

**SPEECH GIVEN BY NANA ADU GYAMFI, ADONTENHENE ON
BEHALF OF HIS MAJESTY OTUMFUO OSEI TUTU II –
ASANTEHENE – SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 99TH SPEECH AND PRIZE-GIVING DAY
CELEBRATION OF ADISADEL COLLEGE, SATURDAY 14TH
MARCH, 2009**

Mr. Chairman, Madam Honourable Regional Minister, Honourable
Minister of Education, Honourable Ministers, Chairman and Members
of Adisadel Board of Governors,
Headmaster and Members of Staff
Regional Director of Education
Invited Guests, Parents, Students
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honour and privilege and indeed a great pleasure to
represent His Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene, who was
invited by the College as Special Guest of Honour on this landmark
occasion of the 99th Speech and Prize-Giving Day Celebration. His
Majesty received the invitation with thanks and requested me to
express his sincerest appreciation for the honour done to him. He
would have wished to be here in person but, most unfortunately,
pressing obligations and events beyond his control made it impossible
for him to be present. He regrets this very much and wishes me, on
his behalf to sincerely apologize for that and share with you the joy
of this unique event.

In doing so, I cannot but first recall with admiration and pay due and well-deserved tribute to the Anglican Founding Fathers who planted the seed in January 1910, and imbued this College with the enduring spirit of God: A phenomenon which underpinned its motivation and has given the College, spiritual direction and indestructible protection through thick and thin up till now and far, far beyond. Famous and inspiring names such as Right Rev. Nathaniel Hamlyn, Rev. Quaake, Arch Bishop John Knight, Right Rev. Anglionby and their myriad host of modern successors who have thoroughly fulfilled the major original purposes of the society for the propagation of the Gospel must never be forgotten. The impact of Adisadel trained priests therefore, is today felt in every corner of Ghana and also in West Africa. In particular, His Majesty wishes to recognize the very profound impact in Ashanti where Anglican promoted education and values permeated deep with the full collaboration and under the auspices of the succession of Asante Kings and royal personages beginning from the reign of his Uncle Nana Agyeman Prempeh I. In this context what delights His Majesty greatly is that he also considers it as the commemoration of the role Adisadel College played in the education and life of his senior brother the late Otumfuo Opoku Ware II and many Asante Royals who have passed through its corridors.

Together with the glittering list of truly very distinguished range of alumni, who have consistently characterized every generation of Santaclausians over the past 99 years. It is obvious that simple

words alone cannot describe the immense contribution that Adisadel College has made to the growth of our nation in every aspect of life, whatsoever. Indeed, we must be whole-heartedly proud of such an illustrious Institution.

Against the background of the concrete record of achievement gleaned from what Adisadel College products have, from public knowledge, impacted and accomplished which call for celebration, it must be admitted and acknowledged by all in a very serious and comprehensive manner that the foremost preoccupation and goal now ought to be the close identification and preservation of the legacies, physical and otherwise, as well as the traditions and all the corollary values promoted by the College and deemed to be part of characteristics of Santaclausians which have seamlessly formed an indispensable part of the image and survival kit of the College. These are germane to the evolution of new ideas and strategies for keeping the College going forward would be desired in the years ahead.

It is in this light that the selection of the Theme and Topic for this occasion is viewed by His Majesty as very well chosen; appropriate and worthy of constant attention, analysis and critical focus by all stakeholders, particularly current students, Administrators, Alumni, Staff, the Church, and Parents. Indeed, it is a theme for all seasons.

It cannot be gainsaid that striving for excellence, Academic excellence, is the ultimate goal; that from time immemorial has motivated the College in its search for collective and individual results recognition.

This level of achievement, academic excellence, which imports the ideal exceptionally good performance, distinctive quality exceeding even very high objective standards implicitly seen as not achievable by all is exactly what you students and all the stakeholders are being urged to strongly promote and ensure to become a hallmark of Adisadel in the coming years. I have gathered that your history is replete with many, many examples through the generations. We ask for more and more in this category, as appears to be emerging as a trend since 2004.

It must be well understood that the price of excellence that we all seek, is very hard work and discipline. Discipline is the major bridge between the goal of Excellence and its accomplishment. Excellence is not and never will be achieved in anything without discipline, which every worthy institution of learning and its students must seek to understand and apply throughout their goal-oriented life. Discipline is that determination which keeps you going even after the original motivation to achieve your goal of excellence has disappeared. It is what keeps one pursuing a dream when all else seems to have failed. In short, discipline through which excellence results can be attained

has been analyzed to have the following key ingredients among others. Concentration; Self-discipline and control; Passion for your subject, persistence perseverance and the power of follow through.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure the history of this College over years can provide much information to chronicle the long road to success that many well known students, alumni and now distinguished Santaclausians have had to make along with many obstacles that have stood in their way and yet have emerged as foremost people who have contributed greatly to society and history. Exploration of the struggle behind the success of such people can be used to serve as both words of wisdom and motivation. Ultimately such inspirational stories emphasize the importance of education, hard work and perseverance in overcoming all manner of barriers to achieve success against all odds.

As students, my advice to you is that you should try to sacrifice the pleasures of today for a better tomorrow within the cloisters of your famous College. It requires that you opt out of many desires and bad behaviours which are associated with youthful, uncontrolled lifestyle. Concentrating on your books and embracing knowledge now in an orderly disciplined environment that you have luckily inherited is the surest way to build a hopeful future for yourself, your family and your country as others have done.

Disciplined behaviour costs nothing but pays in the long run. As youth, your future is in your own hands. As your parents and teachers do their part. What remains rest with you. What you want to be in future depends to a large extent on what you do with the opportunities available to you now.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, I would like to encourage the young ones to aim high and see themselves as eagles temporarily kept with chicks. You should know that as eagles, you belong to the sky above and not down here. Discipline and determination should urge you on to move out of all odds because they are only a means to an end. Always be prepared to justify your inclusion in Adisadel College.

On behalf of Otumfuo, I wish you all a very happy anniversary. Good luck and God's blessings in the run-up and preparations for the Centenary Celebrations. May you succeed and have all your desires granted to build a solid foundation for the next Century. May God bless us all.