

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY EMERITUS PROF. F.A. KUFUOR, CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL AT THE SPECIAL GOLDEN JUBILEE CONGREGATION HELD ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 10,2002 AT 9.00 A.M.**

Your Excellency, the Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana,  
Hon. Ministers of State,  
Your Excellency, General Abdelsalami Abubakar, former Head of State of Nigeria,  
Nananom,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Chairman and Members of the University Council,  
Chairman and Members of Councils of Sister Universities,  
Members of Convocation of KNUST,  
President and Members of KNUST Alumni Association,  
President of SRC and Junior Members in Statu Pupillari,  
Distinguished Guests,

Sometime last year, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology launched the activities to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment with the theme: KNUST -Its Impact on National Development:

Among the highlights of the activities for the celebration and Congress, were the launching of the Golden Jubilee Commemorative Stamps still on sale at all Ghana Post Offices; the Special Congregation to confer a Doctor of Literature Degree (Honoris Causa) on the Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the Asantehene; a series of Inter-Faculty Lectures organised for the various Faculties/Schools/Institutes and delivered by their respective alumni and then two Inaugural Lectures by Prof. K.A. Andam and Prof. Keshaw Singh to mark their elevation to Full Professorial status.

These lectures were crowned this week with the eloquent delivery of the three- part series of the R.P. Baffour Memorial Lectures by His Excellency. General Abdelsalami Abubakar, the former Nigeria Head of State, who is here to witness this occasion.

In the last few weeks we have witnessed the launching of the Book on the 50 year History of KNUST and the unveiling of the busts and the plaques of the Chairmen of the Councils of the Kumasi College of Technology, and of the Kwame Nkrumah University, the Principals and Vice-Chancellors, Vice Principals/Pro Vice-Chancellors as well as the Registrars (all of them past and present)-men and women whose leadership has nurtured this institution from its humble beginning as the Kumasi College of Technology from October 6, 1951 through the various metamorphoses to its present status as the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi. During these years, the University has undergone a chequered history, most of which have been chronicled in the book written by Dr. Wilhemina

Donkor and Dr. (Mrs.) Fredericka Dadson for this Jubilee and which I would like to recommend for all of you to read and digest. However, in the meantime the Vice-Chancellor will, in his brief address, give you an overview of some of the achievements and the impact the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology has had on the socio-economic transformation of Ghana from its transitional stages at independence, to a semi-industrialised modern state.

Some of these achievements have also been captured into a video documentary by Mr. Charles Owusu.

I have already mentioned the R.P. Baffour lectures excellently delivered by His Excellency General Abdelsalami Abubakar in honour of our first Vice-Chancellor under whom most of what is now the present campus, came into being.

Now that the Alumni have heightened the euphoria of the celebration with a spectacular Alumni Congress and Homecoming embellished with old reminiscences, we have decided to climax the year-long celebrations with this Special Congregation at which we can recognise the special contributions of a representative, cross-section of our leadership, our workers, our alumni, friends and or benefactors, without whom we could not have come this year.

This will be our way of thanking the government and the people of Ghana and all our stakeholders; and it is for this reason that I extend a special welcome to Your Excellency, Alhaji Aliu Mahama, vice-president of the Republic of Ghana who, together with his entourage, has graciously joined us to share in the joy of occasion.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, I think this University has fulfilled its mandate carved for us by our founding fathers to produce scientists and technocrats. In biblical terms, one might even say that we have, indeed, "increased and multiplied". And today we have KNUST graduates in responsible positions in all spheres of national life.

Happily, the Government has, in its wisdom, decided to chart a path for the "Golden Age of Business ". But we all know that good business thrives on scientific research and modern technology the bedrock of efficient production processes, grounded in sound technological accomplishments. This means that as the highest technological University in this country, KNUST stands strategically at the centre-stage of the training of the all important human resources who can help make things happen and turn the Golden Age of Business and Industrialisation around in order to ensure the positive change in the lives of our people.

For this to happen, it behoves all of us represented here- Government and the people, industry, alumni, workers, students, foreign: donors and all friends of the University to continue to support KNUST over the next 50 years. You are our hope for years to come.

Thank you all for coming

**LONG LIVE GHANA!**

**LONG LIVE KNUST!!**

PROF. F. A. KUFUOR  
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. J.S.K. AYIM,  
AT THE SPECIAL GOLDEN JUBILEE CONGREGATION OF  
KNUST, ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2002, AT 9.30 A.M.**

Your Excellency, the Vice- President of the Republic of Ghana,

Your Excellency, General Abdelsalami Abubakar, former Head of State of  
Nigeria,

Hon. Ministers of State

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Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

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Members of Convocation of KNUST,

President and Members of KNUST Alumni Association,

President of SRC and Junior Members in Statu Pupillari,

Heads of Corporate Institutions and Friends of KNUST,

Distinguished Graduands,

On October 6, 1951, a Government Ordinance was passed by the then British Colonial Administration, to establish the Kumasi College of Technology, following the report of an Education Review Committee which recommended the establishment of University institutions in the Gold Coast.

Soon after that, the Otumfuo Sir Osei Agyeman Prempeh II, the then occupant of the Golden Stool, made available to the Government and the people of Ghana seven square miles of land for the purpose of establishing the campus of the Kumasi College of Technology.

And on January 22, 1952, the first batch of teacher training students were transferred from Achimota to form the nucleus of this institution.

From its humble beginnings, the Kumasi College of Technology, under the able guidance of Dr. J.P. Andrews and later, under Dr. W.E. Duncanson, the first two Principals, never looked back even in its pre- fabricated temporary premises, until it attained full university status following the promulgation of Act 80 of the parliament of the Republic of Ghana on August 22, 1961 and the granting of Presidential Assent on November 22, 1962 by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, the First President of the Republic of Ghana.

So Mr. Vice-President, Nananom and countrymen, you can see that right from the beginning, this institution was conceived as national University, established by the people, for the people and the development and the betterment of Ghana. From the history of this University, you can also see that this Congregation. fortunately, coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of this University. We of this University are, therefore,

enamoured by the particular presence of Vice- President Alhaji Aliu Mahama and his Ministers of State who have come to represent the Government and the people of Ghana.

Please allow me, therefore, to associate myself with my Chairman of Council in welcoming you and your entourage to this Congregation.

Mr. Vice-President, Chairman of Council, Otumfuo Dr. Osei Tutu II, the present Asantehene, like his predecessors, Otumfuo Sir Osei Agyeman Prempeh II. and Otumfuo Opoku Ware II, has always been a father to this university by showing exemplary commitment to the progress and development of this university; and it is my distinguished honour in extending a hand of welcome to him also as the landlord of this University.

I would also like to welcome all the rest of you for coming to share with us the joy of this occasion. Mr. Vice-President, Chairman of Council, a jubilee celebration of any organisation affords it an opportunity to take stock-of its achievements so as to determine how far it has come in order to fashion out the way forward. A summary report of our activities during the past 50 years has been made available to some of you already and what I am going to do is just to give you some highlights.

I am happy to report that since the attainment of full University Status, this University, known at various times as the Kumasi College of Technology, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, and now back to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, has trained more than 35,000 graduates in engineering, pharmacy, architecture, planning, building technology, land economy, computer science, medicine, agriculture, mining, natural resources, the pure and applied social sciences.

Statistical details of our output are available in our Basic Statistics, copies of which are also available to you or could be obtained from the ushers.

Mr. Vice-President, Distinguished Guests, I do not intend to bore you with the achievements of this University over the past 50 years since the evidence is known to all or is there for all to see. Let me illustrate this with just two recent episodes.

Episode one says that some JSS students in the Eastern Region who had gathered at a counselling centre to register for their BECE exams recently started a hot discussion as to which programmes they were going to register for, since it was these programmes they would pursue at the Senior Secondary Schools that would land them in the Universities of their choice. Fortunately, what started as a hot debate diffused into a pleasant and an interesting quiz or question time.

"The Volta River Authority and the Electricity Company of Ghana are the main producers and suppliers of electricity in Ghana. About 90% of their engineers were from KNUST, what would have happened to these companies if it were not for KNUST?" asked one of them.

"But where would our telecommunications system have been being it not for the KNUST engineers at Ghana Telecom? Chipped in another?" But did you know that almost all the architects in Ghana trained at KNUST?" "What about all the pharmacists in our hospitals and in industries?"

"But have you forgotten about the miners at Obuasi, Dunkwa, Tarkwa, Prestea, Teberebe, Nsuta, Aboso, etc."

"Hey, Charlie don't forget about the doctors too, ooh?"

"Well, as for the doctors, anyway, some other universities also train some doctors. The difference is that KNUST doctors tend to have a higher retention rate because of their community health orientation, explained another. What about the training of anaesthetists without whom surgery would be difficult in the hospitals? they too are from KNUST. "

"OK, what about land economy, natural resources. game and wildlife and the management of our forests and landed property"

But, who introduced computer science education in Ghanaian universities. was it not KNUST?" asked another.

"OK, let's forget about the academic programmes: what about the Technology Consultancy Centre and the revolutionary transformation of the informal industrial sector at Suame Magazine and the woodworking factories at Anloga. Kumasi. not forgetting beekeeping, mushroom and snail farming. agro-forestry minimum tillage, palm kernel crackers, sheabutter extractors. etc.

"What about the tek block and tek block press that boosted the production of landcrete blocks for low-cost houses in Ghana. Have you forgotten the Kumasi ventilated pit latrines (KVIP) designed by the Civil Engineering Department and propagated by the Bureau of Integrated Rural Development?"

And what about the revolution in herbal medicine and the discovery of the anti-hypertensive and anti-microbial, anti-pyretic and the anti-malarial properties of Nibima, a Ghanaian shrub?"

When the registration officer arrived, he paused and allowed the discussion to go on for another five minutes; but when he saw that the students had more answers to pose, he asked:

"How many would like to go to KNUST in the future?  
Twenty-one out of the 33 students in the group said, "yes"  
Then the teacher posed as the quiz master: 'KNUST, you win'"

Mr. Vice-President, this brings to mind an observation the President made at the conferment of an Honorary Doctor of Literature on His Highness, Otumfuo Dr. Osei Tutu II by this University recently.

When our Chairman of Council mentioned that the President's association with KNUST dated back to his Kumasi City Council days, he was quick to point out that his association with this University dated back to his Prempeh College days when his elder brother, Emeritus Professor F.A Kufuor, now our Council Chairman joined this university in 1954.

Indeed, the President reminded us of the fascination and the inspiration that he drew from this University at the time and observed, if I remember rightly, that he would probably have come for his university education at KNUST if he had not received an offer from Oxford.

This, Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, speaks volumes of the inspiration which KNUST gives to the future leaders of this country, and also the demands which the expectations and the aspirations of the young people place on KNUST.

Unfortunately, KNUST does not have the large lecture halls or the large laboratories, workshops and studios to accommodate large intake of students annually. Indeed, at the last matriculation ceremony, I hinted that, although aggregate 24 was generally the qualifying grade for entry into Ghanaian universities, we should not be surprised if, pretty soon, we are compelled to peg our cut-off point at aggregate 18 for lack of financial, material and physical resources to cope with the training of the scientists and the technologists who this country needs urgently for its accelerated growth and development.

The second episode was reported from the Suame magazine a few days after the President's Sessional Address to Parliament. A mechanic who had gone to collect some mechanical gears made for him at TCC's Intermediate Technology Transfer Unit (IITU) could not help but break up in admiration with the words "Nokware, Tekfoo dee mo ye adee" (meaning "truly, you people from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology are really good")

Indeed, it is such comments which have encouraged KNUST to the heights of academic and technological excellence. And indeed, it is such 50 years of excellence which we have gathered to celebrate here today.

We at KNUST acknowledge that we could not have traversed these 50 years of success without the support of the entire people of Ghana and their Governments (past and present).

We could not also have achieved much success without the exemplary performances of our alumni or teknocrats who have

become living testimonies of the quality of KNUST's training at their various places of work both at home and abroad.

And finally, we could not have succeeded this without the human, financial and the material resources which have been provided by our own workers, industry, the diplomatic missions, local and foreign donors, private individuals and all friends of KNUST.

Your Excellency Mr. Vice-President, Nananom, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Alumni, our gratitude transcends a whole spectrum of people and institutions of goodwill across the globe; but since we cannot do individual honours to each and every one of you, we have decided to sample a representative figure for these honours. It is my hope that each of us gathered here will see ourselves or our images in the recipients of the various categories of awards.

During the regular congregation I indicated that my tenure of office as Vice- Chancellor of this University ends on September 30 this year. On my own behalf and on behalf of my predecessors, I would like to thank all of you, especially, the staff, the University Councils (past and present), the alumni, the present students, our friends and benefactors whose support have ensured the University's growth during the past 50 Golden Years.

Your Excellency, Nananom, Alumni, Distinguished Guests, it is now my pleasure to invite Emeritus Professor F.A. Kufuor, Chairman of the University Council, to confer the Degrees on the deserving personalities. Thank You.

Prof. J.S.K. Ayim  
Vice-Chancellor



**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY ALHAJI ALIU MAHAMA  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA AT THE  
SPECIAL GOLDEN JUBILEE CONGREGATION OF KWAME  
NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
ON SATURDAY AUGUST 10, 2002 AT 9.30 A.M.**

Chairman of the University Council  
Your Excellency General Abdelsalami Abubakar  
Hon. Members of Council of State  
Hon. Ministers of State  
Hon. Members of Parliament  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
Members of the University Council  
Members of Convocation  
Nananom  
President and Fellow Alumni of KNUST  
President and Members of SRC  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deem it a great honour and real source of pleasure to be here to join you in this Special Golden Jubilee Congregation of this great university of which I am very proud to be associated with as an alumnus.

Last year, the Vice-Chancellor Professor J. S.K. Ayim led a delegation to my office to inform me about the decision to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). He mentioned some of the activities planned to mark the Golden Jubilee celebrations, including the mobilisation of the alumni both at home and abroad, the launching of an Alumni Golden Jubilee hostel, the delivery of inter- faculty lectures and the R.P. Baffour Memorial Lectures, an Alumni Homecoming, a national Congress and a Special Golden Jubilee Congregation.

I was privileged to be involved in some of the Jubilee activities, particularly, the launching of the Alumni Jubilee Hostel Project at M-Plaza in Accra and the launching of the KNUST UPENN-HEWLETT P AKARD Digital Village Project. In much the same way, His Excellency, the President Mr. J. A. Kufuor, has had the occasion to participate in the University's Golden Jubilee Celebration when he joined you for the conferment of the Doctor of Literature Degree (Honoris Causa) on Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the Asantehene on December 1,2001.

Those of you who were present at that ceremony would recall that in his speech, President Kufuor recollected how he, as a student of Prempeh college, drew inspiration for university

education from the newly established Kumasi College of Technology in the early 1950s and how he had aspired to enrol in this Great University had he not had an offer at the Oxford University in Britain.

“The President would have therefore loved to share the joys of this historic occasion with us. However, he is currently on international engagements in the interest of mother Ghana. He has therefore asked me to convey to you his good wishes for a successful anniversary celebration.

Mr. Chairman, it was in 1951 that the decision was taken to establish the Kumasi College of Technology for the purpose of providing for studies and training in research, in technology, science and arts. Ten years later the college attained a full University status and at its inauguration, the President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah challenged the young university in these words;

"The whole Nation looks to this University of Science and Technology for inspiration and expects that from here will come the Scientists and Technologists upon whom Ghana and Africa will depend for progress and development"

Anyone who has had the opportunity of observing the establishment and growth of this University would not fail to applaud why almost every engineer, every miner, every architect, every pharmacist, every development planner, every land economist, every surveyor, etc in Ghana has been a product of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

Again, from my own personal experience and interactions with fellow alumni and employers of graduates of this university, even before and after coming into Government, I have come to develop a deep admiration for the quality of the training and the calibre of the graduates produced by this university. The presence of the alumni or teknocrats in Government and all sectors of national economy speak volumes about the contribution of the University to national development. Indeed, the university has emerged with confidence and purpose and the nation can fully rely on it with hope in shaping national development.

On behalf of Government, I salute you all-staff, students and alumni and I congratulate you on your wonderful achievements. These accomplishments notwithstanding, I must urge you to continue to strive to achieve more laurels for the university by intensifying your research in order to find solutions to our national development problems.

This university has a unique opportunity for making a positive contribution to the development of Ghana and Africa by addressing itself to the production. of graduates and directing its attention to investigation and research into the problems of industrialization and agricultural development.

Mr. Chairman, Government is, however, aware of the many challenges and difficulties that hamper the growth and development of this university. These include the deterioration and

inadequate infrastructure, lack of basic laboratory equipment and other teaching aids, insufficient library facilities, brain drain due to unattractive working conditions for lecturers and staff and student enrolment outstripping existing facilities.

Government is committed to the development of human capital and will adopt pragmatic policies for improving tertiary education in Ghana. We will therefore continue to support education at all levels. Government will strive to improve the provision of human, financial and physical resources in our universities and other tertiary institutions. In this regard, government will continue to make regular releases to the Ghana Education Trust Fund for the development of infrastructure in our universities. We will also continue to encourage our development partners and all stakeholders to contribute towards the provision of facilities for our universities. We believe that these interventions will enhance the capacity-of our universities to offer more places to many more people who qualify for tertiary education in Ghana.

However, I must point out that whatever resources the Government would transfer to the universities would go down the drain, unless resources are managed efficiently. I Wish in this regard, to urge the university authorities to adopt prudent measures to ensure efficiency in financial and administrative management.

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, the Students Loan Scheme is facing some difficulties. The amount of loans granted has been the same for all categories of students irrespective of their programmes and socio-economic background. Many graduates have also defaulted in the repayment of their loans. Government is therefore in the process of restructuring the scheme to make it sustainable and responsive to some of the current challenges.

Mr. Chairman, finally, I would like to congratulate all those who have received honours as well as other forms of recognition today for your contribution to the growth and development of this university and the nation. Government recognizes hard work and selfless devotion to duty, and that service to the University or any other national institution or private Organization is indeed service to the nation.

Let me also thank His Excellency, General Abdelsalami Abubakar, the former Nigerian Head of State, who has taken time of this very busy schedule to deliver the Golden Jubilee R.P. Baffour Memorial Lectures and to join us at this Special Congregation. I would like to thank the University Council and the Vice- Chancellor for inviting me to participate in this historic event.

I wish you all a successful and wonderful celebration and hope that the coming years will see this university grow from strength to strength.

Thank you.