

Have you heard the following expression? 'When exams are over, long sleep'. Oh! But it is very normal that after going through hectic and sometime stressful school term or even preparing for examinations, all one would be looking forward to is to have a good break, long sleep, good relaxation, hanging out with friends on-line or face-to-face, playing games, watching long missed programs and so on just to get occupied till the next school move. Some friends say what is vacation if you cannot enjoy and have fun :). But how about making smart and timely investment moves?

Hello boys and girls, Maame Tawiah here, It's great to come your way again. Today let's look at one important issue that everyone encounters and how people utilizes such opportunity. I call this opportunity 'SPARE TIME INVESTMENT'



## WHAT IS SPARE TIME?

- Is 'free' time we all have at some point in our lives.
- Is freedom to do other things aside the compulsory required such as going to school and so on
- Makes it possible to try personal interests and own desires
- Is the time used to develop skills in other areas of interest, it is profitable if wisely used

## WAYS TO INVEST SPARE TIME

- Voluntary work/Intenship/Paid Service
  - Non-profit organization
  - Child-care opportunities
  - Care and support for the aged
- Apprenticeship and trade assistance
  - Construction, wood work, farm work, sewing, art work and designs, Garage, electrical shops, hair do, factory hand etc.
- Hobby
  - Sports, music, dance, drama etc.
- Actively participate in Family business
- Travel and discover
- Learn new things

## BENEFIT OF INVESTING SPARE TIME

- Kills idleness, bad company and frustrating engagements
- Helps develops skills and career interests
- Opportunity to identify giftings and talents
- Get to learn about work ethics
- Helpful in developing respect and appreciation for different professions
- Teaches reponsibility
- Develops love for community service

### TRUE STORY

*Growing up, as it is with any other child, we always looked forward to vacations (especially the long vacation) and all the "freedom" that came with it. Unfortunately for me, vacation was not always "much freedom". Through my SHS days, I had to help my mom at work through the vacation. To her, it kept me from "bad company"; to me, it was just a worry to prevent me from "enjoying my vacation". Fast forward, June 2017, I am currently offering my national service after my Bachelor of Commerce Course and vacation periods have been some of the best times of my life. Let me explain why. When I completed SHS in 2011, I had not bought a form for a tertiary institution. I, therefore, had to wait for more than a year to get into the University (May 2011 to September 2012). During this time, I worked at an Internet Cafe just opposite my home. It is at this Internet Cafe that I primarily developed my unquenchable love for the Internet, Social Media, and Blogging. It is worth noting that I currently have a blog that talks about technology issues in Ghana and it is doing quite well. During the 9 to 10 months I worked at the Internet Cafe, I self-tutored myself how to design websites, engage an audience, SEO, etc. Well, It was a vacation, and I could have just stayed home or had some fun but putting myself into a useful position helped my community, myself and others. As a matter of fact, when I was ready to prepare for the University of Cape Coast, I could afford a few of the stuff I needed to survive on a University Campus. Back in the University, I only had a real attachment after my third second year. During the long vacation of the first year, I was back at the cafe helping out and learning more (Free Internet, due to my previous relationship with the owner). At the end of the second year, I had developed the will to volunteer and so I volunteered with an NGO on campus, again helping my community and learning some skills like teamwork and communication. A few of my friends during long vacation went on evangelism trips, etc.*

**What has been the Impact of using my time prudently during vacation?** *Today, I am the Vice President of an NGO, a part time blogger, a member of a Summer Camp organizing team and I design websites for money. These might not seem like a lot, but I could never have achieved these sitting at home and watching television all day. Lastly, it is worth noting that I was offered Bachelor of Commerce, Accounting at the University, but today, my passion, which I developed over various vacation periods has had more positive impact on my life than my accounting degree.*