



## **LAW SCHOOL GRADUATION JUNE 2019**

**by Ronald MADHUVA & Amwaza Banda Candice CHIKONDI**  
**Photographs by Floyd Milton MUPEDISWA**

Graduation Day 14 June 2019 began, blessed with a cool, gentle breeze and the sound of birds chirping. The clouds did not dampen the joyous and celebratory mood.

By 08:45 am, students from different disciplines, their guests, and staff were seated in the University's Cultural and Sports Center. The graduation ceremony commenced with speeches. Proud students wearing caps and gowns then walked up to receive their degrees, accompanied by cheering, joy and ululating brimming up in the air. Friends, family and professors all united to cheer those who had reached this important threshold in their lives. It was indeed a merry event and smiles lit up the whole building.

In the afternoon at 14:00, the celebration resumed in the more intimate atmosphere of the Law School. Professors SONG Jie and YU Yanning, and Ms TIAN Fengli, hosted a special celebration for the Law School's newest graduates. Ms Mutsa CHASIKWA kindly served as Mistress of Ceremonies. She said "You can't make a cloudy day sunny, but you can make it the best day". It

was indeed the best day! Parents, family members and friends joined in the Law School's honouring of the graduates.

The first keynote speaker, Vice-Dean Professor SONG Jie, congratulated the graduates. He told them that their real future begins now. As they go out into the world, they must always remember ZJGSU Law School. He encouraged the students to share their future successes with the school so that they may celebrate with them. The second keynote speaker was Prof. YU Yanning. She provided the graduates with a heartwarming speech about her own graduation from law school 14 years ago. She reminisced about her undergraduate days and says they were not easy as those years were filled with "panic and joy" at the same time. This experience of law school taught her that if she could get through and get her degree from a difficult law school then she could do anything. This, she told the graduates, was the lesson. Now, they can face anything that life throws at them. Prof Yanning concluded her speech by saying that in her classes she always tells her students that she shouldn't fail her course because she doesn't want to see them again in that same class. This time however, she sincerely made an exception to her rule and would like to see them again in future.



*Co-Class Monitors  
Ronald and Nazly  
receive Outstanding  
Student awards  
from Vice-Dean  
Song*



The two Co-Monitors were both recipients of the Law School's Outstanding Student Award. Ronald MADHUVA kicked off his speech by thanking God for making this possible. He then went on to thank all the parents for the financial and moral support they give their children; without that support they would not be where they are today. He then expressed his gratitude to all the professors and said that the professors were like family to him because they guided him and helped shaped his mind into what it is today. For Ronald, this had not been a smooth sail, it was more like a roller coaster with ups and downs, nevertheless he was happy to have made it through and now wear the 'cap of smiles' with his fellow graduates. He advised his colleagues

and friends to always wear an armor of hope, strength, kindness and charisma. He closed by saying, “with these as our armor we can build a better world”.

The other prize-winning student, Nazly Ahmed Amir Hafez SADIK, shared her own motivational speech. She thanked the staff of the Law School for providing the graduates with a foundation on which they can further themselves in their own legal careers. She thanked all the parents for maintaining long distance relationships with their children for the past four years; it has not been easy to be so far from the people you love and the people that love you. Nazly admitted that she is in actual fact nervous to be leaving China, the place that she called “home” for the past four years. She is happy to have immersed herself in Chinese culture and food and she will never forget how impactful China has been on her life. She is grateful to have been accepted for who she is, and to have had freedom to express her faith and beliefs. Nazly ended her heart-warming speech by urging the graduates to either “be phenomenal or be forgotten”.



*Charlotte shares love and goodwill, with Deirdre looking on*



*Grace addresses the gathering*



*Ronald reflects, with Albright beside him*



*Nazly radiates positivity and excitement*

Two new graduates, Gamuchirai Grace CHIMUKA and Charlotte Takudzwa RUGUWA, also took the floor and spoke about their experiences at ZJGSU Law School. For Grace, it was not an easy experience. She spoke about how hard the dissertation process was, especially the writing and oral defense. She had to rewrite her proposal numerous times before her supervisor deemed it adequate for a ZJGSU law student. Even though her stay here has been bitter-sweet she is glad to have achieved her goal, the degree.

Charlotte's message was of joy and gratitude. She was happy to declare her appreciation for the professors who had taught and guided her, and the other students. Charlotte understood that teaching foreign students can be challenging, and she recognized that her professors had been patient. She thanked the Law School's staff for all their efforts. She added that having made it, she is now a firm believer that "nothing is impossible".



*Redeemed, Albright, McNeely and Deirdre receive their Certificates*

Then it was the turn of the guests. Two of the family members also spoke. Charlotte's Mother began with a beautiful song of praise, thanking God for making this possible and for bringing the graduates thus far. Mma Ruguwa then thanked the professors for accepting their children as foreign students into the school and teaching them to the best of their abilities and she urged the graduates to always make their parents proud the way they have by graduating and earning their degrees. Grace's Mother said that she was truly happy, about not only about her daughter's success but about the success of the other graduates. She pointed out that they are not children anymore but are now young adults. Therefore, with the character they have built in the past 4 years, they must now go on into the world with that same character and make their futures bright. A final contribution came from Maajida MIA, who expects to graduate shortly. She quoted the late Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world".



*Vice-Dean SONG, Professor YU and Ms TIAN with the Law School's graduates and their guests*

And the partying went on. At 18:30 that evening, people gathered by the pyramid for the University's graduation party. There, Kudakwashe Blessed Mupiwa gave a speech, and musical performances celebrated the achievements of the graduates. Ceremonial rings were awarded. People relaxed. Others danced to the music. Everyone enjoyed the food and refreshments.

Graduation Day 14 June 2019 was a phenomenal day. All thanks to the organizers and coordinators and everyone who made it so. The joy from it still lingers in the skies, and the inspiration it has generated motivates others to follow in the same footsteps. These former students who are now degree-holders have unlocked a powerful tool in changing the world and making it a better place, now it is time for them to use that tool to the best of their ability.

*Note: Not all of the graduating students were able to attend the festivities; we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ruvimbo Mufema, Latifa Yerima Bako, Rahmanhoja Hundayberdiyev, Providence Passionate Kwashiwa and Adiolah Mhute.*