



**UNIVERSITY OF BUSINESS AND
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

2ND CONGREGATION OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW AND SPECIAL GRADUATION OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

**4TH JULY, 2026
8:30 A.M.
NEW AUDITORIUM**



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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:00 a.m.	Arrival of Graduands /Guest Seated/ Musical Prelude
9:15 a.m.	Procession by * Convocation * University Governing Council
9:30 a.m.	Opening Prayer: A Moment of Silence
9:35 a.m.	National Anthem & UBIDS Anthem
9:40 a.m.	Registrar introduces and invites Chairman of Council to constitute the Congregation
9:45 a.m.	Constitution of Congregation and Welcome Address by the Chairman of Council.
9:50 a.m.	Valedictory Speech
10:00 a.m.	Cultural Display by Kajukperi Cultural Troop
10:10 a.m.	Vice-Chancellor's Address
10:40 a.m.	Presentation of Awards by the Pro Vice-Chancellor
11:10 a.m.	Address by a Special Guest - Thaddeus Sory Esq.
11:15 a.m.	Introduction of the Special Guest of Honour by the Chairman of Council
11:20 a.m.	Fanfare by Ghana Armed Forces Regimental Band
11:25 a.m.	Address by the Special Guest of Honour - Rt. Hon. Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin
11:45 a.m.	Conferment of Degrees
12:40 p.m.	Administration of the Alumni Oath by the Vice-Chancellor
12:42 p.m.	Announcements
12:45 p.m.	Dissolution of the Congregation by the Chairman of Council
12:46 p.m.	UBIDS Anthem & National Anthem
12:50 p.m.	Recession by * University Governing Council * Convocation

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS) was established in 2019 by an Act of Parliament (Act 1001) and came into being in May 2020 at Bamahu, Wa. The University emerged from the former University for Development Studies (UDS) Wa campus.

The Act (Act 1001, 2019) which establishes the University of Business and Integrated Development Studies mandates it to be an internationally-acclaimed applied research and practical-oriented educational institution dedicated to the development of business and integrated development studies and related matters.

In December 2025, the Parliament of Ghana amended the Parent Act (Act 1001), resulting in the renaming of the University from Simon Diedong Dombo University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (SDD-UBIDS) to the University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS), Wa, under Act 1160 (as amended).

The University has undertaken significant academic restructuring, aligning programmes under appropriate faculties and schools to enhance teaching, learning, and research. The University currently offers over 191 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes through 36 academic departments. UBIDS presently comprises the following faculties and schools

1. School of Graduate Studies.
2. Faculty of Integrated Development Studies.
3. Faculty of Planning and Land Management.
4. School of Business.
5. School of Education and Lifelong Learning.
6. Faculty of Social Science and Arts.
7. Faculty of Public Policy and Governance.
8. Faculty of Information and Communication Technology.
9. School of Law

VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

VISION

The University is set to be an internationally acclaimed center of excellence in higher education

MISSION

To provide quality teaching, learning, development-oriented problem-solving research and innovative practical training to qualified and capable persons and institutions through:

- a. The deployment of ICT, and
- b. Constant review of our programmes, curriculum and teaching methodology.

CORE VALUES

1. EXCELLENCE

UBIDS is committed to providing the highest quality products and services through dedication, ongoing improvement, and a focus on client needs.

2. INNOVATION

UBIDS encourages its staff and students to continually trust their ability to be critical and creative, and to persist in finding new solutions to problems through their workshop.

3. INTEGRITY

UBIDS strives to uphold honesty, fairness, and strong moral values in its decision-making processes and professional activities

4. COLLABORATION

UBIDS endeavours to collaborate with various individuals, groups, and organisations both locally and globally, leveraging recognised strength to achieve a common goal and promote leadership and growth.

5. SUSTAINABILITY

UBIDS aims to demonstrate a strong ability to sustain its teaching, learning, and research programmes by actively ensuring the protection, enhancement, and preservation of its human, social, economic, and environmental resources to maximise their potential benefits.

6. PROFESSIONALISM

UBIDS strives to succeed in its mission by adhering to high ethical principles and professional standards that are consistent with its mandate.

7. TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

UBIDS aims to promote transparency and accountability by making information about its processes and outputs readily accessible to all stakeholders.

8. INCLUSIVENESS

UBIDS aims to foster an environment that values and welcomes diversity, ensuring equal opportunities for everyone.

UBIDS ANTHEM

UBIDS, UBIDS,
you're the gem rising from the West
towards internationalisation to capture the world.

Take courage and move on.
Your God knows your mandate and desire
to turn Ghana land and the whole world
into a place of achievement and a paradise of hope,
paradise of hope.

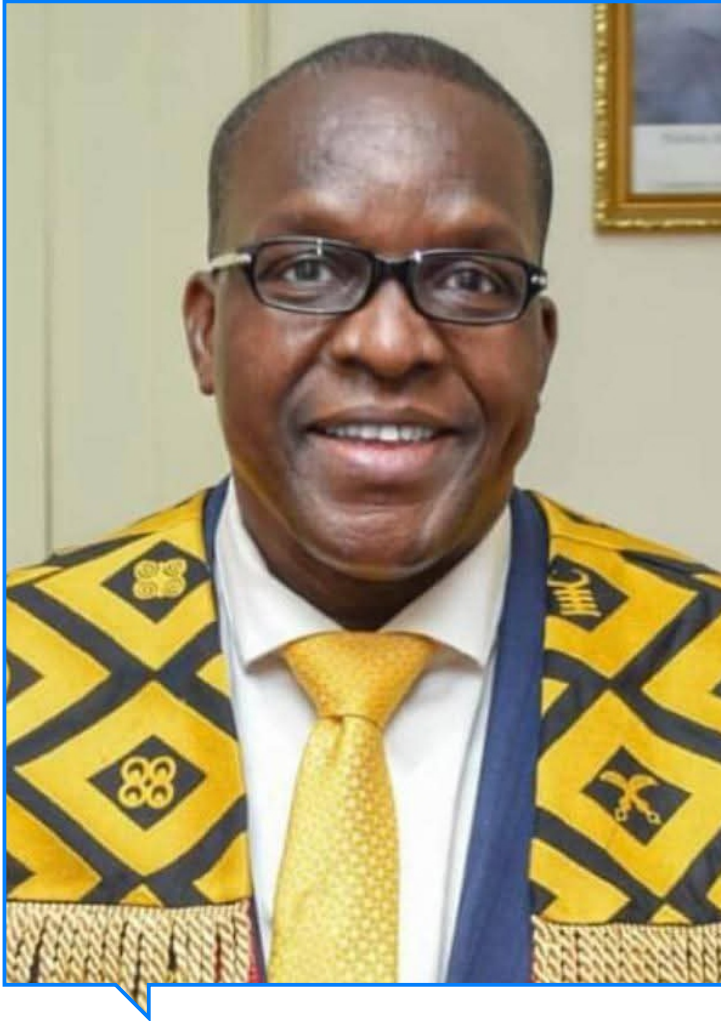
UBIDS, UBIDS, Alexandrite University.
Success will crown our efforts, this we will achieve.

UBIDS, UBIDS, we will arise and shine and shine.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

God bless our homeland Ghana,
And make our nation great and strong,
Bold to defend for ever,
The cause of Freedom and of Right.
Fill our hearts with true humility
Make us cherish fearless honesty,
And help us to resist oppressor's rule
With all our will and might for evermore.

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR

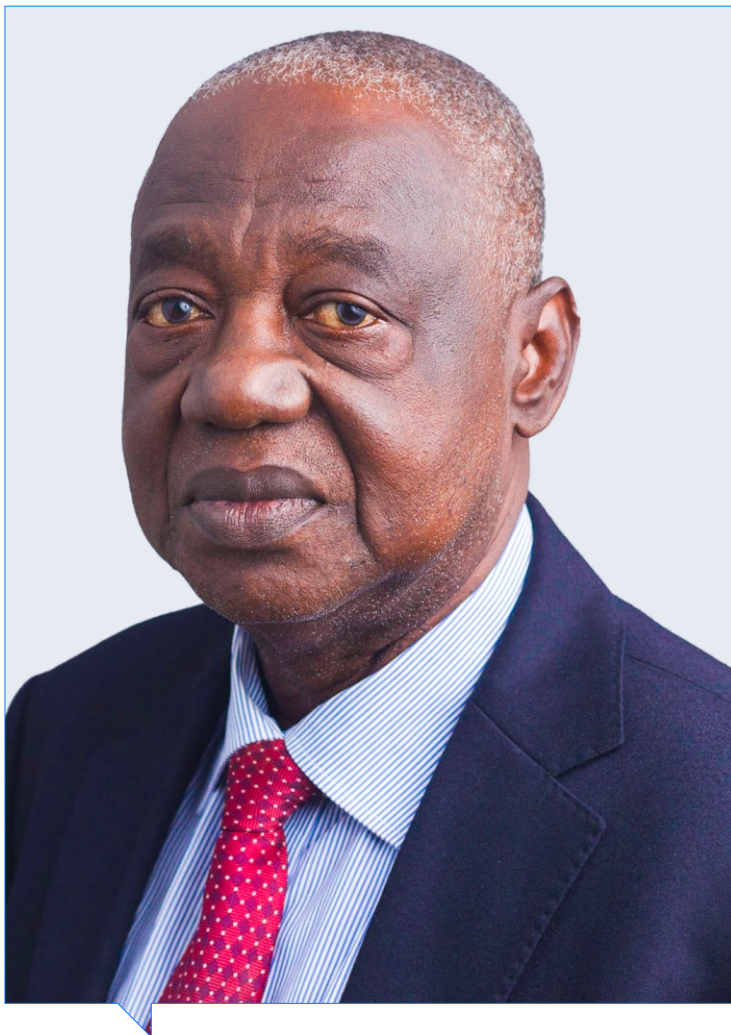


Rt. Hon. Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin

SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT , GHANA



CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL



Hon. Dr. Benjamin Bewa-Nyog Kunbuor, Esq.
(Chairman of Council)



Prof. Emmanuel Kanchebe Derbile
(Vice-Chancellor)



Prof. Issaka Kanton Osumanu
(Pro Vice-Chancellor)



Dr. Job Asante
(Registrar)



Dr. Mohammed Ngmenipuo Iddrisu
(Director of Finance)

UNIVERSITY GOVERNING COUNCIL

NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION
Hon. Dr. Benjamin Bewa-Nyog Kunbuor, Esq.	Chairman	President's Nominee
Prof. Emmanuel Kanchebe Derbile	Member	Vice-Chancellor
Prof. Abazaami Joseph	Member	President's Nominee
Ing. Prof. Hamidatu Darimani	Member	President's Nominee
Prof. Adam Bawa Yussif	Member	President's Nominee
Prof. Domwin Dabire Kuupole	Member	GTEC Representative
Dr. Musheibu Mohammed-Alfa	Member	Member, an expert in business from industry, nominated by the Minister
Dr. Godwin T. W. Achana	Member	UTAG Representative
Prof. John Yaw Akparep	Member	Convocation Representative
Mr. Baro Primus	Member	CHASS Representative
Ms. Ernestina Nar-Ere	Member	TEWU Representative
Mr. Mohammed Owusu	Member	Students' Representative

IN-ATTENDANCE

Prof. Issaka Kanton Osumanu	Pro Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Job Asante	Registrar, Secretary
Dr. Mohammed Ngmenipuo Iddrisu	Director of Finance

GRADUANDS LIST

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

FACULTY OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

PhD in Development Studies

1. Godwin Thomas Wedam Achana
2. Gabriel Pipio
3. Rabbi Ibrahim

PhD in Environment and Resource Management

1. Gordon Baalong
2. Juliana Toboyee
3. Kwasi Lapah Makpobi
4. Sylvester Sungbaahee Bantuo

MPhil in Development Communication

1. Abubakari Abdul-Samed Gbanso
2. Anthony Adongo Apubeo
3. Williams Kofi

MPhil in Environment and Resource Management

1. Abdullai Hamza
2. Elham Kassim
3. Giyas Issah
4. Henry Wule-Niah Naakpe
5. Isaac Kofi Ntori
6. Isaac Suutonee Bakuoro
7. John Akongsigma Azii
8. Rafiq Tendaana Yussif

FACULTY OF PLANNING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

PhD in Planning and Sustainable Development

1. Felix Dordaa

MPhil in Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Osman Sualihn
2. Richard Worlako Totime
3. Samuel Kwasi Obrifo

MPhil in Project Management and Community Development

1. Benjamin Osei-Owusu
2. Michael Soorigbaalma Saabuno

MPhil in Strategic Planning and Management

1. Abdul-Karim Abdulai

MSc in Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Abdul-Ganiu Seiyarah
2. Agnes Bayimahime
3. Ali Aloysius Salima
4. Asana Amankwah
5. Benedicta Binbikin
6. Clement Nyaaba
7. Gideon Logonia
8. Ida Teryelkenye Nakaari
9. James Kudjo Nachibu
10. Juatie Douri Bennin
11. Mac-Issaka Billa
12. Michael Kojo Mireku
13. Prosper Bayuo
14. Safia Sumani Benin
15. Sardiya Haruna Kanluoru

MSc in Project Management and Community Development

1. Abdallah Akurubila Mohammed
2. Abigail Fosuaa Boateng
3. Adinan Abdulai
4. Akrofi Kumoji
5. Bapio Zulkalayne Nuhu
6. Castro Aasoglenang
7. CECIL Ato Kwamena Dadzie
8. Elvis Banungzaala Dassah
9. Emmanuel Atangna Akasegri
10. Flora Nangsin Mumuni
11. Fuseina Adam
12. Fuseini Seidu
13. Imuran Wuni Baako
14. Madonna Donneyong
15. Moses Adekum Akandje
16. Musah K. Achulo Mohammed
17. Nicholas Naangenfaame Tiereke
18. Patience Tettehdzi
19. Priscilla Dangyi
20. Rabiatsu Tordia
21. Rashid Zakari
22. Rita Dan Bafuyire
23. Samuel Sarfo Arhin
24. Simon Tang
25. Williams Kuufamah Antumah

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

MBA in Accounting

1. Adams Haruna
2. Ahmed Abubakar
3. Alhassan Zakaria
4. Alfred Bayuo Zulabuo
5. Anas Issah
6. Ayishetu Jinsung
7. Belawu Nantomah
8. Birikorang Bernard

9. Cyndrilla Domayeng Mwini
10. David Baalasuri Bakang
11. David Kuu-Hien Bereh
12. Emmanuel Donhama Kupo
13. Failatu Fuseini
14. Freda Amoak
15. Gloria Derebie
16. Halia Sanchima Yahaya
17. Hatibu Moomin
18. Helena Obenewaa Ohemeng
19. Inusah Forgor Osuman
20. Irene Tuonfiribo
21. Joshua Jiribofaa Basil
22. Lilian Betanyoung
23. Marina Adams
24. Martin Tindaana
25. Maxwell Akafia
26. Mohammed Ziblim
27. Naima Adam Abdulai
28. Paschal Yade
29. Paul Yebfaar
30. Prisca Senyegbe Alormeney
31. Prosper Naaseg - Gong
32. Salamatu Akati Mahama
33. Salis Ibrahim
34. Sophia Muosayir
35. Sulemana Issahaku
36. Sumaila Adam
37. Vincent Akandi
38. Vincent Dakura
39. Vida Zampurah Dery
40. Wilfred Buol Naah
41. Yussif Osman
42. Zakaria Bagrmwin

MBA in Finance

1. Abdul-Mateen Haruna
2. Abdul-Razak Suleman
3. Abdallah Bawa
4. Alhassan Sumani
5. David Kwadwo Berko

6. Evelyn Barichisu Abariga
7. Hassana Abubakari
8. Kingsley Abdulai Abanga
9. Maurice Ilboudou
10. Mohammed Hafiz Ahmed
11. Mohammed Saani Mahamud
12. Richard Batalira
13. Seidu Adams Jotie
14. Serikpera Naa Issahaque
15. Zakaria Salifu

MBA in Health Service Management

1. Bisom Simon Duut
2. Emmanuel Twum Barimah
3. Joshua Anyetewen Akpilima
4. Mavis Asare
5. Vincentia Afi Foe
6. Vitalis Dangme

MBA in Human Resource Management

1. Abdulai Tahiru
2. Abukari Mumuni
3. Afiriwa Longi
4. Alex Bayor
5. Amadu Sumaya
6. Asmau Sidik
7. Awabu Yakah
8. Barbara Amoah
9. Badia Abdul-Rahman
10. Blanda Kudayirane Nawuriyare
11. Bismark Chemaalu
12. Cecilia Adongo
13. Dapilah Sampson
14. Dennis Ayine Adakurah
15. Dominic Akwasi Adjei Okyere
16. Edna Atuguba
17. Edith Seg-Ib
18. Emmanuel Twum Barimah

19. Frances W. Farr
20. Francis Maaltir
21. Frank Opoku Afriyie
22. Gabriel Tordaaah
23. Gifty Laadi Bugbil
24. Grace Amakyewaa Asare
25. Hamidata Issahaque Lamin
26. Hannah Mwinde Irah
27. Iddrisu Hardi
28. Issah Seidu
29. Issahaku Seidu
30. Jacob Zinyeni Dongway
31. Joseph Zormonia Tuo-Nawong
32. Josephina Weveh-Nelson
33. Joyce Babema Narooq
34. Justina Agalic Afai
35. Judith Faanuba Bayuo
36. Lutufia Froko Ahmed
37. Mariam Arimiyaw
38. Mariyam Adam
39. Mohammed Abdulai
40. Niematu Zakaria
41. Rebecca Ambonye
42. Regina Matasha Anafo
43. Reuben Fuseini Insah
44. Ruphina Nwintuo
45. Rabiatsu Razak
46. Sandra Kandin Dabantib
47. Sawudatu Dinnani Shaibu
48. Simon Azuure A-Etika
49. Sophia Ajustiwine Aboko
50. Stella Bobaikuu
51. Stella Dugrah
52. Sufyani Tendaana Yussif
53. Taibatu Nimbang Suhaib
54. Theresa Esi Abodwe Kwakye
55. Warikatu Issah
56. Wasila Bashiru
57. Zainab Kunateh Ahmed
58. Zuweiratu Alhassan

MBA in Procurement and Supply Chain Management

1. Abraham Narh Anim
2. Abdulai Albert Yuori
3. Bashit Jeregu Iddrisu
4. David An-Wiinee Zimi
5. Diana Bonye
6. Edna Rukayatu Bukun
7. Eric Sobiesuo
8. Feruza Alidu
9. Francis Kweku Nortey
10. Iddrisu Ibn Abukari
11. Jamal-Deen Al-Kali
12. Judith Naah
13. Kodzo Adanuvor Eyram Helmut
14. Labib Osman
15. Maximns Welber
16. Nicholas Gbamekuu
17. Suraj Yakubu
18. Suad Mahamud
19. Yahaya Halitu Dumah

MBA in Marketing and Strategy

1. Juliana Elizabeth Soyiri
2. Selina Aboyinga

Master of Public Administration

1. Abdulai Safianu
2. Amos Akanlu Adagwine
3. Amy Kaane Mumuni
4. Bernard Balinia Adda
5. Enock Okata
6. Florence Dafantin Yobe
7. Hanna Yeboah
8. Ibrahim Saaka
9. Ivy Sunomang
10. Izdeen Prince M Sule
11. Jamal-Deen Ibrahim

12. Karimu Seidu
13. Lutufia Seidu
14. Madina Munawara Rahman
15. Mutada Abdul Sallam
16. Nancy Bugase
17. Rashid Mbugri
18. Razak Yakubu
19. Robert Agaab
20. Samuel Bangbee Sey
21. Shamira Wuni Salifu
22. Susana Tuogali
23. Theresa Ayariga
24. Zulfawu Issah

Master of Public Health

1. Abraham George Adotey Sacker
2. Robert Dookure
3. Sina Lawrence Alhassan
4. Yaw Dapaa Sambian

MSc in Accounting

1. Issahaku Abdul-Shakur

MSc in Accounting and Finance

1. Philip Zinyeni

MSc in Project Management

1. Felix Amonteba Petio

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING

MPhil in Basic Education

1. Jato Lambon Samuel

MPhil in Business Education (Accounting)

1. Aaron Tuurosong Babangbagbee
2. Shamsdeen Gbepena Abudu

MPhil in Business Education (Management)

1. Mujeeb Daud

MPhil in Educational Administration and Management

1. Emelia Seidu
2. Seidu Ibrahim

MPhil in Social Science Education (History and Political Science)

1. Raubil Eliasu

Postgraduate Diploma in Education

1. Alex Kanyuo
2. Judith-Cindy Sungdumba
3. Napson Nzusemaa Naah

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND ARTS

PhD in Development Economics

1. Dominic Atogumsekiya Anarigide
2. Munira Alhassan Muhammed
3. Shamsia Abdul-Wahab

PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies

1. Abdul-Rauf Zini
2. Christopher Noyuoro

PhD in Social Administration

1. Eric Ballang
2. Mohammed Abubakar Sensau

M.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies

1. Abdul-Shaqur Saeed

MPhil in Peace and Conflict Studies

1. Adams Kuubini Abdul Nasir
2. Adazu Barnabas
3. Monigben Bunjah Yahaya
4. Patricia Banoeye
5. Zakaria Saantin

MPhil in Geo-Spatial Science

1. Ambrose Wawai
2. Michael Kuukang
3. Sakibu Nakeyena Salifu
4. Sunayd Mwini-Kara Muhsin

MPhil in Geography and Sustainable Development

1. Norbert Bayor
2. Sonkare Leo Yuoni
3. Vincent Ayambire Akanvov

MPhil in Peace and Conflict Studies

1. Ibrahim Boadu
2. Martha Yayra Goka
3. Victor Mabingbaan Jigur

FACULTY OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

PhD in Development Management and Governance

1. Abdel-Kadri Fuseini
2. Bernard Alando

MPhil in Development Management

1. Chrispin Dapilah
2. Ishmael Nyanwie Dong
3. Mabruk Abdul-Kadir
4. Maltiti Adam

MSc in Development Management

1. Dominic Quansah
2. Francis Suma
3. Freeman Kanton Salifu
4. Martha Teni Ayarigah
5. Mavis Odamtten
6. Norbert Adariba
7. Samuel Delasi Akresi
8. Selma Bataebo
9. Surazu Nabugu

MSc in Migration and Security

1. Rowland Elikem Komla Kaledzi
2. Sadat Anwar Yahaya

MSc in Organisational Practice and Development

1. Latif Bawah Chakilia
2. Nashiru Imoro
3. Subail Dodoo Abdul Rahman
4. Sumaya Moari Nantomah

MSc in Social Policy and Services Management

1. Billekaar David Karbo
2. Gladys Kitty Wein
3. Joshua Doobaare Angko
4. Richard Sam

MSc in Strategic Local Governance Administration

1. Lierfu Gregory Dery
2. Zeinab Silinba Mahamud

FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

MPhil in Computer Science

1. Charles Angsennia Subie

SCHOOL OF LAW

SECOND CLASS (UPPER DIVISION)

1. Abdul-Razak Tahiru Chuon
2. Abdul-Sallam Haanebe I. Bamie
3. Amos Edem Jax Okrofu
4. Anthony Appiah Mensah
5. Darius Tuonianuo Mwingyine
6. Edward Etse Aloryito
7. Fauzu Louru-Dimah Sumani
8. Frankline Nomuyiri Kanzoe
9. Fuseini Nantomah
10. Gideon Yennogre Zebre
11. Gloria Akudugu
12. Godwin Nyamdal Nchaji
13. Hafiz Timbile Adams
14. Iddrisu Seidu Firibu
15. James Junior Dery
16. Lawrence Akangagnang Abakisi
17. Leonard Sungbaare Mornah
18. Louis Yennuman Dubik
19. Mahama A. Brown Bismark
20. Marizuk Orison Nuhu
21. Muzamil Mwininban Seiba
22. Nathan Nsoh
23. Prince Nana Bonsu Osei
24. Rejoice Mwindorema Nambazing
25. Roger Yelkumwin Zolko-Ere
26. Ronald Akunai Asaanah
27. Stella Akabura
28. Sumaila Mohammed Kundisaab
29. Sumaila Tabiasi-Naa
30. Suzana Assagbah
31. Vivian Likiteenkoa Moiko
32. Wahab Abdulai

SECOND CLASS (LOWER DIVISION)

33. Abdul Latif Hamza
34. Abdul-Wahab Davoro
35. Abubakari Iddrisu

36. Adidam Yiredori Adda
37. Ahmed Bande Bar Ismail
38. Aloriweh Godwin Wepeba
39. Anthony Akurugo Alubokin
40. Baba Seidu Kamara Yakubu
41. Benjamin Baffoe
42. Clement Tale-Er
43. Collins Apakwon Avadin
44. Cynthia Balloh
45. Davies Adom Nsiah
46. Dindan Sedir Christopher
47. Elvis Kuubenyere
48. Emmanuel Beture Yeriseble
49. Emmanuel Nkonu
50. Ernest Akumfi Ameyaw
51. Gilbert Mwin-Nongee Dakurah
52. Iddrisu Abdul Moomin
53. John Aba-Eyel Buorokuu
54. Johnbosco Nang
55. Lazarus Ayinbono Agana
56. Linneaus Sung Yelifari
57. Mohammed Al-Amin Adam
58. Mujeed Salifu
59. Musah Iddi
60. Nathaniel Kankoisua Yariban
61. Osman Abdul Sharkur
62. Precious Ranti Baah
63. Raymond Aabangnaa
64. Rehan Bashirudeen
65. Richard Oppong
66. Shirley Kaluu Wezenamo
67. Stanley Akamiri Abopaam
68. Stephen Ania
69. Williams Dalabri Nkikia
70. Yusif Mensah Osei

STATISTICS

FACULTY/SCHOOL	NO. OF STUDENTS	%
1. FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (FICT)	1	0.3
2. FACULTY OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (FIDS)	18	4.9
3. FACULTY OF PLANNING AND LAND MANAGEMENT (FPLM)	47	12.8
4. FACULTY OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE (FPPG)	27	7.3
5. FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND ARTS (FSSA)	23	6.3
6. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (SoB)	172	46.7
7. SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING (SoELL)	10	2.7
8. SCHOOL OF LAW	70	19.0
TOTAL	368	100.0

VALECDICTORY SPEECH



**ROGER
YELKUMWIN
ZOLKO-ERE**

Chairman of the University Council and Members of Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and Director of Finance. The Dean of the School of Law and all Deans and Directors Present, Distinguished Invited Guests, Traditional Leaders (Na mine), Members of Convocation and Staff of the University, Proud Parents and Guardians, Fellow Graduands, Our Friends from the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen
Good morning

It is with immense gratitude and humility that I stand before you today on behalf of the Second Batch of Graduating Law Students of the University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS) to present this speech. Today marks not only the end of a demanding Bachelor of Laws journey but also the beginning of a new chapter in our lives. It is a day of celebration, reflection, and appreciation for the sacrifices, perseverance, and determination that have brought us to this historic moment.

As the second batch of law students to graduate from this distinguished institution, we are conscious of the responsibility that accompanies this achievement. We have had the privilege to be part of this infant but impactful School of Law, whose vision is to produce legal professionals committed to justice, integrity, and national development.

Our graduating class represents a unique blend of backgrounds and experiences. Among us are young men and women who entered the University directly from Senior High School, eager to pursue their dreams of becoming legal professionals. Alongside are dedicated working-class students who attended lectures while balancing careers, family responsibilities, and numerous personal and social commitments. Despite our diverse circumstances, we shared a common goal: to obtain a quality legal education and contribute meaningfully to society.

The journey has not been an easy one. We endured the academic rigor, studying legal principles, analysing cases, and debating complex legal issues. For our weekend students, we had to combine professional

obligations with this academic rigor. Many traveled long distances, sacrificing comfort in pursuit of this noble goal. Yet, through determination and perseverance, we prevailed. Success is finally here, a product of the unwavering support and encouragement of many individuals.

I express our profound appreciation to our lecturers, thank you for challenging us to think critically, reason logically, with a constant eye on the law. Your patience, guidance, and expertise have left indelible marks on our lives. There are many memories we shared during this journey, and for me, I will always remember Lawyer Mujamilu's response to a question I posed in class. He gave a response that changed my understanding and approach to learning the law. His response to my question was, "is it that you do not understand or you do not agree with the rule?" Of course, I understood, but did not agree because it was illogical in my view. At that moment, it dawned on me that "the law is the law".

How can we forget the scenario of the flying slippers or bicycle, the promised reading materials that never came, or came late. The free legal consultations and the numerous jokes we shared, the insistence on the use of legal terms because law is not social studies.

As we relish these moments, I call on our lecturers and members of the Bar to continue supporting us till we join them at the Bar. We look up to legal luminaries and in no special order, we (graduands) dream to be like the Rt Hon. Speaker Alban S.K. Bagbin, we want to achieve like Chief Justice Georgina Wood and Justice Kulendi; we aspire to be like Hon. Benjamin Kumbuor and Hon. Ambrose Dery. We dream of being like Dr. Ali Nakyea and COP Lydia Donkor. We are inspired by our very own Lawyer Saeed Abdul-Shakur and Hon. Charles Lwanga Puozuing and many others. Ladies and gentlemen, we are dreaming big, so please mentor and train us. When we come to your various chambers and offices, please accept us. Do not leave us along the way when we make mistakes, do not abandon us when we fall, because we are still learning and hope to become learned like you someday.

Fellow graduands, I say congratulations to us all. The toils and sacrifices have paid off. Be proud of yourselves and celebrate the moment because we have all earned it. Remember that in the courtroom the class we graduated with does not matter; it is about the laws of Ghana, as contained in article 11(1) of the Constitution of Ghana. As we continue the journey to the Bar after today, let's keep moving to the top, whether it is a run, a walk, a leap or a crawl.

My study group members "Legal Crusaders", we have made it by grace and hard work. To our colleagues who started this journey with us and for one reason or the other could not join us in today's graduation, please do not give up. Our class representatives have been phenomenal, and we say 'Y3 Barika'. One of the beautiful things is that, even before we become Lawyers our community members already think we are, and they see us differently at churches, mosques, wedding and even the market places. That should give us hope that we will one day be called to the Bar. Ladies and gentlemen, in case you ever find yourself in the market and you hear "Lawyer Big Salih", just know that they are calling one of my classmates who is yet to be called to the Bar.

In this moment of celebration, let's pause to honor our dear friend Najat, who started this journey with us but her maker called her to eternity along the way. She was a beacon of kindness, always welcoming and warm-hearted to everyone she met. May her soul rest in peace.

Now, to our parents, guardians, families, friends and co-workers, we owe a debt of gratitude that words cannot adequately express. Your sacrifices, prayers, financial support, encouragement, and emotional support sustained us throughout this journey. This achievement belongs to you as much as it belongs to us. Permit me to specially appreciate my darling wife Gifty Kolekang, my children, siblings and nephews; your support got me this far. I also dedicate this achievement to my late Mom and Dad, Mr. and Mrs Zolko-Ere, from a small village called Ul-Tampoe in the Jirapa Municipality of the Upper West Region.

As we celebrate today, we must also remember the values that legal education has instilled in us. We have learned that the law is not merely a collection of rules and procedures. It is a powerful instrument for promoting justice, protecting rights, resolving disputes, and advancing social development. In the words of the late Nelson Mandela: *"Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world."*

As former President Barack Obama once said, "Nobody is going to give you what you have not earned. Nobody cares about how tough your upbringing was. Nobody cares if you suffered some discrimination". The important thing is that we have made it with all the challenges we encountered throughout the journey, and every one of us deserves to be celebrated. Fellow graduands, today is our day, and there is more celebration outside this auditorium.

May God bless UBIDS. May God bless our nation, Ghana.

And may God bless us all.

Thank you.

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.



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Directorate of University Relations
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