

Mr Ganesh Ramalingum's Speech

University of Mauritius - Faculty of Law and Management (Part II)/Centre for Innovative and Lifelong Learning

Subject: GRADUATION CEREMONY - Wednesday 22nd April 2015

Chancellor, Dr Louis Jean Claude Autrey

Honourable Minister of Education and Human Resources ,Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Mrs Leela Devi Dookun -Luchoomun (IF PRESENT)

Pro-Chancellor, Mr Preaduth Chitamun

Vice-Chancellor Professor Romeela Mohee

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academia) Professor Hussein Subratty

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Planning and Resources) Associate Professor Thanika Juwaheer

Members of the Congregation

Distinguished academics

Distinguished guests

Graduands

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure and honour to address you on this special day.

This is a wonderful moment of celebration for everyone here today, but above all, for you our graduates. Through your talent, hard work, accomplishment, and determination, you have earned this day of recognition, reflection, and celebration. This is your day. So, sit back, take a deep breath, look around at your friends and family, and enjoy every minute of this very special day.

A day which represents the culmination of a great deal of effort as perhaps an entrant to a profession that I hope you are passionate about, or building on your expertise and knowledge.

Also, to mark the completion of a chapter in our lives; to recognise our many achievements; to acknowledge the support of our teachers, parents, family and friends; to remember and celebrate the journey we have taken to get here; and to express our dreams for the future.

A graduation ceremony is indeed a special occasion; a time of celebration, of contemplating a new chapter and opening a door onto the world of work and all the joys and responsibilities that go with it.

Dear Graduates,

I am sure; many of you will or have already started to think about the next step. Will it be a continuation of studies to a post-graduation or to a doctorate?

For those who choose further academic study, all the best and enjoy it. I always mentioned to my friends and even my children that Student life is the best you can get - it is a life where you enjoy everything and still have time for many things (....)

I can assure you, given the chance I would have come back to be a student again.

By the way, after my graduation from Manchester University in the early 80's I was asked to lecture students in computer science which I voluntarily accepted for a year or so but unfortunately could not carry on with this assignment as was taken up with other activities.

I happen to be a student of this University as well when I decided to join an MBA course which was being run for the first time at the University. The course was run in collaboration with the Bradford University.

And for those who would be choosing a different route i.e to go on the job market:

Getting a job will most probably be very easy for a few of you but may take more time for some others. You will need to have patience, strive and focus on what you want to do in life.

As a professional in your field of expertise, you will be asked to provide a professional service or probably set up your own business.

As a professional you will need to build up a lot of disciplines whether as part of the exigency of the laws or the rules and regulations of the enterprise for which you will be working.

Whatever you intend to do ask yourself the following questions:

Is it of High ethical standards in business and professions?

Is what you intend to do just for personal or will it serve the community?

I am sure and certain that there will be a lots of ups and downs in the life of an individual either starting a new carrier, a new business or any venture for that matter. My suggestions to you will be:

- Do not despair
- Never give up if you believe in what you are doing and convinced.
- Keep focus on your objectives
and you see in the end that you will reach and achieve your targets. PERSEVERANCE is the key word.

Dear Graduates, before ending, I would like to share the work of Pierre Bourdieu on types of Capital. This will be important to you as you start adapting to your own changes and challenges in life:

The work descript 4 types of Capital namely,

- Financial Capital
- Social Capital
- Cultural Capital
- Spiritual Capital

Financial Capital Financial Capital is a concept that we are all very familiar with. *It is the capital we use to buy what we need to live a comfortable material life.* How much financial capital we accumulate, is often used as the yardstick to measure one's success. We all know that success extends beyond just having lots of money.

*A truly successful person is one that leaves a lasting positive impact on the lives of others. Sure, money is very important, particularly in current times where asset prices are escalating. May I suggest to you that accumulating financial capital is not a bad thing; **just don't make it the only thing.***

Social Capital For social capital, it is not just about expecting benefits we derive from cooperation between individuals and groups. Rather, these are the tangible benefits that affect the daily lives of people, through goodwill, fellowship, empathy and interaction. Why? Because we humans are social in nature. Some people are fortunate that they start to accumulate social capital fairly early in their career.

Cultural Capital Pierre Bourdieu defined Cultural capital as capital that are non-financial in nature and usually encompassed education, knowledge, intellect, art, style of speech, dress,

and even perhaps physical appearance. Building cultural capital enables us to further enhance our social capital.

Spiritual Capital Spiritual capital is a concept that involves the spiritual, moral or psychological beliefs and practices. Very often this translates to one's religion and beliefs. For some, this capital is extremely critical, as it will serve as a moral compass and guiding principles in our careers and daily lives. Very often, we do not spend enough effort accumulating this capital. While we know it is important it is often saved for later, when we have the time. It is this capital that see you through the toughest of times. So do not leave it for last.

Thank you.