

Graduation Ceremony April 2019
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, FACULTY OF LAW AND MANAGEMENT (PART II),
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES, CILL, UoM TRUST, MIE & MIE
MONDAY 08 APRIL 2019 AT 14H00
Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium, Réduit

- **Dr Louis Jean Claude Autrey, Chancellor**
 - **Dr Santally, Pro-VC P&R**
 - **Mrs Issur-Ghoorah, Registrar**
 - **Dr Jimmy Harmon, Deputy Director, The Diocesan Service of Catholic Education (Service Diocésain de l'Education Catholique), SeDEC**
 - **Members of Congregation**
 - **Deans of Faculties**
 - **University Colleagues**
 - **Graduands**
 - **Distinguished Guests**
 - **Ladies and Gentlemen**
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A very **Good Afternoon** to you ALL

On behalf of the University of Mauritius, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to you at this Graduation Ceremony. This afternoon **41 students** will graduate from the Faculty of Agriculture, **46** from Faculty of Law and Management, **25** from Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, **13** from CILL, **18** from UoM Trust, **43** from MIE and **13** Students from MGI. You will witness the conferring of **87** Masters, **5** Postgraduate Diplomas, **1** Postgraduate Certificate, **98** Bachelor's Degrees, and **8** Diplomas.

Dear Graduands

We are proud that your dedication and sacrifice has enabled you accomplish a great personal achievement in your life. This day is yours. As you celebrate

today, be grateful for all the support that you have received, and go out into the world a much better person, equipped with new knowledge and skills, willing to share and contribute to the betterment of our people.

I would like you to join me in a round of applause for your parents, relatives, sponsors and friends, all of whom have made your achievements possible.

Dear Graduands

Some of you will make their first steps in the labour market and some others are already working. Having a degree or a postgraduate degree is not an end in itself; instead, it is the beginning of a long journey of hard work.

I would like to convey to you two important messages that could help you in your future endeavours.

The first one is about the famous saying of Louis Pasteur, French microbiologist and chemist renowned for his discoveries of the principles of vaccination, microbial fermentation and pasteurization.

I quote: *'Chance favors the prepared mind.'*

By working hard, in other words, preparing yourself, you are unlocking the converging powers of chance or fortune in your life. One's luck, in fact, is determined by the perseverance and courage to stay in the race and not to give up. The harder and more persistent you work the luckier you get. The difference between lucky and unlucky is the bias toward action and non-action. Those into action create their own lottery and stack the odds in their favour.

Let me highlight a few key factors that can help you become 'more prepared'. The first one is anticipation. It is also important for you to think of your career as a series of steps and reflect on what you believe the next step could be. The next one is Introspection, that is, you need to be aware of your skills, like, dislike and where you want to see yourself in the future. Be open to new experiences, build your networks and most importantly, work with enthusiasm!

Enthusiasm comes from Greek for 'having god within'. When you are enthusiastic, you're inspired by a higher power. You model the behaviour that you want other to demonstrate. Some will say behavior is greater than knowledge. Where knowledge fails, behavior can still handle.

The second message is about the growing emphasis on becoming multi-skilled at work due to the positive impact multi-talents can have on the business. More than specifically skilled individuals, multi-talented individuals and teams that can put their hands to most things from technical tasks to strategic thinking and business development tasks. Mix this in with general soft skills, and that's a mighty fine concoction of talent working within your organisation.

You are young and you are the millennial workforce. Be socially conscious. Studies have shown that the millennial workforce, seeks meaning and holistic fulfillment from jobs, instead of perceiving them as merely a means of earning a living. You will expect your jobs to provide you with a sense of purpose.

I hope you will pay attention to serving the needy and get involved in direct volunteering activities

Dear Graduands

As some of you will leave the University, I hope you will make it a must to join our Alumni Association and support your University in its development.

With these words, I wish each and every **Graduand** all the very best in your future endeavours and I also invite you to join the Alumni so that together, we can promote the University to greater heights.

Welcoming Guest Speaker

Ladies and Gentlemen, as is customary in our Graduation Ceremonies, we have today in our midst, as Guest Speaker, Dr Jimmy Harmon.

Dr Harmon is an administrator, academic researcher and engaged scholar, very often taking public stand on societal issues either by writing in newspaper columns or intervening in the media. He is currently Deputy Director/ Head of Secondary Schools at the Diocesan Service of Catholic Education (Service Diocésain de l'Éducation Catholique), SeDEC.

Dr Harmon holds a PhD in Language and Education with the University of the Western Cape, South Africa and a Master in Educational Leadership with the Australian Catholic University (ACU). He is publicly known in Mauritius for having piloted from 2004 to 2012 a pioneering literacy project in mother-tongue education alongside multilingualism. This project got special mention by the Commonwealth Good Education Practice Award in 2010. This project coupled with other factors led eventually to the introduction of Kreol Morisien in all primary schools as from 2012.

Dr Harmon was Director of the Nelson Mandela Centre for African & Kreol Culture. He is working with the Truth & Justice Commission as Part-timer researcher in education. He is actually involved in a public advocacy campaign for the setting up of an Intercontinental Slavery Museum which is one of the major recommendations of the Truth and Justice Commission.

He is also an independent researcher at the Centre for Research on Slavery and Indentured labour (CRSI), University of Mauritius and regularly participates and presents papers in International Conferences. Dr Harmon is also one of the Board Directors of the Civil Service College of Mauritius.

I thank him for having accepted to address and inspire the convocation today.

I now invite, Dr Jimmy Harmon, to address the Assembly.

Have a splendid day and all good wishes in your future careers.

PROFESSOR (DR) D JHURRY, CSK, GOSK
VICE-CHANCELLOR