

KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI



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**ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT THE
57TH CONGREGATION**

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HIS ROYAL MAJESTY OTUMFUO OSEI
TUTU II, CHANCELLOR OF KNUST AT THE 57TH CONGREGATION
CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY, NOVEMBER 2023**

SALUTATION

Vice President of the Republic of Ghana
Chairman and Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors from Sister Universities
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors from Sister Universities
Registrar and Registrars from Sister Universities
Former Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors, and Registrars present
Honourable Ministers present
Members of Parliament and MMDCEs present
The Guest Speaker for the 12th R.P. Baffour Memorial Lectures, Mr. Joe Anokye
Provosts of Colleges
Members of Convocation
Senior and Junior Staff
Nananom
Alumni of the University
Invited Guests
Members of the Press
Graduands
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. INTRODUCTION

I am happy to welcome you all to the 57th congregation. This gathering stands as a proof to the dedication and tireless efforts of our students and faculty deserving of celebration.

In this grand Assembly, we convene not only to applaud the remarkable academic achievements of our graduands but also to acknowledge their persistent commitment to learning aimed at shaping a brighter future for themselves and their families. The journey undertaken by these graduands has been one marked by resilience, unyielding perseverance, and an unwavering dedication to intellectual growth.

My great graduands, Ayeekooo!

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, we are also honoured to have been treated to insightful Lectures under the theme, **“KNUST after 70: A New Age for A Renewed Focus in an Era of Disruptive Technologies”** by the venerable Mr. Joe Anokye, the Director General of the National Communication Authority and one of our finest alumni. Your exploits at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are legendary and we are indeed very proud of you, Anokye my SON, welcome home.

Let me take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated staff and Management of our esteemed University. Your continuous selfless devotion to advancing quality education has not gone unnoticed. Year after year, as we gather to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduands, it becomes increasingly evident that your commitment and dedication to duty are the cornerstone of our success. Your commitment to achieving the vision and mission of this great institution is not just acknowledged by me but by the global community as well.

This recognition is prominently showcased in the University’s recent rankings by renowned ranking organisations across the world. I am thrilled to hear that our University has achieved commendable rankings in esteemed publications such as the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023, the QS World University Rankings 2023, and the Round University Rankings 2023. These accolades are evidence of your hard work.

Once again, I extend my warmest congratulations to every one of you. Your contributions are shaping the future of our University and leaving a lasting impression on the world.

I would also like to commend the Management and staff for the innovative programme dubbed the “KNUST Day of Giving.” This is a Programme I launched last year which is designed to solicit financial support from students, staff, alumni, partners, and friends of the University. Even though I am told the target was not achieved, it is an initiative worth sustaining. KNUST being the pioneers in every educational endeavour in this country, I am sure other universities in Ghana would want to copy such a laudable initiative. This initiative is very dear to my heart, I therefore entreat us all to continue to support the initiative. I will be following keenly on its progress.

2. NATIONAL ISSUES

Ladies and gentlemen, even during this joyous occasion, while celebrating our students, I wish to seize this opportunity to highlight some of the critical challenges that confront our beloved nation. Our country is facing enormous challenges that demand our immediate attention and collective action; from the economy to the environmental climate change and the exodus of our professionals in the health and educational sectors. We must wholeheartedly recognise the need to unite in our quest to ensure sustainable solutions for the betterment of our nation.

a. Brain Drain

Ladies and gentlemen, one of the most current challenges confronting our nation is the pervasive phenomenon known as “brain drain.” It is, without a doubt, a disheartening spectacle to bear witness to a substantial exodus of our health professionals, teachers, and graduates, all departing our shores in pursuit of more promising opportunities abroad. This exodus, at its core, resembles a modern form of colonisation, where the very minds and intellects that ought to nurture and lead our nation are choosing to depart, driven by the allure of seemingly more fertile grounds elsewhere. While it is important to acknowledge that human migration is not inherently negative, it is equally crucial to recognise that if this phenomenon remains unchecked, it poses a huge threat to the future of our nation.

Ladies and gentlemen, the departure of our potential leaders and talents, who should be actively contributing to the growth and development of our country, raises a formidable challenge. We must, collectively work to transform our country into an enticing and compelling destination for our youth, a place where they have unshaken faith in their capacity to thrive and succeed.

To achieve this, I call upon the Government and all stakeholders in education to embark upon innovative strategies aimed at retaining and harnessing the potential of our young graduates. Creating an enabling environment that fosters entrepreneurship, facilitates job creation, and stimulates investment in research and development is crucial.

By doing so, we can effectively staunch the flow of our nation's intellectual capital to foreign shores and, in the process, construct a prosperous and flourishing future for our beloved country.

Let us unite our efforts, therefore, and resolve to confront this challenge head-on, for the betterment of our society and the preservation of our nation's bright and promising future.

b. Illegal Mining 'Galamsey'

Ladies and gentlemen, whenever I speak, I am compelled to denounce this destructive practice. Though the Government has achieved some level of success, the menace is still a pervasive problem, inflicting severe damage on the environment and the water bodies resulting in a surge in waterborne diseases, skin infections and horrid deformities among our people.

I call on all stakeholders to be vigilant and help the Government to flush out these illegal miners. Not so long ago, we all heard of actions I took against some chiefs in my Kingdom who were either covertly or overtly involved in '*galamsey*' activities and I urge the Government to take reciprocal actions in the fight against '*galamsey*'.

Chiefs, as custodians of our lands, bear a solemn responsibility to act with integrity and diligence in safeguarding our natural resources. The Government, too, must step up its efforts to protect our land and combat this destructive force that is eroding our nation from within.

c. Akosombo Dam Spillage

Distinguished guests, the recent spillage at the Akosombo Dam serves as a stark reminder of the delicate balance we must maintain between development and environmental preservation. The spillage at the Akosombo Dam has not only affected the lives and livelihood along the Volta River but also pose a significant threat to our Public Health as a nation. This highlights the urgency with which we must address Climate Change issues and its impact on our environment and water resources, and I want to entreat my venerable Professors in this University to lead the charge. As we grapple with the consequences of this event, it becomes imperative for us to unite and face the challenges that lie ahead. It is a call to action for us to invest in

sustainable practices, promote water conservation, and explore alternative energy sources.

Again, the Akosombo Dam spillage underscores the importance of effective disaster preparedness and response mechanisms. The Government, in collaboration with local authorities and international partners, must work tirelessly to ensure that our communities are resilient in the face of some of these natural calamities going forward. This includes early warning systems, robust evacuation plans, and support structures for those affected.

In the spirit of unity and resilience, let us come together to support the communities affected by the Akosombo Dam spillage. Let us provide aid, not just in the form of immediate relief, but also in the form of sustainable development initiatives that empower these communities to rebuild and thrive in the face of adversity.

3. A WORD TO THE GRADUANDS

As you step into the world beyond these walls, embrace every challenge and opportunity that comes your way with confidence. Continue to learn, unlearn, grow, and adapt, for education is a lifelong journey.

Remember, you have received quality education that has equipped you with the skills and knowledge to thrive in the professional environment. Believe in yourselves and be proactive in seeking out opportunities. By doing so, you can make a meaningful impact and contribute to the growth and development of our nation.

May God bless us all!

AND NOW,

By the powers conferred on me as Chancellor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, I, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, declare this Assembly, duly constituted.

**HIS ROYAL MAJESTY OTUMFUO OSEI TUTU II, ASANTEHENE
CHANCELLOR, KNUST, KUMASI
NOVEMBER, 2023**

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR (MRS.) RITA AKOSUA DICKSON,
VICE-CHANCELLOR OF KNUST AT THE 57TH CONGREGATION
CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY, NOVEMBER 2023**

SALUTATION

The Chancellor of the University, His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II
The Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency, Dr. Mahamudu
Bawumia

Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum

Ashanti Regional Minister, Hon. Simon Osei Mensah

Colleague Vice-Chancellors from Sister Universities

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors from Sister Institutions

Registrar and Registrars from Sister Universities

Past Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors and Registrars

Members of Parliament and MMDCEs Present

The Guest Speaker for the 12th R. P. Baffour Memorial Lectures, Mr. Joe Anokye

Provosts of Colleges

Deans and Directors

Heads of Department

Members of Convocation

Senior and Junior Staff of the University

Nananom

Alumni of the University

Invited Guests

Graduating Class of 2023

Parents and Guardians

Distinguished Audience and Viewers

Our Friends from the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

A very good morning to you all. I have the singular honour and pleasure to present to you the report of our Great and Noble University since the last Congregation held in March 2023. I am indeed, extremely delighted to add my voice to that of our Chancellor to welcome you all to today's Congregation. As part of the efforts to deepen and strengthen the Collegiate System of the

University, this year's Congregation has been decentralised to the respective Colleges. The Colleges have therefore been responsible for the organisation of the various sessions of the graduation ceremonies.

This year's Congregation spans for a period of 3 weeks, beginning from 9th November and climaxing it this morning. I am happy to inform you that as part of today's programme, some distinguished Alumni and personalities, who have made significant impact on our noble University, the nation and the world at large, would be acknowledged and awarded with well-deserved degrees. I wish to congratulate all the awardees and to inform them that, KNUST recognises their input and efforts made over the years, towards helping the University achieve its mandate as a Higher Education Institution.

Nana Chancellor, the period under consideration has been action-packed with a lot of activities and challenges. However, with the help of God and your great counsel and guidance, we have been able to make steady progress as a University. Nana, we are very grateful.

The efforts of both our staff and students in bringing the academic year to a peaceful and successful end cannot also be underestimated. Thank you all very much.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, at this juncture, I would like to bring to you the status and activities of the University during the period. I begin with the core mandate of the University, i.e. research, teaching and extension services.

2.0 RESEARCH

Nana Chancellor, distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, research continues to dominate our attention, and as a research-intensive institution, we continue to invest in both infrastructure and equipment towards creating an enabling environment for cutting-edge research.

2.1 External Grants Won to Support Research

Nana Chancellor, I am happy to inform this august assembly that during the period under review, the University won a total grant of **Fifteen Million, Forty Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty-Eight Dollars, Sixty-Nine Cents**

(\$15,040,528.69) through the following distinguished faculty members whose research works are acclaimed globally.

- i. Professor Sampson Antwi of the Department of Child Health won **Seven Hundred and Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$707,750.00)** from Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated to work on **“Phase 2/3 Adaptive, Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of VX-147 in Adult and Pediatric Subjects with APOL1-mediated Proteinuric Kidney Disease”**.
- i. Dr. Cyril Boateng of the Department of Physics won **Two Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Forty-One Dollars (\$272,841.00)** from the Office of Naval Research to work on the project **“Protecting the Coast and Heritage of Keta Using Integrated Geophysics”**.
- ii. Dr. Kwadwo Owusu Akuffo of the Department of Optometry and Visual Science won **Two Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand and Seventy Euros (€297,070.00)** from Else Kroner-Fesenius Stiftung, (EKFS) to work on **“The MUAS KNUST Low Vision Project (MK-LOW Project)”**.
- iii. Mr. Courage Julius Logah of the University Information Technology Services (UITS), Directorate won **Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty-Three Dollars (\$7,730,563.00)** from the Mastercard Foundation, to work on **“Enhancing E-Learning Implementation at KNUST”**.

2.2 KNUST Research Fund (KReF)

Internally, the University has also established a Research Fund known as KNUST Research Fund (KReF) to support young and budding researchers. The fund is administered by the Office of Grants and Research (OGR) led by Prof. Philip Antwi-Agyei. I am glad to announce that this year, the University committed **One million, Five Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis (Ghc 1,500,000.00)** to the KReF Fund for research.

Forty (40) of our faculty, working on interdisciplinary collaborative research works, benefitted from the Fund. I wish to encourage my dear Early Career

Researchers and the Young Researchers Forum to take advantage of KReF to undertake impactful and relevant research.

2.3 Awards and Honours

Nana Chancellor, related to the grants are also honours bestowed on some staff who have distinguished themselves in their various fields of endeavour:

- i. Dr. (Mrs.) Mary Amoako of the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, has been named among the top five (5) shortlisted applicants for the Prestigious **Nature Award for Inspiring Women in Science**. We are praying that she wins the ultimate.
- ii. Dr. (Mrs.) Vivian Etsiapa Boamah of the Department of Pharmaceutics, has been named as one of the twenty-five (25) women from the Developing World to be awarded with a grant for Early career fellowships by the Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World, just to mention a few.

2.4 KNUST Africa Centres of Excellence

Nana Chancellor, KNUST has three (3) Africa Centres of Excellence that have played crucial roles in strengthening postgraduate education and research in the University. These are KNUST Engineering Education Project (KEEP), Regional Water, Environment and Sanitation Centre, Kumasi (RWESCK) and the Transport Research Education Centre, Kumasi (TRECK). Please permit me to recognise and applaud the KNUST Engineering Education Project (KEEP) for emerging as the best performing Centre among the fifty-three (53) Africa Centres of Excellence for scoring 96% of their Disbursement Linked Results as per the last results released by the World Bank last month in Abidjan.

We are grateful to the Industry and International Scientific Advisory Boards of KEEP. These include Ing. Frederick Asare – Yeboah, Ing. William Amuna, Ing. Mrs. Patricia Obo-Nai, Ing. Mrs Nana Akua Brenyah Boateng, Nana Joe Mensah, Dr. Ben K.D. Asante, Dr. Kwaku Aning, Dr. Victor Atiemo-Obeng, Dr. Joseph Odartey Cruickshank, Dr. Richard Okine, Dr. Chux Danielles, Prof. Johnson Asumadu, Prof. Joseph Yaw Yeboah and Prof. Muiyiwa Sam Adaramola. They are here today as special guests of the University and I kindly ask them to stand and be recognised.

2.5 KNUST JOINS THE AFRICAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE (ARUA)

Nana Chancellor, I am happy to report that KNUST has joined the esteemed African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA). ARUA is a collaborative consortium comprising sixteen (16) prominent universities spanning ten (10) African nations that serve as a beacon of research excellence on the continent. This reflects KNUST's outstanding role as a research-intensive University on the African continent. I would like to thank all our Researchers and Principal Investigators for all the hard work.

3.0 KNUST OBUASI CAMPUS

Nana Chancellor, permit me to now turn my attention to the KNUST Obuasi Campus.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to inform you that we are graduating our first batch of students from the KNUST Obuasi Campus this year. Their performance has so far been splendid. We salute our staff and students and our supportive partners for this milestone. Since the idea was mooted, the Obuasi campus has received improved development and growth. Permanent staff have been employed for the campus and several of the old structures bequeathed to us by AngloGold Ashanti have been renovated to enhance teaching and learning.

With our first batch of students completing their four-year studies, we cannot take pride in our accomplishments, without showing deep appreciation to the Government of Ghana for the continuous assistance provided to this campus since its establishment. We are also extremely grateful to you, Nana Chancellor, for your guidance and enormous support demonstrated throughout the formative years of the Obuasi Campus. Our profound gratitude also goes to AngloGold Ashanti for being a dependable partner for the establishment of the Obuasi Campus. I would like to recognise and appreciate my predecessor, Prof. Kwasi Obiri-Danso under whose leadership and foresight, the Obuasi Campus started. I cannot forget the work done by the Steering Committee, under the leadership of our former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. K. K. Adarkwa and the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) of Obuasi Municipal Assembly for their contributions.

Finally, I wish to appreciate our Foundation Dean, Prof. Richard Buamah and his team for the hard work towards this achievement.

4.0 KNUST DAY OF GIVING

Nana Chancellor, at the last Congregation, you graciously launched the 'KNUST Day of Giving' which was scheduled for 6th October of every year, the birthday of KNUST. The goal for this year's Day of Giving was to solicit an amount of Two Hundred Million Ghana Cedis (Ghc 200,000,000.00) from Alumni, Students, Partners, Friends and other Stakeholders to build an ultra-modern Two Thousand (2,000) bed capacity Hall of Residence for students. As we all may be aware, one of the major challenges we have as a University is lack of adequate accommodation for students on campus. Nana Chancellor, I am glad to report that the Day of Giving has so far generated a little over Seven Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis (Ghc 700,000.00) as of today.

Nana Chancellor, I want to thank you most sincerely for your blessings to enable the University to carry on with the Day of Giving initiative. With your permission and on your behalf, I wish to express our profound gratitude and appreciation to all donors, including Members of Council, Staff, Alumni, Parents and Partners for their support and contributions towards this noble cause so far. I would like to particularly mention Mr. Osei Asibey, CEO of ASIB Construction Limited for being the single highest donor. Clearly, we have a long way to go. The window for the donation is still opened up to the end of the year, and we would like to appeal to all of us, to come to 'Macedonia' and help. Please keep the donations coming.

5.0 STUDENT RELATED ACTIVITIES

5.1 Student Entrepreneurship Pitching Competitions

Nana Chancellor, to unearth the entrepreneurial spirit in our students and to support the entrepreneurship agenda of the University, Management worked with the Students' Representative Council (SRC) to raise funds to support student entrepreneurship. SRC launched the "**Think it, Fund it**" project and held competitions for students to pitch their innovations and business ideas. Students who came up with innovative start-up ideas were supported with seed money to start their businesses.

It is with much delight that I also announce to you that two Start-Up Teams: **McHan Organics** and **Smart Farm** from KNUST, emerged winners of the National Demo Pitching Competition. The finalists included University of Ghana and University of Cape Coast. I wish to entreat our students and graduands to consider coming together to form teams to make use of their innovative and creative skills to create start-up businesses. Remember, the KNUST Business Incubation Centre is here to assist and support you.

5.2 Christof Heyns African Human Rights Moot Court Competition

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, KNUST hosted the 32nd Christof Heyns African Human Rights Moot Court Competition from 3rd to 9th September 2023, the first of the competition to be hosted outside a country's capital city. In all, fifty (50) universities from seventeen (17) countries across the African continent gathered on the KNUST Campus to compete for the ultimate on the theme *"The Africa We Want: Sexual and Gender Minority Rights in Africa, Climate Change and Corruption"*. I am delighted to announce to you that, Team KNUST slightly missed the First position and was the Runner-Up. We, however, took the Best English Memorial for the Applicant and for the Respondent. Nana Chancellor, I wish to express our utmost appreciation to you for your presence through your able representative Nana Mamponghe, Daasebere Nana Osei Bonsu II. We are indeed very grateful.

We congratulate Team KNUST especially, Ms. Adwubi Opoku Bandoh and Ms. Maame Ama Annan and their coach, Mr. Ezekiel Osei for their splendid performance. We say well done to the Faculty of Law of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Organisers for a very successful international competition.

Nana Chancellor, while we are at the Faculty of Law, please permit me to share another great achievement of our students during this year's **Call to the Bar** examinations.

Nana Chancellor, KNUST Alumni took four of the awards this year. The overall Best Student Award (The John Mensah Sarbah Award) was enviably taken by **Ebenezer Addai Osei**. Nana Chancellor, quick statistics for the past thirteen (13) years of this Award starting from 2011 to 2023, will be helpful.

Nana Chancellor, I am happy to note that KNUST has taken this Award eight (8) times out of the thirteen (13) years period.

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, I am not done yet. This year again, **Abena Agyeiwaa Asare** took the 2nd Best Graduating Student - Post Call Award. **Godson Bonney** emerged as the Best Graduating Student - Advocacy and Legal Ethics. The Best Graduating Student - Interpretation of Statutes and Deeds was also taken by **Jacqueline Osei Amaniampong**. We are proud of them all.

5.3 Vice-Chancellor's Students' Excellence Awards

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, the University organised its maiden edition of the Vice-Chancellor's Students' Excellence Awards to reward students who excelled in various aspects of their lives and activities on campus under the theme: *"Balancing Acts: Honouring Academics, Innovations and Beyond"*. In all, a total of forty-six (46) students were awarded across twelve (12) categories including: student leadership, academic excellence, sports, debate, cadet, peer counselling, volunteering, and creative arts. I would like to thank Prof. Marian Asantewaah Nkansah and her team for giving us a very successful programme of celebrating our brilliant and enterprising students. Nana Chancellor, while we are still celebrating our amazing students, kindly permit me to recognise and appreciate the immediate past SRC and the KNUST Chapter of the Graduate Students' Association of Ghana (GRASAG-KNUST) Presidents – Mr. Frank Owusu and Mr. Fred Parker for providing sound leadership to the students in their tenures. We salute them for their hard work.

5.4 The SONSOL Project

Nana Chancellor, the University continues to strive to achieve its vision of supporting brilliant but needy students with laptops. With the support of our benefactors, this year, the University has been able to distribute five hundred and seventy-four (574) laptops to students. The laptops are estimated at a total cost of Four Million, Three Hundred and Fifty-Four Thousand Ghana Cedis (Ghc 4,354,000.00). This brings the total number of laptops distributed since the inception of this innovative project to almost

two thousand (2,000) laptops, estimated at a total cost of Eleven Million Ghana Cedis (Ghc 11,000,000.00).

Nana Chancellor, permit me to specially recognise our benefactors and benefactresses for their kind donations.

We are extremely grateful to the Consolidated Bank Ghana (CBG), Stanbic Bank, Ecobank Ghana, Ultimate Fashion, Mr. Isaac Owusu, CEO of Isaac Books and Stationery, Kingdom Books, Hon. Dr. Stephen Amoah, Dr. Delese Mimi Darko, CEO of FDA, Lawyer Nana Adjei Bafour, Mr. Kofi Addo-Agyekum, CEO of Kofikrom Pharmacy, Ghana Grid Company Limited (GRIDCo), Docutech Ghana Limited, Mrs. Bernice Asamoah, Andysarp, Multinec, Fairgreen Limited, Google Inc., SRC KNUST and GRASAG KNUST. We are indeed very grateful. I wish to encourage our partners, alumni, parents, students and all the other stakeholders of the University to continue to support this noble cause.

6.0 INAUGURAL AND R.P. BAFFOUR MEMORIAL LECTURES

Nana Chancellor, as a University, our newly appointed Professors give inaugural lectures on their research to contribute to the academic life of the University and also address topics of national interest. During the period under review, the following Professors gave their Professorial Inaugural lecture:

- i. Prof. Divine Kwaku Ahadzie gave a lecture on the theme: ***“Winning the Real Impact Award: A Reflexive Journey through Housing, Environment and Community Flood resilience”***.
- ii. ***“Transport Poverty in Africa: Planning for our Mobility Futures in an Era of Sustainability”*** was delivered by Prof. Michael Poku-Boansi.
- iii. Prof. Leonard Kofitse Amekudzi delivered his lecture on ***“Cracking the Climate Change Code: The Sub-Saharan Africa Revolution”***.

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Joe Anokye, the Director General of the National Communication Authority (NCA), a proud Alumnus of this University, delivered the 12th R. P. Baffour Memorial Lectures, which commenced yesterday and ended so beautifully this morning; on the theme: ***“KNUST After 70: A New Age for A Renewed Focus in an Era of Disruptive***

Technologies". He treated the University Community to these insightful lecture series under the following sub-themes:

Lecture 1: *"KNUST, a History of Remarkable Growth in Science and Technology Education, Resilience and Adaptability in the Digital Space"*.

Lecture 2: *"Ghana's Digitalisation Drive, a Response to the New Age of Disruptive Technologies"*.

Lecture 3: *"KNUST, a Renewed Focus in the Era of Disruptive Technologies"*.

I wish on behalf of the Chancellor, His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Management and the entire University Community to express our profound gratitude to Mr. Anokye, for the lectures. Mr. Anokye, thank you very much for all the rich insights you have shared with us. We are indeed very grateful.

7.0 STATISTICS ON GRADUATING CLASS

Nana Chancellor, let me now provide the statistics for this year's Congregation. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, this morning's session climaxes the 57th Congregation which commenced on Thursday, 9th November 2023. We have already held fifteen (15) sessions for the six (6) Colleges and the Institute of Distance Learning (IDL) of the University.

The total number of graduating students for the 57th Congregation is **Seventeen Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirty-Seven (17,437)**. Out of this number, **Thirteen Thousand, One Hundred and Seventy (13,170)** (75.53%) are undergraduates whilst **Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Sixty-Seven (4,267)** (24.47%) are postgraduates. This morning, we will be graduating **Seven Hundred and Four (704)** postgraduate students. Out of which, **One Hundred and Thirty-Five (135)** will be receiving PhD degrees and **Forty-Three (43)** (30.5%) of them are females.

Nana Chancellor, I am also elated to announce the **OVERALL BEST GRADUATING** and **BEST GRADUATING FEMALE** undergraduate students of the University for this 57th Congregation. They are, Mr. Humphrey Ashimatey of the Department of Economics, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, with a Cumulative Weighted Average (CWA) of 85.09, and

Miss. Frances Sochima Ibe of the Department of Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering, with a CWA of 82.77.

8.o KNUST RANKED No.1 DESTINATION FOR QUALITY EDUCATION GLOBALLY.

The best is always reserved for the last. Nana Chancellor, permit me to add my voice to yours to celebrate our beloved and noble University, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. I am deeply delighted to inform you that KNUST has been ranked the number one destination for quality education (SDG 4) by the Times Higher Education (THE), UK, Impact Rankings 2023. THE Impact Rankings assesses universities against the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG 4 which is on quality education, measures universities' contribution to early years and lifelong learning, research and their commitment to inclusive education. In the 2023 THE Impact Rankings, one thousand, three hundred and four (1,304) universities from one hundred and nine (109) countries were assessed. Out of the one thousand, three hundred and four (1,304) universities, KNUST was adjudged the best university in terms of SDG 4.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as we share in the celebrations, I wish to express our profound gratitude to our indefatigable staff, students, and partners through whose efforts the University has been able to achieve this feat. I entreat all of us to continue to work towards maintaining this laudable achievement.

9.o ADVICE TO GRADUANDS

Now just a few words to you my proud Graduands. Continue to add value to yourselves at any opportunity because incremental, implementable, sometimes imperfect changes over time add up to Big Results.

Remember that success is a vehicle which moves on a wheel called HARD WORK, but the journey is impossible without the fuel called self-confidence. Be bold, be courageous and do your very best at all times, keeping in mind that You and God form a Majority.

May the Good Lord Bless You and Keep You

May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be Gracious onto You

May He continue to order your Steps all the Days of your life and Give You,
His Peace.

I wish you all very well in your future endeavours. Once again, Congratulations!!!
Thank you very much and God bless us all.