

# GRADUATION CEREMONY- Thursday 05 NOVEMBER 2020

## FACULTY OF LAW AND MANAGEMENT (PART I)

Guest Speaker- Me Catherine Nalletamby

*Guest of honor's Speech – University of Mauritius*

- 1. Chancellor, Dr Louis Jean Claude Autrey*
- 2. Vice-Chancellor Professor Dhanjay Jhurry, CSK, GOSK*
- 3. Pro-Vice Chancellors*
- 4. Members of the Congregation*
- 5. Distinguished academics*
- 6. Distinguished guests*
- 7. Graduands*
- 8. Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Today is a special day! Here you are Graduands to celebrate, rejoice and be grateful! I wish to take this moment and give you all, Graduands, my most profound congratulations on your success in getting where you are now.*

*I cannot express, how sincerely happy I am for you! Because despite every struggle of a bachelor, you also had to deal with a pandemic! A lockdown and the fear of not knowing what next. I can relate, even more to you, parents, as we went through the same struggle. My daughter had to do her last semester in confinement.*

*It felt endless, as we didn't truly know what would be the outcome. But two months ago, thankfully it was her Graduation day! We couldn't have been more content. It wasn't only her achievement, like you, graduands, no - it was a family achievement. Because family is a team.*

*And trust me when I say, that you wouldn't have been able to do it, without the support, prayers, sacrifices and encouragement of your close ones. Your MUMS AND DADS! So today is a day of celebration. But not only are we celebrating you. We are also celebrating every single one of those people who have been able to make this! Make YOU happen. You are all successful Graduands. Congratulations to you parents! Congratulations to you Lecturers and teachers.*

*You are now on the road to success...SUCCESS! What does that word even mean? Seeing me right now, standing before you. Would you describe me as successful? A total stranger, nicely dressed (well I hope!) with the honour of speaking in front of you TODAY. You would probably say, that I must have done something great of my career, right?*

*Well, I will tell you a bit about my path. It was far from the glorious path you see on TV. Though I would have loved to be Jessica Pearson in 'Suits'!!*

*I lost my father at a young age; I suppose that's what shaped my character. I was always very outgoing and determined in everything I did. When I was still at School, I already knew that I'd want to be a lawyer. Thanks to an older cousin of mine (but let's save that for later on.)*

*It wasn't easy. It was challenging. But I love challenges, that's what strived me to do better and to keep going mostly. I studied law while doing my pupillage at the same time, fun fact, I finished my last years of Law here, at the University of Mauritius. I was very young, newlywed and most importantly, PREGNANT. I gave birth towards the end of my last year.*

*He was only 28 days when I had to go back to Uni.... Did I have a choice? ...No, as I wanted the best for him and the only way to get there, was to work hard. To keep my eyes focused on my goal. Be an Attorney-At-Law! Yes, Graduands it was hard work but it paid off at the end.*

*Some days were harder than others, but those days shaped the memories that will prove you just how strong you are and just how determined you are to achieve your goals! Your success today is the proof of how strong you are Graduands*

*So, going back to my question, Success!? Yes. I did graduate. Yes, I became a respectful Attorney-at-law. Yes, I did have a firm with clerks and legal assistants working for me. I even joined a Law Firm! Yes, I won and lost cases.*

*Being successful is feeling successful... Its ticking off boxes on your list of goals. It's knowing that whatever happened you did your level best and that all that matters is that you have no regrets. Because you know what? At the end of the day, success is the not the end. No. it's the whole process to somewhere. So newly graduands I am proud to say that today. You are successful. But for how long? That is for you to determine.*

*I humbly have two advices to give you:*

*First, don't over think. If it feels right, then it will find its way to you. If I had overthought my career I would have gone for stability, whereas I chose to be an entrepreneur with no great funding's to start off. I started from scratch. My husband and I both studying, with a new born and a bare salary. Starting at the bottom of the ladder isn't bad. Actually, it's even better! It defines how ambitious you are. So, don't stop there. Don't stop dreaming, setting goals and taking care of yourself.*

*As CONFUCIUS said "it does not matter how slowly you go... as long as you do not stop!!*

*You have a lifetime to learn, to become knowledgeable. So never stop... Because only risk takers go all the way, so never doubt yourself. Your capacities and the power in you to do it. Above all, be Ethical in all that you do. Success does not mean being successful at any price!*

*We lawyers tend to say that we KNOW! It gives us a sense of invincibility and that we alone know what can be done and how! This knowledge and the way people perceive us can make us become careless. You must always be on the alert.*

*The pride you feel today should not permit you to be unethical.*

*And secondly and most importantly – don't forget to give back. Even the least you have. You would not imagine the impact that this gesture can have!! I am grateful today, having enrolled on the list of pupil master. ...none of this would have been able without the help of specific people on my path... my mentor and cousin...Me. Herve Lassemillante, who passed away this year, for the faith, he had in me. Your parents, your teachers, your lectures had faith in you and took you to where you are today Graduands! Always be grateful for this.*

*Hard days are over and only hard days' pay! Your future is yours. Allow yourselves to take time to make the right decision, the right move for your future career... Even in hard days never forget that they are only a means to take you to the next level. We all fail but most importantly you will stand up again. Be passionate about what you do and you will aim at doing your best!*

*So, to end this, I'd like to tell you – never lose faith in you and do not hesitate to ask for help.*

*The pride you feel today Graduands is legitimate, you have sailed through your studies on hard winds, during high tides, low tides, yet you have arrived safely and defeated Covid-19 by your hard work! But the point today is YOU MADE IT!! I wish you well in your future career!*

**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUANDS!**

*Me Catherine Nalletamby  
05 November 2020*