

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY
FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, PROFESSOR GABRIEL AYUM
TEYE ON THE OCCASION OF THE APRIL 2019 GRADUATE
CONGREGATION HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 27,**

Honourable Northern Regional Minister

Chairman and Members of the Governing Council of UDS

Pro-Vice-Chancellor of UDS

Registrar, UDS,

Principal Officers

Campus Principals,

Members of Convocation,

Officials of Sister Universities and Educational Institutions

Regional Service Commanders,

District Chief Executive of Sagnerigu

The Clergy

Nanima

Graduating Students

Alumni

Parents and Guardians

The Media,

Distinguished Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

I would like to once again welcome you all to this Congregation ceremony when the University is graduating a total of 221 graduands from the Graduate School. Out of this number, five (5) are graduating with Ph.Ds (1 in Social Administration, Agricultural Economics, Crop Science and two in Innovation Communication). Other graduands comprise 85 M.Phils, 51 MScs, 28 M.As; 22 M.Ed; 21 M.Com and nine (9) Postgraduate Diplomas, across various disciplines from the Faculties of Agribusiness and Communication Sciences, Integrated Development Studies, Planning and Land Management, Education, Agriculture, Mathematical Sciences and Applied Sciences. School of Business and Law and School of Allied Health Sciences. And for the first time we have MPhil/MSc Public Health Nutrition graduates from the School of Allied Health Sciences.

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, may I take the opportunity to give you an update on the state of UDS since our last congregation in November 2018.

Governance

Mr. Chairman, UDS recently underwent the first institutional review by the National Accreditation Board (NAB). The review exercise centred on the following indicators:

- Common deficiencies in the Accreditation of UDS Programmes

- Innovations in governance and administration
- Faculty strength and quality
- Staff-Student ratio
- Staff Development
- Progress on Research and Development
- Funding Sources
- Institutional Development
- Creativity and Innovation and
- Mentorship

The NAB Team, during the six-day review met with University Management, faculty, staff and students. UDS is poised to implement the recommendations that emerged from the review so as to improve upon teaching, learning and research.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The University organized a workshop on Internationalisation of Research, Innovations in Education and Resource Mobilization with a resource person from the University of Lancaster, UK for Principal Officers, Campus Principals, Deans, Vice-Deans, Directors, Deputy Directors, and Heads of Department on Internationalization of Research, Innovations in Education and Resource Mobilisation(wining grants) for reteach and development

Appointments and promotions

During the period under review, some Senior Members were promoted to various ranks within the Senior Member Category. These include;

- a. One Professor
- b. Six Associate Professors
- c. Seven Senior Lecturers
- d. Two Senior Assistant Registrars and
- e. One Senior Internal Auditor.

Twenty-five senior staff and a number of junior staff were also promoted to various ranks in their categories.

Faculty/School Development

Mr. Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, UDS has received approval from the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE), to proceed with Accreditation by National Accreditation Board (NAB), to run the under listed undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environment

1. BSc Forest Resource Conservation and Management
2. BSc Ecotourism and Hospitality Management
3. BSc Environmental Management and Sustainability
4. MSc Environmental Management and Sustainability
5. M.Phil Environmental Management and Sustainability
6. Ph.D Environmental Management and Sustainability

The University has also received accreditation from NAB to mount **M.Phil and Ph.D in Chemical Pathology** in the School of Allied Health Sciences. *Sciences*

New Centres

BIIC: A new centre for Business Innovations and Incubation (BIIC) has been established this year. The BIIC to provides incubation and acceleration services for student innovators, micro, small and medium scale enterprises as well as acts as a liaison between the University and the private sector.

WACWISA: A West African Centre of Excellence for Water, Irrigation and Sustainable Agriculture (WACWISA) has only been established, funded by the World Bank. The World Bank five-year grant is an approval rating for the University's competence in the field of Water, Irrigation and Sustainable Agriculture.

Partnerships/Collaborations

Ladies and gentlemen, the University continues to engage in partnerships and collaborations with other institutions.

Three (3) students from the Appalachian State University, USA will be participating in our Third Trimester Field Practical Programme (TTFPP) this year. We are also hosting a Spanish Post-doctoral Researcher at the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Management, and a Korea International

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Cooperation Agency (KOICA), volunteer who will be working in the Department of Food Science Technology for two years.

The Chinese embassy has agreed to support UDS to establish a Confucius Centre, and Gansu University has granted scholarships to 8 alumni UDS to pursue Masters and PhD.

We have received Delegations from various International Universities interested in collaboration namely:

- ❖ Norbert ZONGO, University Burkina Faso
- ❖ Oxford University, UK
- ❖ University of British Columbia, Canada
- ❖ University of Helsinki, Finland
- ❖ IUA Institut Universitaire D'Abidjan

The University has also Signed MoUs with the following:

- ❖ The Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS), South Africa.
- ❖ University of Stuttgart, Germany
- ❖ The Hague University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands
- ❖ Appalachian State University, USA
- ❖ Wadhwani Foundation, USA
- ❖ IUA- Institut Universitaire d'Abidjan
- ❖ University of Helsinki
- ❖ University of Arizona
- ❖ UDS has also renewed our MoU with PXL University, Belgium.



Physical Development

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Regional Minister, We are grateful to the Government of Ghana who through the Department of Urban Roads has commenced work on the Nyankpala campus roads. We are working assiduously towards completing the anatomy block the medical school and the renovation of the Library block at the Nyankpala Campus

Sports

Ladies and gentlemen, the UDS Sports Directorate has raised the flags of UDS and Ghana very high as a result of the laurels chalked within a short space of time both nationally and internationally.

The year 2019 began with the UDS team participating in the MINI GUSA Games in Cape Coast, where the UDS football teams won the Gold medals in both the male and female categories. The female athletics team also won the female category of the competition. Mr Abdul Muiz, and Ms Mukarama Abdulai both of the Department of Development Education, were adjudged the best players of men and female football competitions respectively.

The vintage performance of the football team earned them an invitation to the African Student Football Union (ASFU) competition in Nigeria where the team won the silver medal with Mr Ziblim Firdaus of Nyankpala Campus emerging as the best player of the tournament.

Because of these performances the Sports team were also invited to the maiden edition of the Africa University Olympics, organized by the Association of African Universities in Cairo, Egypt where the football team again won the silver medal

Ladies and gentle, with pride I would like to add that, at the Cairo Olympics, our men 4x100m team won their fifth consecutive gold medal and set another record. The gallant athletes who are all from the Department of Development Education include:

1. WALLACE AFLAMAH
2. DERRICK SARKODIA
3. BARNABAS KOBBOY AGGREH
4. SARFO ANSAH
5. TWENBOAH – KODUA THOMAS

APPRECIATIONS

Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful to all faculties/Schools/Centres/Institutes, administrators and other stakeholders, contributed to our attaining the goal being celebrated today. I also wish to thank parents and guardians who have taken time off their busy schedules to converge here to celebrate with our graduands.

Mr. Chairman permit me to use this opportunity to thank all who offered scholarships and awards to some students of UDS, and all those who in one way or the other, supported us.

Graduands

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me to devote my attention to our graduands- the reason we are gathered here today. Your graduation today attests that you have worked assiduously to add value to yourself and improve your skill. Congratulations!

As you are being officially dispatched into the world, I urge you to be good ambassadors of UDS and to raise the bar of excellence wherever you find yourselves. You should strive to leave good imprints on the minds of those you interact with. Dream big and work towards that dream.

I wish you well, and may God bless us all.

Thanks you.