

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR WILLIAM OTOO ELLIS, VICE-
CHANCELLOR OF KNUST AT THE 2012 IDL MATRICULATION CEREMONY
FOR THE NORTHERN SECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE LEARNING
(IDL) ON SATURDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 2012 AT THE GILLBT TRAINING
CENTRE, TAMALE AT 9.00AM**

Registrar

Provosts

Deputy Registrars

Deans and Directors

Heads of Department

Colleague Members of Convocation

Senior and Junior Staff

My Proud Fresh Students

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, I warmly welcome you all to this morning's short but historic ceremony of formally admitting our fresh students into our fold by administering the matriculation oath. As an academic institution, this morning's ceremony marks our official acceptance and entry of these fresh students into the University as junior members in *Statu Pupillari*. It is only after today's ceremony that you fresh students will be officially recognised as bona fide students of the KNUST and will, thus, be entitled to all the privileges accorded students of this great institution as well as be bound by all the responsibilities attached to your new status as proud students of KNUST.

This morning's ceremony is to matriculate our students of the Northern Sector comprising students from Tamale and Bolgatanga after a similar ceremony was held in Accra last week for the Southern Sector to matriculate students from Accra, Koforidua, Takoradi, Cape Coast and Ho. I would want to warmly congratulate you all for having been considered worthy and gaining admission into this great and prestigious University, reputed to be Ghana's foremost tertiary institution of science and technology and one of the best in the world.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as part of our continuous efforts to reform our systems and standards in our attempt to provide our services in the most efficient and effective manner to the satisfaction of our clients, our various activities have been undergoing serious reforms as a University of Science and Technology. For instance, this year, we were able to send regular updates to our applicants, informing them of the status of their admission applications through regular text messages and emails. In view of time constraints, applicants were also made to print their own admission letters; all in our attempt to facilitate our admissions and make it friendly to our clients.

It is our resolve to continue to improve even upon this feat through the use of modern information communication technology platforms in order to consolidate our image as the preferred destination for sound science and technology education here in Ghana and in Africa at large. We also perfectly appreciate the fact that most of our students at our IDL Centres are within the working class and most of you also have family responsibilities. In this respect, we will continue to explore opportunities and systems in an attempt to make your studies very smooth and quite fulfilling.

In our attempt to make science and technology education more accessible, we continuously explore the opportunities offered us to bring education to the doorsteps of our clients. Thus far, I am happy to announce that we are currently operating in all the ten regional capitals in the country in addition to some other potential centres in Obuase, Akosommo and Techiman. Plans are also under way to start the construction of our cherished Accra-City Campus for our IDL. In addition to the above initiatives, the University through our IDL is working on efforts to acquire a facility for the establishment of a number of computer laboratories and multimedia lecture rooms with video conferencing facilities at our various IDL centres in the country and on the main campus.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I would want to say something about the number of students our IDL has admitted this year. In total, we were able to admit **3,892** which figure comprises **1,628** postgraduate students and the remaining **2,264** are undergraduate students. As usual, this year's admissions revealed that, majority of our students admitted are

concentrated in the Ashanti and Greater Accra Centres. I am also happy to note however that, Centres Tamale and Bolgatanga are also showing a lot of potential and this is very commendable.

I would at this point say a word to my proud students. The KNUST is, and will continue to do its best in our attempt to make your studies stress-free as much as possible. Notwithstanding this, we all appreciate that, as a public sector institution, we are still grappling with one issue or the other. The most important thing is our collective resolve to find solutions to these challenges and I would urge you to contact your Regional or Local Co-ordinators on any issues of concern. I will also appeal to you to take time and seriously study the contents of the Students Guide which should be a companion throughout your study period. It contains almost all the information you need as a student of the KNUST. I will urge you to read notices and SMS messages and take note of their contents so you are not taken unawares by events.

I pray that the good Lord blesses everything you do so that after your study period, you will become a more fulfilled person for the betterment of mother Ghana and Africa at large.

Thank you.