

**THE SPEECH OF HER LADYSHIP MRS GEORGINA WOODE, The Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana, at the Sod Cutting Ceremony held at Dzorwulu on the 25-11-10.**

Honourable Chairperson, the Clergy, distinguished Members of the Executive Council, all highly esteemed **GHAFES** Associates herein gathered, all partners and stakeholders, all protocol duly observed, I feel highly honoured to be invited as a special guest of honour for such a great milestone in the history of this ministry.

As a nation our core values are very critical to development as a whole. The challenges of child abuse, armed robbery, lies, deep seated bribery and corruption, politics of insults can only be curbed by sound moral upbringing. There is no doubt that our faith plays a role in this direction. Many of us citizens over the years did benefit and continue to do so from the training we received from the institutions spear headed by missionaries. It has made it easier for us to develop character wise and to acquire knowledge for our day to day lives.

In the area of corruption for instance, **GHAFES** agrees with the World Federation of Engineering Organizations' Anti-Corruption Standing Committee which identifies corruption in the infrastructure sector as damaging. It explains that

- a) It damages countries, resulting in inadequate infrastructure, and in projects which may be unnecessary, defective, dangerous and/or over-priced. This damages sustainable development, and can lead to economic damage, poverty, injury and death.
- b) It damages organizations working in the sector, resulting in reduced project opportunities, tendering uncertainty, wasted tender expenses, increased project costs, economic damage, extortion, and reputational damage.
- c) It damages individuals, resulting in personal harm and extortion. It concludes that all parties involved in the infrastructure sector share responsibility for preventing corruption. It adds that corruption can only be prevented if governments, funders, project owners, the companies

providing the work, equipment, materials and services, and professional institutions take effective and co-ordinated action. In addition, the individuals working in the sector can play a crucial role. There is no single or simple method by which to prevent corruption. Comprehensive anti-corruption measures need to be adopted by both the public and private sectors as an integral part of corporate and project management, in much the same way as safety and quality measures have been adopted.

As a proud Associate I am aware and reliably informed that the story of this Ministry-**GHAFFES** is tied up with the Independence of Ghana. With the indigenes of Ghana ready to rule their country, it was expedient to prepare them as women and men of integrity and competence to foster unity and propel our country's development; thus the establishment of this ministry which broke down denominational walls to establish a vibrant gospel witness in tertiary institutions. The cream of the nation's youth is found mainly in the tertiary institutions. They are strategic centres for leadership development. Graduates go on to hold positions of influence as leaders and shapers of Society. Among them are Christians who have been nurtured by GHAFFES. No wonder a former President of the UN General Assembly, Charles Malik, once said: '**Change the University and you change the World**'. We want our graduates to be true believers and to bring the presence of Jesus Christ into their professions, churches, family life and Society.

So Charles Malik again said '**The Church can render no greater service to itself or to the cause of the gospel than to try to recapture the Universities for Christ**'

This Ministry has been impacting the critical few who become policy makers strategically for 44 long years. They have been preparing and helping change paradigms of young people to bring change in Ghana and beyond. GHAFFES as a ministry has significantly impacted the Christian Churches in Ghana and many others bear faithful witness to Christ as Salt and Light in Education, Industry, Science and Agriculture, Commerce and in the Health Delivery systems.

We (I am a part) have been training and raising people of integrity and competence for the Church and Marketplace as a whole. We are conscious of the President's desire to see not only economic progress and development in

Ghana but also, a people of sound moral spiritual values and high integrity. He has talked about a nation of disciplined people who care for one another. I acknowledge that products of **GHAFES** have played and continue to play key roles in the Nation. I urge **GHAFES** and her products and the Churches to rise up in greater partnership and support of His Excellency President Mills and his team so we can all achieve better economic progress, better standard of living, better discipline and integrity in our country as he reiterated when he met Heads of Churches recently on indiscipline which is on the ascendency in the country.

GHAFES Associates are making impact in the Civil service, public service and private sector everywhere.

I commend the invaluable service of **GHAFES**. It started as 3 fellowships and now in 36 different fellowships in the Universities, Polytechnics, and professional institutions in Ghana. This shows how far the Lord has brought this Ministry. Owing to the growing nature of what this is ministry is doing it has become necessary for it to have an office complex. I must say I feel more honoured to assist in cutting a Sod for a project for God's own ministry

**GHAFES** has often thrived on the support of Associates, some of whom are here to witness this event and I must say this is being made possible by this same Associates. I am confident that the Lord who graciously gave up His son so we would all live and die would also provide all resources needed for this project to be completed.

It is my prayer that this building would facilitate the operations of the national office to help in changing our students who are the cream of our society.

**I am happy to be part. I am here to cut the sod for the commencement of the Office Complex.**

***God bless GHAFES, God bless Ghana.***