



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: CULTURAL SHOW IN COLLABORATION
WITH CPNU**

VENUE: STATE HOUSE

TIME: 15:00 HOURS

L'Honorable Sydney Pierre, junior minister du ministère du Tourisme,
Madame Sheila Desha O.S.K., Chairperson du Comité pour la
promotion de l'unité nationale (CPNU),

Membres respectés du CPNU

Distingués invités,

Chers participants, enfants et citoyens de la République

Membres de la presse,

TOUS PROTOCOLES RESPECTÉS

Introduction

Bon après midi.

- It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you all to the State House today for this cultural show.
- I extend a warm welcome to our participants – children and adults- from all around our country, from Rodrigues and Agalega.
- You must have made a lot of efforts and preparations for today.
- I thank you for taking time from your studies and other duties to participate in this event and wish you good luck for your performances.
- Your presence reflects the beauty and hope of our Republic. You instill inspiration in us to work and create a safe future for all of you.

- I thank and commend resource persons and choreographers for their dedication towards this cultural show today.

CPNU

- I congratulate the **Comité pour la promotion de l'unité nationale** for their laudable initiative to organize this event today.
- **We must remember why this committee was founded.**
- CPNU- founded in 1999 at the initiative of President Cassam Uteem.
- After Mauritius witnessed racial tensions, it was primordial to maintain and strengthen social cohesiveness of our country.
- Over the years and with voluntary contribution of its members, CPNU has organized various activities:
- Painting competitions, essays competitions, “Concours de slogans”, rallies, to sensitize people on the need to promote national unity.
- Activities came to a halt in 2020 due to Covid-19.
- Later, it was difficult to gain momentum again.
- The main event organized by CPNU after long, has been the Christmas celebration in December 2024 here at State House, a few days after I became the new President.
- We created memorable moments together with children with special needs.
- Today is the second event that we are hosting in collaboration with the CPNU at the State House of which I am part.

- I am very happy to be associated with it. I assure you that this collaboration will continue, and you will receive all the support you need.

Reflections: Culture and National Unity

- We celebrate 57 years of freedom.
- We must not only remember past achievements but also reflect on our present and future.
- We must pay tribute to our ancestors and salute their struggle and courage to fight for our freedom:
- Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Sir Gaetan Duval, Sir Abdul Razak Mohamed, and women like Anjalay Coopen.
- Who took their destiny in their hands so we could shape our lives freely.

I particularly address the youth in this gathering here today:

- **Which freedom did our ancestors fight for?**
- **Which society did they dream of?**
- **What opportunities were they deprived of that we now avail because of their sacrifices?**
- **What values did they stand for?**
- Today, you will be showcasing different cultures that make up the identity and beauty of our Republic.
- Our nation isn't defined by one culture or heritage.

- Our ancestors came from different countries, spoke different languages, dressed in different ways, ate and prayed differently.
- But they were united in their dreams for freedom.
- To create one free society that was unique, with fusion of all cultures and traditions.
- As a free Mauritian nation, our **unity in diversity**, and **diversity in unity** are our strength.
- From fashion to arts, languages, food and festivals, we embody the beauty of being different, unique, yet equal in dignity and rights.
- Amid major global challenges such as conflicts and wars:
- We are a small country but serve as a model to big countries by showing that we are different,
- But we live together As One People, As One Nation in peace, justice and liberty.
- We must continue to preserve the inclusive and peaceful nature of our country.
- In our everyday lives: at schools, workplaces, in our neighbourhoods.

State House – l’interculturalité

- Remains committed to promoting **l’interculturalité, la paix, l’harmonie et l’unité nationale.**
- Nous allons continuer à être à l’écoute de la population et comprendre les besoins de chacun.

- Vulnerabilities of today – drugs, loneliness, suicide, anxiety, stigma of seeking help, erosion of cultural values.
- Cultural practices and community engagement offer emotional support systems that help us cope safely and act as moral compass.
- We will continue to support all initiatives that bring us together to create a safer nation and better future for all.

Conclusion

- Let us continue to celebrate our beauty, unity and diversity.
- I thank and congratulate you all once again for your presence and participation at this cultural show.