

**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. P. V. OBENG, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
OF KNUST, KUMASI AT THE 43RD CONGREGATION HELD ON 16TH JUNE, 2009
(MORNING SESSION) FOR THE FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER
ENGINEERING AND THE FACULTY OF CHEMICAL & MATERIALS
ENGINEERING AT 9.00AM IN THE GREAT HALL**

Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana
Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene and Chancellor
Honourable Minister of Education
Honourable Ashanti Regional Minister
Honourable Ministers of State and Members of Parliament
Honourable Kumasi Metropolitan Chief Executive
Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor of KNUST
Pro Vice-Chancellor of KNUST
Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors of Sister Institutions
Past Vice Chancellors and Pro Vice Chancellors
Registrar of KNUST
Provosts
Deans of Faculties
Heads of Departments
Motivational Speaker
Nananom
Members of Convocation
Senior and Junior Staff
Parents and Guardians of Graduating Class
Distinguished Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

My duty here this morning is to welcome you all to this morning's ceremony of graduating our students from the College of Engineering. I therefore, take this opportunity to say *akwaaba*, (welcome) to all and sundry who have travelled from far and near to witness this ceremony and to add colour and beauty to the programme. We are very much grateful for your time and

presence and it is our hope that, the programme will go according to schedule.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we have assembled here this morning to present students from the Faculty of Chemical and Materials Engineering and the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering who have undergone years of practical training in their chosen fields in Engineering and have been found worthy of a certificate of this prestigious University of ours. As was done in two separate sessions for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as well as the College of Architecture and Planning yesterday, we are billed to graduate students from the two Faculties of the College of Engineering today. The ceremony has been divided into two separate sessions as a result of the sheer number of graduands from the College of Engineering being presented for graduation this year.

As one of the most prestigious Colleges of the University and, in fact, the flagship of the University since the year 1952 when it was first established as a School of Engineering, the College has continuously chalked great successes in almost all the fields of Engineering practice. Products of this College have saturated the industrial sector of the economy and even spill over to other African countries; not to mention the numerous ones plying their trade in the diaspora. It may interest you to know that, important and strategic national industries such as the Ghana Water Company Ltd. (GWCL), the Volta Aluminium Company (VALCO), the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), the Tema Oil Refinery (TOR), and the Volta River Authority (VRA); amongst others, cannot do without the products of the College of Engineering of this great University. This notwithstanding, let me assure you that we are poised to continuously train more of such strategically important manpower for our nation's development effort as our contribution.

In fact, ladies and gentlemen, this morning's ceremony is a feather in our cup in our vision to be one of the leading science and technology Universities in Africa and be globally recognised as a premier Centre of Excellence in Africa for teaching, research and entrepreneurship training in science and technology for development, and for producing high calibre graduates with knowledge and expertise to support the industrial and socio-economic development of Ghana and, indeed, the whole of Africa and even beyond.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Engineering which involves the activity of applying scientific knowledge to the design, building and controlling of machines, roads, bridges, and electrical equipment; amongst others, remain a catalyst in national development effort in modern day economies. The impact of Engineering on society has been tremendous over the years. Many governments have therefore, made it a priority to encourage the study and application of Engineering owing to the fact that it has the ability to influence wealth creation and economic development. The field has broadened due to technological advances over the years, mainly as a result of the rapidly changing demands of the socio-economic environment. Engineering nowadays is not only concerned with manufacturing and construction, but also characterised by a broad application of systems engineering principles as a methodology of decision-making in designing, operation or construction and adopts scientific methods and project team approaches which use specialists from various disciplines other than Engineering to carry out activities for development. This has culminated in the massive training of engineers of various specialisations to man the socio-economic transformation of countries. It is in light of this that the College of Engineering was set up to inculcate in students of the College, the requisite skills, knowledge and attitude of professional engineers.

It is therefore, not only appropriate but timely that we are graduating these experts to help propel Ghana's development, considering the dwindling fortunes of our economy in recent past which is a global phenomenon. It is my hope that, you will use your technical abilities to design better systems and procedures to improve the level of efficiency of our nation's public and private sectors for cost saving purposes.

I thank the lecturers, staff and administrators of this University for their input into your training. I also thank your parents and guardians for their moral, spiritual and financial support in your education. I wish you very well and once again say, welcome to all and sundry to this morning's ceremony.

Thank you.