

SPEECH BY CPSP JENIFFER CIRINDI, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE KENYA INSTITUTE OF SUPPLIES MANAGEMENT (KISM) DURING THE 6TH KISEB CERTIFICATE AWARD CEREMONY HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2026

The Chief Guest;

Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Investments and Asset Management;

Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors of KISEB;

Chief Executive Officer of KISEB; Dr. Fred Ongisa, FKISM

Chief Executive Officer of KISM; Mr. Kenneth Matiba, MBS

Representatives of Training Institutions;

Distinguished Guests;

Parents and Guardians;

Graduands;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

It is a great honour and privilege to join you today as we celebrate the achievements of the graduates who are being awarded certificates during this 6th KISEB Certificate Award Ceremony.

Allow me, on behalf of the Kenya Institute of Supplies Management (KISM), to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all graduands. Today marks an important milestone in your professional journey and a testament to your dedication, resilience, and commitment to excellence.

You have successfully completed a demanding programme of study and assessment. The recognition you receive today are evidence of your hard work and competence. However, they also symbolize something much greater, the beginning of your journey as custodians of a profession that plays a critical role in organizational success and national development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Not long ago, procurement and supply chain management was often viewed as a support function concerned primarily with purchasing goods and services.

Today, that perception has fundamentally changed.

Across the world, boardrooms are discussing supply chains. Governments are investing in supply chain resilience. Organizations are recognizing that their competitiveness, sustainability, and profitability depend significantly on the effectiveness of their supply chains.

Recent global events have demonstrated that when supply chains fail, economies suffer, businesses struggle, and citizens bear the consequences. Conversely, when supply chains are efficient, resilient, and strategically managed, organizations thrive and nations prosper.

The procurement and supply chain management profession has therefore moved from the back office to the boardroom. The challenge before us is to ensure that our professionals are equipped to lead in this new environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As KISM, we firmly believe that the future of the profession will not be defined merely by technical competence.

- ✦ It will be defined by leadership.
- ✦ It will be defined by innovation.
- ✦ It will be defined by integrity.
- ✦ And it will be defined by the ability of professionals to create value in increasingly complex and uncertain environments.

The world you are entering is very different from the one that existed even a decade ago.

- ✦ Artificial intelligence is changing decision-making processes.
- ✦ Data analytics is transforming supply chain visibility.
- ✦ Digital procurement platforms are redefining supplier engagement.
- ✦ Sustainability considerations are influencing sourcing decisions.
- ✦ Climate change, geopolitical tensions, and economic uncertainties are creating new risks and opportunities.

The successful professional of the future will therefore be one who embraces change, continuously learns, and remains adaptable.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the most important responsibilities of KISM is to safeguard and advance the standards of the profession. A profession earns public trust not simply because its members possess knowledge, but because they uphold ethical standards.

For procurement and supply chain professionals, integrity is not optional. It is the foundation upon which public confidence is built.

Every day, procurement professionals make decisions involving significant public and private resources. These decisions affect organizational performance, public service delivery, investor confidence, and the welfare of citizens.

The profession's credibility therefore depends on the integrity of its practitioners.

To the graduands gathered here today, I urge you to guard your professional reputation jealously.

- ✦ Your qualification will open doors for you.
- ✦ Your competence will create opportunities for you.
- ✦ But your character will determine how far you go.
- ✦ Professional qualifications can be earned through study.
- ✦ Professional reputation is earned through conduct.
- ✦ Never compromise your integrity for short-term gain.
- ✦ The future of this profession depends on professionals who can be trusted.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

KISM remains committed to working closely with KISEB, the State Department for Public Investments and Asset Management, the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, employers, training institutions, and other stakeholders to advance the professionalization of procurement and supply chain management in Kenya.

We are encouraged by the ongoing efforts to strengthen professional standards, review curricula, modernize examination systems, and embed professional qualifications within career progression frameworks.

Professionalization is not about creating barriers.

It is about creating standards.

It is about ensuring that those entrusted with managing resources possess the requisite competence, ethics, and accountability.

It is about elevating procurement and supply chain management into a profession that commands respect and delivers value.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am particularly encouraged by the growing interest in professional qualifications among young people.

The future of our profession depends on attracting talented, ambitious, and ethical individuals who are prepared to shape the next generation of supply chains.

The planned introduction of a Certificate in Supply Chain Management through TVET institutions is therefore a welcome development. It will create opportunities for more young Kenyans to enter the profession and contribute to national development.

As a profession, we must continue building pathways that allow individuals to progress from technical training to professional certification and leadership positions.

To our graduands,

Today you join a community of professionals that extends far beyond this ceremony.

You are becoming part of a profession that influences how resources are allocated, how value is created, and how organizations achieve their objectives.

I encourage you to actively participate in professional development programmes, engage with fellow practitioners, seek mentorship, share knowledge, and contribute to the growth of the profession.

Do not view your qualification as the destination.

View it as the foundation.

Continue learning.

Continue growing.

Continue challenging yourselves.

Continue pursuing excellence.

The most successful professionals are those who never stop improving.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, allow me to express my appreciation to KISEB for its continued commitment to developing competent professionals and strengthening professional education in Kenya.

I also commend the Board, Management, staff, trainers, employers, parents, and guardians whose support has contributed to the success of the graduates we celebrate today.

To the graduands, congratulations once again.

As you leave this ceremony, remember that procurement is not simply about buying goods and services.

- ✚ It is about creating value.
- ✚ It is about enabling development.
- ✚ It is about building trust.
- ✚ And ultimately, it is about making a difference.

May you become the generation that elevates procurement and supply chain management to even greater heights.

May you lead with competence.

May you serve with integrity.

May you create value wherever you go.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

KISM Chairperson, Dated this Friday, 12th June 2026