

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY EMERITUS PROF. F.A. KUFUOR, CHAIRMAN OF
COUNCIL, AT THE 36TH REGULAR CONGREGATION OF KNUST ON
SATURDAY. MARCH 1, 2003**

Honourable Minister of Defence, Dr. Kwame Addo Kufuor representing
the President of the Republic of Ghana, Mr John Agyekum Kufuor
Members of the Council of State
Hon. Ministers of State
Members of Parliament
Members of the University Council
Chairmen of Councils of Sister Universities
Vice-Chancellor of KNUST
Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Nananom
Members of Convocation
Distinguished Alumni
Distinguished Graduands
Staff and Students
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to first of all, welcome the representative of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Addo Kufuor to this Congregation.

While welcoming the representative of Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, to this Congregation, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Otumfuo for his regular visits to the campus, his participation in our Golden Jubilee activities, and his invaluable pieces of advice whenever we call on him at the Manhyia Palace. I thank him also extending the benefits of the Otumfuo Education Fund to students of KNUST.

Let me also extend my heartfelt welcome and thanks to Mr Osei Kwaku,' Minister of Youth and Sports, his Deputy Mr. Joe Aggrey, Members of the Council of State, Members of the Diplomatic Corps and the Chiefs and People of Ghana, as well as all of you gathered here, for your patronage of KNUST's activities.

Honourable Minister, I would like to report that the Vice-Chancellorship of this University has changed since last year. The three-year eventful tenure of Prof. J.S.K. Ayim ended on September 30, 2002. In his place, Council appointed Prof. Kwesi Andam, a former Head of Department of Civil Engineering and Dean of the School of Engineering, a distinguished alumnus of this University and a past President of the Ghana Institution of Engineers, as the new Vice-Chancellor with effect from October 1, 2002.

I must say that Prof. Andam has commenced his work with a lot of enthusiasm and vigour. New programmes are to be introduced and Council has given approval for the establishment of a Faculty of Law to offer courses leading to the Bachelor of Law Degree beginning in October this year. It is expected that the new Faculty of Law will also give an opportunity to students of other disciplines to take relevant courses in Law in order to equip them to manage legal issues in industry more competently.

Also, a new degree course in Nursing is to be offered by the College of Health Sciences as from October this year to help improve the quality of health care in Ghana. I am sure Professor Andam himself would like to expatiate on some aspects of his vision of broadening the academic base of this University in the Vice-Chancellor's report to this Congregation.

In all these efforts however, KNUST hopes to count on the goodwill of the Government, the Private Sector, the Diplomatic Corps, the donor community and the Chiefs and People of Ghana to support the University's programmes with funding, teaching resources and incentives to motivate both staff and students.

Honourable Minister, I wish to acknowledge the continuing support which KNUST has received from Government and the private sector over the years. We thank the Government for allocating funds for the rehabilitation of our Great Hall and our sewage plant through the Ghana Education Trust Fund. While commending the Government for these modest gains, it is sad to learn, however, that KNUST will receive only 35% of its budgetary requirements for the 2003 fiscal year even though the budget was derived from norms prescribed by the Ministry of Education.

Honourable Minister, I think the time has come for this nation to channel some more funds and resources to strengthen the capacity of the Universities and other educational institutions to enable them to train our human resources efficiently, equip them with skills and empower them to produce wealth and thereby reduce poverty and then move the nation on the road to prosperity.

Let me, at this stage, extend a word of commendation to the staff and students of this University for their fortitude and resilience in sustaining academic life on campus in the face of poor remuneration, dwindling sources of funding and the difficult conditions under which they work and study.

Let me now turn my attention to our graduands who have assembled here this morning. Today marks your graduation and your official exit from this University. After receiving your degrees or academic honours, you will, I trust, ponder a while on the investments which this nation and your parents have made in your education. Accept postings to rural areas and help the communities which nurtured you to benefit from the fruits of your education and training. Help them to overcome their poverty, hunger and disease. This is the only way in which you

can prove your worth to your communities. I wish you God's guidance and blessings and I thank all of you for coming.

EMERITUS PROF. F.A. KUFUOR

Chairman of Council

**ADDRESS BY VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR KWESI ANDAM TO 36TH
CONGREGATION MARCH 1, 2003**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DIGNITARIES

Honourable Minister of Defence Dr. Kwame Addo-Kufuor
representing the President of Ghana, Mr John Agyekum Kufuor
Oheneba Adusei-Poku Akyempemhene representing Otumfuo the
Asantehene
Honourable Ministers of State
Regional Minister for Ashanti Region, Honourable Sampson Kwaku
Boafo
Nananom
Your Excellences of the Diplomatic Corps
Chairman of Council, Emeritus Professor Francis Addo-Kufuor
Members of University Council
Vice-Chancellors
Members of the Clergy
Members of Convocation, Staff and Students
Alumni
Graduands
Members of the Press
Ladies and Gentlemen.

INTRODUCTION

Honourable Minister of Defence, I would like on behalf of all the students, staff and Council of our University to welcome you to our 36th congregation of the University. Today being a regular congregation, we have the opportunity to let you into the realities in great University, which looks from afar as a campus of undulating land with pleasant surroundings, a panorama of beautiful and modern buildings interspersed with verdant lawns and tropical flora.

An Akan proverb literally translates "because of the wool of the he-goat you would not see it sweating". Due to the heavy tropical flora that clothes the University, one might not easily see our sweat and pain. But after uncovering some of our problems to you today, we shall also brighten your spirits up by demonstrating that there is hope for our University and for Ghana.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GRADUATION CEREMONY

Honourable Minister, in the days when Plato taught in Athens, his students simply went to listen to what he had to say and left when they had, in the opinion of the guru, heard enough. There were no formal occasions to matriculate and graduate.

The system of university education in the world today is traced back from medieval Europe in which matriculation and graduation are among the most essential days on the university calendar.

Our University is fifty-one years old and started graduating students from 1962 so that by this year, there should have been 42 ceremonies. The missing six ceremonies tell landmark history, which is not peculiar to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, but to all the five public universities of Ghana; and all emerging universities of the world.

In the case of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, it is significant to note that from 1962-1973, there were exactly 12 years and 12 ceremonies. That is our activities were never interrupted. It is important to observe that the total agenda for developing this University was on course during the first two decades of the history of the University. For most part of this period under reference, funds to run the University were made available sometimes FOUR years in advance by government. This enabled careful planning including the construction of basic infrastructure required at the faculty and residential areas. The major halls of residence - Queen Elizabeth II, Independence, Republic, University, Africa and Unity were all completed by the year 1967. Since then, no hall of residence has been built.

You heard me right saying that in those days, funds to run the University were made available by government years ahead of time. These days, the subvention, not to plan and run the University, because that has long ceased to be the case, but to pay HI PC wages are reluctantly released by the government treasury hours/days before or after the last day of the month. The wages for January 2003 reached us in February 2003. This meant the perpetually stressed principal executives of the University had to borrow money from the bank with good business interest.

MAJOR PROBLEMS

Honourable Minister, let me kindly highlight only three of what at this time constitutes the major hindrance to the success of our University:

Congestion at both faculty and residential levels. As I have already indicated, no government since 1967 has been able to add a hall of residence to the first six halls that were constructed for the University. At the time, Ghana's population was around 3 million. The total student population of the University crossed the 2,000 line (the aggregate design capacity of the university) in the year 1975. The population of Ghana now is 18 million that is six times what it was in the 1960s. Correspondingly, the population of our University is now 13,000 that is, six times the original design capacity. The same congestion applies at the faculty level. I do not have to go into details.

1. Wages are low and unattractive. In situations like this, morale among lecturers and other staff suffers. It is sheer patriotism that has kept staff in place up to this time.
2. Because wages are unattractive and morale low, no young, talented, scholar wants to return to teach in the University anymore. In the history of the University, because

the teacher ought to know his subject and inspire confidence in students, only brilliant graduates were allowed to return to become lecturers. Those lecturers have long retired and many are no longer in the world. The principle of succession has failed. As you may already have heard, the average age of the lecturer is above 50; there are only 12 lecturers below the age of 30 for all the five public Universities of Ghana combined and the student to staff ratios which should generally be above 12 to 1 are as follows:

Art	25: 1
Engineering	26: 1
Faculty of Environmental & Development Studies	30: 1
Social Sciences (should be 18:1)	44: 1
Science	42: 1

RESTRUCTURING THE UNIVERSITY

After attaining fifty years last year, it dawned on us that we as a University have an added responsibility to eradicate poverty and disease in Ghana and to move Ghana to become an emerging economy: We all agree that science and technology is the modern vehicle with which the economy of Ghana can be transformed. Our University is the only University of Science and Technology in Ghana.

We are declaring publicly that in the same way that the University of Ghana's political organs like the Legon Observer helped in no small measure to usher in Ghana's young democracy, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology is leading the way to transform Ghana into a middle level income country. We have set our goal to become the leading technical University on the African continent and be counted among the ten top league universities of the world.

This vision imposes on us enormous responsibilities. Firstly, we have embarked on a major restructuring of the University, to move away from a vastly fragmented, bloated and unfocused University to a compact, visionary, modern University devoid of fat and waste, but composed of vibrant sinews and muscles that can be exercised to impart strength to the nation's economy. This newly restructured University will no longer remain confined and secluded to this campus but will begin to move out to industry. We are in consonance with the University of Wisconsin, one of the famous Land Grant Colleges that "The boundary of the campus is the boundary of the State".

Since January 2003, the various programmes we offer in the University have all begun to transform their curricula by involving cognate industries, which are end-users to give ample inputs into the syllabuses. We are going further to link up industries with the programmes we offer here in a more permanent fashion along the lines of the famous American Land Grant Colleges.

At this juncture, I would like to congratulate the Chief Executive of the Volta River Authority, Dr Charles Wireko-Brobby (alias Tarzan) and his deputy and staff by being the first major multi-national to sign a mutual agreement with the University along the lines of the objectives I have enumerated. VRA is our major benefactor for the year 2002/3. We have agreed with them to:

- i. Facilitate the location of a second bulk supply of electricity to Kumasi on the campus in our aim to obtain 99.9% reliability of supply of electricity to the University.
- ii. Construct a hostel to reduce the congestion
- iii. Create a VRA Chair in Engineering to boost research

In addition, as you would all agree, it is impossible to move into industry without vehicles and VRA has kindly donated a four-wheel drive vehicle to make this possible.

OUR EFFORTS

The core business of the staff of this University is teaching, research and service. We are having to double in fund raising to run the University, and our effort in this is well documented. The reports released at this congregation abound with several donations to the University as a direct effort of staff. In the past year, I would like to mention a few benefactors:

- i. **Faculty of Science**
- ii. Ramapo College, USA: donation of computers; books and accessories worth \$500,000

Donation of scientific equipment for the Lake Bosomtwe Project by the German Government to the tune of Euro 22,487 and another \$24,000

School of Engineering

Volta River Authority donated the following:

- \$50,000 worth of computers
 - One 4-wheel drive vehicle
 - Has begun preparations for the construction of a hostel
- * Environmental Research Institute Inc. has donated \$400,000 of software for the development of Geographical Information Systems
- * Professor Toby Cumberbatch, visiting the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering facilitated the donation of software from Cadence Design System valued at \$5.8million

- iii. Faculty of Environmental and Development Studies
 - Received two 4-wheel drive vehicles from the German Government (GTZ/DAAD)
 - Kwesi and Latrisa DeGraft-Hanson from the University of Georgia presented 20 computers and an amount of ₵ 150,000,000
 - Mr. Dick Owusu-Darko from Birmingham donated 15 computers Ghana Institute of Architects received funds worth ₵200,000,000 for the Department of Architecture.

IV. Faculty of Agriculture

- Alcorn University, USA: \$70,000 for studies in post-harvest technology

v. Institute of Renewable Natural Resources

- British American Tobacco: ₵ 150,000,000 towards chair in Agroforestry

FUND RAISING AND FUNDING OF UNIVERSITIES IN GHANA

Honourable Minister, we are combing all parts of the globe to search for funds to run the University. I give you a glimpse into my own itinerary for the next months:

- Next week I will be in Memphis USA to raise funds for the Faculty of Agriculture
- Two weeks later I intend to present Alliance my case to the Alliance for Global sustainability in Tokyo, Japan to fund our programmes in environment.
- In May, I will be in Houston, USA to agree with our thousands of scattered in North America on how many dollars a month each one of them should give to the University alumni

In all these travels, we are fortunate to receive sponsorship from the organizers, but I still run an occupational hazard for being criticized for travelling. As you/I can see we are committed to seeking funds wherever available to augment the budget we receive from Government.

I will say that but for the colossal assistance we receive from organizations within and outside Ghana, the quality of our work would have given up long. It is still relevant that this question should be asked as a nation: How much should we give to teaching and research in our universities? Most of us are under the erroneous impression that in industrialised countries like America, all the funds for teaching and research in the Universities is from industry. This is just not so. The National Science Foundation, this year gave five billion dollars for research alone in the universities in America. In fact, a typical university provost I

spoke to in the University of Vermont last week said only 20% of research funding for Universities in the USA comes from industry. The remaining 80% comes from the Federal Government and States.

The budget summary of our University for this year 2002/3 is as follows: The total budget assessed is c218 billion or \$34 million dollars. Government of Ghana will give, I hope, c58 billion or \$6.5 million. The University's internally generated funds is c23 billion or \$2.6 million. The funding gap is therefore 60%, which has been widening over the years.

8. SOME MAJOR REFORMS

The University has embarked on some major reforms to make our curricula more relevant to Ghana. In the Faculty of Social Sciences, we used to offer Law together with other subjects. We were criticized for producing half-baked lawyers and in the process giving unnecessary enormous work to the Law School in Accra.

We have now established a Faculty of Law, which will start enrolment in 2003/4. The model we are following has innovative facilities. We intend to build Courts of Law in the Faculty of Law to be manned by the Ministry of Justice so that our products are trained in the same way that our medical doctors are trained in a teaching hospital. With the establishment of a Law School this University would be very close to becoming like one of the big league universities of the industrialized countries fashioned after the ancient medieval universities.

The oldest university was the Law School in Bologna, followed by the University of Paris. Scholars from Paris founded Oxford. Students from Oxford founded Cambridge. John Harvard from Cambridge founded Harvard. All the universities of the English-speaking world derived their tradition from Paris and they handed them over to Africa. In all these universities there were the so-called three learned professions -law, medicine, and theology. We are only left with theology to add, and it will happen sooner than later, to complement USA President Dwight Eisenhower who once said "You can't explain free government in any other terms than religious".

Honourable Minister, these reforms are carefully designed to ensure that we do not sway from principally being a University of Science and Technology. What is at stake here is that in our vision to train skilled scientists and technologists, we do not end up producing hard-skilled, straight jacketed, narrow-minded technical nymphets with no social skills to link. As indeed was the case with some of our pioneer engineers who graduated with all the skills at making difficult calculations to pump water from Kpong to Accra, but failed to realize that water did not flow at Adenta.

We have started a process to revamp sports in the country. The nation has the right to look to our universities for sportsmen and women who can make Ghana proud at international

events. Accordingly, when our students return in ten days' time, they will be given the opportunity to register for elective courses in tennis, badminton and swimming. We intend to extend these sports electives to athletics and other individual sporting events. For the first time, a student in engineering or agriculture will have the opportunity to learn swimming or to play tennis to earn a credit. This way, if our students have to train to run 100m for Ghana, they will not see such a patriotic duty as a waste of time.

Sports has another benefit, as our doctors tell us that regular exercising prevents the body from being afflicted with dreadful diseases. Accordingly, and this is good news to the Ministry of Health (because of the potential to reduce medical bills), a programme in Sports Science is to be introduced shortly in the future College of Health Sciences.

The products of this programme will be invaluable to the Ministry of Sports, our football and sporting clubs et cetera. Ultimately, the university wishes to take the lead in showing Ghanaians the wisdom in regular exercising.

We have also revamped our Centre for Cultural Studies to harness our cultural heritage, as we are located in rich cultural Ashanti. Again when our students return in ten days' time we intend to enrich their choices of electives with the ability to play on the keyboard and our own indigenous instruments.

9. THE WAY FORWARD

The staff of the University are very active at generating funds to run the University. A golden opportunity exists at governmental level for offering advice and consulting services. In Ghana, the general attitude is to ignore local expertise in favour of expatriates. When will this trend change in Ghana?

1. 60% of Ghanaians live in rural areas and 40% live in urban centres. The educational standards in rural secondary schools are so had that only an insignificant number of rural students are reaching our universities. Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and technology, starting from the 2003/4 academic year, will reserve a quota for students from less endowed secondary schools in the rural areas.
2. To arrest further decline and total collapse of the public universities in Ghana, the principle of cost sharing must be adhered to. At present students contribute 5% of the total cost of their university education. If you set aside the HIPC wages of ALL the staff in the University and consider only the basic cost of University Education in Ghana, then what the students pay, the co-called ACADEMIC FACILITY USER FEES that are paid-each year are as follows:

*Humanities	¢318,000
*Science & Technology	¢493,500
* Medicine	¢744,000

These figures constitute only 15% of the total cost of university education, less staff remuneration. The clays of socialism ended in Ghana long ago. We are in the golden age of business; therefore, socialist tendencies must be dismantled. The process of cost sharing in University Education must advance for the sake of salvaging what remains of our universities. These are hard facts and any option for a soft way out will mean further destruction of one of our fine heritage namely: quality university education. Examples are there for us to see in African universities which have been so starved of funding that quality is no more discussed.

10. TO THE GRADUAND

I wish to congratulate each one of you for your brilliant achievement in becoming an alumnus or alumna of this great University. In a few weeks from now we shall be launching a new magazine "TECHNOCRAT" specially designed to inform you and all our alumni about major events happening in our University. We intend to use this magazine also as the medium for utilizing science and technology for Ghana's imminent push to middle level income status.

We invite you to become a faithful alumnus. Help your alma mater to attain a high degree of excellence. When you begin to earn income, contribute generously to our programmes. All the top league universities of the world, the club we aspire to belong to, depend heavily on their alumni. Endow your University.

We pray for you to progress in life. Obtaining a first class degree is in itself an advantage but not a guarantee to a successful life. You have to work at it. We are proud of our illustrious alumnus. His Excellency Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations. You can become like him.

Remember the lecturers here have sacrificed a lot to train you. All of them could have opted to live in Europe or America and earn good salaries. They, rather, for the love of Ghana, chose to live here and earn our RIPC wages. One fact is sure: none of the industrialised countries of the world was built by absentee citizens. This message has become the trademark of my public speeches and I will repeat it: **Nations are built with brains, not with dollar remittance.**

Finally, let love be your hidden secret as you go through life: "Love is patient, love is kind: It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no records of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (St. Paul: 1 Cor. 13:4-7)

God bless you to become a successful, proud son or daughter of this great University.

Thank you.

PROF. KWESIANDAM
VICE-CHANCELLOR, KNUST

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY J.A. KUFUOR, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA, AT THE 36TH REGULAR CONGREGATION OF KNUST
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2003, READ ON HIS BEHALF BY HON DR KWAME
ADDO-KUFUOR MINISTER FOR DEFENCE: ACTING MINISTER OF THE
INTERIOR.**

*Oheneba Adusei-Poku, Akyempemhene, Representative of Asantehene
Hon. Ministers of State,
Hon. Members of Parliament,
Members of the Council of State,
Chairman & Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor o/KNUST,
The Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Nananom
Members of Convocation,
Illustrious Alumni,
Distinguished Graduands,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

It is a source of great honour for me to be asked to address this distinguished assembly today as the representative of H.E. the President. H.E. extends his best wishes to the Chairman, and members of the University Council, Faculty Members, Student body and all friends of this great University gathered for the 36th Regular Congregation. His Excellency regrets that other duties of state have prevent him from being here today. **Now His Excellency's speech:**

I thank the Chairman of the University Council, for the compliments he has paid to my Government and the People of Ghana in appreciation of the support this University has received and our participation in the University's Golden Jubilee Celebrations recently.

Reports reaching me from Vice President Alhaji Aliu Mahama and your numerous alumni in my Government indicate that you had a very successful Golden Jubilee Celebration and I congratulate you once again.

Akyempemhene, Your excellences, Distinguished Invited guests, Graduants and friends of the University, Fifty years in the life of any human being or an institution, such as this University, represent an age of maturity when one needs to pause, take stock and strategize, to position one's self to meet the challenges ahead. The University should therefore not rest complacently on its past achievements and glories but strive to review its mission in order to refine its goals. This is important because of the many daunting challenges that face our country.

The effects of globalisation, the impact of declining commodity prices, the rising cost of imports and the mismanagement of the economy in the past, have destroyed the fabric of our economy to the point where all available talents, skills and expertise must be mobilized to achieve the positive change that will transform this nation onto the path of prosperity. This University like the others has a role to play in these endeavours.

Let me emphasise that Government considers educational institutions, especially the Universities, the repositories of knowledge, ideas and expertise as the tools that can help turn this nation's fortunes round. Government therefore places great importance on higher education and will continue to support KNUST and all other institutions of higher learning, as far as the financial resources of our national economy permit, so that the Universities will be sufficiently resourced to enable them play their rightful roles in the growth and development of our nation.

The Universities therefore stand with the rest of the nation in the critical path along the road to progress, positive change, peace and prosperity. What we expect from our higher educational institutions is that they will lift themselves from their tranquil and somewhat detached environment and put themselves on the path of progress, by making use of available resources to produce maximum impact on the nation's development. The scientific and technological achievements, and innovations in our institutions of high learning, such as KNUST, must help accelerate the rate of development of this country, reduce our dependence on external sources and help lessen the burden on our farmers, workers and other citizens through the production and the use of modern and appropriate tools for their endeavours. The Universities must also utilize the immense human resource available to them to engage in consultancies and other revenue generating activities - to help in their own development and to augment the incomes of the staff of the campuses.

Akyempemhene, Your excellences, Nananom, Ladies and gentlemen, the view of government is that instead of just the mass production of graduates in general disciplines who tend to worsen the graduate unemployment situation, the Universities must be forward-looking in designing market-driven professional courses, which will readily provide the requisite skills to fill the existing jobs market and the needs of industry. That is why I am gratified to hear that you at KNUST have recently introduced market oriented programmes in computer engineering, herbal medicine etc. and are gearing yourselves up for degree programmes in nursing and other disciplines.

Again, as part of our poverty reducing strategies, the Government has launched a number of initiatives, which demand introduction of ventures in agro-based enterprises, ICT, handicraft, textiles etc. Financial assistance is available under the small-scale enterprises projects, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the Export Development Investment Fund (EDIF) and the President's Special Initiatives on cassava, oil palm, textiles, salt etc. Certainly these are not beyond the scope of the graduates of agriculture, agricultural engineering,

biochemistry, food science, chemistry, chemical engineering, pharmacy and even textiles design and other forms of industrial art etc. For instance, I cannot see why graduates in specialized disciplines cannot come together to form cooperative ventures, companies or consortiums. You will require entrepreneurial skills, a good business plan and the right orientation to source funds and run companies efficiently, and more jobs will be created. The Ayensu Starch Company can be used as a model agric-based industrial concern. Graduates in Agriculture, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Industrial Management can look closely at this enterprise and get ideas about how to establish similar companies in future.

Chairman of the University Council, this is the sort of challenge which I would like to pose to your new graduates who are now going out into the world of work. Ask yourself what can I do for myself and on my own?" and then find the way and you will be on the road to prosperity and wealth creation, instead of always waiting for Government or some other institution or individual to provide work for you.

While congratulating the grandaunds for successfully completing their programmes, Your Royal Highness, Chairman of the University Council, Vice- Chancellors, Members of Faculties, Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to urge them to use their education as an avenue of service to their less fortunate relations and compatriots. They should remember the poverty and deprivation which exist in many of our communities. Those of our citizenry who are poor and marginalized need to be assisted to free themselves from poverty so that they can live lives of dignity and hope. I charge you to use the opportunity you have gained not only for self-improvement but also in the service of the people, particularly the disadvantaged. It is only through this that your education would have become meaningful and beneficial. Service in deprived parts of the country should not be seen as punishment but as service to our people.

I wish you all God's blessings and guidance, and may success attend your future endeavours.

Thank You.

HON. DR. KWAME ADDO-KUFUOR
MINISTER OF DEFENCE