HIGH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY SPEECH

FOR

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Hello everyone!! It’s such an honor to be here to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Presbyterian Secondary Boys School! So much has happened in the past forty years… to all of us, and the evolution of the principals and purpose of this fine institution shows us all what it means to be sustainable and to be able to adapt with the times. We have always been guided by the school’s motto, “In Lumine Tuo Vibedimus Lumen” which means, “In thy light we shall see light.” As students we were taught this expression, but as adults, we have learned the true definition of what it means to by guided by the light of education, discipline, and character that was so generously shared with us during our time at PRESEC.

Nelson Mandela has said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” The world has changed quite a bit and it is thanks to institutions like PRESEC that our society has advanced. With each day I live I have countless opportunities to appreciate and rely on the educational foundation I was so fortunate to receive from this school. More than a generation has passed since 1975 and throughout that time this school has continuously and consistently has served as a bulwark against ignorance, intolerance and mediocrity. Meaningful achievement and excellence have always been at the core of this school’s operating principles and our collective presence today makes a powerful statement. We are here to support and insure the continuation of the work done at PRESEC well into the future.

PRESEC’s reputation for excellence stems from the people who molded its practices and upheld its principles. There is one person in particular, the late Mr. E.A. Apeadu, who may have been feared by most but was loved by all. As Headmaster, he was a legendary disciplinarian. The interesting point is that no matter how tough he might have been, we cherished his leadership and thrived under his guidance. Some people have said that, “It is character that gets us out of bed in the morning. It’s commitment that moves us to action, and it is discipline that motivates us to follow through.” This simple statement can be applied to any aspect of life and thanks to Mr. Apeadu; those of us that had the privilege to be guided by him now have the mandate to share support his inspiration.

Today is not only about looking back and reminiscing on the fond memories we have for this school. It’s about coming together, strengthening our mutual purpose, and insuring that PRESEC will be a guiding educational force for those who will seek an education in the future. Because the world is moving so fast, we have to make sure our foundations are prepared to withstand the growth this community and country needs. As an expression of our appreciation for all the school has done for us and for the thousands that have followed in our path throughout the years, and as a gesture of respect, acknowledgement and recognition of the late, truly great Mr. Apeadu, we are planning to have a new school gate erected. To me the gate has a great deal of significance and meaning. This school has been a bulwark against ignorance and negativity, and our new gate will be a symbol of strength and protection of the principles held dear by the faculty, staff and students. This gate stands for the common ground shared by all of PRESEC’s students, alumni, faculty and staff and will serve as a guidepost for all of those who will enter it in the future.

In order for the meaning of unity to gain traction, it is our mutual responsibility to continue our financial support of the school and of the completion of this gate. We are all brothers connected by PRESEC and it’s time for us to deepen our bond by giving what we can to reinforce its future. We are no longer schoolboys. We are grown men who are able to share our strengths as we pledge to support the school in coming years. Although we are adults, I know that I, for one, am still in awe of the memory of Mr. Apeadu and I just know he is smiling down on us from Heaven, content that his “tough love” taught us all so much. Here’s to many more anniversary celebrations shared by all of us and may PRESEC continue to be a shining light that leads the way!!! Thank you all!