

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN AGYEKUM  
KUFUOR PRESIDENT OF GHANA AT THE  
COMMISSIONING OF THE FACULTY OF LAW  
BUILDINGS AND THE RESIDENTIAL GRADUATE  
STUDENTS' HOSTEL AT KNUST, KUMASI**

Chancellor of the University  
Chairman and Members of the University Council  
Hon. Ministers  
Hon. Members of Parliament  
Metropolitan Chief Executive, KMA  
Members of Convocation  
Staff and Students  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to join you here today for the commissioning of the Law Faculty buildings and Graduate Students' Hostel. As you are aware, government, is promoting Local Government Administration to enhance society's participation in governance, community centred development and the quality of life of the citizenry. As part of the local administration process, there is the need to decentralize the country's legal and regulatory institutions and make legal services easily accessible to the public no matter their location in the country. It is in keeping with these values and aspirations that Government welcomed the establishment of the second Faculty of Law in Ghana at KNUST and also provided funding for new buildings for the Faculty, which we are about to commission,

The study of law needs no justification. It is a good preparation for a whole variety of careers. The numbers of people who wish to train in law has in no way diminished, in spite of popular belief that there are too many in the profession, As a government, it is our responsibility to open avenues for the citizenry to develop their potential in whatever direction they choose. We hope that the Faculty is able to live up to expectation, to deliver its programmes at the highest possible quality level. I am informed that the first intake into the Faculty has been graduated as of the University's 2007 Congregation. I hope they prove worthy ambassadors of the Faculty and the University. Nana Chancellor, let me now address the issue of the student accommodation. Student population now exceeds available capacities in our respective tertiary institutions. There is, therefore, an urgent need to provide more facilities on our campuses and even outside to cater for the teeming numbers. Government is not unmindful of the positive effects of the campus hostel system. It facilitates networking, promotes shared values and social standards and strengthens national unity. This is why government is investing highly in the provision of hostel facilities on the various campuses of our tertiary institutions. Government will continue to support the Universities in developing appropriate policies regarding student accommodation. Private sector participation is more than welcome. The Universities should continue to open their doors to the private sector in the provision of hostels and other facilities for teaching, research and development.

Nana Chancellor, this is indeed a happy occasion. Let me congratulate the University for the developments that have taken place on campus. I cannot thank you enough for acknowledging government's role in all this. I pray that success comes to all who study in the University, especially those who come to reside in the Graduate Hostel.

Nana Chairman, it is now my pleasure to declare the Faculty of Law building and the Graduate Students' Hostel, duly commissioned.

Thank you and May God bless us all.

H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor  
President of the Republic of Ghana

July, 2007

**ADDRESS BY NANA (DR) OTUO SIRIBOE II, JUABEN  
MANHENE AND CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL, KNUST**

His Excellency, the President of Ghana  
Honourable Ministers of State  
Honourable Regional Minister for Ashanti  
Honourable Members of Parliament  
Honourable Chief Executive, KMA  
Chairman and Members of the University Council  
V ice-Chancellor  
Pro Vice-Chancellor  
Registrar  
Provosts, Deans and Directors  
Members of Convocation  
Staff and Students  
Ladies and Gentlemen

**Significance of Ceremony**

I have the honour and privilege on behalf of the Chancellor, to welcome you Mr. President to KNUST this morning. This is the first time that we are hosting you here since we installed Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene as Chancellor some 15 months ago.

Your physical absence has not in any way denigrated from your interest and well being of the University as we continue to receive your assurances of support and goodwill, which manifest themselves sometimes in kind. That you could leave your busy schedule in Accra at the evening of the opening of the historic A.U. Conference to be with us today confirms your love and commitment to us.

We are gathered here today to commission two projects which may be described as Kufuor's own projects from the points of view of their initiation and execution. Pursuant to your objectives of human resource development of the Country, you made available special funds under the PSI on Tertiary Education to improve the infrastructural base of the Universities. K.N.U.S.T. applied its share to the Graduate Hostel which can accommodate about 100 Graduate Students and the Faculty of Law auditorium and lecture rooms.

Our selection of a Graduate Hostel was informed by the fact that it is at the post graduate level that a lot of research and development activities take place which impact directly on society.

The introduction of several new programmes at KNUST will naturally lead to more post graduate level studies and for that matter more of such hostels to accommodate the students. We therefore hope that this will be the lode star of a Graduate Hostel Complex for KNUST.

Mr. President, one of the legacies that you will be leaving for the country is your commitment to the rule of law. Greater access to legal education is a necessary condition for attaining this and we believe that the beautiful edifice of the Faculty of Law is a tangible expression of our support for your vision.

We believe that the investment in the edifice should be complemented with the establishment of a Law School here in Kumasi to serve the northern sector of the Country. We have initiated the process towards this one and we are confident that we can count on your personal support and cooperation in this direction.

Just the other day we referred to our Graduating Class of 2007 as Ghana @ 50 Graduates. Maybe we could also refer to the projects we are about to commission as Ghana @ 50 projects.

Thank you for your attention

Nana (Dr) Otuo Siriboe II,  
Juaben Manhene and Chairman of Council, KNUST

**ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR KWASI KWAFO ADARKWA,  
VICE-CHANCELLOR OF KNUST**

His Excellency, the President of Ghana  
His Majesty, Chancellor of the University  
Chairman of University Council  
Honourable Ministers of State  
Honourable Ashanti Regional Minister  
Honourable Members of Parliament  
Honourable KMA Chief Executive  
Members of University Council  
Pro Vice-Chancellor  
Registrar  
Provosts  
Deans and Directors  
Members of Convocation  
Staff and Students  
Ladies and gentlemen

**Greetings**

It is always a joy to receive His Excellency the President of Ghana to our beautiful and serene campus. This is because not only does he come with warmth and assurance, but more importantly, he leaves us with a gift, a priceless and an invaluable gift that promotes the course of higher education. As a University, we will have an early Xmas this year and that is what we are celebrating today. The President's visit today is a manifestation of the value he attaches to our University and his avowed determination to promote higher education for national development. These beautiful buildings you see and for which we are gathered here today are the fruits of the President's gifts to the University. What more can we say when we are short of breath by these showers and benefactions? For us as a University, giving thanks is a sign of appreciation and gratitude that also brings about a deep sense of peace. Mr President, we are most grateful and at the appropriate time and place, the University would have the opportunity to further demonstrate its appreciation.

**Academic Facilities**

Access to higher education is inhibited by the inadequacy of academic facilities. The University is always forced to cut down on admissions simply because the facilities cannot support the increase in numbers. This year, we received 16,593 applications out of which 11,044 were qualified. Unfortunately, we could offer places to only about 6,000 candidates. We are grateful to Government and the GETFund for assisting with academic facility expansion and development. Currently, we have 27 on- going projects being funded by the GETFund as part of facility development. Our national development efforts and our science and technology advancement depend on education. It is, therefore, important for all stakeholders to engage Government on the way forward. As a University, we are continually exploring other avenues for the improvement of academic facilities. We implore Government

and the private sector to create the necessary forum for dialogue so that access to higher education for national development would be complemented.

### **Funding**

Nana Chancellor, tied in with the lack of academic facilities is the nagging issue of funding for higher education. As an institution, we depend solely on Government for our funding. Government subvention, though very inadequate, is our mainstay. To supplement, the University has resorted to internally generated funding activities including fee-paying; foreign student facility, Distance Learning mode and parallel programme development.

For years, we have been grappling with the issue of sustainable funding for higher education. As a nation, we have always taken for granted the cost of education, particularly higher education under the guise of education being a right, and therefore, it must be free even up to the University level. Unless and until we come to terms with the fact and reality that, ACCESS to education is indeed a right for every citizen of Ghana but higher education is a PRIVILEGE and must be paid for by those who access it, funding and the sustainability of higher education would be in jeopardy. What is necessary is for the institution of appropriate mechanisms such as Loan Schemes, Scholarships, Bursaries and Fellowships to enable those who cannot meet the full cost of higher education to access it.

Nana Chancellor, without strategically-placed mechanisms for sustainable funding for higher education, Government's desire for greater access to higher education for national development would continue to suffer. We are in discussion as a University on the way forward. We do believe that the way out is a national forum of all stakeholders to engage in a non-partisan, non- sectarian discourse in order to fashion out the appropriate and far-reaching strategies for funding of higher education in Ghana. It is important that as we celebrate our Jubilee Year, we prepare the way for our development through education.

### **Postgraduate Education**

Nana Chancellor, a nation's development thrives on its educational foundations. Research and development play a pivotal role in our national development efforts. It is, therefore, necessary for us to put postgraduate education in greater perspective if our Research and Development activities are to make any greater inroads. By our mandate, we are to teach; to research; and, to provide service to the Community. We engage in research through active and booming postgraduate training. Support for postgraduate work, and for that matter research, is woefully inadequate. The Universities are, therefore, unable to impact greatly on our national development aspirations. Through research we are able to make findings and break- throughs which when disseminated improve the quality of life of our people. We crave the indulgence of Government and the private sector to support graduate training and research so that our science and technology development would be sustained and advanced.

### **Student Accommodation**

Nana Chancellor, student accommodation has become a very topical and partisan issue lately. We are all witnesses to the dastardly situation in some institutions resulting from student accommodation. The world over, in the comity of academia, accommodation is no longer tied

to admission. Thus, access to higher education is not and should not be inhibited by student accommodation. That is not to say that the institutions should not be interested in student accommodation. We are and it is for this very concern that the University is continually engaging the private sector and other institutions to participate in the provision of residential facilities for students.

Nana Chancellor, Senior Members of this University have heeded our call. Today, we would witness the commissioning of the third phase of a 1,600 capacity Students' Hostel built from the pensions of our Senior Members. We would also witness another gift of the President of the Republic of Ghana by way of a hostel for Postgraduate students. We are grateful to the President, our Senior Members and our private sector benefactors for providing us with facilities to accommodate our students. These facilities are still limited if we think of our student numbers now standing at almost 23,000. We appeal to the President and to the GETFund to consider expansion of the Postgraduate Hostel and to other benefactors to assist so that postgraduate training will have a further boost and student accommodation would not become a hindrance to effective teaching, learning and the conduct of relevant research.

### **Appreciation**

Nana Chancellor, we are grateful to the President, the Government and the People of Ghana for their continued support to our University. We would also continue to do our best through teaching, research, and development to spearhead our nation's science and technology advancement.

Mr. President, permit me to add my voice to that of the Chancellor and say you are most welcome to our University. We are once again assured of your warmth and generosity. We look forward to yet another gift as we celebrate our Jubilee Year.

Thank you and God bless us all

Professor K.K. Adarkwa  
Vice-Chancellor

July, 2007