

**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF
LAW, KNUST; REV. PROF. DR. E.H. OFORI- AMANKWAH, AT THE
INAUGURATION OF THE FACULTY ON 3RD MARCH, 2004**

I feel highly honoured and privileged to be called upon to welcome this formidable array of personalities coming from near and far, to witness this historic event of the inauguration of the Faculty of Law, in this beautiful garden city, which houses Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), which is rated among the top five (5) Technical Universities around the Globe. I believe your trip to this place, whether by air, by road, or even by foot, has been smooth; and I believe that for those sleeping over, you are comfortably accommodated. We thank and praise the good Lord for our being able to be here today.

Principally, the purpose of our coming together today, is all one, namely; to Christen or outdoor the new Faculty of Law. just as welcoming or doing a naming of a new-born baby. This event, for some people, is on the 8th day of the birth of the child. But I am willing to say that the time frame varies from one community to another.

The Faculty of Law was conceived by the founding fathers of this institution many years back, but no one had the courage, the acumen and direction to propel it forward.

We are blessed and fortunate that today, God has used his own servant, Professor Kwesi Andam, who, surprisingly, is an Engineer, to, cause this to happen. After a series of deliberations with a number of new Law Faculties springing up, we propose that the Council of Legal Education (or General Legal Council) be enlarged to include Deans of all Law Faculties.

We also propose the formation of the Association of Ghana Law Lecturers, an association that should hold annual general conferences at which papers will be presented to advance the frontiers of Legal education.

On my own personal behalf, on behalf of my colleagues of the Faculty Board, our friends and well-wishers within the University and outside, and, more importantly, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and the University Administration, I welcome you to this epoch-making event.

It is my honour and privilege now to hand you over to the Master of Ceremony (MC).

Thank you.

**OPENING OF THE FACULTY OF LAW
KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR KWESI ANDAM
VICE~CHANCELLOR
ON MARCH 3, 2004**

1.0 SALUTATION

His Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene
His Lordship Justice Kingsley Acquah, Chief Justice of the
Republic of Ghana
Pro Vice-Chancellor
Registrar
Dean of Students
Deans of Faculties and Directors of Institutes
President of the Ghana Bar Association
Director of the Ghana Law School
Chaplains
SRC President
Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press
Students of the Learned Profession
Other Students
Ladies and Gentlemen

2.0 SPECIAL WELCOME TO OTUMFUO

The University wishes to extend a very hearty welcome to Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the Asantehene, who has always been very supportive of the programmes of the University. In recent times, Otumfuo has even contributed generously to the building of a hostel for our students which I am glad to report is in progress at present.

The Regional Minister regularly participates in our programmes and we would like to encourage him to continue to support the University.

3.0 SPECIAL WELCOME TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE

The University is also delighted to welcome the Chief Justice, his Lordship Justice Kingsley Acquah for accepting to inaugurate the Faculty of Law today.

The President and Executives of the Ghana Bar Association need a special mention.

4.0 UNIVERSITIES OF OLD

The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology was established 53 years ago to essentially train science and technology students for Ghana and Africa. The training of scientists and technologists requires teaching the students all the science and technology courses our graduates need to be competent within their professions. Since our graduates have to function in society, they need to be taught core liberal arts courses that will enable

them to fit very well into society. This fact was known to the founding fathers of the world's first university.

In the world's oldest university, University of Bologna in Italy, and also at the University of Paris (the world's oldest two universities) founded about thousand years ago, there were three learned professions -*law, medicine and theology*.

It is not very clear when the first university of the United Kingdom was formed, but we know that nearly thousand years ago (precisely 1096), some teaching existed at Oxford. It was not until 1167, when Henry II banned. English Students from attending the University of Paris that the University of Oxford began to develop rapidly.

Scholars from the University of Paris founded the University of Oxford and students from Oxford founded the University of Cambridge in the 13th century. John Harvard from Cambridge then founded America's first University, the University of Harvard.

The chain link of founding and establishing universities continued and spread to other parts of the world. But one key feature of the establishment of the Universities is that the three pillars of knowledge: law, medicine and theology were not compromised.

5.0 STABILITY OF KNOWLEDGE

It appears from God's creation that God's most essential creature (man) was given TWO legs to stand on. From my profession - structural engineering, any structure with two legs such as man is referred to as **STATICALLY DETERMINATE**. That is why man moves about freely and perishes at an appropriate time. Man lives and dies because essentially, he has two legs to stand on. But for a University founded on THREE feet - medicine, law and theology, my structural engineering knowledge quickly identifies that structure as **STATICALLY INDETERMINATE**. That is fixed and permanently established.

Although the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology was established with a good stock of knowledge mainly in science and technology it lacked two other essential legs that founding fathers of universities recognized hundreds of years ago as essential to make it truly established. For a long time, the University functioned on ONE leg only-medicine. According to my profession - structural engineering, this is the case called instability. In fact, some of our graduates who lacked core liberal arts though sophisticated in calculations often created instability in their professions. Our water engineers for instance who were able to dam the volta, create water tanks and reservoir at Kpong then transport the water 60km to Accra suddenly forgot that water did not flow at Adenta. That was instability.

In August 2003, the University introduced Law and Theology (Executive Masters in Ministries). In other words, the University now had all the three legs and is now established as a **FOUR** star University.

6.0 BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FACULTY OF LAW

At my induction address on 6th October 2002, I declared as part of my vision for the University the following: Although essentially a technical university, balanced programmes in liberal arts must emerge to enrich our scientists and technologists so that they will be relevant to society. At present we are severely criticized for this deficiency. To this end, the Faculty of Social Sciences must undergo a modern transformation, allowing a Faculty of Law to emerge and equip our student engineers, architects, scientists, land economists, surveyors, doctors et cetera to cope with modern social challenges. A doctor in USA now worries more about legal services than anything else."

Three days after the declaration, on 9th October, a committee was appointed to draw up the curricula and determine the facilities needed for a Faculty of Law to take off. This committee was chaired by Professor Justice V.C.R.A.C Crabbe, a well-known Ghanaian legal expert. Other members were:

Mrs. Asie Allotey, Chief State Attorney, Attorney-General's Department

Prof. E.H. Ofori Amankwah, Faculty of Law, University of Ghana

Mr. Paul Adu Gyamfi, The National President, Ghana Bar Association

Mr. K. Ansah Asare, Director, Ghana School of Law

Prof. E.A. Jackson

Prof. A.A. Sackey

Prof. S.D. Asiama

Mrs. Sophia Quashie-Sam

Mr. Yaw Omanhene-Gyimah

Miss Aku S. Gadzekpo

Other co-opted members were:

Mr. B.J. da Rocha, Legal Practitioner & Former Director of Ghana School of Law

Nana Dr. S. K. B. Asante, Omanhene of Asokore Traditional Area

His Lordship Prof. S.K. Date-Bah, Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana

Prof. Akilakpa Sawyerr, Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana

Mr. J.C. Tarchie

Mr. Albert Amankwa

The Committee excelled in their sense of urgency and dispatch. For they found it helpful to move to Elmina Beach Resort to work. The Chairman of the Committee, Professor Justice V.C.R.A.C. Crabbe, should be proudly mentioned here for a special tribute. Despite his age, he showed such good commitment, dedication and worked hard to show the kind of good person that he is. After Elmina Beach Resort, the end of the greater part of the work was in sight.

7.0 SELLING THE LAW FACULTY

The most delicate stage of the road to the establishment of the Faculty of Law was how to sell the decision to the learned profession. Our University still remembers the rather stiff

opposition we had nearly three decades ago over the establishment of the School of Medical Sciences and was determined not to go through a similar experience.

My meeting with the former Chief Justice to sell our product was the most challenging occasion. The present Chief Justice, His Lordship Kingsley Acquah and his predecessor His Lordship E.K. Wiredu were at the meeting in the Supreme Court Houses in Accra.

The University's Law model was to merge the British system with the American system but allow the British system to be the supreme. In the merger: If you like, the British to be the husband and the American the wife. After all John Harvard from Cambridge established Harvard and later Yale.

Both Chief Justices advised us to concentrate on graduating quality, first class lawyers full of ethics. This the University is fully committed to uphold. There was unique competition to enter the Faculty of Law in 2003. An average of aggregate eleven (11) was required and in Law no so-called protocol admission concession was granted to any candidate. We wish to place on record, the positive contribution and encouragement of the former Chief Justice, His Lordship E.K. Wiredu and the present Chief Justice His Lordship Kingsley Acquah for making it possible for the Law Faculty to take off. We also received support from the general body politic of the learned profession. We shall mention the Director of the Law School, Mr. K. Ansah Asare.

8.0 FACULTY BUILDINGS

The British-American marriage was in favour of adopting teaching courts together with moot courts to train KNUST law students similar to the American model. In order to achieve this objective, the architects for the development of the buildings of the Faculty of Law were members of the Committee that drew the proposals for the establishment of the Faculty of Law. By sitting through and contributing to the debate, the architects have given us the best faculty buildings we could hope for. The University will be the first to bring to fruition the dream of the Chief Justice His Lordship Kingsley Acquah. For We wish to be granted the permission to build the first COURT OF APPEAL for the Ashanti Region right here on the University campus. We also wish to be given the permission to add a COMMUNITY TRIBUNAL to complement the COURT OF APPEAL. The University will of course provide residential facilities for the Judges on our beautiful serene campus. The drawings for the Faculty of Law buildings are readily waiting to go on tender. We have already applied for funding from the GETfnd. Whatever the outcome, the construction of the buildings for the Faculty of Law will begin this year 2004. We would like to bring back Otumfuo and the Chief Justice to jointly cut the sod for the construction works to start.

9.0 FUTURE OF THE FACULTY OF LAW

The journey to provide Ghana and Africa with quality law graduates has just begun. The University recognizes the enormous responsibility that this places on us. We shall be judged by the products and for this reason alone, The University Will invest heavily in infrastructure, library, electronic equipment and the most brilliant professors we can find in

Ghana. Already, the University has given out of turn scholarships to young graduates to read for higher degrees in top Universities of the world and return to the Faculty. The British Council and the USA Embassy were both linking the Faculty with top Universities to collaborate with the Faculty of Law.

We pray God to grant us success to serve Ghana with brilliant and ethical lawyers.

Thank you.

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE,
JUSTICE G.K. ACQUAH, ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORMAL
INAUGURATION OF THE FACULTY OF LAW, KNUST ON
WEDNESDAY 3RD MARCH 2004**

Addresses:

His Excellency, the Vice Chancellor, the Pro Vice-Chancellor, My Lords Spiritual and Temporal, Nananom, Distinguished Jurists and Academics, Distinguished Members of the Bar, Director of Legal Education, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana, Senior Members of the Faculty of Law, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Members of the Press, Dear Students, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am elated to be here for the inauguration of the Faculty of Law, KNUST, a leading science and technology institution comparable to any institution anywhere in the world. Since its inception in 1952, this university has grown from an infant institution into a multi-disciplinary college representing a viable arena for the pursuance of nearly every discipline known to academia. We are witnesses today to the birth of yet another faculty, whose birth in our country is long overdue, yet highly welcomed late.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, the inception of the 1992 constitutional regime with its all-embracing provisions on human rights, had seen an increase in the demand for more lawyers than ever if the attainment of effective governance is to be a reality. It is a sad commentary, however, to say that this upsurge in demand has not been matched by the requisite increases in human resource training and capacity building to meet the demand. It is, therefore, more than gratifying, Mr. Chairman, to participate this morning/afternoon in the formal inauguration of the newly formed faculty - an indispensable addition to the ongoing effort at expanding the frontiers of legal education in Ghana.

Mr. Chairman, the present state of legal education reflects a scenario that is apt to excite both an upbeat and somber moods. On the brighter side, the remarkable partnership between the Faculty of Law at the University of Ghana, Legon and the Ghana School of Law, has for nearly half a century seen the production of legal scholars and barristers whose intellectual competence has been acclaimed the world over. The size of these institutions, coupled with their manpower and logistical strengths, have been lingering constraints on their ability to admit and train the needed number of lawyers the country needs. The result has been that while the quality of products of these schools has remained high, the numbers have constantly remained below needed requirement. The establishment of another Law Faculty, and/or Law School has been on the drawing board for a long time. The establishment of a Law Faculty, however, far transcends mere desire; it requires technical and logistical support, and, more crucially, human resource capacity. With the cooperation of academia in KNUST and the General Legal Council, the Faculty of Law, KNUST, was born. I herein will like to single out for mention, the special efforts of the Vice-Chancellor whose singular vision and untiring efforts has largely resulted in" the out-dooring of this golden idea. To him I extend my hearty commendation and goodwill in the success of his vision.

Mr. Chairman, Nananom, Ladies and Gentlemen, the training of such sufficient number of lawyers to fill a yawning gap in manpower requirements of the legal sector, particularly the Attorney-General's Department and state corporations as well as the geographical and equitable distribution of legal services around the country has been a major concern of the General Legal Council, and institutions requiring the services of lawyers. For decades, the Attorney General's Department has operated under capacity; and this has had a serious effect on the productivity fortunes of that office. The problem of inadequacy of manpower qualified in the law is also reflected in our use of lay magistrates in the administration of justice. The training of sufficient lawyers to fill these vacancies will go a long way to improve the administration of justice in this country. Furthermore, the locations of the Faculty of Law at Legon and the Ghana School of Law naturally creates a geographical imbalance in the distribution of trained lawyers in Ghana. The Faculty of Law, KNUST, will provide a good opportunity to address this imbalance, by supplying the northern sector of Ghana with its fair share of lawyers. The importance of this cannot be overemphasized.

Mr. Chairman, though I am not competent to comment on matters bordering on the internal administration of the Faculty, but permit me to state that we, in the General Legal Council, are extremely concerned about legal education in Ghana, share in the vision of this Faculty becoming the centre of excellence in legal education. Consequently, it is our wish and desire that, in the short term, the Faculty of Law, KNUST survives the tumults and frustrations attendant on initiating anything good and noble in the third world, especially Africa.

To this end, I urge the men and women tasked with the job of implementing this rather arduous task, especially in this regard the senior members of the Faculty to renew their strength in the pursuit of excellence within the Faculty. The extent to which students relate well with their lecturers and the general ambience surrounding the pursuit of intellectual know-how within the Faculty will go a long way to determine the success of the venture we herein embark on. I must, in this regard mention the remarkable and visionary step taken by the Dean of the Faculty in ensuring that relevant structures and programmes, such as the Faculty seminars and journal are put in place to ensure that, right from the onset, the Faculty moves away from the normal routine of teaching and learning, to the core of intellectual brainstorming on the multiplicity of problems that confront us as a nation. In the medium term, I envision that the Faculty will build on the gains to be achieved hereinafter, building or establishing for itself accreditation beyond the frontiers of Ghana and truly carving out its own niche within the community of law schools the world over. In the long term, however, the Faculty of Law, KNUST, should strive to be the best law faculty in the world.

Mr. Chairman, since dreams are the initial blocks in the art of success, we had better start dreaming celestial excellence as far as this Faculty is concerned. But unlike the 'dreaming failure' in life we shall not rest until it is done. We in the judiciary will lend our experienced hand whenever it is possible and feasible. We will fight the good fight together,

The sterling contributions of great jurists and barristers of our fatherland must on such an occasion, not go unrecognized and unrewarded.

Indeed, while their priceless contributions cannot be adequately compensated, we seize opportunities offered by occasions such as this to, in a small way, acknowledge the golden part played by these legal stalwarts of days gone by. Permit me, Mr. Chairman, to pay

glorious tributes to the memories of pacesetters like, John Mensah Sarbah, whose pioneering efforts in native customary law hardly have a compare; N.A. Ollennu, whose judicial development of customary law is monumental; Joseph Boakye Danquah, though known mostly for his political dexterity, remains an outstanding pillar in the development of native customary law. And Sir Arku Korsah, who is best remembered for being the first Ghanaian Chief Justice, with a distinctive character of upholding to the utmost, the judicial oath.

A faculty of law survives on an effective and well-stocked library. The library is the epicentre of the Faculty. It, therefore, demands, that in naming the library, a distinctive Son or Daughter of Ghana, distinguished in the Law, be chosen. Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to announce to you that in recognizing his contribution, and as a token of immortalizing his place in the creation of a just society underlain by the rule of law, the Faculty of Law has decided to name the Faculty library as the '**Arku Korsah Library**' after the Distinguished Lawyer, Judge and Chief Justice, Sir Arku Korsah of blessed memory. May this token of acknowledgement sow the desired seed of cerebral fertility in the Library, making it the heartbeat of the Faculty.

Since graduates from this faculty who aim at becoming practising lawyers have got to seek admission for the professional law course at the School of law in Accra, it would not be out of place if I take advantage of this occasion to outline the requirements for admission to the Law School.

The criteria for the admission of students into the Professional Law Course at the Ghana School of Law are laid down in Regulations 2 and 3 of the Professional Law Course Regulations, 1984 (L.I. 1296).

The regulations provide:

“2(1) A person shall qualify for admission to the Professional Law

Course at the Ghana School of Law, if-

- (a) he is of good behaviour
- (b) he has a degree conferred by the University of Ghana or any other University or institution approved by the Council; and
- (c) he has passed final examinations in the following subjects:

- (i) ***Law of Contract***
- (ii) ***Law of Tort***
- (iii) ***Criminal Law***
- (iv) ***Law of Immovable Property***
- (v) ***Constitutional Law***
- (vi) ***The Ghana Legal System and its History; and***
- (vii) ***Equity and Succession.***

2 (2) For the purposes of this regulation “*final Examinations*” means the final examination held by the University of Ghana or by ***any other University or institution approved*** by the General Legal Council.

- 3 (3) A person shall not be eligible for admission to the Professional Law Course if-
- (a) he is engaged in any occupation which in the opinion of the General Legal Council is incompatible with the position of a student seeking enrolment to be called to the Ghana Bar;
 - (b) he is for any reason considered by the General Legal Council to be unsuitable for admission."

As far as the Ghana School of Law is concerned, a candidate who satisfies the above entry requirements and conditions may be admitted to the Ghana School of Law. It is however important to note the requirement that one should be of good character. However brilliant one may be, if the person is not of good character, all his efforts at becoming a lawyer would be in vain.

Mr. Chairman, His Majesty Otumfuo, the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro Vice- Chancellor, I will, with your indulgence, conclude by wishing the newly born Faculty a welcome to the fraternity or the community of learning and scholarship. It is my deepest conviction that this faculty will brace all the odds and not only come out unscathed, but also as a huge success story. Whatsoever things are nice, whatsoever things are of good report, whatsoever things are noble and honourable, if there be anything worthy of praise, it is upon the success of the Law Faculty, KNUST, that I invite you to think about; and your presence here today will mark a significant milestone in the annals of legal education in Ghana.

It is now my singular honour to formally inaugurate this Faculty.

Thank you.

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY HON. PAPA OWUSU-ANKOMAH, MP,
ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE ON THE
OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE FACULTY OF LAW,
KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI ON WEDNESDAY 3RD MARCH, 2004**

Mr. Chairman, Otumfuo the Asantehene, His Lordship the Chief Justice, The Vice-Chancellor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Directors and Deans of Schools and Faculties, invited guests, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today marks a milestone in legal education in Ghana, the inauguration of the second law faculty in Ghana after the establishment of the first law faculty at the University of Ghana, Legon over 40 years ago.

I wish to commend KNUST and particularly the Vice-Chancellor for this bold initiative. But while commending the KNUST, it must be emphasized that there is an arduous task ahead of the faculty because the content of the courses run must be such as to earn the confidence of the profession in the calibre of graduates produced by the Faculty. This will also greatly influence the procedures to be established by the Board of Legal Education for admission of graduates of the Faculty to the Ghana School of Law.

Government on its part will encourage the setting up of faculties such as this so as to offer opportunity for more Ghanaians to have access to academic education in law which is essential for pursuing professional legal education. When the opportunity is given for the training of more lawyers, the State will also have at its disposal an adequate complement of lawyers for the efficient discharge of its constitutional obligation of maintaining and enforcing the law.

The services of lawyers are needed in various areas of our national life and it is important that the misconception about the profession is changed. Lawyers are needed in the financial sector, in management, government etc. Lawyers are not restricted to private legal practice and so private legal practice should not be seen as the only avenue for applying knowledge of the law and should not be the only reason for pursuing a course of study in law.

Presently, there is only one law school in Ghana. Depending on the standards set and the number of graduates that this faculty turns out it may in future become necessary to set up a second law school in Kumasi for graduates in law to undertake professional legal education as the present facilities of the only one in Accra may then not be adequate.

On my part, I will be monitoring closely the progress of the law faculty of KNUST and I am confident that it will overcome the challenges that face every new institution. The future of the Faculty will depend on the quality of the lecturers that it will be able to attract and retain, the quality of the library that it is able to develop and the quality or calibre of students admitted into the faculty. Most importantly, however, the pioneer students should bear in mind that as trail blazers they have to prove themselves worthy ambassadors, capable of rubbing shoulders with their peers from the well-established law faculty.

While the efficient running and resourcing of the faculty is fundamentally the responsibility of the State and the University administration, I will appeal to all and sundry to support this infant faculty financially so that it can become well-established. However, I have no doubt that with the quality of leadership of the University and the faculty, coupled with the support of the traditional leadership in this part of the country, this faculty will not merely survive but grow to become an excellent one in the near future.

Accept my congratulations.