

WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, NUTIFAFU KUENYEHIA, ESQ., 00V,  
ON THE OCCASION OF A CONGREGATION FOR THE  
CONFERMENT OF DEGREES ON POST GRADUATE  
GRADUANDS ON SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019  
AT THE AUDITORIUM, TAMALE CAMPUS, TAMALE

The Honourable Northern Regional Minister, Members of the University Council, the Vice-Chancellor, members of the Academic Board and Staff of UDS, revered Traditional Rulers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman:

*'I hereby constitute this Assembly as a Congregation of the  
University for Development Studies for the purpose of  
conferring degrees and graduate diplomas on  
Post Graduate graduands'*

The Honourable Northern Regional Minister, Members of Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Members of Convocation, revered traditional rulers, Graduands, and Staff of UDS, the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It gives me pleasure, on behalf of the University Council and the entire community of the UDS, to warmly welcome all of you to this Congregation.

I welcome specially the Honourable Northern Regional Minister, Mr Salifu Saeed who is our Guest of Honour for today.

I also warmly welcome his royal highness Sagnari Naa Yakubu Abudulai, chief of Sagnerigu, Tamale, who is our landlord.

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## Graduands

I also heartily welcome our graduating students on whom Degrees and Graduate Diplomas would be conferred today.

I congratulate you for gaining one more feather in your educational cap. I must add, however, that this should not be the end. I wish to use this occasion to emphasise that education can only be relevant if it impacts positively on society. Accordingly, I entreat you to put to good use the knowledge and skills you have acquired, for the benefit and development of whatever community you may find yourselves in. You must endeavour to be instruments of change, and be good and active leaders and initiators, instead of passive followers.

I urge you bear in mind that there are challenges everywhere, and effectively condition yourselves to face these challenges. Above all, be honest with yourselves, and strive to uphold your dignity and integrity and be true ambassadors of UDS. I wish you well.

## Transition

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now wish to touch on an issue which is very dear to many hearts; it is the issue of birth of <sup>the</sup> the two new Universities that are to be carved out of UDS. You would kindly recall that on Saturday, November 10, 2018, His Excellency President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo announced the future conversion of the Wa and Navrongo Campuses of the UDS into autonomous Universities. The Bill <sup>s</sup> for their conversion <sup>are</sup> is presently before Parliament, and it is our expectation that Parliament would pass <sup>them</sup> it sooner than later.

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Already, the UDS Council has constituted a Transition Team. Its task is to ensure effective and smooth commencement and operations of the two new Universities, and a cordial working relationship between the UDS and the two, on a sustainable basis.

I want to assure all stakeholders that the UDS Transition Team would carry out its mandate with all transparency, fairness, and in good faith.

### **Corporate Social Responsibility**

Ladies and gentlemen, permit me also to mention another issue which is dear to the hearts of the people in the communities in which the University operates. This relates to the corporate social responsibility of the UDS. Permit me to say that UDS has been alive to its corporate social responsibility.

The University would not renege on this responsibility; rather, I assure all stakeholders of the resolve and commitment of UDS to continue to address this obligation in more visible and concrete terms, such as research by UDS staff on social, economic and developmental issues in the University's immediate communities, and direct interventions of the staff and students of the University in the area of health, education, and related problems of the people.

Our mission is to be a home of pro-poor scholarship, and be a bridge between the academia and the community.

The Hon. Regional Minister, ladies and gentlemen, once again I welcome all of you to this Congregation, and thank you all for making time to join us.

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God bless UDS

God bless us all

God bless our Homeland Ghana

Thank you.

**Nutifafa Kuenyehia, Esq.;**

**Chairman of Council**

27/04/2019