

SPEECH BY THE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR SUSAN ALFANO
NKINYANGI DURING ZETECH UNIVERSITY'S GRADUATION CEREMONY
HELD ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2022.

THE PROTOCOL

- The Chief Guest, **AAR Insurance Group CEO**, Dr. Patrick Gatonga.
- The Chairman, Zetech University Board of Trustees, Eng. Ken Mbiuki
- The members Board of Trustees, Zetech University.
- 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.

I am privileged and honoured to join the class of 2022 in celebrating the success and achievements of their hard work and determination. I also appreciate the guests who have taken the time to join us during this momentous moment. I acknowledge the presence of the Chief guest and keynote speaker for this year's graduation ceremony; the **Group CEO of AAR Insurance** Dr. Patrick Gatonga.

Today marks a memorable day in the lives of our graduands, which marks the beginning of their journey as employees and job creators, and it gives me joy and pride to confer them with degrees and award them diplomas in their various areas of specialization.

Graduating class of 2022

The graduating class of 2022 is particularly special to us because this is the first class that we are channeling to the job market as a fully-fledged university.

Receiving the power to read is an achievement which I commend these graduands for. The skills and competencies that you gained from Zetech University and life skills such as passion, commitment, tenacity, and openmindedness have laid a strong foundation for the

psychosocial and professional aspects of your lives. Nurture them. At some point in your lives, the core values of **Integrity, Commitment to Excellence, Innovation, Customer Focus** and **Teamwork** will be even more resourceful than what you have learned. I, therefore, urge you to always stay grounded by them.

Digital Disruptions

As a university that upholds and actively lives the core value of **innovation**, we have undoubtedly experienced the good, bad and ugly of digital disruptions.

The adoption of new digital technologies and business models has affected how we do things. Our interaction with innovations such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Cloud Computing, and machine learning have caused a shift in how we interact and carry out our day-to-day activities. I believe that each one of us here today has encountered a form of digital disruption as we go about our business; through services such as online travel bookings, taxi services such as uber, movie and music streaming platforms such as Netflix and Spotify, and food delivery services such as Uber eats and Jumia foods.

I can confirm that our capability to embrace and adapt to digital disruptions has enabled us to offer quality education by understanding our students' needs and channeling graduates who are job ready and capable of transforming and adding value to the job market.

Zetech University stood out as one of the few universities that successfully initiated and sustained Open Distance E-Learning (ODEL), and was this year accredited as an ODEL Centre by the Commission for University Education (CUE).

Digital disruptions in higher education

Digital disruptions in higher education are inevitable. Just like anything ready for change, it all starts with a problem that later led to an opportunity. Who would have thought that students can enroll, study anywhere at any time, go through exchange programs, get examined and graduate online were it not for the COVID-19 pandemic?

It is not easy to make changes of such magnitude to an established industry like education. I, therefore, commend the faculty led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Alice Njuguna for the tremendous effort and momentous success.

The digital disruptions in higher education not only rely on technology and skills but also on the facilities and infrastructure. It is for this reason that we are in the process of equipping our Mang'u Campus to the standards of a tech park.

World of Work

The world that you are entering is beset with challenges. Change is upon us and it is inevitable. Nevertheless, you have opportunities and what it takes to conquer these challenges and be the best version of yourselves.

For you to live fulfilling lives in this dynamic world and chart a future that you can be proud of, you need to be self-aware, focused and flexible enough to keep reinventing your future.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I extend my appreciation to the BOT, University Council, the Vice-Chancellor and the University Management Board, for their continued harmonious governance and leadership that has seen us celebrate this day.

To our graduands, I wish you the best in all spheres of your lives and encourage you to embrace the challenges and get ahead of the change. Find your purpose and take up your role in shaping the new world.

From Zetech To the world!

Prof Susan Alfano Nkinyangi
Chancellor,
Zetech University.