

STATEMENT (MOHAMED SERRAY JALLOH- STUDENT PRESIDENT)

안녕하세요

The President of Yeungnam University, Professor CHOI Oe-Chool, Our noble Dean of Park Chung Hee School of Policy and Saemaul Professor YI, Our illustrious Heads of Department (Professor Lee Jeongju, Professor Park, and Professor Lee), the PSPS Manager and his hardworking Officers, the Minister of Plenipotentiary from the Sierra Leone Embassy and all other protocols from the various Embassies, to us the Graduands batch of 2021, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. I greet you all.

I start by acknowledging the wonderful opportunity bestowed upon me to serve as 2021 Student Council President. It was a profound experience serving the global student family interests and that of PSPS—YU. I am grateful, privileged, and honored. Let me hastily join all the previous speakers in congratulating us for our gallantry in braving all the odds that have stood our way - reflecting on a few challenges, more so the seemingly unending coronavirus epidemic and its evolving trends, the fatigue of multiple online and late-night classes, the weather conditions for newbies and so forth. I should say that the long sleepless nights have paid off despite the circumstances we experienced. Our courage and perseverance will always lead us to success. I salute us all for our bravery and diligence.

Today is not to be a speech day. But spare me a few moments as the Valedictorian speaker of the batch of 2021 just to say a few words, and I would like to zoom in on the word GRATITUDE. In its literal sense, it means being appreciative and grateful. But the semantics of it can be pragmatic. Pragmatically, gratitude would mean making good with the knowledge Park Chung Hee School of Policy and Saemaul, Yeungnam University has afforded us.

- Gratitude for academic excellence and insightful performance-oriented knowledge shared by our brilliant professors.
- Gratitude in learning and understanding the Korean Language, culture, civilization, and most importantly, the Saemaul Undong (rural development policy and model) serves as the bedrock foundation for Korea's economic transformation and development.
- Gratitude for learning about the political philosophy and transformational leadership of President Park Chung Hee in changing the narrative and development trajectory of Korea from an aid-receiving country to a self-reliant donor-giving economy.
- Gratitude to our sponsors and supporters, including our beloved families and friends.

We should be grateful. Is that really too much to ask for?

I have a few tips for us all:

- Let us be changemakers than change seekers
- Be enterprising and resourceful than being lackadaisical
- Be more innovative than unimaginative
- Be empathetic than selfish
- And Be the Saemaul warriors, we have been trained to equally uphold the Saemaul core values: Diligence, Self-help, and Cooperation, plus the Saemaul global values: Sharing, Service, and Creativity.
- Believe in the "Can Do Spirit."

Wait! Aren't these the values we have been taught throughout our time here? Isn't keeping to them in all we do hereafter a sign of gratitude?

Notwithstanding, on behalf of my 2021 student council members and the global student family, we would like to thank and appreciate ourselves for successfully completing our academic studies. We are grateful for our collective progress in friendship, support, time, courage, love, patience, and tolerance in entertaining our cultural differences and diversity and happily embracing our similarities.

As we celebrate our achievements, we should remember that we are now Saemaul global representatives and should uphold the Saemaul spirit and share the knowledge with our various communities. We also seek thoughtful guidance, prayers, and wishes from PSPS, the global alums, and present students.

I will end by imploring us always to look back. Be an alumnus that will not disappear into thin year after this day. I am sure the doors of PSPS at Yeungnam University are always open to welcome us in different capacities.

Congratulations once again, and thank you.

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