

I am also grateful to all of you for coming to grace this very special occasion. I am sure together, we will all support UMaT to become a true Centre of Excellence in Mining and Technology.

May the Almighty God bless all of us and take us back home safely.

Thank you and May God bless UMaT and our nation Ghana!!

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL CONGREGATION  
FOR THE INVESTITURE OF THE FIRST CHANCELLOR  
OF UMaT HELD ON**

**FRIDAY, 12TH JANUARY, 2018.**

**TIME: 10:00 am**

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Your Excellency, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me to suggest even now that one area that can be explored to put up this legacy project is the fund that was set up by the Minerals Development Fund Act 2016 (Act 912).

Unfortunately, the Act in its present state only allocates effectively 5% of its total disburseable funds for “research, training and projects aimed at the promotion of sustainable development through mining.”

This percentage is woefully inadequate and therefore the Act needs amendment in order to equitably distribute the funds among recipients to help achieve the African Mining Vision and the government’s objectives in the minerals sector. It is my sincere wish, Mr. President, that your government will take a second look at this Act.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, as we all know, Universities develop capacities and consolidate the culture and sense of values of the citizenry. They equip and enrich countries and help them to increase their productivity. However, in our country, the Universities are currently at crossroads, because of inadequate funding over past years. This handicap must be overcome urgently to empower them to be innovative and productive. Thankfully, this government’s policies leave no doubt of its commitment to deliver quality education at all levels to our nation on priority basis. UMaT is earnestly appealing to be empowered to play a lead role in Ghana’s economic and industrial development.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am thankful and appreciate the President of the Republic’s coming to install me as the first Chancellor of this University of Mines and Technology. I accept the challenge with a deep sense of duty and honour.

project that can and must be developed is the expansion of this University into a medium-size University. Examples of such legacy mining projects are the cities of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in Britain, Johannesburg in South Africa and Colorado in the US, where the strategic establishment of a University underpinned the continued economic benefits to the people in and around those cities.

To benefit Tarkwa, Bogoso and Prestea with such legacy, a well-planned and expanded UMaT is required. I have been informed that the Wassa Fiase Traditional Council has donated a 26 km<sup>2</sup> land to the University just off the Tarkwa - Bogoso highway for such expansion. Indeed, all the necessary documentation on the land has been completed. I am also aware that the architectural models and drawings of the infrastructural requirements for a 20,000 student population University have been done. The University authorities are confident that with the needed support, the expansion could be substantially realised within the next three years to enable the UMaT meet its share of the increased admission of students passing out from the laudable Free SHS programme launched last year by your government. I must at this stage, thank the Wassa Fiase Traditional Council for its foresight and gift to the UMaT.

Mr. President, there cannot be a better time than now, to make an appeal to government to give the University its fullest support to tackle and complete the expansion works. It will be to your government's eternal glory to commit to this urgent and priority support. Thank you in advance!!

As Chancellor, I will work with government to explore how best we can harness our resources to accelerate the process of building the new site and also to complete the uncompleted structures on the current site.

## INTRODUCTION

The University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, held a Special Congregation on Friday, 12th January, 2018 at the University Auditorium for the Investiture of His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, Former President of the Republic of Ghana. The occasion was graced by the presence of His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana. Other dignitaries present included Ministers and Deputy Ministers of State, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, a Member of the Council of State, Vice Chancellors from Sister Universities, Members of the University Council, Members of Parliament and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives. The Chairman of the University Council, Dr S. S. Yirenkyi, chaired the ceremony.

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE INVESTITURE OF HIS EXCELLENCY  
FORMER PRESIDENT JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR  
ON FRIDAY, 12TH JANUARY, 2018 AT UMaT AUDITORIUM**



Dr S. S. Yirenkyi

His Excellency President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, His Excellency Former President John Agyekum Kufuor, Honourable Minister of Education, Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Honourable Ministers of State, Honourable Members of Parliament, Members of the University Council and other protocols I have already mentioned.

I am very delighted to welcome all of you once again, especially, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the President of the Republic of Ghana who has come to participate in today's special congregation and perform a unique assignment for us. Your Excellency, we are very grateful to you for finding time despite your heavy work schedule, to honour our invitation.

The purpose of this special congregation is to formally install the first Chancellor of this great University. About thirteen years ago, this University was established by an act of Parliament (Act 677), and we have endeavoured to put the governance, administrative and academic structures into successful operation, to promote a culture that supports the realisation of the vision of this University to become a Centre of Excellence for the training of professionals in mining, petroleum, technology and related engineering disciplines.

Council, in accordance with the University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa, Act, (Act 677) and acting on the recommendations of a

This University is strategically positioned to lead in this effort. It has now become Africa's only niche university for mines and technology, and among the best public-funded universities in Ghana. The distinctive nature of the engineering programmes of this university has positioned it as a well-recognised brand among students from Africa and beyond. Already, this University continues to demonstrate and validate its promising hallmark as a well-known institution in mining, petroleum, technology and allied engineering disciplines.

This is evidenced by its election among a host of universities unto the Executive Council of the World Forum of Universities on Sustainable Resources. The strategic position of this university in the West African sub-Region also calls for government's attention for expansion to continue to provide its mandate of teaching, research and community service, not only in Ghana, but also in the sub-Region, as students from all over the sub-region and sometimes farther afield continue to patronise its programmes. Ladies and Gentlemen, when one hears of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) of the US, one readily recognises a world center of educational excellence in science and technology.

UMaT must single-mindedly aspire to be the MIT of Africa, and it is already shaping up to be such a centre. In this regard, it will be guided from unduly straying into noncore fields of study.

Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the extractive industry deals with a non-renewable resource. There is, therefore, the need to establish legacy projects that would serve as growth poles, especially for the economic development of the directly affected areas like the Tarkwa, Bogoso and Prestea areas. So that they do not become ghost towns when the ores become depleted. One such

dissemination of information, and to offer professional services through extension activities to the mining and allied industries.”

With such a mission, you cannot sit unconcerned as this government seeks a permanent solution to the galamsey menace that has devastated our environment and destroyed many of our water bodies. You need to assist government with the appropriate technologies and know-how, as well as recommendations that will permanently arrest this menacing challenge to our country and those who seek their livelihoods in this trade. Your efforts should help the government to “structure the Small-Scale Mining (SSM) industry so that its activities can take place within guidelines set up under the appropriate regulations.” Such an endeavour should “enable small scale miners to work and earn their livelihoods in a regulated, secure, and lawful environment.”

Ladies and Gentlemen, a little over a decade ago, the African Union held the first Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development, at which the ministers adopted the Africa Mining Vision (AMV). The vision advocates “for transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources” to achieve the envisaged “broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development, of our nations.”

It called on African Governments to address among other things: “Transforming artisanal small-scale mining into a developmental tool; and Upholding the highest standards in safety, health and environmental protection.”

Indeed, key to achieving these objectives as a country is the proper education of our communities generally, and particularly our adventurous young people.

Search Committee, appointed His Excellency Former President John Agyekum Kufuor as the first Chancellor of this University. His appointment took effect from 1st November, 2017.

Today, the University is seeing a new face in its history as we all gather here to witness the Investiture of the Chancellor. It is very important to note that this University was inaugurated by his Excellency Former President John Agyekum Kufuor on 18th August, 2005 and today, he is being installed as its Chancellor.

I know that the Chancellor has an enormous responsibility to make this University continue to stand tall and maintain its position as the best public funded University in Ghana. I am also optimistic that he will be given the needed support by His Excellency the President of the Republic and his government, Captains of the mining and allied industries, the rank and file of the University to make his work as Chancellor a pleasant one.

I would like to bring to the attention of His Excellency the President that this is the only University whose focus is solely on the training in the areas of mining, petroleum, technology and allied engineering disciplines in Ghana and West Africa. In every big mining company in the world, you will find at least, a product of this University working there. A large percentage of the technical staff of all the mining companies in Ghana are products of this University. Some are working in the Oil Companies, Electric and ICT companies, the Military, Government and many more within and outside Ghana. It is for this reason and many more, that I humbly request that His Excellency the President commits adequate funds for the expansion of the University to complete the uncompleted or so-called ‘legacy projects’ on campus and to start the new site project on the 26 km<sup>2</sup> land graciously donated to the University by the chiefs and people

of the Wassa Fiase Traditional Council. Indeed the model for a 20,000 student capacity campus has been prepared waiting for funds to start the project. When these requests are accepted, and necessary funds provided, it will enable UMaT to fulfill its mandate and help achieve our vision to become a Centre of Excellence in Ghana and Africa for producing world class professionals in the field of mining, petroleum, technology and related engineering disciplines.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Vice Chancellor and his principal officers, as well as the staff and all stakeholders of the University for all the efforts they have put in to make this institution one of the best in the country today. Let me also take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Chancellor, former President Kufuor for accepting to become the first Chancellor of this University.

Once again, I welcome all of you for honouring our invitation to grace this ceremony with your presence.

Thank you very much and may Almighty God bless us all.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in our current world, the future belongs to the economies that take technology and innovation seriously, and make the conscious effort to train their manpower in these competencies. That is why Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education should be the cornerstone of the educational curricula of any serious nation that seeks to develop industrially. The University of Mines and Technology therefore, having chosen to be committed singularly to this all-important academic endeavour, with accompanying practical experience, is worthy of commendation and support from the government.

Mr. President, I envisage a future where this University will fast become the center of the industry-driven transformational economic takeoff that you have resolved and declared as the cornerstone of your government's development policies. Your Excellency, Mr. President, I know that the exploitation of the country's bauxite resources is dear to your heart, and you envision an integrated aluminum and bauxite industry as well as other metallurgical industries in the not-too-distant future. I assure you that you have a willing and able partner in the University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa.

Under my Chancellorship, we pledge to work with you to provide the technologies and the requisite trained manpower to realise your noble vision.

Mr. Vice Chancellor, Chairman and members of the University Council, I have taken cognisance of the mission of UMaT which states that:

“The mission is to provide higher education in mining, petroleum, technology and related disciplines through effective teaching and learning; to promote knowledge through active research and

thus transforming the College into an independent University. Ms Ohene, please rise for us to acknowledge your hard work on behalf of this University. I could not have conceived then that some years down the line, I will be standing here before this august assembly to be inducted into office as the University's first Chancellor. I feel proud and honoured.

I am particularly happy to be connected to this institution because of the core competency areas that it has earmarked for itself - Mines and Technology.

Mining, a major component of the extractive industry, has historically been a key contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of many countries that are lucky to be endowed with natural resources. The prudent and efficient management of the mining sector therefore is very critical to the sustainable development of the economy. Attendant to this, however, are the obvious and, if not well-managed, severe negative environmental impacts of mining activities.

Needless to say, it takes sound research, knowledge dissemination, and the training of the requisite personnel to ensure the attainment of the optimal extraction of mineral resources in an environmentally-friendly manner. In this respect, the national authorities must institute and enforce a framework to ensure that the mining sector operates with a high degree of conscience for the well-being of society generally and more particularly, the immediate communities of their operations. The other core competency area of the University, Technology, is without a doubt, what is driving the innovation, higher productivity and the ever-improving standards of living that mankind is being accustomed to everywhere.

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE INVESTITURE OF HIS EXCELLENCY  
FORMER PRESIDENT JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR  
ON FRIDAY, 12TH JANUARY, 2018 IN THE UMaT  
AUDITORIUM**



Prof J. S. Y. Kuma

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, His Excellency Former President of the Republic of Ghana, John Agyekum Kufuor, Former Minister of State Responsible for Tertiary Education, Ms Elizabeth Ohene, Chairman and members of the University Council, Member of the Council of State, Honourable Ministers of State, Honourable Members of Parliament, The Hungarian Ambassador to Ghana, his Excellency Mr Andras Szabo, Foundation Vice Chancellor and Registrar of UMaT, My Colleague Vice Chancellors from Sister Universities, Pro Vice Chancellor of UMaT and Pro Vice Chancellors from Sister Universities, Registrar of UMaT and Registrars from Sister Universities, Ag Finance Officer of UMaT and Finance Officers of Sister Universities, The Executive Secretaries of the NAB and VCG, Members of Convocation, Honourable MCEs and DCEs, CEOs of Mining and Allied Industries, Managers of Financial and Banking Institutions, Representatives of Affiliate Institutions, President of the Western Regional House of Chiefs, Nananom, Priests and Imams, Alumni of the University, Senior and Junior Staff, Members of the Media, Distinguished Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me welcome all of you to this special congregation ceremony the purpose of which is the Investiture of the first Chancellor of the

University of Mines and Technology. We are very grateful to you for coming to celebrate this memorable occasion with us.

Please permit me to specially acknowledge the presence of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, for taking time out of his busy schedule to be with us this morning at this special congregation to preside over the investiture of the first Chancellor of this University.

I would also like to take this opportunity to specially recognise the presence of Honourable Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh, (Minister for Education), Honourable Prof Kwabena Frimpong Boateng (Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation), Honourable John Peter Amewu (Minister for Lands and Natural Resources), Honourable Dr Kwaku Afriyie (the Western Regional Minister) and my colleague Vice Chancellors for joining us this morning to lend their support to us for this important occasion in the annals of our University.

Please permit me to briefly recount the history of this 66-year old institution of higher learning:

- UMaT started as the Tarkwa Technical Institute in 1952 and was officially inaugurated in October, 1953.
- Through the initiative of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, the institution metamorphosed to become the Tarkwa School of Mines in 1961.
- In 1976, it was affiliated to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) as a faculty of that University and given the name KNUST School of Mines.
- In 2001, it was re-organised to become the Western University College of KNUST.
- Then on 12th November, 2004, at exactly 11.30 Hrs GMT, this

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
FORMER PRESIDENT JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR  
AS CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINES AND  
TECHNOLOGY (UMaT), TARKWA ON FRIDAY, 12TH  
JANUARY 2018 AT UMAT AUDITORIUM**



H. E. Former President J. A. Kufuor

Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Distinguished Ministers of State, Honourable Members of Parliament and Council of State, Chairman and Members of the University Council, Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor, Registrar and other Principal Officers of the University, Members of Convocation, CEOs of Mining and Allied Companies, Alumni and Friends of the University, Nananom, Staff and Students of UMaT, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today is a memorable day and a great honour for me to be here for my investiture as the first Chancellor of the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa. Indeed, there is a special history between me and this university.

It was under my watch as President of our nation that this institution which used to be the Western University College of KNUST attained the status of fully-fledged University. The task to ensure that this noble objective came to be fulfilled rested squarely on the shoulders of the-then Minister of State in charge of Tertiary Education, Ms Elizabeth Ohene.

Through her assiduous work, the necessary Parliamentary Act was passed, and in November 2004, it received my Presidential assent,

Thank you, and may God bless us all and our homeland, and make her great and strong.

institution was, by Act 677 of Parliament, established as a full-fledged University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa, empowered by law to award its own certificates, diplomas and degrees.

Of special note is that the new University was inaugurated by His Excellency Former President John Agyekum Kufuor on 18th August, 2005 and he is now about to be installed as the first Chancellor.

Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, kindly permit me to take this opportunity to recognise all who played diverse roles in transforming this institution into a full-fledged university. Special mention first of all, goes to Former President J. A. Kufuor who gave Ms Elizabeth Ohene, the then Minister of State Responsible for Tertiary Education the special assignment to do all within the law to elevate this institution into a university. We are grateful to Ms Ohene for executing that assignment very well and we are also grateful that she is here to grace the occasion. I would also like to recognise the Foundation Vice Chancellor, Prof Daniel Mireku-Gyimah who is also here to grace the occasion for his profound contribution to the process through his selfless efforts and sterling leadership. The University will be forever grateful to him.

Let me also use this opportunity to appreciate the roles the various University Councils played during the search and appointment of the Chancellor of this University. Additionally, their wisdom and direction in guiding the University administration to focus on our mandate in our quest to become a Centre of Excellence in Ghana and Africa for producing world-class professionals in the fields of mining, petroleum, technology and related disciplines is very much appreciated. I wish to especially acknowledge the role that the current Chairman, Dr S. S. Yirenkyi is playing in this regard.

Your Excellency, immediately you announced Government's decision to sanitise the small-scale mining sector, UMaT quickly gathered her experts to brainstorm on how best we could contribute to find solutions to the many challenges facing the small-scale sector. Suffice to say that in 2013, UMaT signed an MoU with the Ghana National Association of Small Scale Miners (GNASSM) which among other things is to train them in environmentally safe methods of mining. After the experts completed their work, UMaT sort audience with and presented our report to the Chairman of the Ministerial Committee you set-up to bring the operations of the SSM within the confines of the law that regulates their activities. The result of the report we submitted to Prof Frimpong Boateng, Chairman of the Committee and a subsequent meeting with the Honourable Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr John Peter Amewu resulted in UMaT hosting the validation workshop of the Multilateral Mining Integrated Project (MMIP) document in July last year with support of the Australian High Commission. Also, the University was asked to train the small-scale miners with an initial amount of GHc500,000.00. Last year, UMaT trained 400 small-scale miners and we have been informed that we shall be training 1,000 more miners this year. Indeed the first batch of 100 SSM trainees completed their training yesterday, Thursday, 11th January. UMaT is very grateful to the Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources for the confidence they have reposed in this institution.

Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, research led by Prof Sulemana Al-Hassan of the Mining Engineering Department of this University resulted in the design and manufacture the "Sika Bukyia", a Direct Smelting Kit, which is used to recover gold without the use of mercury with a recovery rate of 99 %. The Sika Bukyia project was funded by the European Union. The kit has been

Statutes of the University, to rename this institution after George Alfred Grant, the legendary Axim-born entrepreneur, 'Paa Grant'. It is a most excellent decision, which has received the agreement of the President of the Republic, so that, once the parliamentary process has been completed, this University will be called the George Grant University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa. It is wholly fitting that this great, modest man, who can lay legitimate claim to being the father of modern Ghanaian nationalism, should be properly honoured by a grateful posterity, i.e. by us who are the heirs and beneficiaries of the freedom he so valiantly fought for, especially by citizens of his native Western Region. I am sure that you can appreciate what a special moment it will be for me, a descendant of four of the myriad of persons who assembled at Saltpond, under his presidency, to launch the United Gold Coast Convention, UGCC of most blessed memory, on that fateful day of Saturday, 4th August, 1947, when the path to Ghanaian freedom and independence was illuminated, to be the President who will have the privilege to assent to this decision. Long may we cherish his memory!

In conclusion, Chancellor, Minister for Education, Western Regional Minister, Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Chief Executive, Chair of the University Council, Vice Chancellor, Members of the Faculty, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to assure you of Government's steadfast commitment to initiate policies and programmes in the Technical Universities, Colleges of Education and Universities to enhance the capacity of graduates from our tertiary institutions to advance the socio-economic transformation of the country.

Once again, Chancellor, I would like to congratulate you, and wish you the very best of luck and God's guidance in the discharge of your duties. Enjoy every bit of today, you have earned it a hundred fold.

as was done under the government of President Kufuor, when a vigorous upgrading and expansion of facilities in this University was started, I wish to assure you that the Akufo-Addo Government will insist that the process of equipping UMaT with the requisite logistics, involving the rehabilitation and equipping of existing laboratories, and the construction of new buildings, that is currently ongoing, will be systematically pursued, to enable it deliver effectively on its mandate of teaching, research and service to the community.

Chancellor, Minister for Education, Western Regional Minister, Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Chief Executive, Chair of the University Council, Vice Chancellor, Members of the Faculty, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is apt that, on a special occasion such as this, when the first Chancellor is being inducted into office, a present is given to the University. I have been informed about the number of legacy projects on campus. The energetic Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, John Peter Amewu, has assured me that, through the Minerals Development Fund, these legacy projects will be completed soon in commemoration of today's event.

I have also been informed that 26 square kilometres of land have been donated to the University by the chiefs and people of the Wassa Fiase Traditional Area. Designs for the construction of a 20,000 student capacity campus have been completed, awaiting funds to the commencement of the project. I am pleased to announce that Government will give an annual special budgetary allocation of five million cedis (GH¢5 million) to the University for the realisation of the project.

This happy ceremony is, for me, in two parts. The second relates to the decision taken by the Council of UMaT, in accordance with the

tested in the field and adjudged by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as one of the best technologies of the type in the world. However, lack of funds after the end of the project stalled its further development. UMaT believes that the deployment of the Sika Bukyia will eliminate the use of the poisonous metal; mercury, in the recovery process to protect the SSM and the environment. As part of the MMIP project, the University has submitted a proposal for the use of the "Sika Bukyia" to train the small scale miners.

Other very important areas of research that some of our faculty members led by Dr J. R. Dankwah are focusing on include a bauxite upgrading technology using waste plastics. In Ghana, the alumina that is obtained from the bauxite ore is between 40 to 45% but with the development of this technology, it will be possible to upgrade the bauxite ore to 90% alumina which then will increase the price of the ore to about 10 times.

Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, UMaT has also developed a polymer reduction technology that uses carbonaceous materials found in plastic waste as a reducing agent to produce iron. This technology has been successfully tested on the iron ores of Opon Manso, Shieni, Pudo, Akpafu Todzi in Ghana and also on ores from Nigeria, Liberia, China and Australia; the research team is also led by Dr J. R. Dankwah.

Again, a new technology has also been developed to use the same plastic waste to produce diesel fuel. Significant amounts of liquid fuels have been produced from pure water sachets.

The University has also conducted research led by Prof W. K. Buah into the production of activated carbons using local waste materials such as palm kernel shells and coconut shells in the laboratory. The derived activated carbons have qualities comparable to those

imported for various industrial uses such as for gold adsorption. The researchers are in the process of developing a field scale reactor which will be able to produce activated carbons commercially.

It is the hope of this University that these projects would be given the necessary attention and boost as you drive the one village one factory policy of government to bring employment opportunities to our youth.

Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa, has been established as a specialised institution to train engineers in mining, petroleum, technology and related fields. Our programmes are designed such that a balance is achieved between theory and practical exercises both in the laboratories and in the field. We also put premium on internships so that during the long vacation, a consideration number of our students get placement in mining and allied industries in order to get experience.

As a result of the quality of our programmes of study which continue to improve and impress year in year out and also partly due to the devotion of our staff to duty, our students have become very competitive; giving them edge in everything they do over students from other institutions of higher learning with similar programmes. During the past few years, some of our students and staff made the University and Ghana proud by winning some awards.

Notable among the awards are:

- a) Our students have won the National Quarry Life awards, a biennial competition organised by GHACEM among young scientists and engineers to solve environmental problems in the operational environs of GHACEM twice in a row, in 2014 and 2016.
- b) Our students also won the National Petro Bowl quiz competition

the progress made in a novel technology being promoted by UMaT, which involves the use of plastic waste to upgrade bauxite ore to yield 90% alumina, as against the present grade of 40% to 45%. As a result of this technology, the value of the ore will increase some tenfold. The research work being undertaken here is invaluable, and will assist greatly in our nation's quest to transform our economy from a raw material producing and exporting one to a value-added, industrialised economy.

Chancellor, Minister for Education, Western Regional Minister, Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Chief Executive, Chair of the University Council, Vice Chancellor, Members of the Faculty, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen, the validation of the technology that recycles plastic waste to fuel, improvement of the technology that produces activated carbons from local waste materials, such as palm kernel shells and coconut shells, the production of lightweight building blocks from clay-waste plastics mixtures, and the production of cementitious materials from various mixtures of the ashes of husks, waste paper, sea shells and snail shells are extremely laudable.

The partnership between the Ministry for Railways Development and UMaT, towards the revival of the Railway Training School, is a step very much in the right direction, considering Government's determination to revamp the country's railway sector.

This is a good moment for me to pause and congratulate the Vice Chancellor, the staff and team of administrators, for the yeoman's job they are doing. UMaT has set the pace in sticking to its core mandate of engineering education, to complement efforts to advance the National Policy of achieving 60:40 student ratio for the Sciences as compared to the Humanities, through the promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. Just

mining, technology and related sciences, and to act as a catalyst for the development of mining and technology.

The important role this University is playing in producing industry oriented graduates in engineering, together with its research findings, puts Ghana, a country rich in minerals and with a thousand (1,000) year history of mineral exploitation, in a strategic position to be a global leader in mining and its allied industries. UMaT is, so far, living up to its mandate.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the University, in its contribution to the fight against illegal mining, the phenomenon we call galamsey, has trained four hundred (400) small scale miners, with an additional thousand (1,000) more set to be trained this year, on sustainable mining practices. I commend UMaT also for “Sika Bukyia”, a direct smelting kit for the recovery of gold without the use of mercury by small scale miners, an invention which has been acclaimed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as one of the best innovations in the fight against the use of mercury in mining. Government, through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, intends to facilitate the manufacture and sale of ‘Sika Bukyia’ to all licensed small scale miners.

As some of you may have heard, Government is determined to exploit, at long last, the strategic resources we have in bauxite and iron ore deposits. To this end, a Ghana Integrated Bauxite and Aluminum Development Authority is to be established by law, in this meeting of Parliament, to spearhead the exploitation along the full value chain of our bauxite resources. This will give a considerable fillip to our industrial development, as will also be the exploitation of our iron ore deposits. It is for this reason that I am delighted about

organised by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Ghana chapter twice in a row in 2016 and 2017.

- c) A UMaT graduate, Mr Kwame Ababio, made the University and Ghana proud twice. He was the only Ghanaian among twelve winners out of 41 finalists of the 2017 Young African Entrepreneurs Competition, which attracted 5,349 applicants from all over Africa. He was also the only Ghanaian among fifteen winners in the 2016 edition which competition attracted 756 applicants from 38 African countries. In April last year he made Ghana and the University proud at the 2017 African Youth Got Talent Forum which featured 10 young agriculture entrepreneurs making money from Agriculture and Agribusiness in Africa. Mr Ababio was one of three winners and the only Ghanaian. The three winners attended the African Development Bank’s Annual Meeting in India in May 2017 where Mr Ababio was adjudged the overall winner at the event.
- d) A UMaT final year BSc Electrical and Electronic Engineering student, Mr Prince Essel, was one of ten winners of the Africa Energy Generation Prize 2016 and the only Ghanaian. In May, 2017, he won the second prize of the Africa Energy Generation Prize after attending the Pan-African Energy Generation Academy training in Lome, Togo.
- e) Eleven of our BSc First Class graduates (without MSc) who were sponsored to pursue the PhD research degree at the University of South Australia’s Ian Wark Research Institute; one of the best research Centres in the world made UMaT and Ghana proud. They graduated with PhD on schedule and nine out of the eleven have joined the teaching staff at UMaT. One of the nine, Dr Clement Owusu, won two awards, a feat that is unprecedented in the history of UNiSA.

Dr Clement Owusu, won the 2015 Norton Jackson Material Science and Engineering Medal awarded annually to the best PhD graduate who has demonstrated the most potential or real application of research in industry. He also won the Ian Wark Medal awarded annually to the best PhD researcher on the basis of outstanding performance in creativity, knowledge creation, application cum impact significance, understanding and mastery in the field of study. Seventy-four (74) PhD theses including that of Dr Owusu were assessed for the awards. The runner-up to the Ian Wark medal was Dr Jennifer McCarthy also one of the nine.

I would like to thank his Excellency for granting the universities some space to replace our staff. UMaT has permission to replace 78 and we are grateful, but will like to request for some more, your Excellency.

- f) In February 2017, Prof Grace Ofori-Sarpong, was awarded the 2017 Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early Career Women Scientists in the Developing World for her work on mycohydrometallurgy (fungi-mediated gold extraction), and her strong involvement in making a positive impact on the issues of women in science and engineering. She was the only winner for Sub-Saharan Africa and one of five women recipients of the award worldwide.
- g) In November, 2017, Prof Richard Amankwah, was contracted by the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group as part of a team of experts to develop guidelines, procedures and auditing practices for gold, base metal mines and quarries in Burkina Faso for a three month period.

From all that have been said about our graduates, our staff and the quality of our programmes, it is no wonder that UMaT is the

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC, NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO, AT  
THE INVESTITURE OF PRESIDENT J. A. KUFUOR AS THE  
1ST CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINES AND  
TECHNOLOGY (UMaT), TARKWA, ON FRIDAY, 12TH  
JANUARY, 2018, AT THE UMaT AUDITORIUM**



H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

I am delighted to be here this morning at the investiture ceremony of an outstanding Ghanaian statesman, my former boss, His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, the 2nd President of the 4th Republic. It is entirely appropriate that he, who was responsible for ensuring that the Western University College of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, through presidential assent on 12th November, 2004, became the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), should be appointed as the first Chancellor of this University. Your Excellency, it is a well-deserved honour, given in recognition of the immense work you did, during your time as President of the Republic, not only for UMaT, but also for Mother Ghana. Ayekoo. I commend the authorities of the University for this admirable gesture.

Chancellor, Minister for Education, Western Regional Minister, Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Chief Executive, Chair of the University Council, Vice Chancellor, Members of the Faculty, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is worth noting that, despite the change in names and centres of authority over the years, the core mandate of this institution has not changed. There are very few countries in the world with universities dedicated to mining and allied industries. Indeed, UMaT was established to provide higher education in

anything at all I know he delivered National Health Insurance to Ghanaians. As a mark of a good leader, it is not just to be a President. It is that when we are all old and gone the nation will remember you for something. So for such a human centered policy, Ghanaians are grateful to you President Kufour. We in his party have learnt that it is not only in the area of health that we have human centered development policy.

The next one and probably as I am here as the Minister for Education, the best area is in education and we have a government that is determined through its leader, another visionary leader, to bring another human centered policy into being such as the free Senior High School Education. When these history makers chart a path, others follow. His Excellency the President your path for free SHS has been followed by Kenya and I know for a fact that other countries will follow soon. For a President whose mantra is always education, education, he will definitely make a speech on coming to address such an occasion. He couldn't wait but to be in Tarkwa.

I have had sleepless nights and I have been asked where we are going, what we are going to say. I am not saying anything. I am not doing anything; I am just coming to listen to the President of the Republic of Ghana. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. Thank you Mr President.

best public funded University in Ghana, going by the National Accreditation Board and National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE) norms and standards.

Your Excellency, UMaT has nine uncompleted Mineral Development Fund (MDF) projects. With the passage of the MDF Act 912 (Act 2016), these projects have been labelled "legacy projects". The University would be grateful if you could kindly use your good offices to help us complete these projects. If UMaT is given the necessary support to expand its facilities, that is, its infrastructure, laboratory equipment and staff development, this University will do more in the area of research and bring out more inventions to the benefit of Ghana and will also be in a better position to absorb more of the students who would gain admission as result of the free SHS programme, courtesy of the laudable policy of his Excellency's government.

Finally, your Excellencies ladies and gentlemen, the Chiefs and people of the Wassa Fiase Traditional Area have graciously donated 26 km<sup>2</sup> of land to the University in perpetuity. The plot of land is located off the Tarkwa - Bogosu highway. All the necessary paper work to legally acquire the land has been completed. The model of a 20,000 student capacity university has also been expertly designed by the renowned Ghanaian architect, Arch Dr Ekow Sam, the concept which he developed after visiting several prestigious universities the world over. Arch Dr Ekow Sam is also with us today to grace the occasion. The development of the land is vital to prevent encroachment as is usually the case when land is left fallow over time. Your Excellency, UMaT needs substantial investment to develop the new site so that this University can really become the Centre of Excellence in Ghana and Africa to showcase how mineral resources, which Africa is endowed with can be sustainably utilised.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to some companies who supported us to make this event possible. They are: Prempeh Old Boys Association, Access Bank, Fidelity Bank, Ghana Manganese Company Ltd, AngloGold Ashanti, Iduapriem Mine, Next Computers, Wilhelm Construction and Minescho Credit.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I thank all of you for your attention and may God bless us all.

**A SHORT MESSAGE BY THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,  
DR MATTHEW OPOKU PREMPEH AT THE INVESTITURE OF  
PRESIDENT J. A. KUFUOR AS THE 1ST CHANCELLOR OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MINES AND TECHNOLOGY (UMaT),  
TARKWA, ON FRIDAY, 12TH JANUARY, 2018, AT THE UMaT  
AUDITORIUM**



Dr. M. Opoku Prempeh

Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Your Excellency Former President John Agyekum Kufuor, Colleague Ministers of State, Chairman of the University Council, Vice Chancellor, Members of Convocation, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is heartwarming to attend such functions, particularly this one to hear how the university is performing creditably both among its tutors and students. Becoming a world class university is not a joke and we in the Ministry want to associate ourselves with your successes.

Today's function is but a solemn, important and a serious one, the first time in the history of this University to have a Chancellor. A gracious occasion worthy of honouring.

We thank the Vice Chancellor for his distinguished service and Dr Yirenkyi who is becoming an umbilical cord of this university. We hope that UMaT would continue to receive further laurels for themselves and for the Republic of Ghana.

It is good to have leaders but it is better if your leaders have vision. President Kufour had a vision and if I sleep and I do not remember