

# **GRADUATION CEREMONY- Thursday 09 NOVEMBER 2020**

## **FACULTY OF LAW AND MANAGEMENT (PART III)**

**Guest Speaker - Dr Y Ismaël**

*Chancellor, Dr Louis Jean Claude Autrey*

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

*Pro-Vice Chancellors*

*Members of the Congregation*

*Distinguished academics*

*Distinguished guests*

*Proud Parents*

*Graduands*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

*I am deeply humbled and privileged to be in your midst on this special day. Thank you for inviting me. To all of you graduands, congratulations! In a world with so much going on, let today be a moment to rejoice!*

*Graduands,*

*After years of studying at the Faculty of Law and Management, one of the best of the SADC, you are about to embark on a new journey. A journey for which, I have no doubt, you possess all the competencies, skills and talent necessary to find your way. The University of Mauritius carries a strong legacy of 55 years that has been shaped by the imprint of high calibre academicians and researchers. The University has been instrumental in producing outstanding professionals and has been invaluable to the economic, social and human development of the country.*

*Graduands,*

*2020, has been an inflection point for the world. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought the world to a standstill. Almost 1.3 million people had lost their lives due to the virus. Economies worldwide have taken a direct hit, resulting into contractions. Significant disruptions in supply chains, travel and commodity markets are being felt in every single country.*

*In such a context, many nations are revisiting their economic models in an attempt to safeguard the livelihoods of the citizens. The preservation of jobs and the protection of vulnerable citizens are of utmost importance. It is a time where policymakers are exploring the avenues by shifting from globalisation to glocalisation.*

*However, this horrifying experience has taught us fundamental lessons. We have been confronted with the true vulnerability of human life and the value of freedom. This sanitary crisis, through which we have all painfully become familiar with the term "lockdown", has made us understand that we are all connected.*

*Nothing is possible without cooperation, be it locally or on the international level. Most importantly, we have had the chance to ponder on the basic questions of life: What are we here for? What do we really want to do if we are given the chance?*

*As young adults who are about to enter the professional field, I **know** you will succeed. But I also know that failure will be part of the process. We do not speak about it often but let us be honest; it takes time, considerable efforts and perseverance to achieve our dreams. No silver platter is handed to us. That job we have been dreaming about, it does not happen overnight. I believe that failure is natural and it forms part of any experience.*

*Failure is part of success. Do not stay in your comfort zone. Thomas Edison once said I have not failed, I have found 10, 000 ways that will not work. He was referring to the electric light bulb. He tried 10, 000 times to make the electric light bulb work but fell short. So many attempts yet he only needed one to go right. Therefore, he did not fail but learnt all the other ways that did not work.*

*Success is defined as a favourable outcome. And failure, as a lack of success. So, does that mean that failure is the opposite of success? I do not think so. I think it depends on how we look at failure and how we act when we fail. I believe that failure plays a large part in success and in becoming successful. Thomas Edison looked at failure as a learning opportunity, while insanity means doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. In the end, you only fail if you stop trying. Do not just survive but thrive. The most successful and famous people in the world have endured the most failures in life but have risen again. Amongst them, the Sanders Family who created KFC, Abraham Lincoln, Albert Einstein, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Steve Jobs, Honda and Henry Ford. Never give up on your ideas, hopes and dreams. Never allow anyone to tell you are NOT good enough, smart enough or talented enough to achieve greatness in whatever you choose to do. You can do anything you put your mind to. Anything – just do it. If you feel you have failed, you go through disheartening, gut-wrenching pain.*

*We often then think about surviving only, and not about thriving. When we fail, it makes us question everything, right to the very heart of who we are. But failure, as much as it hurts, is a necessary part of life. It is a pathway to our goals.*

*We should not shy from it but accept it wholly and tell ourselves that only through failure, we can be successful.*

*Graduands,*

*You owe it to yourselves to be who you want to be. Do not be intimidated by newbie challenges, for there is not one single route to success. Instead, adopt a work culture through which you will build resilience and principles as you move along. You can create a new world by daring to dream and by continuously working towards your goals.*

*I will end this keynote address by a quote of the ex-President of the Republic of South Africa and Nobel Prize winner in 1993, Nelson Mandela, which reads as follows:*

*“Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again”*

*Once again, please accept my heartfelt congratulations and very best wishes to you all.*

*Thank you.*