

# Govt allocates GH¢50m to National Research Fund —Veep

FROM KINGSLEY E.HOPE, KUMASI

**T**HE government has reactivated the long-anticipated National Research Fund, with an initial allocation of GH¢ 50 million sourced from the GETFund.

This was announced on Saturday by Vice President, Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang.

Describing the fund as a strategic investment in Ghana's knowledge economy and broader development ambitions, the Vice President affirmed its centrality to national progress.

"This same commitment drove the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in 2016 to initiate the establishment of the National Research Fund," she noted. "We have now rekindled that vision—setting up a board, a secretariat, and providing seed funding to make the fund fully operational."

She made the announcement while addressing the 58th Special

Congregation of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi.

Professor Opoku-Agyemang emphasised that the revitalised fund signals a renewed governmental focus on innovation, scholarship, and scientific excellence.

She also gave a strong assurance of the government's respect for academic independence, stressing, "Government is committed to empowering university councils and management to execute their statutory duties without undue political interference."

Commending graduates for their contributions to national dialogue through research, she encouraged them to continue publishing and sharing their findings to shape Ghana's development trajectory.

However, the Vice President's address gained added resonance when the Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, took the podium to raise a long-standing concern.

"My next teaching hospital is still not finished," the Asantehene declared, his tone firm yet impassioned. "I am passionate about this

project because of the vital role it is intended to play."

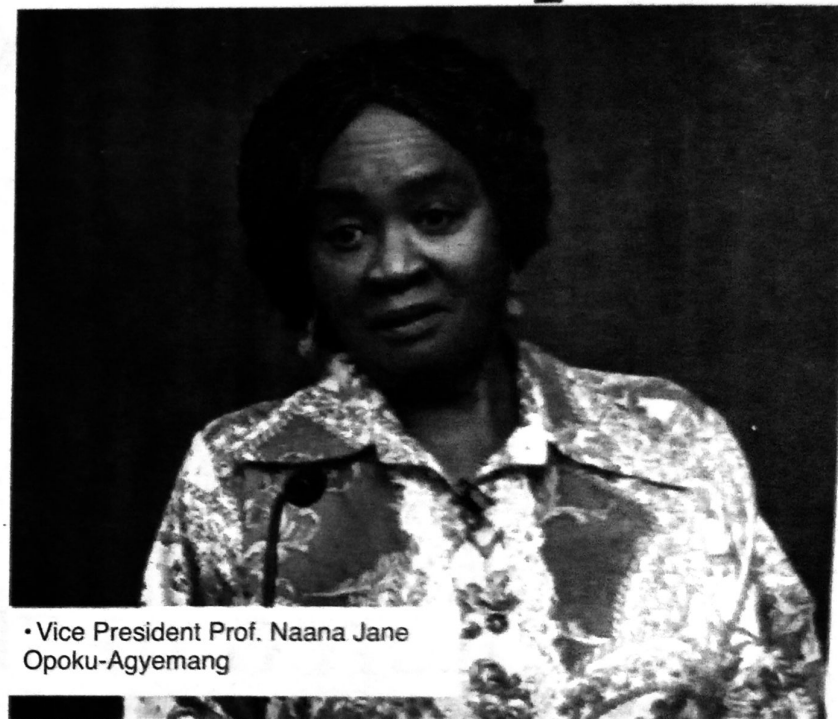
The \$125 million KNUST Teaching Hospital project, launched in 2007, was conceived as a state-of-the-art facility to augment the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital and train the next generation of medical and allied health professionals.

Eighteen years on, the facility remains incomplete—a persistent point of frustration for the Asantehene and healthcare advocates across the Ashanti Region.

He urged the Vice President to elevate the issue to President John Dramani Mahama, calling for decisive intervention to halt the structure's further deterioration.

The congregation attracted more than 8,000 graduates, faculty, and dignitaries—including King Mswati III of Eswatini, who concluded his four-day state visit to Ghana in the Ashanti Region with his presence at the ceremony.

Addressing the assembly, the Eswatini Monarch challenged the youth to lead Africa's digital future, particularly in the era of artificial



• Vice President Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang

intelligence.

"Your education has not just prepared you to keep pace with change, but to lead it," he said.

He acknowledged the presence of Eswatini nationals studying at KNUST and encouraged them to uphold the integrity and values of

their homeland.

"Remain respectful and responsible, as is our national character. Focus on your academic pursuit and immerse yourselves in the rich traditions and cultures of Ghanaian communities," he urged.