



## *Office of The President*

STATE HOUSE, MAURITIUS

### **STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR DHARAMBEER GOKHOOL, G.C.S.K., PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

#### **Good Morning**

It is with a feeling of deep emotion, humility and a deep sense of duty to the Republic of Mauritius that I assume the Office of the President.

Allow me, in my own name and in that of His Excellency, the Vice President, Mr. Jean Yvan Robert Hungley, to welcome all members of the media. Through you, I extend my very best wishes to the people of the Republic of Mauritius, the Mauritian Diaspora and all our friendly countries.

Many of you, both at home and abroad have extended your greetings and blessings to me and I appreciate it. I regret that it has not been possible to welcome many more people to this swearing-in ceremony. However, there will be many opportunities for me to welcome you to the State house in the future and I shall also endeavor to remain as close to you as possible.

#### **Mission and Role**

I have spent considerable time reflecting on my mission and role as President. I can straightaway share my intention to be a President for the People (Un President du Peuple/President de proximité) with a human touch, pursuing both a national and an international agenda.

May I take this opportunity to pay tribute to my immediate predecessor His Excellency Mr. Prithvirajsing Roopun and His Excellency Mr. Eddy Boissezon, for their overall contribution and service. I also intend to meet them, as well as the eminent persons who have graced the functions of President and Vice President of the Republic of Mauritius, in due course. Our Constitution provides for the election of a President and a Vice President by the National Assembly.

I am very grateful to Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister and, who is also the Leader of the Alliance du Changement, for this great honour of being the new Head of the Government. I also place on record my gratitude to the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Paul Berenger and all Honourable members for being supportive of the Prime Minister's choice.

That choice is a strategic decision which takes into consideration the principles of professionalism, meritocracy, diversity, equity and inclusion, so essential for nation building.

I am also indebted to the media, with whom, I have had overall cordial relations. I look forward to working with you to strengthen our democracy and its institutions and to promote the well-being and welfare of our people.

And now I would like to pay a personal tribute to all women, mothers and all educators. Let me share an encounter which changed the course of my life and opened the doors to Redit. When I completed my Primary School Leaving Certificate at Roches Noires Government School, way back in 1959, the Head Teacher of the School, Mr Abdool Raman Kasenally, convened my mother to his office. I accompanied her. He told my mother: *Your child is intelligent. Make him study further.* As an educator, he played a pivotal role in shaping my future.

In those days, many children from poor families could not afford secondary education. However, my mother took up the challenge and arranged for my further schooling, and the rest followed.

### **Expectations and my commitment**

As the incoming President, I shall endeavor to work closely with all facets of our society including the Government, Opposition and civil society. I shall pursue both a national and international agenda

My priority areas of action will be:

- Sustainable development and poverty alleviation
- Democracy and Human Rights
- Fight against drugs
- Improving quality of public services and good governance
- Tackling erosion of social values and nation building

- Inclusion of senior citizens and ensuring the future of our youth
- Technology and innovation for social progress
- Enhancing the credibility and visibility of Mauritius on the international scene

My overall perspective will be to contribute to build a strong, vibrant, forward looking nation, living with an ethos and spirit of one nation, one people

I shall draw from my nearly half-century of experience in the field of academia and politics and I am also contemplating to engage the creativity and innovation a broad spectrum of our civil society.

Together we can make Mauritius, once again, the star and key of the Indian Ocean leaving a legacy of which future generations will be proud of.

Thank you and may God bless you all.

**07 December 2024**

**The State House  
Le Réduit**