

**SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR NJENGA
MUNENE DURING ZETECH UNIVERSITY'S GRADUATION
CEREMONY HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2021.**

The protocol

- The Chief Guest, **Chief Administrative Secretary** Ministry of Industrialization, Trade & Enterprise Development, **Hon. Lawrence Karanja**
- The Chairman Board of Trustees, Zetech university, Eng. Ken Mbiuki.
- The Chancellor, Zetech University, Prof. Susan Alfano Nkinyangi
- The Chairman, Zetech University Council, Mr. Hassan Mohammed
- Members of the Zetech University Council
- 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

Salutation

Good Morning

It is with great pleasure that I invite you all to our 2021 Graduation Ceremony, as we celebrate and honour this great milestone of our graduands. Allow me to extend my hearty congratulations to the graduands who will be conferred with degrees and awarded diplomas in their area of study. Today, you reap what you have sowed over the years and get channeled into the world to make an impact in the social, political and economic world. You have truly made us proud.

I appreciate all the parents, guardians, partners and other benefactors for their sacrifices and dedication to ensuring that they support these students through school over the years to date. We are grateful to our committed faculty and staff for ensuring that they equip these students holistically.

Our Chief guest and Chancellor

I wish to welcome our **chief guest and keynote speaker; Chief Administrative Secretary** Ministry of Industrialization, Trade & Enterprise Development, **Hon. Lawrence Karanja and our Chancellor Prof Alfano Nkinyangi**

Thank you for gracing our graduation ceremony today. The Ministry of Industrialization, Trade & Enterprise Development has continued to improve the policy framework and create a conducive environment for the development of enterprises and economic development in Kenya.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The academic year 2020/2021 has had its fair share of challenges, especially the COVID- 19 pandemic which led to the cancellation of face-to-face learning and adoption of blended learning. Through God's protection, guidance from the Ministry of Health and the cooperation you have shown during this time, we were able to go through the 3 waves of COVID 19 without losing a student or a member of staff.

This period has reminded us that it is important for us to value each other and be mindful of our health and of those around us. Moreover, it taught us to embrace a state of gratitude and appreciation for the little things that life offers us. It has also taught us the value of saving for a rainy day and to treasure our families.

Industrialization and education

As an institution that is very keen on innovation and research I acknowledge the Ministry of Industrialization for setting up laboratories to enhance research in renewable energy, processing and natural products which will create employment opportunities and also promotes research and innovation in higher education and training.

Kenya has made milestones in education through the creation of policies that improve accessibility of education and enhance socioeconomic development of citizens These policies have seen the government allocate funds for free primary and secondary education in public schools. We appreciate that the government continues to support students in private universities.

Role of education in the fourth industrial revolution

There is no doubt that education is playing a pivotal role in the fourth industrial revolution. It challenges us to think creatively, embrace value addition and use the internet to tackle the challenges facing the world. Universities are shaping the future of technology by providing innovation testbeds where innovative ideas are researched, tried and tested for suitability and the need for improvement.

The fourth industrial revolution challenges institutions to be up to date with the current technology and invent innovative solutions to the problems that the world is facing today.

In response to academic demands, Zetech University has developed many programs. Today is a special day as we graduate our first Bachelor of Commerce (Bcom) students. We have submitted 10 new degree programs and launched our 1st Master's program; the MBA which has 6 students in class.

We urge and encourage all our bachelor's degree graduands to enroll for the MBA. This will make you more competitive in the job market.

iZET

Zetech University recently launched its first Zetech Innovation Entrepreneurship and Technology Hub (iZET). The hub's mission is to promote the socio-economic development and competitiveness of sustainable innovations.

The Innovation Hub has created a unique space for high-tech entrepreneurs, innovators, academics, researchers and venture capitalists to meet, network and prosper. Its value-adding business support services contribute to the growth and globalization of technology-rich enterprises in an environment that promotes innovation and enhances competitiveness for knowledge-based businesses.

Launch of our Service Charter

In the conviction that Zetech University was founded through God's inspiration to serve the public as an educational institution, we launched our Service Charter this year as a pledge to serve the public as expected in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and in line with our Core Values of Commitment to Excellence, Integrity, Customer Focus, Professionalism, Teamwork, Innovation, Transparency and Accountability.

KUCCPS PLACEMENT

Zetech was ranked among the top preferred private universities in Kenya as announced by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) following the 2021/2022 placement. We admitted more than 1,600 government-sponsored students in the September 2021 intake.

Excellence in extra-academic activities

Our institution focuses on nurturing holistic men and women who excel not just in academics, but in all dimensions of their lives. We encourage our students to explore their talents and capabilities in activities such as sports and self-development clubs.

We have partnered with sports entities such as the Kenya Football Welfare Association (KEFWA), Tisini Sports and Sports legal, as we endeavor to grow and develop sports talent among students. Additionally, our football women's team has been crowned the KUSA champions in the Kenya Universities Sports Association championships concluded in August 2021.

The Drama and Music teams have achieved National honours in the inter-University competitions leading to the creation of household names in the local Theatre scene.

In conclusion

Our graduating class of 2021, we are as excited as you are for successfully completing this phase of your studies. As you go out to face the world, keep in mind that you have what it takes to make an impact on society, country and the world at large.

As you pick your certificates which are ready for collection, consider advancing your studies from diploma to degree and from undergraduate to masters, as the world seeks those with higher and relevant qualifications to provide solutions to the growing challenges.

To the parents, guardians, partners and sponsors; thank you for walking this journey with us. We are proud to be associated with you.

To my colleagues in academia, our Chancellor and all guests and dignitaries, thank you for coming to celebrate this day with us.

May God bless you all.