

# GRADUATION CEREMONY- Friday 20 NOVEMBER 2020

MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE (MGI)

Guest Speaker- Mr Moteea

- *Chancellor, Dr Louis Jean Claude Autrey,*
- *Hon Mrs. Leela Devi Dookun-Lutchoomun, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research.*
- *Pro-Chancellor, Mr Preaduth Chitamun,*
- *Vice-Chancellor Professor Dhanjay Jhurry*
- *Pro-Vice Chancellors*
- *Members of the Congregation,*
- *Distinguished Academics,*
- *Distinguished guests*
- *Graduands,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen*

*Good Morning.....*

*I wish first of all to thank the administration of the University for inviting my humble person to address you during this Graduation Ceremony.*

*Someone said that there is "no way to Happiness because Happiness is the way".*

*Similarly, may I paraphrase and say that there is "no way to Innovation because Innovation is the way" in this competitive and digital World.*

*In fact it is through Innovation that a society and civilizations progress over time.*

*You are, Dear graduates, in a privileged position to contribute along this avenue for sure.*

*I am certain that the different studies and achievements you engaged in, at Mahatma Gandhi Institute, the local replica of Shantineketan if I may so, under the aegis of the University of Mauritius will provide you all with an Ocean of possibilities to innovate as you will be blessed with inspirations and tools which will prove high enablers for you to thrive in your careers and stand out on the global marketplace subject to you delving continuously and deeper in your fabulous branch of artistic studies and others.*

*You have chosen studies which can only drive you to progress and allow you to spread good vibes around for the benefit of mankind. Always look at the bigger picture in your endeavours.*

*You surely know the story of the sweeper doing his job on a construction site of a Cathedral and when a passerby stopped and asked the worker what he was actually tasked with - and the sweeper replied : " I am working here to build a Cathedral".*

*So follow the path of such a model of nobility, humility and high philosophical thinking which will in turn, inspire others around you.*

*On a personal note sharing, my first career as a Banker at The Mauritius Commercial Bank, started right from the bare entry point level and through hard work and studies at the same time, due to our modest position, I was blessed to be given the opportunities to climb the ladder and bring innovation in a collaborative way in different sectors. I hereby pay homage to all my mentors for their guidance as well as trust and confidence.*

*I would therefore encourage you, young graduates to surround yourself with sincere mentors to get coached in the proper way to confront the world of work which though tough is full of achievable goals when you will sincerely invest yourself in your job in a dedicated and detached way and without looking for easy fruits and quick returns. Such attitude and good Governance will, at the end, bring loads of job satisfaction and success to you without asking.*

*A major innovation I was engaged with in the Bank and which I may humbly share with you is the introduction of plastic Cards on the market place. This innovative project came out to be Game changer in the Mauritian society. The first ever electronic debit and credit Card came in use in 1987 and 1988 respectively, with the advent of Mr. Best Card, MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Diners, JCB and other Credit and Debit cards over subsequent years.*

*The cash dominated world was challenged with plastic money. But rest assured, both coexisted and we now even have the digital currency on the net. So, you can see how one innovation brings avenues for other innovations to be developed by later generations for the benefit of Society.*

*This experience served me well and when I had the chance to apply and join The Mauritius Post Ltd upon its privatization in 2003, there was dire need to develop Strategies to reinvent the Postal Sector because the mails were declining with electronic substitutions like email, SMS, WhatsApp etc.....Yu will surely agree that people are no longer writing letters as before.....*

*Even though electronic means are competitors to the physical post, we adopted and adapted technology to modernize our postal services and presently all Post Offices are online across the Country and we have daily data exchanges with the World over through the central digital platforms of UPU, Universal Postal Union, one of the oldest institutions in the World and created in 1874., while our own Postal service in Mauritius came into existence in 1772 under the French period by Nicolas Lambert. You are all invited to visit our Postal Museum at Port Louis in our Historical listed Building which is in 2020 150 years in operation where you will discover a lot of treasures as information.*

*But how this experience of innovation in banking served me so well as I said just before? :*

*With decrease of letters, e-commerce came as a savior to compensate the fall in volume of mail business. Citizens across Mauritius and the world over have adopted online purchases to import and export products swiftly..... and the favoured payment mode remains the Card which banks have rendered secured for usage on the net and other social media platforms. It was easy to adopt such measures in my new position at Mauritius Post and we adopted such online payment solution on our website to enable online purchases and settlement facilities to..... our citizens, the e-tailers merchants, SMEs and other users.*

*With such innovations, the Post shifted from a Trusted Party in the physical World to a Trusted Party in the Digital World with a series of e-post services and concepts.*

*There are many projects under way to create more opportunities for our citizens to shop online and get anything, anytime from anywhere within seconds of a transactions secure delivery within a few days at the doorstep of your home.*

*Along the line we also introduced Postcode to modernize the Addressing System in the country. As you are aware, those who shop online have to insert the Zip Code which is the equivalent of Postcode. Another innovation was thus generated and I can tell you thousands of Mauritians visit our Website, Mauritius.mu, every month to consult the postcode of their residence to complete their e-commerce transaction.*

*Innovation therefore remains the way and a journey.*

*It may also bring brick and mortar business to coexist with digital systems.*

*The example mentioned above is a concrete example of using latest technology to effect virtual transactions all across while at the end using the traditional Post to move the item purchased physically from one place to another, through its sophisticated eco-system with various digital exchanges of advanced information to facilitate cross-border transaction processing, considering Customs and national Security formalities and thereafter deliver through our usual Postmen the item at your location.*

*Another inherent innovation will be introduced shortly by Mauritius Post and will be the installation of Smart Lockers which will be digitally operated via mobile to enable 24/7 pickups of parcels for the convenience of our online e-commerce customers.*

*So, you see how interlinked we are in this wonderful World which is proving every day the contours of a real global village.*

*Dear Graduates, with mobility in work, change in careers and posting are becoming very common. The important things to remember are to carry over the best experiences you will reap along your parcours and promote them in your subsequent job to create new eco-systems and innovations which will benefit citizens and advance society at large.*

*Apart from the card business and e-commerce application at the Post Office, the high value learnings in branding and customer service allowed another level of development for the Mauritius Post.*

*For example with our new colours, and branding came our new marketing slogan "More Than Just Letters" next to Mauritius Post logo, which depicts the new features of the Post with numerous services at both postal and non-postal levels with multi- financial services, including RIA Instant Money Transfer, being offered in partnership and alliance with different public and private Organisations. Such diversified offerings have contributed to make our Post Office a community Hub in each locality.*

*The Postal staff and Postman who are already regarded as close friends of the local community have also been partners to deliver some social services during the recent pandemic lockdown due to Covid-19. We have gone home to home to pay pension to our elders to avoid them going out.....this is one of several Universal Service Obligations the Post is engaged across the World.*

*My dear friends, Innovation is crucial to the continuing success of any Organisation you will soon be joining.*

*I have tried to demystify the Word Innovation by mentioning a few practical living applications I was blessed to be a humble party to.*

*So engage sincerely in Team Work and share information. These will generate synergies to develop Innovations within and to which you will all be proud of.*

*You should pursue continuous learning to grow your scientific, philosophical and spiritual knowledge which will enable you to sustain your innovative powers and disposition.*

*Overall, you should engage in divers interests including, why not,..... Philately to expand your geography and history knowledge. All these will contribute to develop your personality and enable you to remain alert, resilient and relevant in whatever sector you will be involved.*

*Today's award to you is the result of your efforts and that of your parents, lecturers and friends. This University period has lifted you to an upper level to enable you to view the World differently with new scopes and perspectives to carry out positive changes and innovations to enhance the World in turn.*

*You belong to a new breed of successful cohort which makes me remember a famous quote from a contemporary philosopher, Albert Camus, in his book "La Peste" another pandemic which hit many countries some 100 years back, and falls today well in tune with our present Covid pandemic, and which gives high hopes in mankind in difficult situations :I quote:*

*Il y a dans les Hommes plus de choses a admirer que de choses a mepriser" unquote-:*

*Yu are the heroes of today and should bring forward all your positive contributions to collectively better our World in whatever circumstances.*

*I convey to you all, Dear Graduates, my sincere congratulations on your success.*

*Be Blessed and all the best in your future endeavours to advance our universal Society.*

*I thank the all the respected Principal Officers in their different Grades at both the University of Mauritius and the MGI.*

*I thank you for your kind attention.*