

## **SPEECH BY CHANCELLOR, PROF. SUSAN ALFANO NKINYANGI AT THE ZETECH UNIVERSITY 2024 GRADUATION CEREMONY**

### **[Salutations]**

Our Chief Guest, CEO & Managing Director - Absa Bank Kenya, Mr. Abdi Mohamed,  
The Chairman, Board of Trustees Zetech University, Eng. Ken Mbiuki,  
Members of Board of Trustees,  
The Chairman, Zetech University Council, Mr. Hassan Mohammed,  
Members of the Zetech University Council,  
The Vice-Chancellor, Zetech University, Prof. Njenga Munene,  
Members of the Zetech University Management Board,  
Members of the Zetech University Senate,  
Zetech University Staff,  
Students, Parents and Guardians,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Graduands,  
Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning!

### **Chief guest ladies and gentlemen**

Graduands today marks an extraordinary milestone in your lives, one that reflects years of effort, dedication, and growth. Allow me to congratulate each of you on reaching this remarkable moment. You have succeeded in embodying the Zetech University spirit, overcoming challenges, and nurturing your talents and skills, and now you are ready to embrace the world with renewed vigour. As you step forward, I encourage you to embrace every opportunity with confidence and to uphold the values you have cultivated here at Zetech University.

This year's theme, **'Harnessing Green Skills and Creativity for Shared Prosperity,'** resonates deeply with the challenges and possibilities that await you. We are witnessing an era where environmental consciousness and innovative thinking are paramount not only to individual success but also to the collective well-being of our communities and the world at large. Your education has prepared you to be forward-thinking leaders who are equipped to make a meaningful impact on the global stage.

### **Chief guest ladies and gentlemen-Globalisation and the Zetech University Advantage**

Graduands you leave here today not only as graduates of Zetech University but as global citizens. Our commitment to internationalisation, to see you as global leaders, has positioned you uniquely to leverage opportunities in the interconnected world. With a curriculum that reflects the demands of global industries, and partnerships that expand your reach, we have prepared you to be impactful not just locally, but globally.

Through our strategic partnerships, we continue to broaden opportunities for student exchange programmes, research collaborations, and market linkages that bring you into closer alignment with global trends. These initiatives are designed to ensure that you, our graduates, are competitive and agile, possessing the skills that meet global standards. I am thrilled to witness the potential each of you holds, especially as you apply the green skills we are talking about and creativity to address real-world challenges, making you integral contributors to a sustainable global economy.

### **Chief guest ladies and gentlemen-The Idea behind Green Skills, Creativity, and Innovation**

At Zetech University, our vision is grounded in nurturing creativity, fostering adaptability, and advancing skills that cater to the demands of a rapidly evolving world. Our commitment to innovation and green skills empowers you to play a critical role in creating sustainable solutions that will benefit society and the environment. The world needs forward-thinking individuals who can envision a cleaner, more prosperous future, and you, as Zetech graduates, have been prepared to lead in that direction. Creativity and green skills are essential tools to tackle the pressing issues of our time, from climate change to resource scarcity, and I am confident that you will rise to the challenge.

### **Chief guest ladies and gentlemen-The Foundation of Our Success**

Today, I would like to remind you of Zetech University's core values that have been the foundation of your education: Integrity, Customer Focus, Teamwork, Excellence, and Innovation. These are the values that have shaped your academic journey and will serve as guiding principles in your professional and personal lives.

Integrity is the cornerstone of trust and responsibility, a trait that will set you apart as reliable and ethical individuals in every endeavour.

Customer Focus is about understanding that in every industry, every role, we are here to serve. It is about being attentive to the needs of others, fostering empathy, and finding solutions that matter, for a shared prosperity.

Teamwork emphasises collaboration and mutual respect. The achievements of today's interconnected world are the result of cooperative efforts, and your ability to work effectively within diverse teams will be invaluable.

Excellence speaks to the pursuit of quality in all that we do. At Zetech University, we are committed to providing a high-caliber education, meeting ISO standards, and ensuring that the quality of our graduates is universally recognised.

Innovation lies at the heart of our mission and is one of our core values, driving green skills and creativity that define this institution's spirit and vision. It is about daring to dream of new possibilities, questioning the status quo, and seeking solutions that will benefit society and the world.

### **Chief guest ladies and gentlemen-The Zetech University Philosophy**

Graduands our philosophy at Zetech University is **to nurture and inspire an intellectually curious, adaptable, and innovative generation guided by these core values.** The world we are preparing you for is dynamic, requiring individuals who are ready to embrace change, cultivate resilience, and continuously learn. Your alma mater - Zetech University has invested in each of you with this philosophy in mind. You are not only educated but prepared to be visionary leaders, thinkers, and doers who are capable of making significant contributions to society.

As our graduates, you have been prepared to question, to innovate, and to lead. This is not just a statement; it is the bedrock of what we believe in, and I am certain that each of you will carry this philosophy with pride and purpose as you venture forth.

### **Chief guest ladies and gentlemen-A Bright Future of Shared Prosperity**

Graduates as you join the workforce or pursue further studies, remember that your success is intertwined with the success of others. The skills and creativity you bring to the table are not only for personal gain but for the betterment of society. Your efforts to embrace green skills and contribute to a sustainable future will play a critical role in building shared prosperity, one where economic growth is inclusive and environmentally responsible.

I urge you to remain open to learning, to value collaboration, and to apply your skills and creativity to the most pressing issues of our time. The road ahead will undoubtedly present challenges, but with each challenge comes an opportunity to create lasting positive change.

### **Chief guest ladies and gentlemen-Conclusion**

In closing, Class of 2024, I am immensely proud of you, and I am excited to see the incredible paths you will chart as you harness your green skills and creativity. Zetech University will always be here as your foundation, cheering you on as you make your mark in the world.

Chief guest Mr Abdi Mohammed, kindly accept our deep appreciation for sparing time out of your very busy schedule to be our Chief guest and speaker of the 8th congregation of Zetech University. ABSA has a long history with Zetech University and your presence today reaffirms our mutual commitment to our continued collaboration.

To the graduands congratulations once again, and may your journey ahead be filled with purpose, passion, and prosperity.

**It is now my pleasure to introduce our chief guest, Mr. Abdi Mohamed the CEO and Managing Director of Absa Bank Kenya, who has graciously accepted our invitation to join us today.**

Mr. Abdi Mohamed Joined Absa Bank Kenya Plc, as the CEO from 1 May 2023. Abdi is a Kenyan with over twenty-eight (28) years of experience in the financial sector and has held various executive positions within Absa Group.

Prior to his appointment to Absa Bank Kenya, he was the Managing Director of Absa Bank Tanzania and acting Managing Executive for Retail and Business Banking, Africa Regional Operations, Absa- a role that spans multiple geographies where Absa operates within Africa. He has also previously served as Chief Operating Officer for the Bank in Kenya.

Other roles he has held within the organisation include Retail & Business Banking Director in Kenya and Zambia and Operations Efficiency Manager, Barclays Global Retail & Commercial Banking, London.

Abdi is currently a board member of the following organisations: UN Global Compact Network Kenya, Touch Foundation based in the United States, Integrated Payment Systems Limited and sits on the Governing Council of the Kenya Bankers Association.

Abdi Mohamed holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) - Kenyatta University, Masters Business Administration (MBA) – Edith Cowan University and an Advanced Management Programme (IMD Business School – Switzerland).

It is a great pleasure to welcome such a noble personality as our Chief Guest today.

**Thank you!**

**Prof. Susan Alfano Nkinyangi  
Chancellor, Zetech University**

