

**Convocation Ceremony of UTM on Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 10:00  
hrs at MGI**

**Mr Raj Makoond, President of the University of Technology, Mauritius;**

**Dr Dinesh Kumar Hurreeram, Director General of the University of  
Technology, Mauritius;**

**Members of the Board of Governors and of the Academic Council of the  
University of Technology, Mauritius;**

**Miss Dhawantee Peeroo, Registrar;**

**Heads of Schools;**

**Head of Departments;**

**Academic and non-academic staff of UTM;**

**Distinguished guests;**

**Graduands;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good morning

I am particularly pleased and honoured to officiate the 34<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the University of Technology Mauritius.

It offers me a chance to commemorate the success of 610 students of the School of Business, Management and Finance in pursuing excellence in education.

I congratulate all of you graduands assembled here today. Soon you will receive a well-deserved certificate that will be the key to open doors for your better future and a more fulfilling life.

With a cohort of some 1800 students at both undergraduate and post graduate levels, the School of Business Management and Finance is the largest faculty at the University.

I recognise the efforts of the School in contributing to the capacity building of the finance and procurement cadre, an important segment of the public officers, to drive the public sector reforms in financial management discipline and public procurement.

As such, I consider the School of Business Management and Finance as a strategic partner of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Gather here today are promising young boys and girls who have reached a milestone in life and are earnestly looking forward to new challenges ahead. We also have parents who always support their children with unfailing and selfless love; and educators who are passionate and tireless in leading and nurturing their students.

The key to the development agenda of Government is education. It is a source of opportunity for every Mauritian. The Prime Minister, Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, once said :*“Education is the bridge that lies between where we stand now as a nation and where we want to go on our transformative journey– a modern economy and an inclusive high-income country.”*

What the Prime Minister said complement the famous saying of the late South African president Nelson Mandela, that is **“Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation.”** End quote

The aim of Government is to nurture our young people and bringing out the best in them. Our system of education caters for all students, so that those with different aptitudes, abilities and interests will be able to exploit their potentials to the full.

Against this background, our education system has undergone wide-ranging reforms and the vision of Government is to nurture a generation of young people who are self-motivated, who have creative thinking, good communication skills, a strong sense of commitment and a solid foundation for lifelong learning.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Government's aim is to transform Mauritius into an international higher-education hub catering for the needs of the region, especially those of Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and Asia. Leveraging its tradition of excellence, stability and pleasant living environment, Mauritius holds the trump card to become the new regional hub for world-class education services.

The island has already a growing number of leading international institutions offering an array of programmes in various fields of study. With key factors such as competitive costs of education, streamlined procedures and a part-time work scheme, an increasing number of foreign students are now choosing Mauritius to pursue higher education studies.

### **Dear graduands**

After departing from here you will step into a new world. You may be taking different paths after graduation, but there is no exception that you will encounter challenges and difficulties in your life. My messages to you are (i) live a purpose-driven life and (2) don't forget that your attitude determines your altitude.

**Hard work, honesty and sincerity.** These are the key words to success. If you forget any of them, your advancement towards success will stop.

Of course, degrees and credentials are important, but the development of soft skills is a crucial part of fostering a dynamic workforce.

Companies seek candidates with both types of skills, hard and soft, when hiring for most positions. That 's because if you have a negative attitude and can't get along with others, or you don't communicate well, you don't work well as part of a team, and aren't able to think creatively and critically, it will not matter how well educated and qualified you are – chances are you won't be successful in your career and life in general.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the University of Technology has designed its courses to provide individuals and organisations with the management competencies and critical skills necessary to build and sustain competitive advantages in a rapidly changing and complex business environment.

Many of you, as you leave here to-day will be on the look-out for a job or for a better one. My proposition is that you need not only be a job seeker but you can also be a job creator.

**Yes,** entrepreneurship has recently developed a new dimension on the international market. Mauritius, despite being small in size, has recognised the importance of entrepreneurship to its nation. Government and allied institutions are encouraging a greater part of the population, especially the young generation to step in the business world with their own business ventures.

Government has put in place various schemes to promote entrepreneurship and to boost the entrepreneurial culture in Mauritius. People, especially youngsters, are provided adequate support and training to improve their skills in order to familiarise themselves and become competent in entrepreneur activities.

On its part, in order to promote that entrepreneurship culture, the School of Business, Finance and Management is developing human resource capability for both the public and private sectors so that they have competent and effective human resources to drive the business operations. The School thus responds to stakeholders demand and constantly adapts to meet their respective skills gap, training and research needs.

**Dear graduands**

The dreams you have seen, the dreams you want to fulfil, **they** should be fulfilled. Going out from here you will step in a beautiful world. The golden future Mauritius is in your hands. I keep this expectation from you.

I shall conclude by congratulating once more all of you graduands and your parents for your achievements and wish you a bright future.

**THANK YOU**