



SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROF.K. SINGH, PRESIDENT OF KUC ON THE OCCASION OF THE 3RD CONGREGATION CEREMONY OF THE KESSBEN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ON SATURDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 2021 AT 10.00AM

SALUTATION

Hon. Chancellor of the Kessben College

Chairman and Respected Members of the College Governing Council

Provost of College of Humanities & Social Sciences representing the Vice Chancellor of KNUST

Omanhene and Nananom of Kuntanase Traditional Area

Hon. DCE of Bosomtwe District

Representative of the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC)

Representative of Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET).

Deans and Coordinators

Members of faculty and staff

Distinguished invitees,

Graduating students and their proud parents,

Senior and Junior Staff

Members of the Media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

A Very Good morning to all present here!

With great honour and humility, as President of Kessben College , I take this opportunity to join the Hon. Chancellor in welcoming each one of you to the 3rd congregation of the College. We are extremely pleased to have all of you joining us to celebrate this day. As we all know Covid pandemic had disrupted and interrupted many academic activities like teaching and learning, frequent meeting with students, attending in- person meetings, conferences and seminars for about 2 academic years. These all activities that had almost moved from the physical mode to digital platforms or that had simply lost its centrality in our everyday life. However, when Covid-19 struck and disrupted teaching and learning, we also managed to adapt fast to the use of technology and the rich experience of interacting with it particularly during the last two academic years. This has come in handy in preparing the college for the evolving workplace and the new concept of working in virtual mode by investing more resources in technology to support teaching, learning and research.

We have assembled here today to observe the academic tradition of conferring degrees and other academic awards. This annual event is the climax of several years of hard work on the part of students and commitment on the part of the academic, administrative and all categories of staff of the College. At this point, I would like to congratulate the graduands who having successfully completed their programmes of study and who have converged here today for the purpose of receiving their degrees and diplomas – the climax of their academic pursuit in this College. The completion of your degree is a great personal accomplishment, and is also a milestone shared by parents, siblings and friends who

contributed to your success. Today is a day of celebration for staff, students and parents. The day brings back fond memories of social evenings spent together, the spirit of competition derived from sporting events and many other activities.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentle men, this Congregation ceremony witnesses the graduation of the third batch of students who have completed their respective programmes of study in the College during 2020/2021 academic year that commenced in September 2020- still amidst covid-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions. This has become possible only because the College strictly observed and abided by all stipulated COVID-19 protocols and using Academic activities in a Mixed Mode during the said period of that academic year. Even though the new Academic year for Fresh students started in January 2021 and the Matriculation Ceremony of the College was organized in a Virtual mode, the Congregation Planning Committee for this Congregation decided to hold a traditional/physical Congregation by observing COVID protocols as much as possible. At this juncture, I sincerely acknowledge the support of teaching and non-teaching staff as well as all the students of the College. Their support at various levels cannot be overemphasized. I commend their high sense of responsibility, commitment, dedication and passion for excellence in the performance of their duties.

Mr Chairman, kindly permit me to use this opportunity to give a brief update on the activities of the College in the past year and some projections for the future. The comprehensive report on the College and its activities have been presented into a small booklet entitled, “The President’s Report”. However, I wish to add a few comments on some issues.

UPDATE ON THE STATE OF THE COLLEGE

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I must mention that ten years after attaining accreditation in 2011, the Kessben college has moved from a modest, humble and challenging beginning and, is now well positioned as a college of quality and distinction, offering quality tertiary education to over seven hundred students. However, all the achievements in this short period of existence and activities highlighted in the “President’s Report” have been possible due to the collective diligence of many individuals and untiring efforts of our stakeholders including staff and students of the College. We owe a very special thanks to all of them, particularly I would like to mention a few:

- 1. The Founder and Honorary Chancellor who is the one and only Financier of both campuses of the Kessben College (Main campus in Kuntanase and City Campus in Kumasi) and I am very much confident that his support will continue for it to be a self-sustaining institution through his finances and internally generated fund.**
- 2. Chairman and Members of Kessben College Governing Council for providing policy guidance for the College,**
- 3. KNUST: The mentor institution of the College that has guided us on academic quality and restructuring of academic programmes.**
- 4. GTEC: Ghana Tertiary Education Commission for providing guidance for meeting all necessary minimum requirements for operating as a tertiary institution.**
- 5. CTVET: commission for technical and vocational education and training for providing accredited diploma programmes in Business Administration (DBA), Media & Communication (DMS), and Information Technology (DIT).**
- 6. Scholarship Secretariat for providing scholarship to many students of the College.**

7. **Kessben Media for constantly promoting the College, our programmes and all other activities organized by both campuses of the College.**
8. **Kessben Group of Companies and other affiliate industries for providing our students with internship and practical opportunities to help them gain valuable work experience in addition to their classroom experience.**
9. **Traditional and political leadership in our catchment areas as well as the people of the communities in which our both campuses are located for providing their immense support.**
10. **The former College President, Prof. S.A. Osei deserves a special commendation for the fort-rightness and determination with which he pursued the development agenda at the early stages of the College when he was here.**

Mr. Chairman, as the country recognizes the significant role that education has in building skilled manpower for economic growth and strives towards expansion of higher education, there is certainly a tremendous strain on public resources. Now, the public institutions alone cannot keep pace with the rising demand and we are being forced to look at alternative options besides public funding. And for that matter the importance of private sector in making investments in higher education needs to be appreciated. I must say that this College is also an example of private sector investment for providing affordable quality higher education in Ghana. However, we are very much aware of the fact that we cannot claim excellence where we are now. We certainly need support from all stakeholders for us to take the College to higher levels.

Mr. Chairman, it will not be out of place here to state that for promoting private sector effective participation in higher education there is a need for minimizing the Burden of

Affiliation and accreditation by exploring and introducing newer models and monitoring mechanisms. The issue of burden of colleges on the universities affiliating them should be addressed at some different levels by the Government. There is need to develop "New Affiliation Norms" to lessen the burden of Affiliation of new private institutions and subsequent proposed programmes to be offered by the private institutions by providing greater autonomy and freedom of growth to the colleges after a few years of their in good standing. The mentor institution should also consider the private institutions like this as their partner in higher education and not their competitors. This may be done by sharing some of the programmes and courses offered by mentor institutions at flexible terms and conditions, minimizing time of affiliation and in turn making good use of existing quality infrastructure and physical facilities of such colleges.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CENTRE FOR OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING (CODL)

Mr. Chairman, in order to expand the role of the Kessben college towards human resource development, a new Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) has been established with specific Vision, Mission and Objectives. The Centre aims to disseminate knowledge and provide quality education through open and distance learning mode. The basic focus of the Centre is to offer various competency based diploma, and certificate programmes to prepare human resources of the region and the country by making them skillful and employable. Efforts are being made to make available skills oriented courses and programmes to the needs of the learners through flexible open and distance learning mode who otherwise cannot avail the regular mode of education.

Presently, a number of skills oriented certificate courses are now available through CODL. These are : Computer Literacy and Skills, Web Designing and Development, Digital Marketing, Media and Communication, Cyber Security Essentials. Also very soon some more skills development programmes from TVET will be made available through CODL.

NEW PROGRAMMES

Mr. Chairman, we are always striving to achieve more and enhance our reputation widely. In particular, we are keen to develop new programmes and courses to attract a wider range of students. In addition to 4 certificate courses initiated by newly established Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL), a new Diploma in Information Technology, and degree programme in Media and Communication Studies have been added. We are preparing to offer B.A Media and Communication studies programme from January 2022. For effective running of Media programmes, the School of Liberal Arts of the College has already prepared two state-of-the-art, fully equipped television and radio Studios to provide practical support to students pursuing degree and Diploma programmes in media and communication studies.

Mr. Chairman, College is also in the process of borrowing an interdisciplinary B.Sc. Environmental Science Programme from Department of Environmental Science of College of Science, KNUST. College is also in the process of completing some of the major projects initiated in 2015 including Physics, Chemistry and Biology Labs to introduce some more Science based interdisciplinary programmes.

Mr. Chairman, Proposing a “Vision 2024” in compliance with the Strategic PLAN 2K24 of the College with inputs from faculties, students and other Institutions for creation of new academic departments, introduction of new programmes, Exploitation of E-Learning

facilities and embracing of distance education, modernization of Laboratories and studios to enable students get more hands on training experiences, conducting Virtual classrooms by experts, initiating and strengthening collaborations and exchanges are some of the other developments which are in the pipeline.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Mr. Chairman, credibility in the conduct of examinations in the College is also a very important component of quality assurance. To reduce any misconduct during examinations through automation of traditional exam invigilation is being initiated. The College administration is in the the process of installing CCTV cameras in all the major examination halls at the two campuses of the College. We are of the strong opinion that this move, will some extent, prevent any wrong practice during the examination process.

On the side of staff, the College has already instituted online staff evaluation by students. At the end of every semester for each course students are required to evaluate the lecturer on both methodology and content.

STANDARDISATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Mr. Chairman, recent trends in higher education have increased the attention given to the quality of teaching offered to the students. Choosing reliable and quantifiable indicators to assess the quality of one's teaching and the efficiency of teaching initiatives remains challenging. The choice of indicators to monitor quality teaching has become crucial. In view of this, the College has decided to adopt academic accountability through a standardized management of courses and teaching materials. One of the methods to evaluate and monitor quality teaching each faculty has been advised to maintain a Course

File for every course he is teaching and must submit the Course file to the Dean of respective School at the end of each semester to check and make sure that the course files are up to date. This will ensure that the quality and standards of learning processes do not vary from one year to another.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Mr. Chairman, although we have to work hard on improving our recreational facilities and Co-curricular activities, I am glad to report that students are doing well in some of these activities. Recently, our Media and Communication students participated in National Media students' awards organized in Accra on 17th April 2021 and they were presented with the following categories of awards:

- i. Ms. Esther Brown: English News Presenter of the year**
- ii. Mr. Agyei Maxwell Prince: Best Student Producer of the Year Movie and Music**
- iii. Mr. Opoku Joseph: Student Showbiz Presenter of the Year**
- iv. Ms. Mary Mensah : Student Radio Host of the Year.**

STATISTICS OF GRADUANDS

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, during this graduation ceremony, we are happy to present a total of 176 graduands for the conferment of award of degrees and diplomas accredited by KNUST and CTVET respectively.

Degrees accredited by KNUST:

- A total of 105 degree students comprises of 65% (Male) and 35% (Female):**
- 81 B. Sc (Business Administration),**
- 23 B. Sc. (Information and Communication Technology)**
- 1 B. Sc. (Mathematics).**

Diplomas accredited by CTVET,

- A total of 71 Diploma students comprises of 56% (Male) and 44% (female):
- 33 Diploma in Business Administration and
- 38 Diploma in Media and Communication

Out of these graduating students, 19 students have secured First Class Honors degrees in Business Administration and 2 students in Information and Communication Technology.

A WORD TO THE GRADUANDS

Finally, to all graduands, I would like to congratulate once again to each and every one of you on this occasion of your graduation, and as you leave this ceremony with a legal certificate of a degree of KNUST or diploma of CTVET in hand provided through Kessben College, please show a sense of accomplishment in developing positive wellbeing over time. I am sure that all of you can relate to the personal growth you have experienced, and as you leave this place today to start the next stage of your journey, you take with you the knowledge, professional skills and maturity to make a major contribution to your chosen field, and to society. Whilst a university degree is a valuable asset, the rapidly changing world that we live in requires us to constantly retrain ourselves to satisfy our life and work ambitions. You may have to craft new career directions as opportunities emerge, and develop new knowledge and skills as your career evolves. We are all proud of your achievement and wish you well in your chosen career as you leave Kessben College as one of our valued ambassadors.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, On behalf of the Honorary Chancellor, the Governing Council, and the entire staff and students of the College, I thank you all for being part of today's event. Once again, I wish to congratulate the parents, guardians,

sponsors and relations of the graduands for being a significant part of today's success story.

To conclude, I would like to emphasize that as we started our challenging journey ten years ago in 2011 towards active participation in university education through the support of all stakeholders, we shall continue to... strive, seek, find, and not yield.

Thank you all for your attention.