



SPEECH

**His Excellency Mr Dharambeer Gokhool G.C.S.K.,
President of the Republic of Mauritius**

EVENT: Chief Guest For UdM Graduation Ceremony - 2025

VENUE: MGI AUDITORIUM, MOKA

DATE: Wednesday, 17 December 2025

TIME: 12.15 hrs

Protocol

Dr R. Somanah, CSK, le Directeur Général de l'Université des Mascareignes,

Les membres du Conseil Académique,

Le corps enseignant, le personnel administratif et technique,

Distingués invités,

Parents, membres de familles,

Et surtout, chers élèves de la cohorte 2025.

Introduction

Bonjour à toutes et à tous,

Je voudrais commencer mon discours en vous remerciant pour votre invitation.

C'est avec un immense plaisir que je me joins à vous aujourd'hui pour célébrer ce moment exceptionnel.

Cérémonie

Cette cérémonie de remise de diplômes marque une étape importante dans la vie de votre institution aussi bien que dans votre vie.

Loin d'être une simple formalité, c'est un moment solennel, un moment de transition, où des années d'études, d'engagement, de discipline et de persévérance se rejoignent pour marquer une étape déterminante dans votre parcours de vie, aussi bien que dans celui de vos profs, vos parents et amis.

Ayant moi-même passé de nombreuses années au sein du monde académique, ce cadre m'est particulièrement familier.

Je sais ce que représentent l'investissement et la rigueur, les enseignants qui stimulent et inspirent, ainsi que cette curiosité qui pousse à aller au-delà des connaissances transmises.

Je connais aussi la satisfaction profonde de comprendre que le savoir n'est pas seulement un ensemble d'informations, mais une nouvelle manière de penser, de raisonner et de se situer dans le monde.

Je peux ressentir toute cette joie, ce bonheur, ce doux sentiment du devoir accompli.

Mes sincères félicitations à vous tous. Bravo

Célébrons ensemble non seulement ce que vous avez appris, mais surtout ce que vous êtes devenus aussi bien que ce que vous allez pouvoir accomplir.

Vous êtes notre fierté et vous représentez l'avenir de notre République.

A University with a Unique Mandate

The Université des Mascareignes occupies a special place in our higher education landscape. It stands at the crossroads of cultures, languages, and intellectual traditions.

Whether you studied engineering, IT, management, sustainability, or emerging fields, you were part of an institution that promotes openness, innovation, and a strong connection to the World of Work.

Your **bilingual model** reflects the spirit of the **Mascarenes** themselves, a meeting point of histories, a laboratory of ideas, and an ideal platform for engagement in the global arena.

UdM's partnerships with international universities, particularly in Europe, have given you a solid foundation to compete and collaborate globally. It prepares you not just to succeed in Mauritius, but to succeed

from Mauritius by taking your knowledge outward and bringing new opportunities home.

Always remember, you belong to a prestigious institution with recognised international credentials. Your institution has provided you with an international academic passport.

Facing a World in Transformation

Friends, you are stepping into a world of formidable challenges, a world that is being redefined at extraordinary speed.

Artificial intelligence, climate change, shifting global economies, new forms of work and new expectations from society, shaping the future of every nation.

Technology is transforming industries faster than policies can adapt. Mauritius is no exception. Jobs are evolving before job descriptions are written.

New challenges—from cybersecurity to renewable energy, from marine resilience to ethical governance require minds that are agile, interdisciplinary, and forward-looking.

This brings opportunities. It brings uncertainty. And it brings a challenge that your generation must rise to meet.

The world you are entering does not require people who simply repeat what they have been taught.

It requires people who question, who innovate, who analyse deeply, who act responsibly, and who bring ethics into every decision.

In your life and career, you will come across numerous occasions when you will need to Reset, Refocus, Readjust, and Restart.

Consider those moments as challenges, as hidden opportunities, not as obstacles or unsurmountable difficulties.

Education is not preparation for life. Education is life itself. And Education is a lifelong learning process.

One day, your degree will fade on the wall.

What will remain is your capacity to think critically, to collaborate, to solve problems, to understand others, and to act with integrity. These are the qualities that transform graduates into leaders.

You will have to re-invent yourself many times.

Always remember the famous words of Futurist Alvin Toffler: “The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read or write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”

La République aura besoin de vos talents.

Tout comme le monde aura besoin de vos talents, notre République aura aussi Maurice besoin de diplômés capables de nous aider à naviguer dans la complexité et relever les défis auxquels notre pays est confronté, avec sagesse et vision.

Nous avons besoin de jeunes qui sauront renforcer notre démocratie, soutenir notre économie, innover dans les technologies, promouvoir la justice sociale, bâtir des communautés durables et défendre les valeurs qui assurent la cohésion sociale.

Your role in society does not begin when you are employed. It begins today.

The purpose of education is not only to open doors. It is to open minds. You now carry the responsibility of using your knowledge not only for personal ambition but also for the progress of your country.

Each one of you has the potential to become a force of good in Mauritius. A force of creativity. A force for growth. A force for ethical leadership.

Allow me to add something from my own experience.

Success is not defined by how far you go but by how many people you lift along the way. Knowledge that serves only oneself is limited. Knowledge that uplifts others is transformative.

Yes!

Today and tomorrow, Mauritius will need leaders with creativity, courage, conviction and compassion. Leaders who understand that integrity is not an option- it is the foundation of public trust.

Three Commitments

So, as you leave this campus, take with you three commitments:

First. Remain curious. [The world belongs to those who continue learning long after they have left university. Curiosity will keep you relevant, humble, and open to possibility.]

Second. Remain courageous. [The future does not reward hesitation. It rewards action grounded in purpose. Courage will push you to take initiative, to take risks, to innovate, to challenge norms, and to step into roles you may not yet feel ready for.]

Third. Remain ethical. Your generation will inherit unprecedented power through technology and information. Use that power wisely and responsibly. Use it humbly. Use it to build trust and not division.

A Tribute to Those Who Made This Journey Possible

Aux parents et aux familles présents aujourd'hui, cette journée est autant la vôtre que la leur.

Vos sacrifices, vos encouragements, votre confiance et votre force discrète ont rendu ce moment possible. Derrière chaque diplômé se trouve une famille qui a cru en lui bien avant que la ligne d'arrivée ne soit visible.

Soyez heureux et fiers de ce moment mémorable.

To the **faculty and staff** of the Université des Mascareignes: Thank you for shaping minds and building pathways for the next generation.

A university is one of the strongest pillars of a nation. When you elevate students, you elevate society.

Closing Reflections

Graduates, as you leave this hall, remember one thing.

Your degree is not the end of a journey. It is the beginning of your responsibility to contribute to the world you are about to enter. To make this world a better place for yourself and for humanity.

Your country is counting on you.

Your families are proud of you.

Your university stands behind you

And today, **Mauritius celebrates your achievement, your success.**

Let us continue building a nation where education opens doors, where excellence is encouraged, and where integrity guides our collective destiny.

I wish each of you courage, wisdom, and success in the years ahead.

Congratulations once again to the Class of 2025.

Remember this not an end. It is a new beginning.

And may you always walk forward as one people, as one nation, in peace, justice and liberty.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year 2026

Thank you.