

MADINAINSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

LAUNCHING CEREMONY

SPEECH OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE VICE PRESIDENT

OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

MINISTERS OF STATE

MEMBERS OF THE DEPLOMAIC CORPS

THE VICE CHANCELLORS OF THE KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES**

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT PRESENT HERE

THE NATIONAL CHIEF IMAM

THE CHANCELLOR OF M.I.S.T

M.I.S.T COUNCIL MEMBERS

THE CHIEF OF MADINA AND ELDERS

REPRESENTATIVES OF MUSLIM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

MEMBERS OF FOMWAG AND OTHER MUSLIM WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS

MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY SERVICES

**THE M.I.S.T COMMUNITY, COMPRISING THE M.I.S.T MAIN CAMPUS, ALDIAA
SOCIETY AND QUR'AN COLLEGE**

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

INVITED GUESTS

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I wish to join the Chairman of the MIST Council in welcoming you all to the campus of the Institute and to today's ceremony.

Your Excellency and our revered guests, the story behind the establishment of the Madina Institute of Science and Technology is one of extraordinary vision backed by courage and even audacity. With so many well established universities and university colleges already operating in the country, one needed a special reason to attempt adding to their number. Definitely, the reason must go beyond the need to increase access. In addition to the need to increase access, the Institute has been established with a truly yearning desire to address an anomaly-an anomaly which has long been observed as the bane of our development and which everybody talks about but very few, indeed very few have in practical terms, attempted to address. I am referring to the well-known gap between our educational system and industry. We are busy churning out graduates with very little or in most cases, without employable skills, to the extent that we find the existence of Associations of Unemployed Graduates a normal phenomenon. The Madina Foundation for Science and Technology found this state of affairs highly unacceptable. The Foundation also observed that at this stage of our development, the attention given to technology is highly inadequate. It, therefore, decided to establish the Madina Institute of Science and Technology to provide affordable quality tertiary education to its students with the right moral training, through a deliberate and systematic exposure to research and activities in the corporate world, to complement their academic work to ensure that they graduate with appreciable level of information and practical skills they can put to use immediately.

The Foundation, recognizing the fact that the right atmosphere and physical infrastructure are very critical for serious academic and research work, acquired a parcel of land in this serene environment to establish the Institute. Over eighty percent of the required infrastructure was in place before the processes of acquisition of affiliation and accreditation were initiated. Our lecture halls are small to ensure quality teaching and learning contact time between faculty and students. The lecture halls are well lit, air -conditioned and provided with facilities for power-point presentation.

Your Excellency and revered guests, our smaller lecture halls provide the “ by the fireside” or “boardroom” atmosphere and ambiance as our hardworking Dean of the School of Business and Technology likes to put it. This makes our lecture periods very interactive. We cannot, therefore, have passive students at the MIST. This participatory approach loosens up students and instils an appreciable level self confidence in them which results in their desire to do individual or group research and share the results with colleagues in class presentation.

Honourable guests, the nerve centre of every academic institution is its library. This is not lost on the founders of MIST. They have accordingly, planned to build a library complex that would cater for the academic and research needs of the institute and the communities around it. Meanwhile, the temporary library which has very reliable internet facilities and has been hooked to the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries of Ghana (CARLIGH), is being stocked with recommended books. An e-library and an internet cafe have been added to ensure that students have access to information worldwide. The wi-fi in the academic enclave of the institute further boosts the access to information. The library is manned by a qualified

librarian with very dedicated staff always available to assist students in their search for information.

Your Excellency, a well-equipped computer laboratory is available for practical hands-on training in IT for learners and to sharpen the skills of students who already have some knowledge in it. For other practical training for now, especially for the engineering students, arrangements have been made for them to do so with some institutions pending the completion and equipping of our own workshop. To this end, the institute has signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Japan Motors Company, the Roads and Highways Authority and the Takoradi Technical University. In addition to periodic field trips organized for our students, we also bring in people from industry to talk to and interact with them. We also favour faculty with industry experience.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Foundation has also provided hostels on campus to accommodate students coming from outside Accra. Two hostel blocks have been completed and are already in use. Two more are planned for the immediate future.

Honourable guests, admission to programmes at MIST is based solely on academic qualifications as set down by the National Accreditation Board and as required by our mentor institutions. The candidate will have to pass (with credit) in the three core subjects and also, pass (with credit) in the relevant elective subjects required for their chosen programmes. No applicant is denied admission on non-academic grounds.

The Institute was granted accreditation by the National Accreditation Board late last year to run undergraduate programmes in Engineering and Business

Administration. The Institute offers the following engineering programmes in the School of Engineering: Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Oil and Gas Engineering. We have affiliation with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology for these programmes. We offer Accounting, Banking and Finance, Marketing and Human Resource Management in the School of Business and Technology. Programmes in this school are affiliated to the University for Development Studies.

The Institute is also in the process of opening its School of Liberal Arts and Sciences by the beginning of the 2018/2019 academic year. The programmes to be offered in the School are Religious Studies and Human Development (this programme is very different from the normal run of the mill religious studies programmes), English, Arabic and French for the Liberal Arts and Nursing and Midwifery for the Sciences. These programmes are already being looked at by our mentor institutions before we can submit them for accreditation.

The Institute has also established a Centre for Professional Studies. This is another response of MIST to the growing needs of industry for programmes that facilitate professional growth and development of the 21st century workforce. In this regard, the Centre offers programmes tailored for the needs of industry and prepare participants for entry level as well as advanced level jobs.

Our honourable guest of honour and revered guests, it is obvious that one of the factors militating against our development has to do with integrity. We have our fair share of professionals with the requisite skills to propel this nation out of its poverty and almost helpless situation, if those responsible for

our welfare will execute their mandate without taking advantage of their privileged positions to rip us off. We have to do away with the winner takes all and the end justifies mentality if we are to come out of our current situation. We seek, in our small way, to address this canker and inculcate in our students that degree of moral consciousness that would enable them differentiate between public property from personal belongings, and the fact that if you misappropriate the former, you will account for it, here or in the hereafter.

As an Islamic faith-based institution, we consider the issues of morality and integrity paramount in the moulding of the character of our future leaders and, therefore, do not countenance infractions upon them. MIST is a secular institution but we are not about to tolerate the unruly and permissive behaviours the youth are wont to copy from some decadent societies of the west. Parents who already have wards here or intend bringing their wards here should take note.

The Institute did admissions on a pilot basis in January this year to prepare and pave the way for the main admissions during the 2017/2018 academic year. The limited admissions have been instructive in charting the courses for subsequent admissions and teaching and learning delivery. Admissions for 2017/2018 academic year are still in progress.

Your Excellency and revered guests, the Madina Institute of Science and Technology is here to give holistic education to the youth and future leaders of this country. It is our ardent hope that in the not too distant future, the effect of our widow's mite in this direction will start yielding positive results worth emulating by others. Thank you and May Allah bless you all.

