



Follow your dreams, no matter how wild, exercise courage, and you will break barriers.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor presiding over the 7th Commencement Ceremony and my pleasure to welcome the 2023 graduands, parents, guardians, and partners.

I recognize and appreciate our faculty members' efforts and commitment to working with our graduands to earn much success under your guidance. You truly are outstanding!

I would like to acknowledge the British Council for supporting Riara University in setting up systems for training student entrepreneurs, building the capacity to innovate, and creating unique learning opportunities in this institution. Most relevantly, I salute the Education Collaborative under Ashesi University of Ghana and other members of the Collaborative who have been an intrinsic resource in supporting the transformation of our entrepreneurship curriculum. These fundamental initiatives have undoubtedly equipped all our students with eccentric knowledge and expertise to be the flag bearers in innovation and entrepreneurship. Indeed, this aligns with and embodies our motto of Nurturing Innovators.

Most of our graduands joined Riara University at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This period presented numerous challenges, including social isolation, anxiety, and uncertainty that affected learning schedules. You have demonstrated resilience, adaptability, re-setting, recovery, and self-efficacy despite these challenges. In the face of adversity, you have been like projectiles on catapults; the more external forces pulled you back, the greater the force that launched you into your trajectories. Throughout this whole ordeal, I admire your positivity and relentless efforts to become the best. Therefore, I applaud all graduands for taking great risks to join the university at a very unpredictable time, not knowing whether their dreams had any chance. The fact that you are graduating today is a testament to the power of dreams taking flight. Your time at Riara University has been a meaningful experience, for you have been equipped with technical skills in your respective disciplines and the much-needed 21st-century skills that will give you a competitive edge over other graduands. With higher education, you have been equipped with the high-level skills to become entrepreneurs and to navigate every labor market globally.

As your dreams take flight today, you are **Mavericks!** The name **Mavericks** is given to this year's cohort because it conveys their flawless sense of resilience, innovativeness, and willingness to take risks. Mavericks are visionaries; they challenge the status quo, are daring, and have a remarkably high tolerance for defying odds. As a maverick, the corporate world is increasingly focusing on what graduates *can do* and *who they are* beyond the degree qualification. I am confident that you will be the standard measure wherever you go.

I challenge you, to wield the knowledge and skills gained from Riara University to create solutions in society. You must therefore be cognizant of your *value as a professional* and the *value* that you bring to any organization. I urge you to define success in life because, for many people, success means lots of money and social status. Whatever your goals may be, strive for that which is greater, a better world for all. It is not enough to say that your personal achievements are the ultimate goal because true success in life is more aptly defined by pursuing a greater purpose than yourself. As leaders, you cannot enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought to establish greater purposes. Remember, the **WHY** that inspires you to act is much more important than the **WHAT** when it comes to dreams and aspirations.

Follow your dreams, no matter how wild, exercise courage, and you will break barriers. There is no limit to what you can do to impact the world positively and the people around you. It all begins with a dream because dreams give you an aim; they connect your heart to the cause, resulting in the passion needed to launch forward.

As I conclude, I implore you to be good citizens of indispensable moral virtues, ethics, and integrity. Integrity is the ultimate guiding force that allows you to make decisions that align with your values and sense of social responsibility. Commit yourselves to the noble struggle for a better world through the knowledge and skills you have acquired in this institution.

Whatever your aspirations, dare to dream because fortune favors the bold! I wish you every success.

Congratulations!

DR. WILFRED KIBORO
CHANCELLOR

