

**A SPEECH ON STATE OF GMSA DELIVERED BY BR. YUSSIF  
MOHAMMED ABUL HAIRI, UDS GMSA PRESIDENT, AT GMSA  
ANNUAL HANDING OVER CEREMONY AT THE UNIVERSITY FOR  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES-TAMALE CAMPUS, ON MARCH 12, 2016**

With the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especial merciful

Praise be to Allah the exalted who has blessed us, his powerless servants, with the joy and peace of true faith; and may His peace and blessings be upon the Everlasting Pride of the Universe, Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) who has led humanity from darkness to boundless light.

May Allah grant our hearts a lofty fortune from the spiritual abode of the companions of Prophet Muhammad and the revered servants of Allah, who have guided believers to the right path and may He bless our hearts with fruitful winds from the wide horizons of their infinite spirituality.

Mr. Chairman, Special Guest of Honor, Administrators, lecturers, Regional GMSA representatives, sister institutions present, out gone executives, incoming executives, brothers and sisters in Islam, All protocols duly observed.

With the best salutation of peace, of mercy, and of benediction I greet you all- Assalamu alaikum..

Mr. Chairman, as providence dictates, it is exactly **377** days since we took over the management of GMSA (UDS Chapter). As I stand before you today, my mind is filled with reflective rays of that first day I stood before you as the Central President. This gives me joy to address your august selves on this important occasion. I must say I am overly elated to have this opportunity to deliver such a mediating speech as the head of the outgoing administration and at the same time the chief servant of the incoming administration on this memorable day.

Mr. Chairman, it is imperative to note that every administration has its challenges of which ours was not an exception. Our administration had its share of the *Cola acuminata* as follows:

To begin with, **inadequate funds** had been our paramount problem throughout this period. This saw many of our planned projects and programs reduced to mere wishes. Our every attempt to raise funds and secure sponsorship for programs has always been a serious cark. A major contributing factor to this problem was our difficulty in getting members to pay their dues. Executives had to chase members around in their quest to collect dues. This is self-referent in the fact that, by our records, the number of freshers who paid their dues this year is far less compared to last year. At the FOE, the number of continuing students who paid their dues was also far less compared to the previous year. Even though, Dungu Campus recorded improvement in terms of the number of continuing students, the case is different at TTH which also recorded a very low payment of dues.

Mr. Chairman, another serious challenge that begrimed our administration was **Time Issues**. Most of our programs were not always timely effectuated, and I believe we have learnt from it. This particular challenge is imputable to many reasons including transportation demands to convey students to the venues of our programs.

Furthermore Mr. Chairman the growing levels of **apathy towards GMSA programs** had been a balk in executing most of our programs, especially when it comes to our General meetings. This is partially blamable on ineffective publicity in almost all the programs we organized. The publicity was reduced to social media instead of making announcements on various classes, and we hope the incoming PRO will work on that.

Another major problem this administration faced was the ‘unfortunate attempt by a faction of this association to break away in order to form their own association. This has trembled the foundations of our long-enjoyed-unity and togetherness. Sadly, their reasons given were more skewed towards sectional interests instead of the interest of the general Ummah.

Let me remind myself and everyone that GMSA stands for all Muslims on campus, and therefore its activities must benefit all members and not a particular sect.

Mr. Chairman, despite the challenges, we were able to achieve the following with the mercy of Allah;

We were able to continue with the weekends “Madrasah”, “Ta’aleem and Jalasah”. The Madrasah is of two phases, the first is for students of UDS Tamale Campus and the second for children in the vicinity of the Dungu campus (DAARUL HUDAA). About 99 students had enrolled in the Madrasah on Dungu campus by the end of last academic year and a total of 28 students at FOE. Madrasah for the Community children is organized on Saturdays and Sundays at the GMSA mosque from 8am to 12 noon. The classes are handled by teachers employed by GMSA on a monthly allowance. When we took over we increased their allowance from GHc30 to GHc50 every month to serve as motivation to them and also considering the distance that some of them do come from. This Madrasah comprises of 3 classes; P1 to P3, with each class assigned to a teacher for consistency in the teaching and learning process. As I speak, a total of 234 children have been enrolled comprising 159 students in P1, 46 students in P2 and 29 students in P3. Mr. Chairman we still need support to expand the Madrasah. They are in need of Chairs for the students, Marker boards, Markers among others. I also suggest that we make efforts to visit them from time to time. I encourage all members to take the Madrasah as well as Ta’aleem and Jalasah seriously because its aim is for us to learn the sciences of the Qur’an including Islamic jurisprudence, kinds of worship, and daily life activities among other interesting topics.

Jumu’ah prayers is also organized and observed at the faculty of Education and Dungu campuses. The session starts at 12:30pm with a sermon by imams valuable to the Ummah. Every year GMSA transports members to town to observe Eidul Fitr, Alhamdulillah, this administration has now started and observed Eidul Fitr on campus last year Led by Central Imam, Huzaifa Bawa. We were also able to observe Eidul Adha on campus with support from various organizations in kind. In all six cows were donated

(ESRA 1, African Muslim Agency 1 and 4 from Fatih College). The beneficiaries of these donations were none other than the students themselves, some of our lecturers and score of members from the University Community.

We also made visitation to many SHS in and around Tamale to discuss with them Islamic issues. Aside religious education, the Da'awah committee discussed with them, issues pertaining to academics during those visitations. We also invited scholars like Alhaji Shamsudeen Taimako, Shk Abdul Samee Issah, Shk Mohammed Fawzy among others to talk on key topics pertaining to our lives as Muslim students on campus and beyond. We also organized camping program in collaboration with Care and Social Dev. Organization last year which brings together all the sister campuses members of UDS and it was hosted by our partner organization Care.

Mr. Chairman, last year, as part of our effort to building a continuous linkage with our alumni, we organized what was dubbed a farewell function for our final year students in the month of Ramadan with support from Care and Social Development Organization. And that, I must say was one of the successful and pretty interactive engagement with our final year colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, as part of our social responsibilities to the people of the North and Ghana as a whole, the Public Health Education Committee (PHEC) organizes an educative program on health and other related issues of national interest which comes on air every weekend Saturday between the hours of 8pm to 9pm on Radio Justice. The program is run both in English and Dagbani, in alternation, weekly. This has in fact, helped to educate the citizens of Tamale and its surroundings on key health conditions and how to manage them. However, our major challenge here is getting sponsors to support the program. The committee was also able to organize her first ever mini-clinic within the Dungu community on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> November, 2015 to screen people on Hepatitis B and also to provide counseling to them at a zero cost. About **99** people were screened for Hepatitis B, **One** person was recorded **Reactive**, **87** people were

recorded **Non-Reactive** and **11** people could not go through the process of due to shortage of resources, although their **Sex, Age, BMI** and **Bp** were taken. In fact, this was the first mini-clinic ever organized by GMSA and both the community and the student body are eagerly hoping to witness more of such program.

Mr. Chairman, we also organized special orientation program for all first year students at Dungu campus sponsored by Care and Social Development Organization. Also orientation was organized for PBL 0, PBL 1 by our brothers from the clinical school on PBL system. We also organized a 2 day Welcoming of fresher's program for both fresher's and continuing students comprising of Games, a lecture and a successful Islamic Quiz competition. We also played games with Pax-Romana of which GMSA won by 5 goals to nil, to which they vowed a bitter revenge, but the mighty GMSA maintained victory by holding them to a goalless draw in the second game.

Mr. Chairman we have also provided GMSA branded T-shirts and customized Exercise books to our members.

We also had two successful general meetings last year at both FOE and Dungu campus to discuss about the problems facing Muslim students on campus and the way forward, these occasions were also used to update our members on the current projects that we are working on. As our culture, all committees successfully and satisfactorily presented their reports to the house.

Mr. Chairman, We also attended National GMSA CC meeting held last year at UDS-WA campus and paid our dues to the National Secretariat. We again attended National GMSA congress held at Islamic University College at Accra, we had CC meetings and finally elected our National officers who took over from the Andani Administration and will hold the office for 2 years. Again Mr. Chairman, we participated in almost all the activities of the Northern Regional GMSA including their CC meeting that was held at Anbariyya Islamic Senior High School.

Mr. Chairman, 9 Ghanaian delegation were chosen last year, in October, 2015 to represent Ghana in a one month leadership training program held at Istanbul, Turkey. The organizers recognized the good works and commitment of our chapter and hence offered us a slot to participate in this training. I had the opportunity to represent UDS GMSA in that program. During this program, we had the opportunity to travel to Europe and back to Asia every weekend, I must confess that we did learn a lot and we have now started implementing that which was learned.

Mr. Chairman, the 2015/2016 administration had the opportunity to host the Central seat last year, so we were mandated to organized congress for the four campuses. We formed two ad hoc committees, The Constitutional Review committee (CRC) chaired by our former Chief Imam, Imam Anwar Sadat, their mandate was to review the UDS GMSA constitution and make suggestions and recommendations for possible approval. As the central seat, we tasked the three sister campuses to also form sub-committee under our CRC and work hand-in-hand with our campus to produce a unitary report. The other committee was the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Chaired by Brother Abdallah Osmaan Gumza, former President of GMSA UDS Tamale Campus and their mandate was to plan and draw the activities of the 3 day program and also to write a proposed budget as well as secure accommodations for the success of the program.

Mr. Chairman, the congress was held from 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> of February, 2016 on a theme “Islam in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; the role of Muslim youth in combating extremism for political stability”. The sister campuses arrived on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and we gave them accommodation to relax for the programs to start for the next day. On 5<sup>th</sup> February, Friday, We launched the program in the morning from 9am to 10am after which we mixed the three campuses to visit some institutions and made some donations to them. The institutions visited were the Tamale West Hospital, the Ghana Prisons Service-Tamale, Tamale Childrens Home at Nyohini. They later returned and we observed our Jumuah prayers at the Dungu Campus led by the Central Chief Imam, Imam Huzaiifa. It was very successful. After Asr prayers we all converged at the SOS school to have our sporting activities, the campus that emerge the overall winner was the Navrongo campus and we gave a

trophy, and this is the first time that UDS GMSA is hosting a congress and given a trophy. Later in the night, we had the NPP running mate in the person of Alhaji Dr. Mahamud Bawumia who humbly graced the occasion and delivered a speech on the congress' theme "Islam in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; the role of Muslim youth in combating extremism for political stability". After his marvelous presentation, he pledged to give GMSA an amount of Gh¢10,000 and am happy to inform you that the said amount has been paid into GMSA Mosque Project Account on the 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. May Allah bless his effort and reward him abundantly. I must say that the current Minister of Agric, Alhaji Limuna Muniru Mohammed also gave us GH¢1000 to organize the program. On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February, we had our symposium at Dr. Andani Andani Auditorium which was adorned with maximum attendance to an extent that even outside the premises was flooded by members who could not get chance to enter again. The program was chaired by our most cherished and loving PRO-VC, Prof. Seidu Al Hassan and the Special Guest of Honor was the Former Northern Regional Minister who was represented by the Sagnarigu District Chief Executive, Mr. Sorgu doo and those who grace the occasion include our Finance Officer, Assistant Registrars, Vice Dean of Students, our Counselor, Navrongo GMSA Patron, the former Northern Regional minister Alhaji Gilbert Iddi and some of our lecturers among others. After Asr prayers, many of our members in the four campuses were screened on hepatitis B and counseling sessions were also provided. In the night, we had Islamic Quiz competition and Tamale Campus emerged the winner.

The CC meeting started at 8:40pm, and the final resolutions were as follows:

- Each campus was tasked to get a database that will contain the details of all our members on each campus; afterwards we bring all together to ascertain the total number of Muslim students in UDS in general. Tamale campus, we are already taking the lead and we will do it in shaa Allah.
- We also discussed on getting a unique cloth for all our members in all the four campuses, the resolution was that, we should find out

the production cost from the Textile industries first, before we decide on the next step.

- There was also discussion on formation of GMSA Alumni, some campuses like Tamale, Wa and Nyankpala campuses seemed like they already have but is not functioning. So the resolution was that, each campus should strengthen its Alumni first, so that if all the campuses are functioning effectively, then we can merge to have a strong and big Alumni Association, and am happy to inform you that, we have already taken the lead and we are working on it.
- We also discuss the problems facing GMSA and the way forward.
- Finally we assessed the impact of UDS GMSA Congress since its inception as to whether we should continue or discontinue it, the resolution was that, congress should be continued and that it is having positive impact on members.
- However, we could not adopt the constitution simply because other sister campuses failed to perform the task given them and that affected us gravely.
- Finally, the CC meeting was brought to a close at around 3:55am the next day and was adjourned sine dine.

The next day 7<sup>th</sup> February, we had a closing ceremony and all campuses departed to their various campuses.

Mr. Chairman, although there were some challenges but this year's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual UDS GMSA congress was adjudged the "best Congress" ever organized in the history of GMSA in general. It was published in the Daily Graphic, Daily Guide, the Guardian, covered by TV3 and played on radio stations news sessions including Justice FM, Fiila FM and Diamond FM. Our cherished PRO VC, in his words of encouragement acknowledged that this administration has set a record and that we should keep it up. He disclosed to us further that our program was discussed at the University management meeting and the VC could not burry his elations when we paid them a thank you visit for their fatherly support. In fact, we were highly congratulated.

Mr. Chairman, when we were sworn into this office on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2015, we studied documents with regards to our mosque project, the University gave us a land for over 5 years now but we are still praying in a temporary mosque waiting for Arabs to come and construct mosque for us. We said we are going to take it up and start working on it ourselves instead of relying on external support. We realized that “you don’t have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great”. We opened an account for that, and we decided that after Jumuah prayers on every Friday, 70% of any amount that we get as FiisabillilLah should be sent to the accounts and the remaining 30% should remain with mosque management that will be used to cater for some activities in the mosque. We also raised funds by visiting individuals and some mosques to do appeal for funds. The account was opened on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 and as I speak to you Mr. Chairman, today is 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016, we have a total amount of Gh¢21,788.70 in the mosque project account in less than a year. I think if we were to start this initiative 4 years ago, we wouldn’t have been here, but we thank Allah that it has started.

Mr. Chairman, efforts are being made to extend water to our mosque site to enable us use it to perform ablution and also to commence our mosque project very soon. Payments are being made and now we are waiting for the Ghana Water Company (GWC) to come with the materials to start the work. We are also making efforts to liaise with the GWC to ensure that there is constant water flow on campus to help all students not only Muslim students including the community members to get access to potable water to save lives and also to make life easier for all.

Mr Chairman, the incoming executives are being taken through transition to provide them with all the necessary information and assistance to enable them have a smooth take off.

Mr. Chairman, this administration is successful in that we have a lot of our brothers and sisters marrying, notably among them include Imam Dawuud, Alhassan Iddriss, our 2 deputy wocoms and several others. May Allah bless their marriages and bless them with good families. Now the question I ask is who is next??

Mr. Chairman, the amount of money that the 2015/16 administration is handing over to the 2016/17 administration is Gh¢4,128 that becomes the balance b/d for 2016/17 administration and Mosque Project GH¢21,788.70.

Mr. Chairman, we couldn't have done any of these without, first, the guidance of Allah, and then the support and assistance of our Patrons, our lecturers, Administrators, Benevolent individuals and Organizations (ESRA, Care and Social Development Organization, African Muslim Agency, Fatih College, Regional GMSA, National GMSA, various associations on campus, security men, drivers, everyone I say JazaakumulLaahu kahiran. To our out gone officials; I loud you all for the wonderful job done. We cannot help but say we are grateful and we are proud of you. And to our central members, in fact I must say that we are highly indebted to you all for your effort, support and the love that you have shown your own Association GMSA, especially, during the time of the congress, at a point in time, it was like the whole program was going to fail but with prayers and your support everything was successful. The CRC and LOC did what the Napoleon couldn't do, because of that; GMSA is going to surprise you with certificates in recognition of your hard work and dedication to the task given you. Not only that, I want to say that GMSA is taken the necessary steps to start awarding and giving citations to groups and individual members including various committee members who have contributed significantly to the success and growth of the Association. This will extend to lecturers and Administrators as well.

Finally, as human as we are and fallible beings, we might have in one way or the other transgressed against any of you, I stand on behalf of the outgoing executives to ask for forgiveness for the sake of Allah. And I believe, forgiveness is also Godliness, for, if Allah decides not to forgive us, undoubtedly, the Heavens will remain empty.

Let me extend a warm appreciation to 'the members of the decision making body' for the confidence that they have reposed in me and my incoming executives. Undoubtedly, we are not of any best status in

wisdom, knowledge or in righteousness, but I believe that there is a crystal vision that fuelled their confidence to arrive at this decision.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my incoming executives, I would say that, we have accepted the challenge and will work to see the success of GMSA. It is said that, “he whom much is given, much is expected”. I recalled vividly that, last year I stood here and said that, GMSA under my tutelage will work strategically to outline a 10 year development plan. Alhamdulillah, it started last year, and our first year we were able to raise a reasonable amount to start our mosque project. This year our main priority and focus will be on commencing the mosque project and we will provide the paperwork of the 10 year development plan, to serve as a guide for us and the administrations yet to come, so that decade-by-decade, our noble Association can look back and see a clear difference between where we are and where we were. Aside, the mosque project, we have plans to get a website for GMSA UDS Tamale Campus, a camera and recorders so that we will have detail records of all the activities of the association which we can even publish on our website that we are trying to design. In shaa Allah lets pray hard and hope the best for the Association.

Mr. Chairman, very soon Ghana will be going for elections, and we urge all our members to desist from acts that will land them in serious troubles during those times and also avoid politicians who will use them to their advantage and end up citing them into violence. I also want to appeal to our members, especially those who post political messages on GMSA social media platforms including whatsapp, to desist from that. This is against GMSA Constitution, Article 2 section 4, which states that “**The association shall always concern itself with the affairs of the University but shall not engage itself in partisan party politics and/or tribal issues**”. I distance GMSA from any post regarding student politics on all our platforms. However, since we are all part of the institution, we encourage you to vote for candidates who will be concerned about your welfare, corrupt free leaders, selfless leaders, leaders who have vision to take the university to the highest level and not those who will squander your accounts and leave debts for you to come and pay. You deserve

better, the University deserves better. So beware of visionless, purposeless and directionless leaders.

Mr. Chairman, I am also appealing to members on the need for us to unite and work together, without unity, we cannot see the GMSA that we want. Let's eschew religious sectionalism, for that weakens our strength. So let's contribute constructively to the growth and development of the Association. For, this is our identity, our bequest, and our pride. I also call on members; please let's try to always pay our dues because without it, we cannot run the association and do what you want for you. Whiles you do that, also try to participate in every activity of GMSA.

Mr. Chairman, I want to chapter my speech by once again, thanking our out gone officials for their excellent job done, and I pray that may your effort be weightier in the scale. Even though you have handed over, we still need your rainy hands. We hope to still count on you for guidance and ideas. I thank everyone present here directly or otherwise for contributing to the success of today's memorable transition of our beloved association.

Mr. Chairman, I must say that, we are not where we want to be and neither where we use to be, we are in the middle but moving. May we keep moving and may we keep going. Long live Islam, Long live UDS, long live Tamale and long live GMSA. May Allah bless GMSA.

Thank you.