



PALM
INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

"Raising Generations of Strategic Leaders"

Palm Institute

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Miss Linda Bortey

VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH

We had fun time times together and there was always something that kept us together. It was deeper than any relationship we had ever encountered. We both liked the color green and a touch of white. We were each other's inspiration and we were never ashamed to admit it. I was advised by many people to quit this "we" relationship but I refused because I knew my life has never been the same after September 2014. We pursued excellence and nothing else and we did that hand in hand because there is an akan saying that "nyansa dierr eni obako four trimu". In our diaries we both highlighted the day we signed up for the New Business challenge, a competition where students are given the opportunity to provide real solutions to real business case studies but unfortunately we could not make through to the final selection process. In spite of moments of like this we always pushed harder till there was else to push further. Today, we have to pack these memories with tears in our eyes but with smiles on our cheeks and take up new journey. The "we" in this amazing story is Palm Institute and every single graduate of 2016.

Today is a day to mark a remarkable and a terrific accomplishment in our lives. This is where we familiarized ourselves through a hands on approach towards education and we could not have come this far without a lot of hard work, dedication, keenness and perseverance. There may had been days we felt like we should just quit Palm Institute and sign up with another institution but we did not and we pushed through with our two year stay at Palm Institute and I must say it has really been a great opportunity we never missed. A school that believes in strengthening the endurance capacity of systems and processes in Ghana and Africa and also focuses and emphasis on excellence. Training outstanding human resource for today and tomorrow's industries as well as entrepreneurs with the relevant skills for lifelong success

On behalf of the 2016-year group, we would like to welcome you all. My name is Linda Bortey and I am very much privileged to stand before you this day to deliver this speech on behalf of my mates. We are honored to have our Board members present for both the Institute and the Foundation as well. I will like to use this moment to also acknowledge the presence distinguished Business leaders, Management of Palm Institute, Illustrious Faculty and Staff, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. To us graduates, let us cast our minds back when we started as freshmen in Palm Institute individually and as a batch and all seemed like just yesterday. I remember when we first sat as a class ready for a lecture and was asked by our lecturer to select amongst ourselves and elect a course rep, and how each one of us showed disapproval because of its work load. Let us also acknowledge the moment where we attended so many seminars organized by this great institution. One of which was so much fun with Miss Carolyn Wilson, the Head of Customer Service Stanbic Bank, who focused her topic of discussion on remaining determined and not giving thoughts of discouragement overrule you.

She advised students not to accept 'No' for an answer. According to her, anything short of this is an indication that one is settling for less. She encouraged us to be emotional about what we do, what we want to do, and to never follow the crowd. There was a moment also spent with Basko Kante, Manager of EAI Information Systems, Ghana where he reiterated the fact that there was specific time for everything and students should offer their services in any way to gain further experience. He also encouraged students to follow and work on their dreams. Let also acknowledge the moment spent with Lysanne Denneboom, GNBCC Managing Director who spoke about the importance of not doing a job that you do not enjoy. She also expressed the importance of identifying your interests and then exploring the options by engaging in activities to help you meet your career goals. She advised students to get in touch with private sector companies they are interested in working with.

There was also a time in class when a lecturer made reference to how some people post a picture of their boyfriends and girlfriends on Facebook and then write something on top of the picture like "My boo or My baby", and then the lecturer goes like a new generation where babies now develop teeth. Our class of 2016 is the first graduating class of Palm Institute and that we call an achievement. Another memorable day was where, a class was scheduled and some of us had to board cars and rush to attend only to be told that the class has been postponed. But it was all good. Funny how time flies very fast. I must say every one of us here has experienced a challenging moment of our lives. There were times where some of us were just a minute late for class after battling a huge traffic and finally been told to walk out of the class because you are late. This moment of our lives taught us to always respect our time, just to mention a few, but it was all good.

Mr. President, Vice President, Management of Palm Institute, Board Members, Distinguished Faculty, Family, Distinguished Guests, Corporate Bodies, Fellow Graduants and students, indeed we are very much privileged for your time and your presence here this day to celebrate us, we want to say "akp3". To us Graduates, we are all destined for greatness and each and every one of

us has the potential to change the world. We have all grown into professionally equipped intellectuals whose focus is not only to contribute their quota to Ghana but Africa as a whole and also effect a change and positively impact into the lives of others. As we journey through life, let us always bear in mind that to leave a legacy and to achieve greatness doesn't come with acquiring lots of money and success but rather to live a little more happiness and hope in the lives of those you crossed paths with.

Thank you