

**ADDRESS BY VICE CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR JOHN GYAPONG  
AT THE THIRD CONGREGATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND  
ALLIED SCIENCES, HO  
SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2018**

Chairman of the University Council, His Lordship Justice Jones Dotse  
Honourable Minister of State for Tertiary Education, representing the Vice  
President Alhaji Dr Mahamudu Bawumia,  
Honourable Regional Minister,  
Members of Parliament,  
Members of the University Council,  
Togbewo, Mamawo,  
All Heads of Institutions,  
Vice Chancellors Ghana,  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor and other Pro-Vice Chancellors present,  
Registrar and other Registrars here present,  
Members of Convocation,  
Staff and students,  
Graduands  
Parents and Guardians of Graduands  
Invited Guests, Members of the Press  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

## **WELCOME**

It is with great joy that I welcome you all the Third Congregation of the University of Health and Allied Sciences. This year we are delighted to be graduating the third cohort of students who joined the University in September 2014.

Congregations are very significant and exceptional occasions in the life of every University. On such occasions, apart from conferring degrees and awarding the best graduating students, we also reflect on the various incidents that occurred during the academic year. The Vice Chancellor is therefore obliged to present a situational report on the University to Congregation.

## **UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE**

When I became Vice Chancellor, one of my strategic objectives was to facilitate the development of an appropriate governance environment. The UHAS Act was in place but almost all policies and procedures were that of University of Ghana. I am happy to inform Congregation that the University's 10-year strategic plan has been finalised and successfully launched on April 14, 2018 during a special congregation as part of the UHAS Leadership Lecture Series. I am grateful to both the past and present University Council, Academic Board and Management for availing themselves to the various review processes.

As we continue to build a solid governance environment, we have now shifted our focus to the University's Statutes. It is in the final stages of reviewed by the University Council. We are hopeful that before the year ends, the University statutes would be ready for use. I wish to commend the Drafting Committee Chaired by the former Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor TC Fleischer, the Business and Executive Committee, and various individuals who put in all the effort to bring the statutes this far.

In the past year we have also development several policies and guidelines to guide our operations as a university. I wish to also commend the Registry Policy Review Committee for the work done so far. The policy documents reviewed and approved by the University Council are the

1. Research Policy
2. Research Ethics Policy and
3. Intellectual Property Policy.
4. Sexual Harassment Policy
5. Inclusion and Diversity Policy

We look forward to getting more policy documents in place for the guidance of our academic and research business.

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**New Leadership:** In the year under review, we have had two new Deans and one Director. Professor Eric Ofori (SAHS), Professor Clement Adebajo (Pharmacy) and Mr David Adzovie (Human Resources).

**Student Enrolment:** Student enrolment has increased exponentially over the last six years. From 154 students in the first batch in 2012, there is currently a total student population of 4,582. This comprises of 3,058 regular students and 1,524 sandwich students.

**Accreditation issues:** UHAS ensures that all its programmes are accredited and in good standing with the National Accreditation Board and respective Professional Bodies at all times. Currently, we have applied to NAB for the accreditation of three new programmes, namely Bachelor, MPhil and PhD in Medical Imaging (Radiography). All other programmes are accredited, re-accredited or in the process of re-accreditation for the ones that have been in existence for more than five years.

**Licensure Exams:** My Lord Chairman, I am happy to report that for the second year running, ALL our Nursing graduates who presented for the licensure exams conducted by the Nursing and Midwifery Council passed. This is certainly a reflection of the quality and rigour of our training and the hardworking students and faculty.

**Examination Malpractice:** The University takes examinations very seriously and abhors any malpractice. Some students attempt to gain unfair advantage, and breach Examination Regulations. Students who fail to abide by the regulations face sanctions such as rustication or expulsion. During the 2017/2018 academic year, nineteen (19) students were sanctioned for examination malpractice. Sixteen (16) were rusticated, two (2) were expelled and one (1) was cautioned. They include regular, top-up and sandwich students.

Additionally, four (4) Level 300 students withdrawn for presenting forged WASSCE Results at the time of entry. We have therefore increased vigilance at the admission stage and engage with students to educate them on this and many other issues to avoid the recurrence of such irregularities.

## **PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

We are grateful to the Chinese government for agreeing to construct the Central Administration and the School of Nursing and Midwifery which would soon begin. The government of Ghana would have to provide counterpart funding of about 7million cedis for the provision of water, electricity and other services to the site earmarked for the construction. His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana, during his visit to the University last Tuesday, July 10, 2018 assured us that he would ensure that the counterpart funding is made available by October so that the main construction could begin in earnest in January 2019.

The incubation facilities for the School of Pharmacy which is being funded by GETFund is currently under construction by TDK Atlantic Limited. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2018. There is also the five-staff bungalow project being executed by Proko Ghana Limited and ZDI Ghana Limited which would also be completed hopefully by the end of 2018.

In spite of the modest gains, we still have major infrastructure deficits. We are therefore very open to support from the private sector for partnership to develop the University. Government however needs to invest heavily in UHAS and the new universities in general for the sake of equity. A special fund should be created by the government for new Universities like UHAS. This would help us have the basic minimum infrastructure to create a conducive environment for teaching, learning and research.

Your Lordship Chairman, we are still living with the terrible roads on campus. We have received assurances from the Minister of Roads and Highways that the roads would soon be constructed. We hope this would urge the commercial vehicles to service the university community. We continue to extend our appreciation to the Metro Mass Transport Service for agreeing to extend services to our campus.

Finally, I wish to thank the Bank of Ghana for sponsoring this beautiful 1200-seater auditorium at a cost of 8 million Ghana Cedis which was commissioned 2-weeks ago.

## **HO TEACHING HOSPITAL**

In September 2017, we conducted our maiden “White Coat Ceremony” to initiate our first batch of clinical medical students. We are grateful to the Government for approving to convert the Volta Regional Hospital into a Teaching Hospital. This was announced by the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo during his maiden visit to UHAS last Tuesday. The facilities at the Volta Regional Hospital are therefore expected to be upgraded and the appropriate management and governance structures put in place to enhance quality training of health professionals at UHAS and improve healthcare delivery in the Region and the country at large.

## **COLLABORATIONS**

The University is still collaborating with many local and international universities as well as research institutions. For the year under review, we established relationship with the following institutions:

1. University of Basel, Switzerland
2. Chung Ang University (Red Cross College of Nursing), South Korea
3. University of Illinois, Springfield, USA

There are others in the pipeline and these are University of Buffalo, New York, USA; the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK and Michigan State University, USA.

We have also developed research partnerships with the following organisations

1. Novartis for Sickle cell disease research
2. DNDi collaboration on a drug trial for Onchocerciasis
3. Collaboration with PATH on a Health Utilisation Study for the introduction of RTS,S Malaria Vaccine
4. Death to Onchocerciasis and Lymphatic Filariasis (DOLF)
5. Satellite African Regional Training Centre in Implementation Research (WHO/TDR for capacity building in Implementation Research)
6. Health Impact Assessment for engaging natural resource extraction projects in sustainable development in producer regions (HIA4SD Project)
7. CHPS+: A National Programme for Strengthening the Implementation of the Community-Based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) Initiative in Ghana

All these collaborations are aimed at developing the human resource capacity of the University for effective teaching, learning and research.

## **THE UHAS LEADERSHIP LECTURES**

The third UHAS Leadership Lectures in memorial the late President JEA Mills came off on Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14, 2018. The two-day lecture



was very successful. We are grateful to the WHO Africa Regional Director, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the Lecturer for this year who's representative spoke on the theme, "Universal Health Coverage". On Saturday, April 14, 2018 a special congregation was held to conclude the Leadership lectures at which honorary doctorate degrees were conferred on the Lecturer and two distinguished Ghanaians; Dr. Moses Adibo, former Deputy Minister of Health and Mr. Kofi Nsiah-Poku, the CEO of Kinapharma Group of Companies. We recognise their hard work and contribution to the health sector in Ghana.

## **INAUGURAL LECTURES**

I congratulate Professor Seth Owusu-Agyei and Professor Margaret Gyapong who delivered their inaugural professorial lectures.

## **MESSAGE TO THE GRADUATING CLASS**

### **Graduating Students**

A total of five hundred and fifty-four (554) students are graduating today. This consists of 44 from the School of Allied Health Sciences, 29 from the School of Medicine, 343 from the School of Nursing and Midwifery and 137 from the School of Public Health. We also have the first batch of Master of Public Health students who are also graduating. Six (6) are graduating with Master of Public Health, General option (General) and 5 in Master of Public Health, option in Epidemiology and Disease Control.

There are also 7 students from Leeds Beckett University who are graduating today as part of our collaboration. It is our hope that this collaboration will grow to the point where we will award joint degrees in the very near future.

Congratulations for coming this far in spite of the numerous challenges. You deserve to be awarded for your discipline, dedication and hard work. To those receiving special prizes, I congratulate you and may this be the beginning of a successful career.

I urge you to go out into the world and be ambassadors of change! Let the 'motto' of UHAS, "Health for Development" and values of excellence, innovation, integrity, service & care be your guide in your quest for success. Success is a vehicle that moves on the wheels called "HARD WORK" but the journey would be difficult without the fuel called "SELF-CONFIDENCE". **Be so good that no one can ignore you!** Go out there and make UHAS proud.

May the moments you spent here be memorable and do well to stay in touch with your colleagues, the faculty, the staff and above all the University. Participate in the activities of the Alumni Association and do not forget to give back to your Alma Mater by making very meaningful inputs to the development and growth of the University.

On behalf of Management, Faculty and Staff, I extend to you our sincere heartfelt congratulations on your achievement! I will urge you all not to rest

on your laurels. Take advantage of the numerous opportunities that abound the world over and develop yourselves. Take advantage of the postgraduate programmes being offered by the University.

Kudos to management, Academic and non-Academic staff of this great University and all our stakeholders who contributed in diverse ways for a successful academic year, thank you and God bless you.

To the proud parents, family members, friends and other benefactors of our graduands, I say congratulations and thank you for your support in training your wards and being with them along the entire journey.

May the Good Lord Bless and Keep you.

May His Face Shine upon you and be Gracious unto you.

May He lift the light of His Countenance upon you and grant you His Peace and travel mercies to your respective destinations.

Thank you!

God bless us all!