

**KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI**



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**ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT THE
59TH SPECIAL CONGREGATION**

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

SALUTATIONS

Honourable Minister of Education, Hon. Haruna Iddrisu
Chairman and Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors from sister universities
Our Special Guest, President of Ramapo College of New Jersey, Dr. Cindy Jebb
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
Members of Convocation
Senior and Junior Staff
Nananom
Alumni of the University
Invited Guests
Members of the Press
Graduands
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

WELCOME

I warmly welcome you to the climax of the 59th Special Congregation Ceremony to celebrate yet another milestone in the history of our great University. Graduation ceremonies are moments of reflection, celebration and renewed commitment to the ideals of higher education. Today, we gather not only to confer degrees but also to recognise perseverance, intellectual growth and the promise of a brighter future embodied in our graduating students.

As we celebrate this joyous moment, it is also important to reflect on the continued development of our University.

FACULTY, STAFF AND PARENTS

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to express my profound gratitude to the faculty and staff whose dedication has guided our students throughout their academic journey; to parents and guardians whose sacrifices have made today possible; and to all stakeholders who continue to support the growth of this institution.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROMULGATED ACT 2025 (ACT 1157)

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
The University Act of 1961 (Act 80) has guided the governance and administration of the University for nearly sixty-five years. Considering the significant changes that have taken place in the higher educational landscape and the evolving needs of modern universities, the need arose for its repeal and replacement.

Consequently, a new Act has been promulgated to provide an updated legal framework for the governance and administration of our University, positioning KNUST not simply as an institution to be compared with the Ivy League, but as a university that operates at par with the world's most distinguished institutions, driven by our own unique strengths and contributions.

Ladies and gentlemen, the promulgation and launching of the Act 2025 (Act 1157) marks an important turning point in the governance and administration of the University. With this new legal document, I would expect the Council to strengthen our governance structures and position the University to respond more effectively to the evolving demands of higher education in the twenty-first century.

I am reliably informed that following the promulgation of the Act, the Statutes Review Committee is undertaking a comprehensive review of the existing Statutes to ensure their full alignment with this new legislative framework. I would like to charge the Council to ensure the speedy completion of the review and ready for use as quickly as possible.

STRATEGIC PLAN (PLAN2K35)

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Alongside these governance reforms, the University has launched an ambitious ten-year Strategic Plan (**PLAN2K35**), **which takes effect from 2026 to 2035**. This strategic plan demonstrates that our University stands among the foremost centres of excellence in teaching, research, innovation and community engagement.

It is my firm conviction that the PLAN2K35 will prioritise the strengthening of academic programmes, increased investment in research and technology, the expansion of critical infrastructure and the cultivation of strategic partnerships both locally and internationally.

To ensure the smooth and effective implementation of this strategic vision, I hope the Colleges, Institutes, Research Centres and all the Administrative Units of the University have taken a cue from the corporate Strategic Plan to develop their own strategic plans to be in alignment with the University's Strategic Plan to ensure coherence, coordination and shared purpose across all levels.

Through this collective effort, each unit of the University will contribute meaningfully to the achievement of our common institutional goal of advancing the University from **excellence to eminence**. I have absolute confidence in the capacity, wisdom and leadership of the Management of KNUST to lead us on this journey.

FINANCIAL CLEARANCE

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my previous addresses, I have made several clarion calls for financial clearance to enable the University recruit the staff it urgently requires to sustain its core mandates of teaching, research and service. I, therefore, wish to respectfully renew this appeal and urge the Government, as a matter of necessity, to grant the required clearance.

Our student numbers continue to grow, and with this expansion comes an increasing demand for qualified lecturers, researchers and administrative staff. Granting financial clearance will enable the University to strengthen its human

resource capacity, improve the staff-to-student ratio, and further enhance the quality of teaching and research across our academic programmes.

Adequate staffing is essential not only for sustaining the standards for which the University is known, but also for advancing our shared national aspiration of building a globally competitive institution that contributes meaningfully to Ghana's development.

KNUST TEACHING HOSPITAL

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have taken notice of the fact that Parliament has approved the budgetary allocation for the completion of the first phase of the Teaching Hospital project and I want to place on record my sincere appreciation to the Government for this kind gesture. This project represents a significant national investment in education, healthcare delivery and development. When completed, it will serve not only as a centre for advanced medical training and research, but also as an important healthcare facility for the surrounding communities and the nation at large.

While we are grateful for the progress made thus far, we respectfully appeal that the timeline for the completion of the University Teaching Hospital be adhered to as originally scheduled. The timely delivery of this important facility will ensure that it begins serving its intended purpose. I will be waiting on the President to commission the first phase of the project by the close of the year. This will significantly enhance the University's capacity to train health professionals while expanding access to quality healthcare services.

WORD OF ADVICE TO GRADUANDS

And now, to my graduands, today is the end of your academic journey in this University and a new start as you embark on your career life. You move into society not only with the knowledge and expertise you have received here, but also the values of resilience, integrity and a commitment to serve and impact humanity. As you move into the world of work, let your ideas and integrity guide your actions and let compassion shape your leadership.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY

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, 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
MARCH 2026**

**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
Chairman and Members of Council
Colleague Vice-Chancellors from Sister Universities
Our Special Guest, President of Ramapo College of New Jersey, Dr. Cindy Jebb
Past Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors
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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 2026
Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Audience and Viewers
Our Friends from the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

It is with great honour and pleasure that I join His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the Chancellor in warmly welcoming you all, to this very special occasion. Together with your parents, guardians, spouses, friends, and loved ones, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to you for how far you have come.

This proud moment is a testament to your dedication, discipline and determination. Today, you join the community of Technocrats who carry the reputation of this University into the world. We say Ayekoo! Well done.

As a University, we greatly value and uphold the strong partnerships we share with sister institutions both home and abroad. We are, therefore honoured, to have with us today, Dr. Cindy Jebb, President of Ramapo College of New Jersey. We deeply cherish this enduring partnership that has flourished for over twenty-five years, enriching our staff and students exchange programmes and research. On behalf of the University, I extend our warmest welcome to you Dr. Jebb and your team and wish you a pleasant and memorable stay at KNUST and in Ghana.

Nana Chancellor, today's ceremony is also significant and special because it will be my last as I end my tenure on 31st July, 2026, as the 11th Vice Chancellor of this Great University. Today is therefore a moment of celebration and personal reflection for me.

Nana Chancellor, words fail me, in trying to express my deepest gratitude to you.

Serving in this capacity under your able leadership and constant guidance and counsel, all these years, in moving our Great and Noble University to prominence, has been one of the greatest honours of my life. I am profoundly grateful for this opportunity given me and the team to serve.

When I assumed office, we set out with a clear vision, to strengthen the University's reputation as a Centre of Excellence in teaching, research, and community service. Together, we have made significant strides. We have expanded academic programmes, strengthened research capacity, improved infrastructure, boosted entrepreneurial opportunities for students, deepened partnerships, rejuvenated alumni, and enhanced digital transformation across the University, with improvements in our administrative processes. We have worked to position this University, within the comity of the ivy-league universities across the globe.

Nana Chancellor, it is with great joy, that I confirm the excitement of the University in receiving our new University Act, Act 2025 (Act 1157). This new Act which was assented into law by His Excellency the President in December

2025, as you spelt out, embodies a robust legal framework and strengthens the University's governance, and administrative processes, in an increasingly competitive higher education landscape.

Nana Chancellor, on your behalf, I would like to express the University's deepest gratitude to His Excellency, the President, the Minister of Education, Hon. Haruna Iddrisu, the Speaker and Leadership of Parliament, the Parliamentary Committee on Education, the Attorney General and his team and all those who played yeoman's role in making it possible, for the University to replace an over 60 year old Act with a new forward looking Act. I would also like to specially acknowledge the Prof. Bugri Committee which provided the working draft for Parliament.

Nana Chancellor, as you rightly shared earlier, not only do we have a new Act, but the University has also developed a new Corporate Strategic Plan 'PLAN2K35'. This Plan, by all intents and purposes, is a blueprint that seeks to chart the University's progression from Excellence to Eminence through innovative teaching, purposeful research and aggressive resource mobilisation drive among others. I will also want to appreciate the admirable job performed by the Strategic Planning Committee chaired by the Pro-Vice Chancellor. Their work was outstanding.

With our Act and Corporate Strategic Plan in our hands and soon to be ready Statutes, I am very confident that nothing can stop us from moving our Great University to the next level of Eminence. My admonition is simple. Let's keep going! Let's keep impacting our communities! Let's keep providing solutions to the nagging problems of society! Let's keep impacting the world.

GRADUATION STATISTICS

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, this year's Special Congregation ceremonies which began on Wednesday, 25th March, 2026 comes to an end with this morning's climax. In this final session, we will be graduating a total of three hundred and six (306) postgraduate students who have worked diligently to satisfy all the requirements for the award of our prestigious degrees. In total, eight thousand, three hundred and seventy-seven (8,377) students are graduating during this year's Special Congregation. This is made up of three thousand, one hundred and thirty-six (3,136) (37%) undergraduates

and five thousand, two hundred and forty-one (5,241) (63%) postgraduates. Notably, seventy-one (71) Graduands will receive PhD degrees, including twenty (20) females.

GRANTS

Nana Chancellor, as is customary of my reports to congregation, there are other accomplishments that I would like to highlight briefly. The confidence that the international community has in the ability of our distinguished Faculty, to undertake impactful research is impressive. We therefore continue to attract substantial amount of grants for research work.

I am delighted to report that between November 2025 and March 2026, the University secured a total of Two million, Three Hundred and Nineteen thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty-two Dollars (\$2,319,942.00) in external research funding through the competitive efforts of our Faculty. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our grant awardees. We are super proud of you.

The list is long and so let me mention just a few for the sake of time.

1. Prof. Adam Gyedu of the Department of Surgery won Six Hundred and Sixty-two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$662,869.00) from the National Institute of Health, USA, for an Effectiveness-Implementation study of enteral resuscitation for moderate-sized burns.
2. Prof. Gift Dumedah of the Department of Geography and Rural Development won Five Hundred and Thirty-five Thousand, Nine Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars (\$535,928.48) from the Volvo Research & Educational Foundations to investigate Equitable Transport Access and Mobility in African Cities.
3. Prof. Charles Anum Adam of the Department of Civil Engineering won Four Hundred and Thirty-Nine Thousand, One Hundred and Thirteen Dollars (\$439,113.00) from the International Development Research Centre to undertake the Transport Leadership Capacity Advancement Programme for Africa. Nana Chancellor, in the spirit of saving the best for the last, I have this to submit. Over the years,

KNUST, through research, has provided leadership in climate change and the University, has not been left out in every global climate change conversation.

Nana Chancellor, to broaden and strengthen our impactful contribution in the global climate resiliency discourse, we are delighted to welcome our new kid on the block.

I am extremely overjoyed to report that, Wellcome Trust of United Kingdom, has established two Regional Hubs in Africa, led by African Universities, to develop climate adaptation strategies that reduce the health impact of climate change. These two consortia will be hosted in South Africa and Ghana, with Ghana serving as the hub for the West African Region.

The good news is that the West African consortium, a £20 million pound, Regional Climate and Health Research Initiative, to be hosted in Ghana, will be anchored at KNUST, with Professor Philip Antwi-Agyei, the Provost of the College of Science as the Principal Investigator. The initiative is designed to accelerate evidence-based solutions, to the growing public health challenges, posed by climate change across West Africa.

Let me, on behalf of the Chancellor, congratulate all our award winners.

75TH ANNIVERSARY

I am pleased to announce that our dear University celebrates its 75th Anniversary, its Diamond Jubilee this year. This remarkable milestone marks seventy-five years of academic excellence, innovation, and dedicated service to Ghana and the global community.

To commemorate this historic occasion, a fifteen-member planning committee under the chairmanship of Prof. William W. O. Ellis, former Vice Chancellor, has been constituted, and several exciting activities have been carefully lined up, and will be rolled out in the coming months.

These celebrations will not only honour the vision of our Founding Fathers, and the achievements of our past and present members, but will also provide an opportunity for us to reflect on our journey, celebrate our impact, and

renew our commitment to shaping the future through teaching, research community engagement and so on.

We look forward to the active participation and support of our Alumni, partners, students, staff, and friends of the University as we celebrate this important milestone together.

KNUST FACULTY OF LAW QUALIFIES FOR JESSUP MOOT COURT

Nana Chancellor, our students continue to make us proud. The KNUST Faculty of Law has once again qualified for the international rounds of the prestigious Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, scheduled to take place later this year in Washington, D.C., USA. Two institutions will represent Ghana. Nana Chancellor, this time round, for old times sake, and for good sisterliness, we will be accompanied by the University of Ghana. Nana Chancellor, please, the assurance to you is that as for the Trophy, it is KNUST bound. Please let's bear the Team in prayers and support them.

ALUMNI KAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY SOIREE AND AWARDS NITE (KOISAN)

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the KNUST Global Alumni Association hosted the KNUST Kaptains of Industry Soirée and Awards Nite, a very beautiful event which was dedicated to celebrating outstanding Alumni and recognising, supportive industry partners who help KNUST to train students. We cannot thank them enough.

At the same event, the Global Alumni Association also launched, the KNUST Alumni Endowment Fund. The Fund is designed to support priority areas, such as student sponsorship, research and innovation, infrastructure development, and institutional resilience. I, therefore, call on all alumni and you, our soon-to-be alumni, to embrace this initiative and contribute meaningfully towards building a stronger and a more resilient University.

Nana Chancellor, before I offer my advice to the graduands, please permit me, to take this singular opportunity to express my utmost gratitude to you once again for your constant support throughout my tenure. Nana, ever since you assumed office, as Chancellor, you have not missed a single Congregation ceremony, and that unwavering presence speaks volumes about your deep

love and commitment to this University. Your sustaining abiding passion, in seeing to the growth and development of KNUST is indeed admirable. Nana, we cannot thank you enough. The University is eternally grateful to you. Let us appreciate Nana Chancellor with a standing ovation.

I am also very grateful to the Government of Ghana both past and present, for the opportunity to serve this nation and for all the support we have received and continue to receive as a University.

As this happens to be my final Congregation as Vice-Chancellor, I also wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the University Governing Council, both past and present, currently chaired by Akyamfour Asafo Boakye Agyemang Bonsu. I say a big thank you to all past Vice Chancellors for your inspiring leadership on this seat, in laying solid foundations, on which we could continue to build. Management, Convocation, Senior and Junior Staff, Alumni, our ever supportive partners and stakeholders, our dear students, and all our friends, I thank you for the privilege of serving this great institution alongside you. Your dedication, cooperation, and support have been awesome, and have made this journey both meaningful and memorable.

Together, we have worked tirelessly to build a University shaped and grounded in knowledge, innovation, creativity, inclusion, sustainability and service.

I remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served our noble institution, and I will always cherish the shared commitment with which we have worked to advance this University. May God bless all of you. Thank you so very much.

Let us continue to focus on the reason why this University exist in the first place, as we push the frontiers of science and technology for more impact for humanity. God is with us.

ADVICE TO GRADUANDS

And now to my dear graduands,

You are graduating into a world that is dynamic and demanding. The knowledge you have acquired must therefore translate into innovation and solutions to the many challenges facing our nation. Today marks both an end and a beginning in your purpose driven lives here at KNUST. An end to the

various degree programmes you enrolled in, but definitely not an end to the constant desire to add value to yourselves because you are lifelong learners.

May the education and training you have received, serve not only your personal aspirations, but the many communities that await your impact. I assure you that there is nothing more rewarding and fulfilling than showing up for other people and making a difference.

See challenges as opportunities to explore, and go beyond your comfort zone. Be open minded and adaptable to change and always be prepared to go the extra mile in giving of yourself to serve humanity.

As you step into the next chapter of your journey, my prayer for you is that the presence of the Good Lord goes with you in all you do and bless your efforts.

Congratulations once again on your special day. And may God richly bless us all.

Thank you so very much.

PROFESSOR (MRS.) RITA AKOSUA DICKSON
VICE-CHANCELLOR, KNUST, KUMASI
MARCH 2026