graduates, today, we each leave here not only with certificates but with strong core values and principles that will help us thrive out there. More importantly, we are no longer disconnected but are a part of a great network with a common goal to do great things for our country, Ghana, and the world. As Steve Jobs puts it: ‘‘great things are not done by one person but by a group of people’’.

Today, our once distant future is almost here. For many of us, we are anxious to know what this next door holds for us. Whatever the case might be, I wish us all the very best. ‘‘If you think and believe you can, you can’’¹. I urge us all to live to our full potentials, rise above the noise and unfortunate circumstances; and to not only strive for success but also to be of value to society. We must decide if ‘‘we are going to rob the world or bless it with the rich, valuable, potent, untapped resources locked away inside of us.’’²

All too soon our stay here has come to an end. Ladies and gentlemen, I believe my colleagues will attest to the fact that this journey has been anything but entirely smooth and rosy. Once upon a time, we were fresh and inexperienced students in this prestigious university. Many of us could not tell the difference between the numerous buildings on this campus and asking for directions to every corner became the order of the day. Today, we can say for a fact that we know every nook and cranny of this vast university. We have indeed come a long way. Class of 2017, we have each had our own unique experiences in the last couple of years. Yet, the common thread that runs among us is the fervent spirit of endurance that kept us going. It is my hope that we will endeavour to keep this spirit alive in the coming years.

Fellow graduates, before I invite you to flip your tassels and toss those hats in the air, I would urge you to ponder over these words of the Late Dr. Myles Munroe:

“You weren’t born just to live a life and to die; you were born to accomplish something specifically. Matter of fact, success is making it to the end of your purpose; that is success...Success is not just existing. Success is making it to the end of why you were born.”

Class of 2017, Congratulations once again!!!

Long live the University of Ghana! Long live Ghana! God bless us all

Thank you.

1-Unknown author

2-Dr. Myles Munroe