

**THE DEAN'S SPEECH
AT THE 14th OATH-SWEARING CEREMONY OF NEWLY
QUALIFIED DOCTORS
FROM THE 2007 GRADUATING CLASS
SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE,
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
GREAT HALL, KNUST, KUMASI.**

29th September 2007

The Chairman, University Council
The Vice Chancellor of KNUST
Otumfuo's Representative
The Vice Chancellor of UG
The Vice Chancellor of UDS
The Chairman Medical and Dental Council
Hon. Ministers of State
Dean Parry,
Dean Brobby
The Registrar
Provosts, Deans Directors
Dean of the University of Ghana Medical School
The Acting Dean, UDS School of Medicine and Health Sciences
The Vice Dean, SMS
Chief Executive KATH
President of the GMA
Heads of Department
Nananom
Students
Members of the press
Ladies and gentlemen

Once again, it is my pleasant duty to welcome you to the 14th Oath swearing ceremony for the Doctors graduating from the School of Medical Sciences.

The year's ceremony is particularly special as it is being held for the graduating class of 2007, a class that represents 25 years of achievement in Medical Education at SMS.

It was 25 years ago, in 1982, when SMS graduated the first group of doctors, who were trained at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital.

Today it has become routine to churn out highly trained doctors from Kumasi. We recall with nostalgia, the hard work, commitment and great sacrifice that went into producing the first group of doctors. We salute the founding fathers of the School, our Deans, our teachers, staff and students who have over the years, contributed to our great success story.

This year, the **89 (45 males and 44 females)** doctors we are swearing in, brings to a total, **One thousand one hundred and fifty one (1151)** doctors, who have been fortunate to pass

through the walls of the School of Medical Sciences.

SMS prides it self in being an efficient production line which has, over the 25 years, consistently contributed to the Health Care Delivery System of Ghana and a few other very fortunate countries.

Many congratulations go to the doctors who are being sworn in today. Today marks a great achievement by each and every one of you. Your achievement would not have been possible without the support of your teachers, family and loved ones, some of whom are here to celebrate your success.

As you embark on a long working life, you should realize that building a career takes time. You must be astute in developing the skills and experiences that will be needed in your practice. You should be modest to listen to advice but you should also believe in yourselves and plot your careers to fulfill your own aspirations.

There will be many opportunities that will come your way. It is up to you to recognize and cease these opportunities. It is up to you to decide on what you do with these your opportunities. You

teachers will always be around to guide you.

Remember that you will spend a major part of your life in a working environment, so treat the people you work with, with respect. It is only when you do this that you will make it a better place to be in.

Also remember that, when you go on strike, people will die prematurely. So far as I know, only Our Lord Jesus has been able to raise somebody from the dead. So at the end of the day, when you get your increase in salary and back pay, the life that has been lost will not be brought back.

For those of who will decide to get on the next “Ghana International” or is it “Astros” flight, please wait till you have given us five-years service before you buy your tickets.

If you decide to migrate to greener pastures in-spite of the very good conditions that have been instituted for health sector workers, then I would suggest that the government levies you, monies that would be set aside as a fund to train more doctors.

District assemblies would be asked to identify bright young boys

and girls for training in the medical schools. The training would be supported by the fund. This will be a scheme similar to re-forestation, where trees are planted to replace the ones that have been felled.

Finally, I can't leave the podium without congratulating our gallant teachers for all the hard work they been doing over the years under very trying conditions. We would have loved to reward them with t all the riches they deserve, but as the St. Peter said in Acts Chapter 3 verse 6 "Silver and Gold have I none but such as I have I give". I can only ask for blessings from the Good Lord for all of you.

Have great careers. God bless you all. Thank you

Prof. Tsiri Agbenyega.
Dean