

“The Script, Storytelling and Improvisation.”

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STADIO GRADUATION CEREMONY

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you so much for the warm welcome. May I begin by saying CONGRATULATIONS to all the wonderful students who are graduating today. Having said that, I must also congratulate all the parents and guardians who have made so many sacrifices to ensure this success story today. I won't fail to also acknowledge my amazing colleagues, the lecturers and admin staff who continue to invest of their time and energy to helping our dear students navigate through this incredible journey.

When I was first informed that I have been nominated to give a keynote address on this noble occasion, I was immediately taken aback and wondered “...*what could I possibly say? Or would be a suitable speech for such a memorable occasion?*”. Then I decided that the easiest thing for me to do is to simply tell us some stories. After all, we all love good stories... and the reason why we love good stories is because, **we are all storytellers** of some sort.

STORYTELLING & THE SCRIPT

Believe it or not, life itself is all about storytelling. When you have had a hectic day and return to the warm embrace of your family, you tell them a story about how your day has been. When you return from the shopping mall, you tell a story about how prices have sky-rocketed through the roof. *And some students here might relate with this one...* When you fail to hand in your assignment on the due date, you tell your lecturer a ‘*well-crafted*’ story about how constant power outage by Eskom has corrupted your file. And, if like me, you love soccer, you could tell a story of how Ronaldo has been the Saviour of Manchester United this season. Simply put, life is all about storytelling and we are all storytellers.

However, among other things, to tell a very good story, you need to first have a premise. A premise is more like an idea or a concept upon which you can build the entire story. After that, you come up with the right screenplay or script. I suspect that some people are already wondering that... *“I thought we came here for a graduation ceremony. What’s all this lecture about storytelling?”* Please bear with me. I will land the plane shortly. So far, I have mentioned *‘A premise. A Concept. An idea as well as a Script’*.

Let’s talk about the *‘premise’*. When you are enrolled to study here at STADIO, you are immediately enlisted into a *‘premise’*. The *‘premise’* in this case, is a concept (*or idea or system*) carefully put in place by STADIO to guide and assist you in actualizing your dream of becoming either a fantastic graphic artist, web designer/developer, digital marketer, prolific animator, so on and so forth. In order to thrive in this *‘premise’*, you as a student would need to write your own **ORIGINAL** *‘script’*. This *‘script’* is a detailed plan of action on how you intend to turn up for classes, practicalize what you are taught in the class; engage with your lecturers and fellow classmates, take part in discussions and academic activities, complete your assignments, formal tests, and exams, etc.

One thing you might have noticed is that while STADIO gives you an enabling environment and access to quality education, you as a student is required to complement that gesture with the highest level of commitment and resolve to achieve your dreams. Simply put. STADIO has put in place the right mechanism and system for a good *‘premise’*, but you (*as a student*) must write your own script to tell a wonderful and compelling story. However, because life is sometimes complex and highly unpredictable, even though you have succeeded in writing a good script, you might need to occasionally modify, update, and edit your script. That means, you should learn and be ever willing to improvise.

IMPROVISATION

Let’s talk about improvisation. This is what you do to translate and actualize the script in a unique way so that you do not end up becoming a carbon copy of someone else. That is why at STADIO, while we encourage our students to scan through existing body of knowledge for ideas and inspiration, we vehemently frown at Plagiarism. We maintain that our students must be ethical. They must be original. Sources of inspiration and information must be properly referenced, and credit given to where they are due.

ROUNDING UP

I look around here today and I see so many storytellers with unique success stories about their memorable time at STADIO. There must have been times when you wept and almost gave up. There must have been times when you questioned the relevance of all the modules and assignments you were forced to take. However, despite all of these questions and challenges, you persevered and succeeded in writing your own *'script'* of success anchored on the will to pursue and achieve your dreams.

I know of a young man who started writing the *'script'* of his life very well. All seemed fine until he made a very costly decision to succumb to challenges. He stopped going to college and his story was that of a drop-out. A failure. A quitter. However, after eight years, he decided to re-write the *'script'* of his life and went back to college. He completed college. Enlisted and completed numerous certifications. Completed his master's and is furthering his studies. Today, his story is not of failure or quitting but of progress and growth. I am that young man who faltered but decided to re-write my *'script'*.

CONCLUSION

It would be a great disservice if I conclude this speech without telling you about a bigger and better *'script writer'* who is able to take your *'faulty script'* and turn it into a great story. When you are at a crossroad and do not know how to improvise or continue, you can turn to your heavenly Father for inspiration, guidance, and direction for the future because He cares and loves you.

I want to wish you well for the future. I hope that as you go into the world of work, that you would build upon this success story that we are witnessing here today and make the world a better place by writing *'great stories'* of success in your work and life in general.

Once again. Congratulations to those graduating today. To friends, family and everyone celebrating these success stories. Thank you and God bless you all.