

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROF. W. O. ELLIS, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF
KNUST AT THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY OF THE SPECIAL WARD
OF THE KNUST HOSPITAL ON MONDAY, 10TH JUNE, 2013 AT 10.00 AT
THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

Akyempemhene – Representing Our Chancellor

Immediate Past Vice-Chancellor – Prof. K. K. Adarkwa

Pro Vice-Chancellor

Registrar

National Director of Health Services

KMA Chief Executive Officer

The Ashanti Regional Director of Health Services

Municipal and District Directors of Health Services

Provosts of Colleges

Deans/Directors

Staff

Invited Guests

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me also join the Director of Health Services to warmly welcome you all to this historic occasion and to say that we are most grateful for your time and presence to make this occasion, an impressive one.

Since the establishment of the University more than 60 years ago, it is very obvious that it has seen tremendous growth in all aspects of its life –

expansion of programmes/courses, departments/faculties, increase in the number of staff and students as well as the services the University provides which include health care services for members of the University community and other persons who live within the immediate environs of the University.

The KNUST Hospital was first started only as a Dressing Station in 1952 when the University was then a College. Happily, and in response to the tremendous growth of the University, the Hospital is now rated by the Ghana Health Service (GHS) within the category of a District Hospital and has since the year 2008 been accredited to train Housemen and Residents by the Medical and Dental Council as well as the College of Physicians and Surgeons as indicated by the Director of Health Services.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, in view of the strategic location of the University Hospital, the acceptance of National Health Insurance Scheme Cards and the better services clients receive at the Hospital, the daily attendance at the Hospital has seen a steady increase; thereby, increasing the pressure on existing facilities/infrastructure and staff.

Consequently, there have been several initiatives and programmes to put the Hospital in a better stead to offer its services in the most efficient and effective manner. These have included the operation of a dedicated off-site

Students' Clinic, a Dental Clinic, an Eye Clinic, construction of a dedicated bore-hole, the acquisition of modern equipment and several other initiatives.

The latest addition is this modern Special Ward which is seeing the light of day today. The University's Director of Health Services has already briefed us about the Ward but generally, in view of government's financial constraints, public hospitals such as ours have encouraged increased cost recovery from clients who are able to pay for the services they patronise and this explains why Private/Special Wards such as ours are created. At such wards, medical and non-medical services are provided to clients at full-cost recovery without any government subsidies unlike the general wards which are partially subsidised by the government. This is because, even though all the wards are intended to provide comparable levels of clinical quality of care, the Special/Private Wards provide relatively better room amenities and services, have a higher degree of privacy and comfort.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is, therefore, obvious that this Ward will not be attending to everyone – only those who can pay will patronise it but this does not mean that the general services for the ordinary Ghanaian will be downgraded in any way. We will continue to support the Hospital in all ways possible so that it can continue to render its services to the university community and the general public.

Today, we are glad to commission this edifice but it has taken the foresight, believe and hard work of certain individuals to see this come to light. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the then Vice-Chancellor – Prof. K. K. Adarkwa who got this project started and today we have brought it to a closure. I also want to acknowledge the following people for their invaluable contribution to the success of this project: the current Director of Health Services – Dr. Yaw Bio, the Registrar – Mr. Kobby Yebo Okrah, Mr. Kinsley Adu – the then Finance Officer, Rev. Ben Oppong – the then Director of Works and Physical Development, Mr. Jimmy Nkrumah – project architect, the team from the Development Office, University Hospital and all other persons who contributed in one way or the other towards the success of this edifice.

The University is most grateful to you all and I thank you all for coming.