

Address Delivered by Professor John Gyapong, Vice Chancellor of the University of Health and Allied Sciences at the 2016/2017 Academic Year Sandwich Matriculation Ceremony Held on Saturday, June 17, 2017.

The Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor;

Registrar;

Deans of the various Schools;

Directors;

Faculty and Staff;

Students;

Matriculants of the 2016/2017 Academic year of the Sandwich programme;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the third matriculation ceremony of sandwich students of the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS). I am also glad as today marks my first of such events as the 2nd Vice Chancellor of UHAS.

The University of Health and Allied Sciences is a young publicly funded University established by an Act of Parliament (Act 828) in December 2011 with a vision of being a pre-eminent research and practically oriented health educational institution. Our objective is to provide quality educational opportunities to students and healthcare professionals, advance knowledge through scholarship and research and provide patient care and services that

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improve health and quality of life. It is the first public university dedicated solely to training health professionals to enable them tackle the diverse health issues in the country and beyond. In addition, it is uniquely devoted to research and community service, which forms a fundamental component in the development of our programmes.

In line with the University's vision of community service, we run a trimester system where students, in their third trimester of study are assigned to health facilities across all the 25 districts in the Volta Region for four weeks, to acquire the necessary competencies and practical skills in their various fields of expertise. The vocational training is a major element that differentiates UHAS from other tertiary institutions.

We are gathered at the main campus here at Sokode Lokoe in Ho which houses the Central Administration, Library and the School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences. The Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery, and Allied Health Sciences are on the premises of the Volta Regional Hospital while some of our hostels and laboratories are situated at the Southern site of the Campus popularly known as Dave. The second main campus is located in Hohoe, which accommodates only the School of Public Health.

In just four years, the University has made significant progress but with great room for improvement. The infrastructural facilities you see around may not compare to structures in the well-established public Universities. As you know, this is our humble beginning and the University authorities together with its stakeholders are taking steps to improve the existing facilities as well as develop

new ones, especially decent Halls of Residence at all campuses to provide a conducive environment for teaching and learning.

We are happy to inform you that the University is currently constructing a 1200 capacity multi-purpose auditorium with funding from the Bank of Ghana. The Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund) has also provided adequate funds for the construction of a modern laboratory complex and this project is about 50% complete. We hope they will be completed within the shortest possible time to enhance teaching and learning.

With a multi-sited campus, the problem of transportation is obvious, however, Management has arranged with the Metro Mass Transit Company to provide a specialized service for the University by routing some of its vehicles from the township to this campus for the benefit of our staff and students. We are also very much aware of the challenges you are facing regarding accommodation, and we are putting in frantic efforts to provide the best facility for you. We understand your concerns and assure you that we are working seriously to ensure that you have a comfortable and conducive environment to pursue your academic work.

Our programmes are competitive and well sought after. Currently, we run seventeen undergraduate programmes in various fields of health and allied sciences. These include our newly mounted programmes, namely: the Doctor of Pharmacy, Bachelor of Science in Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Top-Up in Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences. We are also excited about our Access and Sandwich programmes which have created an avenue for health professionals like yourself who hold certificates and diplomas to pursue

their first degrees. This upgrading programme has become highly sought after as we have individuals from all parts of the country enrolling onto it. Your presence here this morning marks the beginning of your educational transformation. Preparations are far advanced to commence two postgraduate programmes in Public Health. I look forward to seeing some of you enrol onto our postgraduate programmes in the near future.

You are most welcome to the University of Health and Allied Sciences. Out of five hundred and seventy six (576) access students of the School of Nursing and Midwifery who qualify for admissions into the sandwich programme for this academic year, one of four hundred and fifty (450) have been enrolled. We also have enrolled the first batch of one hundred and thirty six (136) sandwich students of the School of Public Health into various tracks of the public health field. This development shows the steady growth of our institution.

Remember that you were admitted as an individual and you will graduate as an individual. You are therefore solely responsible for all your actions throughout your stay in UHAS.

The University Management have assembled competent and experienced professors, lecturers, administrators and other professionals to provide you with the training you require and ensure that your stay in UHAS becomes very productive.

The University is a place where you build relationships that can be very long lasting so I urge you to come out of your closets and build such relationships with

colleagues. I also encourage you to cultivate the spirit of discipline. No human endeavour attains the desired success without discipline. Sacrifice your human desires for a better tomorrow.

Let me remind you of the Matriculation Oath that you have just sworn. I encourage you to go by the tenets of the Oath and be guided by the rules and regulations contained in your students' handbook. This is a University with extraordinary visions and goals. It is uniquely placed and is comparable to none. We assure you that you are in the right place at the right time. I wish you a happy learning and a productive time on the campus of UHAS.

On behalf of the Council of the University, Members of Convocation and on my own behalf, I congratulate you and admit you *in statu pupillary*; and remember that ours is a University of Health and Allied Sciences.

May the Good Lord bless us all!

Thank you.