

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE MAY 2026 GRADUATION OF FACULTY
OF COMMERCE, HUMAN SCIENCES AND EDUCATION
OF NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**THEME: ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGICAL
INNOVATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

ADDRESS BY:

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**THURSDAY, MAY 07, 2026
MERCURE HOTEL; WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

1. Protocol

The Acting Vice-Chancellor,

Distinguished faculty,

Honoured guests, proud families, and the Class of 2026:

I bring warm greetings from Ghana and from Central University.

It is a privilege to stand in Windhoek, a city shaped by resilience, history, and vision, on this important day.

In Namibia, there is a wisdom reflected in the spirit of Ubuntu: the understanding that *“a person is a person through other persons.”*

The belief that our humanity and progress are shared, and that true success uplifts others. This aligns with today’s theme of ***Advancing Knowledge and Technological Innovations for Sustainable Development.***

In the African context, knowledge is not just the accumulation of facts, but the responsible application of wisdom to solve problems, restore dignity, and build a better future for society.

Graduates, you step into a world of immense possibility and profound responsibility.

From the timeless dunes of the Namib Desert to the rapidly evolving digital systems connecting continents, we are reminded that contrasts, define our age.

We live in a time of unprecedented technological breakthroughs: artificial intelligence, digital finance, renewable energy, and data-driven governance.

Yet, at the same time, millions across our continent still seek access to quality education, healthcare, and economic opportunity.

This is your moment to bridge that gap.

Let me ask you:

What is knowledge if it does not transform lives?

What is innovation if it does not include humanity?

As graduates of Accounting, Economics, Governance, and Management Sciences, you are not bystanders in development you are architects of it. You will design financial systems that determine equity or exclusion. You will influence policies that shape nations. You will manage institutions that either inspire trust or erode it.

Your decisions will matter.

Your values will matter even more.

Because, as we must always remember:

“The strength of a nation lies not only in its resources, but in the integrity of those who manage them.”

Namibia’s history offers a powerful lesson: from its difficult journey to independence to the steady growth of democratic institutions, it reflects resilience, discipline, and hope.

These are not abstract ideals but practical leadership principles, reminding us that sustainable development is a continuous process of nation-building.

Today, that responsibility passes to you. To advance knowledge and innovation means moving from consumption to creation, from dependency to self-determination, and ensuring solutions are locally inspired yet globally relevant.

It requires building systems that are not only efficient but equitable.

And so, as you move forward, I challenge you with three responsibilities:

1. Anchor knowledge in purpose

Let your education respond to real needs. The world does not need more theories that sit on shelves it needs ideas that solve problems.

As professionals in accounting and economics, ensure financial systems promote transparency and inclusive growth. As leaders in governance and management, design policies and institutions that serve all citizens, not just a privileged few.

Sustainable development demands that economic growth must be accompanied by social inclusion and environmental responsibility. You must think beyond profit to purpose.

Ask yourself not only, “*What can I gain?*” but also, “*What can I contribute?*”

2. Lead with integrity

In many societies today, the greatest challenge is not the absence of knowledge: it is the absence of ethical leadership.

Corruption, inefficiency, and mistrust do not arise because people lack education. They arise when character is compromised.

“When character fails, systems collapse.”

Be the generation that restores trust in institutions. Let your leadership be defined not by convenience, but by conviction. Choose honesty when dishonesty seems easier. Choose accountability when avoidance is tempting. Choose courage when silence feels safer.

Integrity is not old-fashioned: it is the foundation of sustainable progress.

3. Innovate with an African vision

Technology must reflect our realities. Africa’s challenges are unique, and so too must be our solutions.

Do not simply import ideas: **adapt them.**

Do not simply follow trends: **shape them.**

Do not measure success by how closely you imitate others, but by how effectively you respond to your own context.

From mobile banking innovations that have transformed financial inclusion, to renewable energy solutions addressing power challenges, Africa has already shown that it can lead.

But more is required of your generation.

“Africa’s future will not be downloaded: it will be developed.”

As Graduates, you are entering a global economy but never forget your local responsibility. The farmer in the village, the entrepreneur in the township, the young child in a rural school. These are the people your knowledge must ultimately serve.

Sustainable development is not an abstract concept. It is about ensuring that development today does not compromise the ability of future

generations to thrive. It is about balancing economic ambition with social justice and environmental stewardship.

It is about building not just for today but for tomorrow.

And so, I say to you:

As you rise, lift others.

As you succeed, create opportunities.

As you innovate, include communities.

Let your success have a ripple effect.

Let your impact extend beyond your immediate circle.

Let your work leave a legacy.

Let me leave you with a reflection inspired by the endurance of the Namib Desert: one of the oldest landscapes on earth. Through centuries of change, it has endured. It has adapted. It has remained.

It reminds us that sustainability is not about speed; it is about strength. Not about quick wins but about lasting impact.

“True progress is not measured by how fast we grow, but by how long what we build endures.”

There will be moments of doubt ahead. Times when opportunities seem distant, when challenges feel overwhelming, when the path forward is unclear.

But in those moments, remember this:

You carry within you the dreams of your families,
the investment of your nation,
and the hope of a continent.

You are not ordinary graduates.

You are a generation called to lead in extraordinary times.

Do not shrink from that responsibility.

Step forward with confidence.

Speak with purpose.

Act with conviction.

To the families and faculty: today, your labour bears fruit. Your sacrifices, your patience, and your commitment have shaped not only graduates, but leaders who will carry forward your legacy.

And to the Class of 2026:

Go and build economies that are inclusive.

Build institutions that are accountable.

Build innovations that are meaningful.

And build a future that honours both people and planet.

May your knowledge serve humanity.

May your leadership inspire transformation.

And may your journey bring honour to Namibia, to Africa, and to the world.

Congratulations and go forth to lead.

Thank you.

Professor Kwasi Dartey-Baah

Vice-Chancellor

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