

**A VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. RICHARD DWAMENA  
BOAMPONG AT THE JULY 2019 CONGREGATION OF THE COLLEGE OF  
HUMANITIES AT THE GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA.**

Madam Chancellor,  
Chairman and Members of the University Council,  
Vice Chancellor,  
Pro-Vice Chancellors,  
Provosts,  
Registrar,  
Chairman and Members of the College of Humanities Advisory Board,  
Guest Speaker,  
Members of Convocation,  
Deans,  
Members of Faculty,  
Fellow Graduating students,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I must say that I am privileged and delighted to be called upon to deliver the valedictory speech on behalf of this amazing, inspiring and talented class of 2019. I know, you know, and everyone knows that this journey was not an easy one. The value of resilience, fortitude and patience in this journey cannot be overemphasized. All of us are here today because we possess these values. The good book provides in **Habakkuk 2:3** that "*For the vision is yet for an appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail; Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay*". Indeed, the vision that we had to be called graduates of this University has certainly come to pass today. We worked so hard while longing for this day and now we can proudly say YES! We made it.

Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Class of 2019, Congratulations!

About four years ago and for others two years ago, we found ourselves walking through the gates of this University full of hope and longing to continue the legacy from our previous backgrounds. The admission process for undergraduate law applicants was such that only the best students from topnotch schools got admission. The Post-First Degree law application

There was also the Atomic Gas explosion incident which had most of us running for our lives as though we were disciples of Usain Bolt. Fortunately, none of us was hurt by the explosion and we thank God for that. Fellow Graduates, I am sure you recall the late nights and early morning 7:30am lectures with pop quizzes which made you regret signing up for pursuing this law degree. Class of 2019, I am sure you recall those unfortunate days in the examination hall when you tried recollecting the name of a case but only the facts immediately came to mind. And when the paper was over, the names of the cases began to ring in your head by which time your fate had already been determined.

It is however worthy of mention, that as a Class, we have also had good experiences and surprises. There were times when we had A's and B pluses in certain courses in which such grades were unheard of. More importantly, it is worthy of mention that the University began undergraduate law admissions in 2012 and the first batch of such students graduated in 2016. In that year, only one student graduated with a first class. In 2017, no student was able to obtain a first class. In 2018, again only one student was able to secure a first class. Fortunately this year, the graduating class had five students graduating with a first class which is quite exciting. A round of applause to the Class of 2019 for changing the narrative.

It is also worth mentioning that we had the chance to read landmark cases such as Wankyiwaa v Wireduwaa and Glah v The Republic which sparked our interest in the study of the law and sharpened our sense of humor. There was also the Annual Law Week celebrations which saw us having the best time of our lives; from the luxurious dinners, the football matches, the movie nights, the long nights of playing video games together amongst others. Some of these experiences caused us to forget for a minute or two the demanding nature of studying the law and to spend quality time together as course mates. We have built bonds and friendships that will last a lifetime. Honestly, most of us are here today because of very good friends that God brought into our lives to help us every step of the way.

From here, most of us aspire to begin our Professional Law Course at the Ghana School of Law and to be called to the bar by 2021. While we work tirelessly towards this, let us trust God that He who has begun a good work in us, will indeed bring it to a perfected end. As we remain positive, let us also be open to other opportunities that will come our way seeing as there are diverse career paths one can thread with an LLB degree.

Fellow graduates, today we are leaving the Premier University as better individuals because vital values such as hard work, integrity, discipline and perseverance have been instilled in us.

process was even more rigorous as it entailed a really difficult entrance examination along with a seemingly daunting interview. To have secured a seat in this law school was in itself an achievement.

Immediately our lectures began, our confidence levels dropped. The results of our first assignment saw the highest student scoring less than average. For most of us, the first semester presented itself as a demoralizer and this reflected in our first semester grades. Friends, if anything will cause us to be humble in our legal career, you would agree with me that it is the results of our first semester examination in the law school. For those of us who decided to continue this arduous journey, we began to pick up semester by semester and we are all here today by the grace of God.

Our utmost gratitude also goes to our parents and guardians who provided an enabling environment for us to study. They have been investing in our education financially, emotionally, and spiritually from day one. They have had to sacrifice and give up some of their dreams and aspirations just so we can be here today. Some of them have had to act as single parents and we really cannot thank them enough. Some of them are no more, even though they started this journey with us. Heaven knows we are deeply grateful.

We are grateful to our lecturers for encouraging and guiding us throughout our time here. Their inspiring words, advice and mere presence in the faculty encouraged us to aspire to be like them and even better.

Same can be said of University support staff; we really cannot imagine our stay here without them. The study of law without the helpful Librarians, the IT personnel, the Janitorial staff amongst others would have been far from easy.

In fact a big thank you to all our family, friends, benefactors and everyone who was a part of this journey.

It must be mentioned that although our first encounter with the law was burdensome, other major setbacks would later creep into our lives and purport to take away the possibility of making a day like this possible. Personally, I lost my father in my third year and I lost hope in pursuing this journey. What kept me going was the love and support I received from the University, the Faculty, my colleagues, friends and family. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Students Financial Aid Office for granting me the SRC Yi Bi Boa Scholarship in those times as same was instrumental in enabling me complete my LLB degree.

From tomorrow, we are starting the next phase of our lives and there will be many more obstacles that will come our way. However, with persistence and relentlessness we shall overcome. In this regard, **Mike Norton** noted that *"Never say that you can't do something, or that something seems impossible, or that something can't be done, no matter how discouraging it may be; human beings are limited only by what we allow ourselves to be limited by: our own minds."* Now as we leave the four corners of this university, the outside world will welcome us with its own hurdles. However, the world cannot stop us because even Jurisprudence could not stop us, Constitutional law could not stop us, neither could Investment law and that is why we are all here today. Let us maintain this resilient spirit and the world will marvel at the things we will achieve.

Another key principle we should leave here with is that it should also be our personal mantra to make a positive impact in the lives of others wherever we find ourselves after here; I draw inspiration from **Shep Hyken** who noted that *"recognise that every interaction you have is an opportunity to make a positive impact on others."* The structure of the professional world is such that there is keen competition amongst persons to the extent that it is easy for one to forget to lend a helping hand to another even when such help will not harm him them. A major tenet of the Sociological School of Jurisprudence is that law achieves a purpose and a function. As budding lawyers, I entreat us to use the law as tool for achieving the purpose of impacting the lives of others; whether it is through human rights advocacy, legal outreaches, pro bono cases, amongst any others.

Madam Chancellor, I conclude by saying that each of us here today had a role to play in making today possible. We played our roles so well and look at what we have been able to achieve together. It is this unity of purpose that **Mattie Stepanek** had in mind when he said *"Unity is strength.... When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."* Indeed, as we leave here to cause positive change in society, we honestly cannot do it all alone as individuals. However, when we work together, we can achieve the impossible. LLB Class of 2019, I believe like we have done today, together we will do the impossible and make our nation great and strong.     Congratulations once again LLB Class of 2019!

God bless the University of Ghana, God bless Ghana and God bless us all!

Thank you.