Greetings and thanks (1 minute )

To tell you that I confidently know what I am doing up here would be one of the biggest lies I have ever told in my life, not that I practice lying…… So of course like what many of us graduates sitting here did for the past 4 or plus years I went on Google and quickly slipped over to Youtube to see how this Valedictorian Speech thing works. So please don’t mind me as I am still learning up here.

It was Mark Twane, a famous American writer, who said “It usually takes me more than 3 weeks to prepare a good impromptu speech”, however, like many of us University students I was able to prepare for it in one night…… So I promise you my speech will be short and to the point.

Over the years while at CMU we as students have seen, experienced and learned a lot, as a matter of fact that is what University is all about. The ups and down the brake ups and make ups, referring to grades that is……..to the countless opportunities to experience and interact with people from various walks of life. **The late Jim Rohn, a renowned life coach once said, Its not what you get that matters but who you become that is important.** Hence for the rest of this speech I would like to share 3 brief lessons that I have taken away from my time here at CMU.

Number 1, **ALWAYS HAVE A VISION**. Over the years we have seen how the now University has evolved from small una/c’ed classroom spaces to big buildings that vibrate if you step too hard coming up the stairs. From small workshops to having the largest Festo Authorized Training Centers in the world. It’s easy in life to look on where you are now and become overwhelmed with where you want to be…. but fellow graduates and hears of my voice let us never cage the dreams and visions that the Creator has placed in our hearts to live out.

Number 2, **NO MAN IS AN ISLAND.** From first to forth year, each year there is always that one teacher whose class feels like hell. Those two question test where your blessed and highly favoured if you can even get a half mark for the first question much less the second one. Those assignments, that…. if it wasn’t for an entire class effort we wouldn’t have been able to be here today. There has been many sleepless nights staying up with friends working on assignments and practicing for those challenging math exams. All these experiences have taught me the meaning and value of the African proverbs that says “***If you want****to****go fast****,****go alone****.****If you want****to****go****far,****go****together*”. As we leave here there is a world out there that needs some changing and it is our duty to give a help hand in making our world a better place.

Finally, **NEVER GIVE UP, BE LIKE OUR DEAN’S OF DISCIPLINE.** One of the most hectic things at CMU is being wade and wanting in the balance with one of our deans….. Either you see them first thing in the morning when you step through that gate or searched for as though you were on a most wanted list, no matter what you will be found. Simply put chase your dreams aggressively. No matter your previous mistakes, no matter who you are now or even who you have been never think that something is too great or out of your capacity to accomplish, own up to your failures, learn from your mistakes and celebrate your success. In closing I end with this quote from world renoun motivational speaker Les Brown, It simply says……

If you want a thing bad enough to go out  
and fight for it,  
to work day and night for it,  
to give up your time, your peace and your sleep for it…  
if all that you dream and scheme is about it,  
and life seems useless and worthless without it…  
if you gladly sweat for it and fret for it and plan for it  
and lose all your terror of the opposition for it…  
if you simply go after that thing you want  
with all of your capacity, strength and sagacity,  
faith, hope and confidence and stern pertinacity…  
if neither cold, poverty, famine, nor gout,  
sickness nor pain, of body and brain,  
can keep you away from the thing that you want…  
if dogged and grim you beseech and beset it,  
with the help of God, you will get it!”

Be great graduating class of 2019, thank you