

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROF. W. O. ELLIS, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF KNUST
AT THE 2013 MATRICULATION CEREMONY OF THE INSTITUTE OF
DISTANCE LEARNING'S NORTHERN SECTOR ON SATURDAY,
2ND NOVEMBER, 2013 AT TAMALE**

SALUTATION

Registrar

Provosts

Deans and Directors

Heads of Department

Colleague Members of Convocation

Staff of the University

Our Fresh Students

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Chancellor, Chairman and members of the University Council, Management, staff and the rest of the student body, I welcome all our new students to this short but formal ceremony of admitting our fresh students into our fold by administering the Matriculation Oath. This ceremony marks your formal acceptance as students of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and as junior members in *Statu Pupillari*. After this ceremony, all our fresh students would be recognised as bona fide students of this University.

You may know that your counterparts in the Central Sector (Kumasi and Sunyani) were matriculated on 5th October, 2013 while your colleagues in the Southern Sector which is made up of students from our Accra, Koforidua and Ho Centres were matriculated on 19th October, 2013. We were also at Takoradi on Sunday, 20th October, 2013 to matriculate students from the Western Sector which includes Tarkoradi, Cape Coast and Tarkwa. We are therefore, ending the series with this one being held here this morning for the Northern Sector which comprises Tamale, Wa and Bolgatanga. We have consciously decided to stagger and decentralise our matriculation ceremonies so that our cherished students are not unduly overburdened to travel all the way to Kumasi just to be matriculated.

ADMISSION STATISTICS – WESTERN SECTOR

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as you are already aware, this year's admission exercise has been most hectic and competitive in view of the exceptionally large number of applications received. Let me therefore congratulate you all for gaining admission into this prestigious institution. We have gathered here this morning to matriculate a total of **192** students made up of 132 postgraduate and 60 undergraduate students. Further, admissions into the KNUST-Zoomlion Institute of Sanitation and Waste Management (KISWAM), our affiliate campus at the Zoomlion premises at Adjiriganom near East Legon is on-going. This opportunity is open to candidates who have applied but could not get any placement and are interested. New applicants are also encouraged to buy the necessary forms and apply to be considered.

Aside the above, we are currently admitting students for special Five Semester Top-up programmes in 12 undergraduate programmes as well as five post graduate programmes via the distance learning mode.

INITIATIVES

The KNUST continues to set the pace in tertiary education in Ghana by introducing systems that help our clients to access our services in a stress-free environment. For instance, during this year's admissions exercise, application for fee paying and parallel programmes as well as Hall accommodation booking and payment were all done online in order to avoid unnecessary delays and long queues. In addition, student registration included biometric fingerprint registration and the uploading of courses in order to eliminate impersonation and late registrations.

Another initiative which is being implemented this academic year is the introduction of Bulk SMS and Special Voice Bundle Services. In this era of information communication technology with requirements for real time data transmission to students and staff, this initiative will enhance and offer interactive and real time communication in addition to reducing paper/poster notices on our campus. In line with this, almost every student has been given a special SIM card with credit for SMS and voice data and through this platform, communication among the student body would be greatly enhanced especially those relating to security, academic issues and essential general notices. Thus students are encouraged to get connected every time.

The institute has also acquired a parcel of land here in Tamale with architects working round the clock to ensure that the project can commence as soon as possible. Eventually, IDL hopes to establish a learning centre and administrative office in each of the regional capitals to ensure efficient and satisfactory service delivery to our cherished students. I am also happy to inform you that, our E-Learning Centre is currently running four postgraduate programmes on our E-Learning online platform with facilitated face-to-face sessions to ensure effective learning. It is envisaged that an additional Video Conferencing facility which is being put up would be completed soon to ensure the smooth running of online delivery of lecture facilitation by our Facilitators.

ADVICE TO STUDENTS

Now a word to all fresh students gathered here. KNUST has a very rich tradition and reputation which it has guarded and has brought it this far. Several great and important personalities have passed through the corridors of this institution. Therefore, you have a responsibility to maintain and also promote KNUST in the positive light. Thus be mindful of all your actions and inactions. Be imbued by the Core Values of this great institution which are; *Leadership in Innovation and Technology, a Culture of Excellence, Diversity and Equal Opportunity for All, and Integrity and Stewardship of Resources*. Be interested in issues happening in the University; visit the University website once a while to acquaint yourself with happenings in the University. Keep yourself motivated by dreaming about only positive outcomes and shed off negative tendencies which may bring shame and dishonour to the name of the University and yourself.

As a student, your primary responsibility is to study and thus I will urge you to be focused on your books and to manage your time effectively. As I have always said, the University is governed by rules. From today, you have been given all the privileges accorded students of this institution but you are also bound by all the responsibilities attached to your new status as proud students of KNUST. Live within the confines of your new status as students and your stay here would be stress-free as well as problem free.

CONCLUSION

As I bring my speech to a close, I want to assure you that the management and staff of this University are committed to making your studies very pleasant, fruitful and memorable. Yours is to be obedient, do your part and put in your maximum best. Finally, it is my prayer that the good Lord who has brought you here will grant all of you the needed wisdom and resources to pursue your studies.

Congratulations once again and welcome to KNUST.

Thank you.