

# GRADUATION CEREMONY- FRIDAY 06 NOVEMBER 2020

## FACULTY OF LAW OF MANAGEMENT (PART II)

Guest Speaker- MR, KEN POONOOSAMY, ACTING CEO –  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD,

*Chancellor, Dr Louis Jean Claude Autrey*

*Vice-Chancellor Professor Dhanjay Jhurry, CSK, GOSK*

*Pro-Vice Chancellors*

*Members of the Congregation*

*Distinguished academics*

*Graduands*

*Distinguished guests*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

*A very good morning to all of you and let me first thank the University of Mauritius for giving me the honour of being the guest speaker of this year's graduation ceremony of the faculty of law and management.*

*Let me, at the very outset, congratulate all of you, who are graduating today. This is indeed a moment of great joy, satisfaction, and pride in your life. Your academic efforts have finally come to fruition. It is, however, important to acknowledge that, behind this achievement are the various sacrifices that your parents and your dear ones, have made during your journey at the university. So, I would like to pay my respect and congratulate all parents and close ones present here, for supporting you. Today, is also the day where we must celebrate the hard work of the management, lecturers, and administrators, who have groomed all of you into becoming what you are today.*

*This moment marks the completion of one stage in your life and another is about to begin. Many of you will be moving out of the sheltered confines of university and enter the real of world with all its ups and downs. The process of transition will pose some problems, but I am sure that with the value system and training that you have acquired both from your upbringing and this university, you will be able to face the world with confidence. This implies that along with the technical skills acquired, you will have to demonstrate personal and societal values, if well applied, will perfect you into becoming the all-rounded well-groomed responsible individuals of the future. I am referring here to a great level of dedication, humility, professionalism, self-respect, and perseverance, which I firmly believe are the appropriate ingredients towards establishing a successful career.*

*From the corporate world point of view, we welcome you as our next generation of leaders, managers, and legal experts or why not entrepreneurs. It is also important to note that your future is intertwined with the future of the country, where you have the golden opportunity to shape it.*

*Looking at it from a personal perspective, further, to graduating from Leeds Metropolitan University (UK), I started off with a job at Deloitte but was least aware that my career was about to take an eclectic twist. I moved to the Mauritius Freeport Authority, then gradually headed various departments at the Board of Investment, before being appointed as the Managing Director. I am currently the Acting CEO of the Economic Development Board; an institution tasked with shaping the economic landscape of the country. During this journey, I have contributed to crafting strategies in developing various new sectors, which have now become key economic drivers of our country. This was certainly not my intended strategy but looking back, I have grown immensely and have been able to interact with global leaders and understanding different economic as well as cultural backgrounds by travelling the world.*

*We must admit that now, we are living in a time of far reaching changes. Modern management must, therefore, be viewed as a dynamic process of seeking constantly to align a firm's internal resources with the external environment. As we can see from the current social and economic standpoint, it is the external environment which is undergoing a transformation globally and is it is marked with challenges including constraints in physical mobility, a need to cope with digitisation and rising living standards.*

*The term 'globalisation' has transited towards "glocalisation", whereby the integration and growth of economies and societies across the world has been restricted to the borders of the countries itself. It is only through virtual means, sound governmental and regulatory measures in place that there is hope for the country to survive. This a tough call since you are faced with the trade-off between the security of the population and the economy of the country. On the flip side, an important concern is the drastic transformation of the job market, having severe implication on the lives of people.*

*The world at large is facing an unprecedented turmoil. The pandemic has not only affected people health-wise but has taken a toll on their livelihoods. Across the globe, due to economic contraction and a slowdown in business activities in major sectors, unemployment levels have soared tremendously. Some job practices have even become redundant. Currently, it is expected that the national output to contract by 14% with unemployment reaching some 17% in 2020.*

*In my discourse, I might be sounding gloomy regarding the global economic outlook, but we should not be oblivious the fact that the impact of the pandemic has caused businesses as well as jobs to be affected at a scale, that was never experienced before. And it is most probable, that you as graduands will be faced with these shocks.*

*However, there have been sectors, which have embraced digitisation, that are sustaining in these difficult times including the healthcare sector, manufacturing sector, information and media as well as financial services and insurance.*

*Therefore, being familiar with concepts like artificial intelligence, blockchain, cloud computing, cybersecurity, robotics, and cybersecurity will be an added advantage for you to have a cutting edge in progressing in your career. This brings me to highlighting the importance of Continuous Professional Development, which in my opinion, is also a prerequisite for becoming innovative in your chosen profession. Emerging trends in the world of business demand graduates, who will do something different from the norm and ready to adapt, which happens in most cases.*

*I have always provided a realistic and objective picture to my staff and family members. Therefore, my advice to you, would be that, given the current economic context, any job is an opportunity since it is not always that "Grass is greener elsewhere". However, it is also your attitude and the way you engage with the outside world that will navigate you throughout your professional journey.*

*In closing, I would like to leave each of you with the hope that you make your own choices, and you will be able to balance your drive for achievements with a commitment to love and to play, to family and friends and your community and the nation. Members of the audience, please join me to congratulating once again all the graduates on this day that means so much to them and to their families and friends.*

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2020**