

**CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS: FIRST SESSION OF THE 28TH CONGREGATION
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA (UEW):
NENYI GHARTEY VII, CHANCELLOR
22ND – 27TH JANUARY, 2024**

1.0 Salutation

- Representative of the Government
- Member of Parliament for Effutu Constituency
- Vice-Chancellor
- Ag. Registrar
- Finance Officer
- Ag. Liberian
- Principals of Colleges
- Nananom
- Deans/Directors/Deputy Registrars
- Heads of Department
- Members of Convocation
- Staff of the University
- Parents and Guardians
- Graduands
- Security Agencies
- Members of the Media
- Distinguished Invited Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

2.0 Welcome

A wholehearted welcome to each and every one of you gathered here today. It is with great pleasure and self-importance that we come together to celebrate the first session of the 28th Congregation. This is an earth-shattering occasion that signifies the zenith of years of dedication, hard work, and steadfast commitment to learning and personal growth.

To our esteemed graduates, you have reached a significant landmark in your academic journey. This day is a proof to your dedication, determination, and the countless hours of studying, research, and collaboration that have brought you to this point. As you stand on the threshold of new beginnings, remember that the knowledge and experiences you have gained here will be your guiding light, shaping the path you choose to walk in the years ahead.

A special mention should be made of our eminent faculty members, who have assiduously nurtured and guided our graduates. Your dedication to excellence in teaching and research has been the foundation of our institution's success. The knowledge you have imparted and the wisdom you have shared will continue to reverberate in the minds of our graduates for years to come.

We are also privileged to be surrounded by family members, friends, and mentors who have been influential in supporting our graduates on their educational voyage. Your unwavering encouragement, sacrifices, and belief in their potential have played an indispensable role in their achievements. This congregation is a celebration not just of the graduates' accomplishments, but of your shared journey as a community.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the boundless opportunities that lie ahead for our graduates. The world is ever-evolving, and it is your generation that will shape the future with novelty, originality, and a commitment to making a positive impact. Let us cherish this moment of celebration, reflection, and eagerness. May the memories created within these university walls serve as a groundwork for all that you will achieve beyond them.

3.0 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 APPOINTMENT OF NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR

Ladies and gentlemen, the Governing Council was tasked to initiate the process of searching for a new Vice-Chancellor. The Governing Council of the UEW, at its meeting held on 1st August, 2023, appointed Prof. Stephen Jobson Mitchual as the next Vice-Chancellor to succeed Prof. Mawutor Avoke at the University of Education, Winneba, effective 1st October, 2023. So the current Vice-Chancellor is Prof. Stephen Jobson Mitchual.

3.2 ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN GHANA

Ladies and gentlemen, the current economic challenges and the spectre of unemployment sweeping through West Africa warrant immediate attention. To avert the potential threat, I wish to offer some urgent suggestions to the government to navigate these pressing concerns. I wish to propose that the government strengthens youth-focused policies that promote education, vocational training, and entrepreneurship to empower the next generation and enhance their contribution to the economy. In doing so, government policies must facilitate the collaboration of educational institutions with industries to align curricula with market demands. This initiative will equip the workforce with relevant skills, especially in emerging sectors like technology and green industries, to bridge the skills gap and increase

employability. There is, therefore, a need to also launch targeted and time-bound employment initiatives that focus on labour-intensive sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture, and manufacturing. This can provide immediate relief to the unemployed while fuelling economic growth. This could go along with revamping dedicated programmes to equip young people with relevant skills for the modern job market by encouraging entrepreneurship and providing training, mentorship, and funds to support the development of the next generation of job creators. By supporting existing industries facing downturns due to external shocks, strengthening vulnerable sectors, and encouraging innovation, the government can safeguard jobs and promote long-term sustainability. Government should accelerate the transformation of the digital economy to leverage its potential to generate jobs and transform traditional industries. While at it, it is crucial to revolutionise and establish vigorous social safety nets to cushion the impact of economic challenges on vulnerable populations. Targeted assistance programmes can ensure that basic needs are met while maintaining social stability. The government must enhance transparency in government spending and resource allocation. In holding public officials accountable for their actions and ensuring efficient use of resources, public trust can be rebuilt. By taking these swift and resolute measures, the government can demonstrate its commitment to addressing the pressing economic and unemployment concerns of Ghanaians.

4.0 ADVICE TO GRADUANDS

My precious graduates, as you stand on the threshold of a new chapter in your life, you possess the authority to make a momentous impact on your economy and tackle the pressing issue of unemployment. Your education has armed you with inimitable set of skills and knowledge that can be harnessed to drive positive change and foster economic growth. Joblessness is not just a challenge; it's an opportunity for novelty and transformation. Embrace your role as a graduate by adopting a proactive mindset rather than waiting for the perfect job to come your way, consider becoming a job originator yourself. Entrepreneurship and innovation are two key avenues through which you can contribute to economic development and employment generation. Identify unmet needs or gaps in the market and explore how your skills can be applied to address them. By starting a business, you can not only create job opportunities for yourself but also for others in your community. This not only lessens unemployment but also kindles local economies, ultimately contributing to national opulence.

Dear graduands, the world is evolving rapidly, and staying relevant requires a commitment to continuous improvement. Seek out training, certifications, and workshops that enhance your skills and keep you adaptable in the face of changing job landscapes. Collaboration and networking are essential components of addressing unemployment and strengthening the economy. Join professional associations, attend industry events, connect with like-minded individuals, most importantly join your alumni association. Through this, you can tap into shared knowledge, and gain insights to potentially find opportunities for partnerships that lead to job creation and economic advancement. The job landscape itself is also evolving rapidly. Embrace change and be willing to adapt. A resilient attitude towards setbacks will help you persevere and navigate qualms, which will make you an attractive prospect for employers and investors alike. Remember that economic growth should align with ethical and sustainable practices. As a graduand, your actions will impact not only the economy but also societal well-being. Strive to contribute positively while upholding ethical standards.

My dear graduands, don't underestimate the power of giving back. Mentorship and volunteering are powerful ways to influence the next generation of professionals and contribute to the community. By sharing your experiences and knowledge, you can help others find their path and make a positive impact on society.

As a graduand, your education has equipped you with the tools to innovate, lead, and create opportunities for yourself and others. By embracing entrepreneurship, continuous learning, collaboration, and mentorship, you can play an integral role in solving unemployment and contributing to the growth of the economy.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Congratulations, graduates, on this incredible achievement. To our families, friends, faculty and entire University staff thank you for your steadfast support. Let us move forward with optimism and determination, for the world awaits the contributions of the UEW Class of 2023.

Once again, welcome, and thank you for being a part of this special day.

Thank you.

“Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Ghana, Members of the Academic Board, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I hereby constitute this Assembly as a Congregation of the University of Education, Winneba for the purpose of conferring Degrees”.