



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: LAUNCH OF SEGA “NOU PEI SO COULER” IN
THE CONTEXT OF 57TH INDEPENDENCE**

**VENUE: TRIANON CONVENTION CENTRE,
QUATRE BORNES**

TIME: 11:00 HOURS

Honourable Sydney Pierre, Junior Minister of Tourism

Mr Aanand Nithoo, Founder and Director, Ebanez Music

Our esteemed musical artists,

Distinguished guests,

Members of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Bonzour. C'est enn grand plaisir pou être parmi zot zordi pou participe dan lancement nouveau Segá "Nu Pei So Couleur".

As you are aware, we celebrate 57 years of independence this year.

This celebration serves as an opportunity to not only look at our past achievements with pride, but also recognise present challenges in all honesty, and come together to overcome them in order to build a sustainable future for all.

More importantly, we must renew and reaffirm our commitment to values that bind us together, "as one People, as one nation in peace, justice and liberty" – as enshrined in our Constitution.

The unity and happiness of our people should be our guiding principles in everything that we do.

Segá – the soul of Mauritius

This song is yet another important addition to our rich cultural heritage: a musical tribute to the history, strength, identity, complexity and resilience that define Mauritius.

For centuries, Sega has told the gruesome realities of our ancestors. From slaves who expressed pain and unfulfilled dreams through songs to indentured labourers whose hard work shaped our island's landscape, it has been the voice of the oppressed and dehumanised.

It is also an ode to resistance and resilience of those who kept hope and triumphed. Those who may have practised different cultures and religions, but were united in suffering and resistance, and built a solid foundation together for today's multi-ethnic, multi-cultural democratic Mauritian society.

But Sega is also an expression of joy.

I would like to pay tribute to Mr Aanand Nithoo and his dedicated team who, since 2007, have created the Ebanez musical group.

The lyrics of the Sega you are releasing today represent a mix of beauty, friendship, diversity and unity.

I congratulate you all for this beautiful and laudable initiative.

Ebanez Music's track record is already a testament to the goodwill and hard work undertaken in promoting this goal. You have worked with eminent Indian singers like Udit Narayan and Alka Yagnik. During covid-19, your song "Nou Prier le Monde Guerie" was a source of strength to many.

I am confident that you will continue to inspire younger generations with your music and mentor them. I also urge our youths to embrace the power of music and culture to attain holistic education and wellness.

I also take this opportunity to commend all talented musicians, artists and composers for their unwavering dedication, passion, and creativity towards creating songs that serve as a bridge between the past and the present - a link between generations- and also prompts us to reflect on the future.

Support to Mauritian Artists

We are aware of difficulties that artists have been encountering.

“Mo Pei So Couleur” reflects the incredible talent we have within our nation.

Our artists play a pivotal role in shaping our identity and making it known to the world. Yet, for too long, their contributions have been undervalued and needs have been overlooked.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Government has already envisaged key measures to support the dreams and aspirations of our artists. Among them are:

- Introducing legislation to recognise cultural workers as defined by the United Nations.
- Creating a conducive environment and facilitating the organisation of artistic events.
- Making the creative industry as a new pillar of our economy, with capacity development for professionals.
- Setting up of a Mauritian Cultural Centre and a National Arts Open Commission.

If we want our nation to flourish and to preserve our rich heritage, we must ensure that our musical talents and all aspects of our culture continue to thrive, as integral parts of our national identity and economy.

Present reflections

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, music has the ability to heal, sensitize, unite and strengthen us to overcome battles.

We undoubtedly face many new challenges, as “Mo Pei So Couleur” highlights. But the spirit of resilience and determination that defined our struggle for independence remains as strong as ever.

We must leverage the benefits of music. Beyond a hobby, it must be viewed as therapy and a rewarding career path that helps us break barriers, foster greater understanding; promote connections, emotional and spiritual intelligence, and unite us in our shared journey towards healing and well-being.

Conclusion

As we move forward, let us continue to be guided by values of justice, unity, harmony, and freedom – the foundations of a prosperous Mauritian nation.

Much like the different colours of our national flag –

Rouge, Bleu, Jaune, Vert,

Anou ress uni dan nou diversité kouma enn sel lepep, la main dans la main, pou continyie batir nou nation Mauricien.

I congratulate you once again for this remarkable achievement.

Thank you.