

KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI



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**ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT THE
59TH CONGREGATION**

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

SALUTATIONS

Your Excellency John Dramani Mahama, the President of the Republic of Ghana

Honourable Minister of Education, Hon. Haruna Iddrisu and Ministers of State present.

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 Members of Parliament and MMDCEs present

Provosts of Colleges

Deans and Directors

Members of Convocation

Senior and Junior Staff

Nananom

Alumni of the University

Invited Guests

Members of the Press

Graduands

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

WELCOME

It is my singular honour and greatest joy to welcome you all to the 59th Congregation of our noble University. As Chancellor and a lifelong advocate for education, moments like this give me immense pride and fulfilment. Today, we gather once again to celebrate the triumph of dedication, sacrifice and perseverance.

Our graduands stand before us as proof that education remains the most reliable path to empowerment, liberation from poverty and deprivation, and the attainment of a brighter, more purposeful future. You shine forth as beacons of intellect and resilience, prepared to take your rightful place

as leaders, innovators and agents of transformation. May the Almighty God bless your efforts.

THE 13TH R.P. BAFFOUR MEMORIAL LECTURES

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, yesterday and this morning, we have been privileged to partake in an intellectual feast, ably delivered by our distinguished daughter, Dr. Mercy Nyamewaa Asiedu. On behalf of the University, I extend our profound gratitude for her illuminating discourse on the theme: “Super Intelligent AI Agents: An Existential Threat to the Human Race? Navigating Through the Intricacies of the AI Revolution.”

The subject of Artificial Intelligence, as we have heard, is not a distant speculation of science fiction, but a present and powerful force shaping our world. It holds the capacity to revolutionise medicine, education, commerce, governance and many other spheres of life. Yet, it also carries profound risks which, if left unchecked, could undermine the very essence of its application.

Dr. Asiedu has guided us with clarity through the intricacies of this phenomenon, its origins, its trajectories, its promises and its perils. She has reminded us that the challenge of our age is not merely to embrace technological advancement, but to do so with wisdom, foresight and above all, a moral compass.

As a premier institution of science and technology, it is our responsibility not to remain passive consumers of imported innovations, but to contribute meaningfully to the global discourse and development of AI, and it is for this reason that we have diligently undergone this tutelage. We must prepare our students and researchers to engage critically, to innovate responsibly and to ensure that technology reflects our cultural values and advances the wellbeing of humanity.

On this note, I commend Dr. Asiedu, not only for her brilliant scholarship, but for standing as a shining inspiration to the youth of Ghana, especially to our young women who aspire to build careers in science and technology. Her life and work remind us that excellence knows no boundaries when it is guided by vision and discipline.

OTHER CRITICAL ISSUES

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, at each Congregation ceremony, it is my solemn duty, as Chancellor, to draw the nation's attention to matters of national importance that touch the very fabric of our University and to bring them to the attention of the Government and other stakeholders. On this occasion, I will highlight just a few:

THE KNUST TEACHING HOSPITAL

Mr. President, the story of the KNUST Teaching Hospital is not new anymore to our national discourse. I have, over the years, on this same platform, screamed it loud for attention.

I was thus elated to learn that the Honourable Minister of Education, during the Grand Durbar of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of our School of Medical Sciences, promised the Government of Ghana's commitment to completing our teaching hospital project. In fact, the Minister, on behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic, announced the release of GHC46million for the completion of the teaching hospital and an additional US\$38million to equip the teaching hospital as part of the 2025/2026 formula of GETFund. This is in addition to the Government's commitment to construct two multipurpose lecture theatres at a cost of US\$10 million. Ladies and Gentlemen, the President deserves a resounding applause, and please join me in doing so.

Thank you, Mr. President. I trust this is not a mere promise. I know that when you promise, you deliver, and the teaching hospital project will not be an exception. Your Excellency, I implore you to seize this historic moment and immortalise your name as the game changer who brought this noble vision to its glorious completion, a legacy that generations unborn will honour and remember you for.

FINANCIAL CLEARANCE FOR RECRUITMENT

Ladies and gentlemen, another pressing challenge confronting this University is the issue of inadequate staffing. At the recent five-year cyclical review of our University by the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission, I am told the challenge of our unfavourable student-to-lecturer ratio was brought sharply

into focus. This situation places a heavy strain on our dedicated lecturers and threatens the quality of teaching and learning we provide.

Accordingly, I call on the Government to treat this matter with urgency and as a moral obligation, for it is not merely a question of numbers, but of the very future of our youth and the nation. Our universities must be empowered to provide not only instruction, but also the close guidance and mentorship that mould leaders, innovators, and custodians of our nation's destiny. I, therefore, appeal to the government, through the Honourable Minister of Finance, to grant the necessary financial clearance for the recruitment of additional academic and administrative staff for the University. Only then can we sustain the quality of education that prepares our graduates to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Ladies and gentlemen, we are all aware of the unemployment situation in this nation. It was on that basis that I raised the issue when the German Ambassador paid a courtesy call on me last month. I wish to reiterate my appeal to the German Government to support Small and Medium Scale Industries (SMEs).

Unemployment is a major issue in the country. It is a national concern, and the President should take a keen interest in this critical issue.

ENCROACHMENT ON LANDS

Barely five years ago, in this very Hall, I issued a solemn and unequivocal warning against any encroachment upon the lands of KNUST. However, I have received reports indicating that some recalcitrant people continue to test our resolve. Let me, therefore, say again, with absolute clarity and without equivocation: any encroachment upon KNUST lands will not be tolerated.

As I indicated five years ago, these lands are not ordinary. They are sacred legacies entrusted to us by our forebears and reserved for the education and upliftment of generations unborn. They belong to the nation of Ghana

and to the bright minds who will shape her future. Any attempt to prey on them is an attack on that sacred trust and will be met with decisive action.

I hereby command all who harbour such intentions to desist immediately and keep away from the sacred lands of KNUST.

WORD OF ADVICE TO GRADUANDS

And now, to you, our gallant graduands, today marks both the end of your academic journey at KNUST and a new beginning. You carry forward not only the knowledge acquired here, but also the values of resilience, integrity, and a commitment to serving humanity.

As you step into the wider world, let innovation guide your ideas, integrity anchor your actions, and compassion shape your leadership. The true measure of education lies not in personal gain alone, but in the light you bring into the lives of others.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Let us carry with us the solemn duty to ensure that in the unfolding story of Artificial Intelligence, Africa shall not stand as a mere spectator, but as an active and responsible participant. Let us embrace the opportunities of this new age, while safeguarding the dignity and destiny of humankind.

Go forth, therefore, and let your lives be a living testimony to the greatness of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

Now, by the powers conferred on me as Chancellor of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, I, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene, hereby declare this assembly duly constituted.

May the Almighty guide us in this noble pursuit.

I thank you all.

**OTUMFUO OSEI TUTU II
ASANTEHENE & CHANCELLOR, KNUST, KUMASI
NOVEMBER 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, Her Excellency Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-
Agyemang

Hon. Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, The
Gambia, Prof. Pierre Gomez

Chairman and Members of Council

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 Departments

Members of Convocation

Senior and Junior Staff of the University

Chairman and Members of the KNUST Engineering Education Project (KEEP)
Advisory Board

Nananom

Alumni of the University

Graduating Class of 2025

Parents and Guardians

Our Friends from the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

It is an absolute pleasure and honour for me to join Nana Chancellor in
welcoming you all to this very significant occasion; the congregation ceremony
of our Class of 2025.

We are grateful to God for His Grace and mercies over the past months. KNUST is indeed grateful to the Government of Ghana for all the tremendous assistance. We acknowledge greatly, the invaluable support and guidance of our Chancellor, His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II. Nana Chancellor, KNUST truly appreciates your visionary leadership and guidance. Nana mo ne yɔ! To our industrious and dedicated staff, students, supportive stakeholders and diligent partners, we say Ayekoooo!

Just a short while ago, we had the privilege of listening to the final lecture by Dr. Mercy Nyamewaa Asiedu, a great and industrious daughter of our land, in the three-part series that concluded the 13th R.P. Baffour Memorial Lectures. These lectures were delivered under the theme “**Super Intelligent AI Agents: An Existential Threat to the Human Race? Navigating Through the Intricacies of the AI Revolution**”. We are grateful to Dr. Asiedu for the insightful lectures. I am excited to note that she is the first lady to deliver the R.P Baffour Lectures. I hope this inspires the young ladies enough.

Indeed, this lecture is a follow up to our Summer School last month, which was dedicated to AI in Education, where we focused on how we could leverage on AI to improve on what we do. In addition, based on the AI strategy of the University, all students with effect from the next academic year, will take a compulsory course in responsible AI to enhance their global competitiveness.

The University, through the various Colleges, has held sixteen (16) sessions of the graduation ceremonies which started from 18th November 2025. I am delighted to inform you that, as part of the climax today, the University would confer honorary degrees and awards on distinguished personalities and deserving stakeholders. KNUST salutes all our Awardees and wish them well. May I on behalf of all of us, also congratulate you, our dear graduands, on reaching this remarkable milestone in your educational journey. Nana Chancellor, with your kind permission, I would share some key developments at the University since the June 2025 Congregation.

GRADUATION STATISTICS

Nana Chancellor, for this session, we will be graduating a total of two hundred and twenty-one (221) postgraduate students who have satisfied all the requirements to receive our prestigious degrees. The total number of

graduating students for this year's Congregation is seventeen thousand, one hundred and thirty-two (17,132). This is made up of fourteen thousand, seven hundred and sixty-four (14,764) (86.2%) undergraduates and two thousand, three hundred and sixty-eight (2,368) (13.8%) postgraduates. Out of the two hundred and twenty-one (221) PhD graduands to be presented this morning, sixty-six (66) are females.

INAUGURAL LECTURES

As part of our strategic mandate of disseminating information on the impactful research undertaken by staff and students, our Academic Senior Members take turns to share their research outcomes to impact policy through our Inaugural Lectures. The recent Lectures were delivered by Prof. Hadrat Yusif and Prof. Emmanuel Adinyira.

Prof. Yusif delivered on the topic **“Monetary Policy in Ghana: Revisiting the Tobin’s Model”** where he emphasised monetary policy as a potent tool for macroeconomic stabilization in Ghana.

Prof. Adinyira focused on the topic **“Beyond the Fence: Transferring Health, Safety, and Environment Knowledge from Construction Sites to Host Communities”** where he highlighted the significance of Health, Safety, and Environmental issues during constructions.

Massive congratulations to our professors.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Nana Chancellor, Our University has recently experienced some changes in leadership after approval from the University Council. We are happy to welcome the following officers on board.

1. Mr. Benjamin Boampong Owusu Esq. - Registrar
2. Prof. Philip Antwi-Agyei - Provost, College of Science
3. Prof. Christian Koranteng- Provost, College of Art and Built Environment
4. Dr. Richard Lamptey - University Librarian. We also welcome all other officers who have taken various positions in the University.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to you all and wish you very well as you contribute your quota in moving this University to another level of eminence.

STUDENT AWARDS

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our students continue to bring honour to us in so many ways. Let me highlight just a few of their remarkable achievements:

1. A four-member team from the KNUST School of Business emerged winners of the **2025 Tertiary Business Sense Challenge**, held in Accra in August 2025. In addition to the team's outstanding performance, Mr. Kwadwo Acheampong was adjudged the Overall Best Performer of the competition.
2. Enactus KNUST was crowned the 2025 Enactus Ghana National Champion. In recognition of their achievement, the team was honoured by His Excellency the President during a special ceremony at the Jubilee House. Following their victory, the team courageously represented Ghana at the Enactus World Cup in Bangkok, Thailand in September 2025, where they put up a very impressive and bold performance which nearly brought home the trophy. The assurance is that the lessons have been learned, and we should look out for them in the next call.
3. Team KNUST was declared the winner of the 2025 National Insurance Debate, organised by the Ghana Insurers Association, following a highly competitive contest that featured fifteen (15) tertiary institutions from across the country.
4. Our sportsmen and women made us proud by emerging as the overall winners at the 28th Ghana University Sports Association (GUSA) Cross Country and Minor Games.

MAIDEN STUDENTS' WEEK CELEBRATION

Nana Chancellor, following a request from the student leaders to the University Council, for the celebration of a University-wide students' week,

and Council's subsequent approval, SRC launched and celebrated the maiden Students' Week. The event took place from the 15th to the 20th of July, 2025, under the theme **"Educate, Participate, Celebrate"** Key highlight of the week was the Vice-Chancellor's Students Excellence Awards (VCSEA), where the efforts and hard work of students in fifteen (15) categories, including academic excellence, leadership, peer counselling, entrepreneurship, creative arts, and community service were recognised and various awards given. The Council of the University as well as Management commend the leadership of the SRC and GRASAG for a great job.

Congratulations and well done to our student leaders.

THE SUPPORT ONE NEEDY STUDENT WITH ONE LAPTOP PROJECT (SONSOL)

Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen, our ongoing efforts to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusive access to education through the Support One Needy Student with One Laptop (SONSOL) project saw our dedicated partners supporting the University to put smiles on the faces of our students. Over six hundred (600) laptops were given to brilliant but needy students bringing the total number of distributed laptops to over three thousand, two hundred (3,200) since its inception.

This transformative project was made possible through the generous support of our committed stakeholders and partners. These include Stanbic Bank, Telecel Ghana, State Insurance Company (SIC), Isaac Books and Stationery, Ecobank Ghana, OmniBSIC Bank, Docutech Ghana, Multinec Enterprise, Papnobles Ventures, Omega Compu-System Engineering, OB Foundation, Yashcom Company, Eshmon, Root Keep Fit Club, SRC, GRASAG, and NUGS-KNUST. We are indeed grateful to you all.

CELEBRATING FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Nana Chancellor, our esteemed faculty members continue to make us proud. Prof. (Mrs.) Veronica Millicent Dzomeku, Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, was inducted into the Hall of Fame by the Ministry of Health at the 2025 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

Dr. Edward Appiah Boateng of the same school was also honoured in the Education and Research category.

Dr. Henry Nunoo-Mensah ranked first nationwide, among Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning researchers in Ghana, with Prof. Frimpong Twum, Dr. Francisca Adoma Acheampong and Dr. Caspar Daniel Adenutsi were also listed among the country's top researchers in the field.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, our strategic mandate enjoins us to undertake relevant and impactful research that addresses national and global challenges. In line with this commitment, we have awarded over GH¢1.5Million to support Research activities of twenty-nine (29) Staff through the KNUST Research Fund (KReF) Awards this year, bringing the total amount of internal research funding to over GH¢7Million, since the inception of KREF in 2016.

Similarly, our faculty members received external grants to support our research activities. For the reporting period (June -November 2025), the University has received a total of USD\$8.9Million in external research funding won by:

1. Prof. John Humphrey Amuasi of the Department of Global and International Health to work on Global Health and Pandemic Prevention;
2. Prof. Alex Kwame Owusu-Ofori of the Department of Clinical Microbiology, for the prevention of infection and Microbial Resistance in Africa.

Congratulations to all our awardees for the hardwork.

SPECIAL MENTION

Nana Chancellor, I am honoured to report that Prof. Mrs. Esi Awuah, an accomplished environmental scientist in the College of Engineering and the first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Energy and Natural Resources

has been appointed as Ghana's Ambassador to Switzerland. We wish Her Excellency well.

1. Rev. Professor William Otoo-Ellis, former Vice-Chancellor, has been appointed Chairman of the Governing Council of Akenten Appiah-Menka University of Skills Training and Entrepreneurial Development (AAMUSTED).
2. Professor Ellis Owusu-Dabo, former Pro-Vice Chancellor, has been appointed as the Council Chairman of the Garden City University, Kumasi.
3. Professor Edward Brenya, of the Department of History and Political Studies, has been appointed Council Chairman of the Kumasi Technical University (KSTU)
4. Professor Matthew Glover Addo, former Director, IDL has also been appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor of the Catholic University of Ghana (CUG).

Congratulations to our distinguished Senior Members. We wish them the best in their new roles.

ADVICE TO GRADUANDS

My dear graduands, as you step into the next phase of your journey, I encourage you to move forward with courage, purpose, and compassion. Hold fast to the values and principles that have guided you thus far. Do not be shocked by the many rivers you must cross. Challenges and difficulties may not be tasty in the moment, but they forge a strength and character that easy paths may never provide. Continually reimagine yourself and your career, and ask on a daily basis, what you could have achieved, if you were not afraid. By all means make the findings of your research count in adding value to the quality of life of humanity. Do not underestimate the power of starting small, even if the prospects of that job interview are high.

Grow and nurture your resilience and remember that giving up is never an option.

May the Almighty God continue to be your Guide and Stay in all you do.
And may the Grace, Favour and Mercies of God be with you always.
Once again, Congratulations!!!
Thank you very much and God bless us all.

PROFESSOR (MRS.) RITA AKOSUA DICKSON
VICE-CHANCELLOR, KNUST, KUMASI
NOVEMBER 2025