



14TH GRADUATION CEREMONY VOTE OF THANKS

11TH DECEMBER 2020

BY: YVONNE CHAPUSWIKE

Good morning distinguished persons whose presence I would like to recognize.

The President of the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants,

The Vice President of ZICA,

Council Members Present,

The Secretary and Chief Executive of ZICA,

Education committee members and staff of ZICA,

All stakeholders and of course my fellow graduands.

May I simply say all protocols observed.

It is great a privilege and pleasure to stand here to deliver a vote of thanks. I would also like to extend my thanks to everyone for coming and for making this event significant and memorable, including those attending virtually. This occasion is special in many ways; it is special because 499 graduands have had their CA Zambia and Diplomas conferred on them respectively. It is a well-known fact of life that the evidence of hard work is the result of that work.

Today is a day of revelation, yes, the revealing of our hard work to the world. A big congratulations, to my fellow graduands for this momentous achievement!

Your hard work, our hard work is evident today.

It is often said that gratitude is the attitude that takes you to your altitude. And so, on behalf of the graduands, those here present or joining us virtually could not make it to be with us today, I take this opportunity to thank all of you for the help you have rendered to us over the years. Allow me to begin by thanking our guest of honour, the ZICA President for accepting to grace this day with her presence. Thank you for your very insightful speech.

We also extend our gratitude to those who have supported us in practical ways behind the scenes; from the mentors, lecturing staff, our ever supportive and tireless families and not forgetting the librarians and the support staff at ZICA. Over the years we have been fortunate enough to be backed by a team of very motivated, dedicated and qualified lecturers. With their wealth of knowledge and experience, they have given us deep-rooted foundations in our various fields of study. They have nurtured talents of which we perhaps had lost sight, or didn't even know we possessed. They have stimulated us to think more critically and at the same time, to act more compassionately. For this, we owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

Distinguished guests, it has been a mental marathon, but here we are today, standing right on the finish line even as we brace ourselves for more achievements to come. Today is a day when we have a sense of fulfilment. Our achievements have been recognised, and we celebrate this significant milestone in our lives. If you all believe in the phrase; ***“knowledge is power and ignorance is slavery”*** then today, we stand here together, as a proud cohort of friends, with that power.

This power has been earned, although many of us have destroyed stationery, shed tears of frustration and lost our cool, but this power has been earned through a thirst for knowledge and a desire for understanding. This power is not the power to control or boast about how much we know, it is the power to think and to make a difference.

Today, I stand here as a woman full of gratitude and pride because I pursued a career that is purported to be what very few women conquer and achieve. I therefore encourage women and girls to study the CA Zambia Qualification and successfully complete it as I have done.

When I started my Journey with ZICA I maintained a positive mentality, even though along the way some people discouraged me from pursuing my career. They said that the completion rate for women was very low but despite them telling me that, I was not distracted from achieving my goal, instead it just boosted my morale and I clearly proved them wrong. I mean, here I am. With the same determination I completed ZICA and Six years later I wrote Public Sector Auditing to acquire the prestigious CA Zambia, after all, one needs to keep upgrading themselves in order to compete and remain relevant in this ever-changing professional field.

Always remember, what is worth the PRIZE is always worth the fight, it is not over until you wear this gown and a huge smile on your face. I look forward to more women graduating and making it big in the professional world.

Distinguished guests, an event of such magnitude does not come together overnight. The wheels have to start rolling months in advance. It requires meticulous planning and execution with an eye for detail. We know that we cannot thank everyone enough for their involvement and the willingness they have shown to take on tasks, beyond their comfort zones. We want you to know that we are deeply appreciative of your support.

Finally, I appreciate having had this moment, it's been such a great honour. We were not held by the hand. We were not pampered. We endured. Here, together, we endured. And now we've emerged. We've emerged better read and more passionate than when we had begun. We've emerged as the persons we were

meant to be. We've emerged whole and complete, undoubtedly by the Grace of God.

.....and for this I say ...

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

God Bless ZICA!!

God Bless you all!!

ZICA Munobe!!

Thank you very much!!