

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR KWASI KWAFO ADARKWA, VICE-
CHANCELLOR OF KNUST AT THE 2009 MATRICULATION CEREMONY
OF SPIRITAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, EJISU – KUMASI ON
THURSDAY, 29TH OCTOBER, 2009 AT 10.00AM**

Chairman of the Board of Governors

Members of the Board of Governors

Rector

Registrar

Lecturers

Reverend Ministers

Invited Guests

Matriculants

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to commence my short address by first conveying my congratulations to the Rector, Registrar and staff of the Spiritan University College for having been successfully accredited by the National Accreditation Board and registered as a tertiary institution – Spiritan University College by the Registrar of Companies, Ghana. Having been involved in the management of a tertiary institution myself, I am fully aware of the number of hurdles one has to clear in an attempt to get a programme accreditation, not to mention the huge financial commitments that are inherent in the process.

Again, I am aware of how the Institute started almost two decades ago for the training of Priests of the Roman Catholic Church and the various institutional and structural changes that have taken place since then in an attempt to broaden the College's programmes in a bid to positively impact our Ghanaian society. I am also aware of the commendable and tremendous role the country's religious groups, including the Catholic Church have played in the educational sector. I am particularly happy that, the Catholic Church has been able to transform this institution into a tertiary institution and we have all gathered here this morning to witness the second matriculation ceremony of the College.

I would also want to place on record that, the Spiritan University College as one of the affiliate institutions of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) has been one

of the most diligent affiliates. They have thus far, satisfied all their obligations and are conducting their affairs in accordance with the spirit and letter of the affiliation agreement we signed with them. We are, therefore, very happy about our affiliation with your College and promise to play our “parental” role to nurture this institution to the stature we can all be proud of in the near future.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we have gathered here this morning for the purpose of formally welcoming our fresh students and also accepting them as formal students of the College. Matriculation ceremonies have, and continue to be observed in Universities and other tertiary institutions the world over. It is during such an occasion that fresh students are formally admitted as junior members of the institution by signing their names in the Register of Students. Without this ceremony, one cannot hold oneself as a student and an alumni member of an institution. It is, therefore, a ceremony to mark the official entry and acceptance of a student into the fold of an institution and, hence, its significance cannot be downplayed in any way.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to use this opportunity to say a word or two to our matriculants. As we admit you as formal junior members of this College which has its roots from the Catholic tradition, please set yourselves high academic and moral standards. There should be no limits to your aspirations. Remember that you have a social obligation to bring fame and honour to the name of your School. Be reminded that, every action or inaction of yours has a direct bearing on the name of this prestigious Institution and that of the KNUST. You will have all the freedom and opportunity you deserve in the course of your studies here. It is, therefore, up to you to make maximum use of the tremendous opportunities and freedom. Remember that you have chosen to gain tertiary education in order to put you in a better stead to serve your society better. Be reminded by this social obligation and conduct your affairs with diligence.

I would like to use this opportunity to remind you that, even though you are students of the Spiritan University College, you are by extension, students of the KNUST as well. This should give you the full assurance that, the degree you earn here conforms fully to the academic standards of taught programmes of the KNUST. As social scientists, I would urge you to try to develop your skills for

critical thinking and analysis of situations with the view to applying the knowledge you will be acquiring here to help solve societal problems.

On this note, I wish you all a fruitful study period here on this campus.

Thank you.