

**SPEECH BY MR. YAW OPOKU-ATUAHENE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF
THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) ON THE 99TH
SPEECH AND PRIZE-GIVING DAY OF ADISADEL COLLEGE, CAPE
COAST**

Mr. Chairman, Otumfuo the Asantehene, Nananom, My Lord Bishops, members of the Board of Governors, the Headmaster, Directors of Education, Distinguished Invited Guests, Santaclausians, Ancient and Modern Staff, the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am very grateful to the authorities for inviting me to deliver the guest of honour speech on the 99th

Speech and Prize-Giving Day. Never in my wildest dream did I imagine that I would stand on this dais to deliver a guest of honour speech. I am profoundly grateful to the school authorities.

Today, Santaclausians both current and modern are celebrating 99 Adisadel years – a teaser to the big one – the centenary. How I did I come to Adisadel ?, Common Entrance, Interview, Admission goes with prospectus and school rules. First impression: Excitement, Good Food, Happy Times.

Let us briefly drive through the memory here. Adisadel was strong in both 'O' and 'A' level examinations result were excellent. Academics – Almost 80% of the then ASPAU Scholarships were won by Santaclausians. Unfortunately, the beneficiaries never returned home. Maybe they found life in overseas too good to return.

Adisadel College was strong in sports. Our Headmaster was a scholar and active sportsman. I was a product of that era.

The school social life was excellent – The Jazz club, the school orchestra, the school choir. There was also the school senate where the Headmaster made himself available for questions and answer session.

Finally, school positions starting from the Head Perfect to all perfect were openly campaigned for and voted on. The combination of these factors instilled leadership qualities which produced Santaclausians who excelled in their various fields of endeavour.

This school has produced the following:

- A Head of State (Former)
- Otumfuo – Asantehene of the blessed memory
- Chief Justice - Speaker of Parliament
- Deputy Speaker of Parliament - Brigadier General
- Inspector General - NASA Engineers
- Quality Medical Doctor - Managing Director of a Bank
- Deputy Managing Director of a Bank
- Traditional Rulers - Priest
- Actuarial Scientist - Lawyers
- Musicians, etc.

How can we consolidate and build upon this achievement over the next 99 years. It cannot and should not happen by chance. It must be purposeful deliberate strategic plan. Call it business plan. Let us get this document

before the centenary celebration. We are prepared to make an input and find this enterprise.

Comments:

Protection Of School Land

Adisadel is endowed with a vast parcel of land. Unfortunately however this natural resource is being encroached upon by trespassers with impunity. There is the need for the school authorities to take measures to protect this vital asset by ensuring a proper demarcation of the school's land and the acquisition of the appropriate documentation, if this has not been done. We will help solicit for funds to get the job done.

Santaclaus

We need to bring notice back Santaclaus into circulation. My humbly request is that each graduating year students will write that years school history to be published in Santaclaus

Mr. Chairman, Information and Communication Technology(ICT) has become the driving force in the world economy and indeed in every sphere of life. Advancement in that field is indeed a mark of development to the extent that no nation can afford to be left behind. This is why I am of the firm belief that we should pool every available resource to ensure that a state-of-the art ICT facilities are installed in the school to give our students a head start. I urge all old Santaclausians to take up the challenge.

New Admission System.

My thoughts on the new computer system of admission to the Senior High Schools might appear to some an attempt to draw back progress. While admitting that the new system seeks to place students with the best grades in

our school, I am of the conviction that the old system of interviews even after selection gives the school authorities the opportunity to meet and assess prospective students while the prospective students also have the rear opportunity of meeting the school authorities. There may therefore be the need to marry the old with the new to achieve an acceptable balance.

Role of Students:

Discipline and hard work had been the hallmarks of our school. It is these virtues which have made Adisco what it is today. Excellence in any field of endeavour can only be attained through hard work dedication and above all discipline. Longfellow put it succinctly when he said, 'The height which great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight but they whilst their friends slept were toiling upwards in the night'. Students thus have a responsibility to maintain the high standards that have been set over the years. They have the responsibility not only to maintain the schools' reputation but also the dignity of their own characters and the good names of their parents.

Responsibility of parents:

Parents have a shared responsibility to ensure that our students are brought up to become responsible adults bearing in mind that it is only a responsible citizenry which can build a prosperous nation. Therefore let parents support and complement the efforts of our hard working teachers in bringing up our children who are the future leaders.

It is in this regard that the parent/Teacher Association (PTA) becomes relevant. A strong PTA is an asset to every school and I urge the PTA to play a major role in the management of the school without interference in the day to day management of the school which should be left to the headmaster who has been entrusted with that responsibility.

The Role of teachers:

The teacher is at the centre of the education system and I hereby doth my hat to the many hard working and dedicated teachers who have helped in shaping the character of the students and in the building of this great institution. With emerging trends particularly in the field of ICT our teachers face even greater challenges in the performance of their very important role.

The Role of Past Students:

Past students have been a pillar in the development of our great institution and their role will even become important and crucial if the school should continue to play its leading role in the academic field. I have already hinted about the establishment of an ICT centre and I challenge the old students to make this a reality as soon as possible.

The Role of The Missions:

The missions have been the pioneers in the establishment of the numerous educational institutions in the country including our great school. There have been thoughts about re-introducing the involvement of the churches in the management of the schools they had established. I share the same view and hope that the Ministry of Education can find a way of involving the churches

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I find the theme for the 99th Speech and Prize Giving day very appropriate. My thoughts on the theme are by no means exhaustive. The discussion should continue in our homes, schools and work places.

To the hard working teachers and other staff of the school I wish to congratulate you on this occasion and to say 'Ayeeko' for your untiring efforts. And to the students I wish to congratulate those of you who will be receiving prizes today. I also wish to leave you with these thoughts from the last stanza of the school's ode; 'Gird Up Your Loins' Let the watchword be forward.

Commitment To Celebrating The Centenary

- (i) 1968 year group will build the school gate;
- (ii) GHC 25,000 or GHC 250 million has been solicited and available to fund specific project within centenary projects. This will be managed by the 1968 year group;
- (iii) Getfund has asked me to inform you to send through me funding for specific project of the school's.

Vel Primus Vel Cum Primis will be,

These thoughts and others that might come from discussions of the theme could be reduced into a strategic Plan for the next one hundred years.

Thank you and God Bless you all.