OPENING SPEECH

Good afternoon, distinguished professionals, facilitators, ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to today's ACCA Data Analytics for Finance Professionals Orientation.

The finance profession is changing rapidly. We have moved from manual records to spreadsheets, from spreadsheets to integrated business systems, and today we are operating in an environment shaped by Artificial Intelligence, Business Intelligence and Data Analytics.

This transformation has changed what organisations expect from finance professionals.

Today, accountants, auditors, bankers, finance officers, consultants and business managers are expected to do much more than prepare reports. They are increasingly required to interpret data, identify trends, evaluate performance, anticipate risks, support forecasting and provide insights that help management make better decisions.

In other words, the value of the modern finance professional is increasingly linked not only to the ability to produce numbers, but also to the ability to explain

what those numbers mean and how they can support better business outcomes.

That is why data analytics has become such an important professional competence.

The ACCA Data Analytics for Finance Professionals programme is designed to help finance professionals develop relevant data analytical skills and understand how these skills can be applied to financial reporting, audit, business intelligence, performance evaluation and strategic decision-making.

During this orientation, you will hear more about the programme, the skills involved, the certification pathway and the opportunities that data analytical competence can create.

I would like to encourage you to look beyond simply obtaining another certificate.

Think about what this competence can do for your professional relevance.

Think about how it can strengthen your CV.

Think about how it can improve the quality of your work.

Think about how it can position you for better employment, remote opportunities, international exposure and greater responsibility in your organisation.

The professionals who will remain relevant in the years ahead are those who are willing to keep learning, adapt to new technologies and combine their existing finance knowledge with emerging digital skills.

So, as we proceed today, I encourage you to listen carefully, ask questions and consider where data analytics can fit into your own professional journey.

On behalf of A. J. Silicon, I warmly welcome you once again to this orientation.

I thank our facilitators for accepting to share their knowledge and experience, and I wish us all a very engaging and rewarding session.

Thank you, and God bless you all.