

Speech of  
Dr. Samuel H. Donkor  
President of All Nations University  
at the  
Welcome Luncheon for Returning Trained Faculty

Venue: Capital View Hotel, Koforidua, Ghana

Date: June 25 2009

## ***A Welcome Luncheon For Returning Trained Faculty***

Today we celebrate the success of 8 young men and women who after their overseas training have returned to work at All Nations University in order to contribute to National Development.

One of the major challenges of private Tertiary Institutions is the ability to recruit qualified faculty. To meet this challenge, the University has sponsored about 30 young men and women for further studies. Last year, 8 returned, and this year another 8 have returned making a total of 16. By the end of July we expect one more to return having completed his PhD Program.

Many a times candidates sponsored by Government and Institutions for further studies do not return with the skills acquired to help develop the country. Rather, use those skills in developed countries to the detriment of their motherland. Thus, further impeding national development. I call on all those who were sponsored with the scarce resources of the Government and other Institutions to come back home and serve. On this note we applaud our returning faculty for being selfless and living up to their commitments.

A University's ability to provide quality higher education depends on the quality of its faculty. Hence, All Nations University has made faculty development a priority. Currently, the University has 98 teaching staff; 95 of the Faculty are full-time with only 3 part-time lecture

### **Future Programs**

All Nations University has invested huge sums of money in the Oil and Gas Engineering Program, because we believe that developing local expertise for the Oil Industry will be instrumental in curtailing some of the negative or unpleasant results that we see in other African oil producing countries. Local participation at all levels in the oil industry is crucial for peace and stability in the nation.

The debate over whether Ghana's Oil find will be a blessing or a curse must move beyond a mere academic exercise to where concrete steps are taken to ensure that the experiences of Gabon, Nigeria and others don't repeat themselves here. Can we take some steps now?

## **Non-Partisan Committee**

I propose that Parliament forms a Non-Partisan Committee, comprising people from the various political parties as a first step.

The main task of the Non-Partisan Committee is to set up a high powered Board made up of qualified individuals drawn from diverse backgrounds to give Ghana a 50-year plan for the utilization of the Oil revenues.

The Board's plan will be backed up by a legislation making their plan unchangeable except by a referendum of the people. The legislation should be such that No President, No Parliament, or any one should have the power in this country to change it except by the people through a referendum.

If we fail to plan before the money comes we are certain to make a mess of it, but if we plan before the money comes we will make a better use of it.

By so doing, we will have a clear plan to guide the nation in the utilization of the oil revenues for decades to come. Thus, avoiding the pitfalls of many African nations, where greed, corruption, avarice and unbridled spending leave the masses with nothing while politicians and army generals take the loot.

To cite a hypothetical example, the Board's formula for the utilization of the revenues can be distributed as follows: 10% for Infrastructure, 10% for Education, 10% for Job Creation, 10% Youth and Sports, 10% for Debt Repayment, 10% for Research and Development and 10% for Reinvestment in the Energy Sector, 10% for Health Care and 20% for Savings. Once a formula is approved by Parliament, SO BE IT!

This will bring lasting peace and stability to the nation. And will make our Oil find a blessing. Such a plan will help us to utilize the revenues for the Oil in an equitable manner. This will also ensure that politics, avarice, greed, and corruption would not have the upper hand in the use of the Oil revenues which would ruin this beautiful country God has given to us.

For All Nations University, our contribution is to train quality Oil and Gas Engineers with Christian values to serve the people.

Long live President Atta Mills, Long live Ghana and God bless you all!

Dr. Samuel H. Donkor