



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE & COOPERATIVES**  
(Business and Enterprise Division)

Event :	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Convocation Ceremony, School of Business, Management and Finance, UTM</b>
Venue :	<b>Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI), Moka</b>
Date :	<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 @ 14h00</b>

- Professor Bahorun ,President of the Board of Governors of the University of Technology, Mauritius
- Members of the Board of Governors of the University of Technology, Mauritius
- Dr. Sharmila P. Seetulsingh-Goorah, Director General of the University of Technology, Mauritius
- Mr. M. Chutturdharry, Ag. Registrar
- Head of School
- Officer-in-Charge of Schools
- Academic and non-academic staff
- all protocol observed
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon!

- 1. It is indeed a privilege and an honour for me to be speaking to you at this august occasion. As you all know graduation epitomizes every student's academic pursuit. It is a landmark event in anyone's life and the happiness, excitement and sense of fulfillment reflected on your faces today is a delight to behold.**
- 2. It is also the right moment to look back at what one has achieved in the programmes and courses undertaken as you chart the way forward to enter professional careers of choice.**



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- 3. The journey at a University is a critical component of human development. That is why a second University, UTM was created in year 2000 by Act of Parliament. I am told, that in order to meet with the growing challenges of the tertiary education sector, efforts have been made by UTM to increase programmes, diversify the fields of study linked with the creation of new schools and several MOUs have been signed with other institution both local and internationally.**
- 4. An educated populace is vital in today's world with the convergent of globalization, the increasing importance of knowledge as a main driver of growth, and the information and communication revolution.**
- 5. Dear Graduates, you are making your parents very proud today. The fact that you are graduating is a clear testimony that you have successfully gone through the academic rigour that has culminated in your being conferred with certificates.**
- 6. Being a father of three children myself, I wish to congratulate you for your sacrifice and efforts that have enabled you to attain this honour. I pay special tribute to you in making this country self-reliant in manpower requirements.**
- 7. I said it once, and will repeat myself: Don't ask what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country.**



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- 8. As the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperative, I have agreed to come to you to make you aware how far your country needs you! One of the biggest challenges facing our economy is the urgent need for innovation and creativity.**
- 9. We do have a lot of entrepreneurs coming forward with the idea to launch a business and we are making sure to advise and guide them properly because we don't want them to fail.**
- 10. Our Economy needs entrepreneurs! They are vital to a healthy economy. They look for unmet needs in society and then try to fill them with new goods or services. They take risks without any certainty of reward. I have trust in you, our new generation! I know you will push forward new technology. You can create jobs and find unique and creative ways to provide society with the goods and services they desire.**
- 11. The performance on any business is inextricably linked to the person who runs it. Steeve Jobs, Bill Gates or even Jamshedji Tata (who created Tata Motors in 1868) are real examples. They have tried and made it. You have to.**
- 12. Ever since I have taken office, I have started to build an effective nurturing and enabling environment for SMEs in Mauritius. We have come up with MyBiz, our One Stop Shop where under one roof, you get**



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**license, counseling and the necessary coaching for the betterment of your business.**

- 13. The SME Development Scheme Certificate is an attractive incentive plan to encourage Mauritians, especially young people, to engage in business and to participate in the emergence of a new entrepreneurial culture.**
- 14. With the SME Development Certificates, entrepreneurs can get loans at 3% if they engage in some priority fields like Biofarming, Manufacturing, ICT, Aquaculture, Green energy and handicraft.**
- 15. Today, we have 4 Business Development and Facilitation Centres all over the island namely at Mahebourg, Coromandel, Goodlands and Bel Air. The aim is to go to entrepreneurs and assist them.**
- 16. Through our SME parks we are providing spaces at low rental to entrepreneurs. We have created a Craft lab which provides many courses in Pyrography, Floral arrangement, textile Design, fashion jewelry etc.**
- 17. We are also encouraging our SMEs to be export oriented because our market is very small. There is a big potential in Africa and we need some dynamic young entrepreneurs to venture themselves.**



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- 18. With the Ministry of Finance we have also come up with the Leasing Equipment Modernisation Scheme to support Investment programme.**
- 19. I was impressed to see how good our Cooperative Sector is doing in Mauritius. Some of them are even doing turnovers reaching one billion rupees. But I was worried to see that most of our cooperators are old. There is a need to bring our young generation into the cooperative movement. In countries like Israel, India, Malaysia, to name a few, they are doing very well. And in Mauritius, I have ensured that our Cooperators do have the same status as our cooperators and that they are considered as SME to benefit all advantages given.**
- 20. Dear graduates, it is important for all of you to understand that we are laying the foundation for the country. We want a brighter Mauritius. You now carry a big responsibility of being ambassadors of your country. You represent the pride of your parents and your country. You must inspire confidence to all those you will be interacting with.**
- 21. We want more youth owned enterprises operating in all sectors of the economy which contribute to economic growth and reduce poverty.**
- 22. I take this opportunity to challenge our graduates to uphold the ethical values acquired from this University as they endeavor to serve their country**



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**with a lot of diligence. I hope that as the future leaders of our country and especially as our future entrepreneurs, you will endeavor to strive towards the creation of jobs and complete alleviation of poverty. I wish you good luck in your future endeavors.**

**Thank you**