



## **SPEECH**

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

**EVENT: Reception in the honour of Laureates  
HSC 2024 & Professional National  
Scholarship**

**VENUE: State House,  
Reduit**

**TIME: 11 00 Hours**

Dr the Hon' Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, Prime Minister, and Mrs Veena Ramgoolam

His Excellency Mr Robert Hungley GOSK, Vice-President of the Republic, and Mrs Hungley

Dr the Hon' Mahend Gungapersad PDSM, Minister of Education and Human Resources, and Mrs Gungapersad

Mr Ravi Meettook, Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Education and Human Resources

Mrs Mudaliar, Secretary to the President

Distinguished guests,

Dear Laureates and Esteemed Parents,

Members of the Media

ALL PROTOCOL OBSERVED.

## **Introduction**

Good Morning and Welcome

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you to the State House today to celebrate the achievements of our wonderful laureates, who have excelled in their respective academic disciplines during the 2024 Higher School Certificate Examinations.

I have listened with great attention to the Hon' Prime Minister and the Hon' Minister of Education, and I associate myself with their address and the valuable perspectives they have shared with you.

I would also like to join them to congratulate all our laureates and all those who have shaped their journey.

I have special thoughts towards those who worked hard but could not reach the pinnacle of success. I wish them well in all their future endeavours.

## **New Digital World**

My Young Laureate friends,

Very soon, you will embark on a new chapter in your life, at a time when unprecedented changes and challenges are transforming the universe.

It's a completely new world order, full of hopes and anxieties, and shaped by Artificial Intelligence, climate change, digital economies, social transformations as well as tensions and conflicts.

Our collective challenge in a world full of uncertainties and complexities is to navigate with confidence, resilience, compassion and courage and ensure that humanity survives and thrives.

As you may be aware, our Government Programme 2025-2029 provides a bridge to the future, with a glimpse of the predicament and the prospects of the Republic of Mauritius and the new Mauritius we are building together.

But you must remember that we are now part of a global village. This emerging ecosystem will call for new attitudes and mind-sets. The standards by which you will be judged will be international and global.

I do not want to go into the details of one of the pressing debates (and there are so many of them) which is polarizing world attention: Will AI or Artificial Super Intelligence (ASI) replace humans? Will the new

technology control humans or will humans be still in control of the new technology? How should we harness the benefits of new technology while minimising its risks to humanity and the universe?

This should be one of the central themes of your constant reflection as you engage in a new chapter of your educational journey.

## **University studies**

University studies are a wonderful opportunity to deepen your intellect, shape your personality and character, and widen your overall world vision.

Your studies, if undertaken in the right spirit, will equip you to deal with the multiple challenges and take advantages of the numerous opportunities that will come in your way.

Remember that the future will be shaped by people who decide how technology is used, for what ends, and in whose interests.

So as future leaders and innovators, I urge you to embrace this new world with an open mind, with curiosity, responsibility, courage and compassion.

In this new phase of your life, you will also face setbacks, encounter failure, and confront situations that will sometimes push you to doubt your own worth or direction. Be resilient and patient in all circumstances but always challenge your comfort zone and be determined to do your best.

Let the words of wisdom of the world-famous author- Maya Angelou- guide you.

*"You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them."*

A powerful message, full of meanings.

As the sons and daughters of the Republic of Mauritius, we have loads of expectations from all of you.

We cannot control your wings but we know that wherever you will be, your heart will always beat for your motherland. And that we can count on you to shape a better Mauritius and a better world for all.

Let the quadricolour of our national flag- RED, BLUE, YELLOW, AND GREEN- keep reminding you that the Republic needs you, your talents and your resourcefulness.

## **Conclusion**

In closing, allow me to share with you what I always tell our youth:

*Always try to reach for the moon. Even if you miss it, you will land among the stars.*

I congratulate you once again and wish you success and happiness in all your future endeavours.

Thank you.