

KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI



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**ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT THE
58TH SPECIAL CONGREGATION**

**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR OF KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI, HIS ROYAL MAJESTY**

OTUMFUO OSEI TUTU II

SALUTATION

Chairman and Members of the University Council
Hon. Minister of Education
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
Members of Parliament and MMDCEs present
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,

WELCOME

As the Chancellor of this prestigious University, it is with great joy that I welcome you all to the 58th Special Congregation; as we gather to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our cherished students who have demonstrated resilience, diligence, and an unwavering commitment to excellence in their chosen disciplines. Let me extend a warm and special welcome to my brother, the King of the good people of Eswatini and head of the Swazi royal family, King Mswati III, who has been my guest these past few days.

This occasion is not just a mere ceremony; it is a defining milestone in the academic journey of our gallant young men and women who will be honoured today. We join them to celebrate the culmination of years of steadfast pursuit of knowledge, hard work, and intellectual rigour. Today, we honour their perseverance and usher them to the bright future that awaits them.

This success would not have been possible without the commitment of our teaching and non-teaching staff. Your dedication and selflessness continue to propel KNUST, earning applause and recognition on the national and international stage. Your tireless efforts have nurtured and shaped these graduands into the next generation of changemakers, innovators, and global leaders, a legacy they will always be proud of.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Ladies and Gentlemen, today I would like to direct my remarks specifically to the University itself — the pivotal role it continues to play in shaping minds, advancing knowledge, and contributing meaningfully to society.

I have been reliably informed that the Corporate Strategic Plan of the University will expire in December 2025 and that a Committee chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor has been formed to come up with a new Strategic Plan. Even though the KNUST has achieved a lot of milestones in its almost 74 years of existence, the opportunity to put together a new strategic plan for the next decade offers the University the chance to adopt a more intentional and impactful approach in fulfilling its mandate as a science and technology institution in the country.

Today, as Ghana grapples with youth unemployment, and the urgent need for technological advancement to compete in the global economy, KNUST's next strategic plan must position the University as a catalyst for Ghana's transformation into a technologically inclined and practical-based economy that can rival other economies.

In alignment with national priorities such as the Ghana Energy Transition Framework, the national AI Strategy, and the Sustainable Development Goals, KNUST must endeavour to be a frontrunner in solutions-driven research and innovation. We envision a future where KNUST leads the development of affordable renewable energy technologies, empowering communities with climate-smart solutions, and training a new generation of scientists and engineers who are equipped with AI-driven tools to solve local and global challenges. This is not merely an academic exercise; it is a national imperative that demands thinking beyond traditional university boundaries. I would, therefore, like to charge the new Council, under the leadership of Akyamfo Asafo Boakye Agyemang-Bonsu, to ensure that the next Corporate Strategic

Plan meets the aspirations of both the University and the nation so that KNUST transitions from being a beacon of excellence to eminence.

COMPLETION OF THE KNUST TEACHING HOSPITAL

Chairman of Council, Hon. Minister of Education, ladies, and gentlemen, one other issue of critical importance that I have passionately advocated for, over the years, is the KNUST Teaching Hospital Project; a project which began in 2008. I must admit that even though commendable progress has been made, as long as the facility is yet to be put to use, I will continue to talk about it. I am passionate about this project because of the peculiar purpose it is meant to serve. The primary objective of this project is to complement the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in the training of medical and allied health students of KNUST. The Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) is overstretched, and the KNUST Teaching Hospital when completed, will immensely support the tertiary healthcare needs of the northern sector of Ghana. Let us not think that this facility is only for the Ashanti Region or KNUST. The reality is that healthcare professionals trained at KNUST, like other institutions in Ghana, find their way to every corner of the nation and even beyond. When we are certain, as a nation, that we have provided our trainees with up-to-date facilities, we will be confident enough to go to their consulting rooms and lie on their operation beds.

I therefore urge the President, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama to prioritise this essential project and expedite its completion.

ADVICE TO GRADUANDS

As you bid farewell to the four corners of this noble Institution, I encourage you to stay connected with other alumni and join forces with your colleagues across various disciplines to explore innovative ways to address humanity's challenges. Nurture the friendships you have forged, find a niche, take the initiative, and work together as a team to make both yourself and KNUST proud. Always remember: "The best graduates are those who identify a problem and collaborate with others to solve it." May the good Lord bless you and smile on you as you go out there to make all of us proud.

Congratulations,

Constitution of Assembly

And now

BY THE POWERS CONFERRED ON ME AS CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, I, OTUMFUO OSEI-TUTU II, FORMALLY DECLARE THIS ASSEMBLY DULY CONSTITUTED.

Thank you and God bless us all.

**OTUMFUO OSEI TUTU II, ASANTEHENE
CHANCELLOR, KNUST, KUMASI
JUNE 2025**

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR (MRS.) RITA AKOSUA DICKSON,
VICE-CHANCELLOR OF KNUST**

SALUTATION

The Chancellor of the University, His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II
The Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, Her Excellency Professor Jane
Naana Opoku-Agyemang
His Majesty King Mswati III, of the Kingdom of Eswatini
Honourable Minister of Education, Mr. Haruna Iddrisu
Honourable Ashanti Regional Minister, Dr. Frank Amoakohene
Chairman and Members of Council
His Excellency Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General African Continental Free
Trade Area
Leadership of WASCAL
Colleague Vice-Chancellors from Sister Universities
Past Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors from Sister Institutions
Registrar and Registrars from Sister Universities
Provosts of Colleges
Deans and Directors
Heads of Department
Members of Convocation
Senior and Junior Staff of the University
Nananom
Alumni of the University
Graduating Class of 2025
Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Audience and Viewers
Our Friends from the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

It is a real pleasure and honour to add my voice to that of our Chancellor, His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, in welcoming you all to this very important congregation.

The past months have been filled with a lot of activities, and we are grateful to God and to the entire University Community for all the hard work.

I would like to specially acknowledge our Chancellor, His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II for the diverse roles he plays in making KNUST the preferred destination for Quality Education for many. To our supportive stakeholders and industrious partners, we say Ayekoo.

Let me, on behalf of all of us say a Big CONGRATULATIONS to you, our graduands for how far you have come on your educational journey.

It is now my singular honour to provide you with updates on our dear University since the November Congregation.

2.0 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

2.1 GRADUATION STATISTICS

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, today marks the climax of this year's Special Congregation ceremonies which commenced on Thursday, 26th June, 2025. I am glad to report that, for this session, we will be graduating a total of six hundred (600) postgraduate students who have worked diligently to satisfy all the requirements for the award of our prestigious degrees. This figure, in addition to the figures from the two sessions, will bring the total number of graduating students for this year's Special Congregation to eight thousand, one hundred and sixty-one (8,161). This is made up of three thousand, one hundred and ninety-six (3,196) (39%) undergraduates and four thousand, nine hundred and sixty-five (4,965) (61%) postgraduates. A total of one hundred and eighteen (118) postgraduates are graduating with PhD degrees with twenty-three (23) females.

2.3 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Nana Chancellor, two of our schools; School of Medical Sciences (SMS) and the KNUST School of Business (KSB) are celebrating 50 years and 20 years of global impact respectively.

The School of Medical Sciences (SMS) will climax their Anniversary Celebration on 3rd October 2025, marking five (5) decades of providing excellent medical education and research under the theme **“A Glance at the Past, A Glimpse into the Future.”**

As part of the Anniversary Celebration, the School will unveil the construction of a 4-storey Medical Training Facility at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH).

We call on all stakeholders, especially our proud Alumni to be part of this celebration and send in their support.

Similarly, the KNUST School of Business (KSB), have marked 20 years of impacting and churning out top notch professionals for our country and the world. The theme for the Anniversary Celebrations was **“20 years of Excellence in Business Education: Building Capability and Resilience for Sustainable Development”**

3.0 STAFF RELATED ACTIVITIES

3.1 THE FIRST “HARD AT HEARING” PROFESSOR IN WEST AFRICA

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, KNUST is known to be a pace setter in the academic space, and we are very proud of this. Indeed, our all -inclusive education model forbids us to leave anybody behind. It is with great joy and excitement that I announce to you that KNUST has produced the “first hard at hearing” Professor in West Africa in the person of Prof. Wisdom Kwadwo Mprah. Prof. Mprah, KNUST celebrates you for your diligence, commitment, selflessness and contribution to Academia and we say well done to you for achieving this great feat. May this serve as a motivation for all our differently abled students. Please be assured that KNUST will support you to succeed irrespective of any physical challenge you may have.

3.2 CELEBRATING FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Nana Chancellor, our Faculty Members continue to excel and uplift the image of the University on both national and international stages. I am glad to inform you that, Prof. Alexander Debrah, Dean, Allied Health has won the 2025 Dr. Pascoal Mocumbi prize worth Fifty Thousand Euros (€50,000) by the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCCTP), for his contribution to Global Health Research and Capacity Development in Africa.

Dr. Caroline Kwawu, a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Chemistry, has received the prestigious L’Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Award.

Her innovative work focuses on the impact of erratic power supply and the economic disruptions caused by climate change, especially in agriculture-dependent economies. We say congratulations to Prof. Debrah and Dr. Kwawu for these achievements.

4.0 COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

4.1 KNUST PARTNERS WITH AFOS FOUNDATION TO BOOST FEMALE EMPLOYABILITY IN TECH

Nana Chancellor, I am happy to report that KNUST has partnered with AFOS Foundation to enhance female students' employability in technology-related fields.

The partnership focuses on capacity building and digital skills development, to provide female students with job-ready training to tackle the global unemployment crisis.

4.2 KNUST AND UNIVERSITY OF SEYCHELLES PARTNERSHIP

Nana Chancellor, in November 2024, the President of Seychelles, His Excellency President Wavel Ramkalawan, on your recommendation, visited the University. The University Management held discussions with him on exploring potential collaborations between the University of Seychelles and KNUST. I am happy to report that, through your leadership and guidance, KNUST and University of Seychelles have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in January this year to formalise this partnership. Under the MoU, KNUST seeks to Promote Research Exchange and Enhance Student Mobility between both institutions. We look forward to a fruitful partnership that will foster innovation and contribute to global academic growth.

4.3 MASTERCARD FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP TO ESWATINI STUDENTS

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, kindly join me in conveying our profound gratitude to Nana Chancellor, whose visionary leadership has culminated in the award of prestigious scholarships, through the MasterCard Foundation, for five (5) deserving students from the Kingdom of Eswatini

to pursue Petroleum Engineering at KNUST in support of their fairly young petroleum industry, bringing the number to fourteen (14) Eswatini Students.

This remarkable achievement stands as a testament to your unwavering dedication to the advancement and well-being of both students and staff of this noble institution. Nana Chancellor, we salute your enduring support and celebrate your outstanding contributions to both our local and international academic communities. Nana nya nkwa daa.

5.0 GRANTS

Nana Chancellor, research as you are aware, is part of our core mandate. In this regard, Management of the University continually strives to ensure that Faculty have all the necessary support internally and from external sources to undertake life-changing research activities. I am elated to report that, our Faculty competed for external grants and as a result, the University, from November 2024 to May 2025 won a total grant of Eight Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Six Hundred and Sixty-Seven Dollars, and Thirty-Eight Cents (\$8,224,667.38.)

I am proud to announce that the following distinguished faculty, among others, made the University proud in this endeavour:

1. Prof. Stephen Fred Sarfo of the Department of Medicine won Seven Hundred and Seventy-One Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighteen Dollars (\$771,318.00) to undertake a project to address Hypertension Care in Africa.
2. Prof. George M. Bob-Millar of the Department of History and Political Science won Five Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirty-Five Dollars (\$578,435.00) to undertake a project on Multiple Waterscapes in Urban Ghana (MUWUG).

We extend our deepest congratulations to all our grant awardees.

6.0 SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Nana Chancellor, as a Special mention, I am happy to report that one of our former Vice Chancellors has been given a national assignment resulting in a change in his title with immediate effect!

Nana Chancellor, please I am referring to His Excellency Professor Kwasi Obiri-Danso who has been appointed as Ghana's High Commissioner to India. We congratulate His Excellency and wish him very well.

7.0 ADVICE TO GRADUANDS

My dear graduands, as you stand on the threshold of this new chapter, remember to be kind to yourself. Take good care of your mental and physical health and stay true to your values and principles.

Your education does not stop here. The world is constantly changing especially in this technologically advancing space. AI, machine learning etc. have come to stay. Remain curious and ask the relevant questions.

Do not be afraid to take the road less travelled. Pursue your passions regardless of the challenges and remember that the greatest rewards often lie just beyond your comfort zone.

May the Grace, Goodness and Mercies of God be with you as you work hard to serve humanity.

Once again, Congratulations!!!

Thank you very much and God bless us all.

PROFESSOR (MRS.) RITA AKOSUA DICKSON

VICE-CHANCELLOR, KNUST, KUMASI

JUNE 2025