



## **SPEECH**

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

**EVENT: Emirates Dinner Reception and  
Travel Store Inauguration**

**VENUE: Château Mon Désir,  
Maritim Resort & Spa,  
Balaclava**

**DATE: 21 May 2025**

**TIME: 19:00 hours**

## **Protocol**

- Honourable Shakeel Mohamed, Minister of Housing and Lands
- Honourable Richard Duval, Minister of Tourism
- Honourable Ritesh Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
- Mr. Saeed Mohamed Saeed Baomran, Acting Head of Mission, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates
- Excellency Mr. Vimarsh Aryan, Deputy High Commissioner of India
- Mr. Mohammed Jahangir Alam, First Secretary & Chargé d’Affaires, Bangladesh High Commission
- Mr. Adnan Kazim, Deputy President & Chief Commercial Officer
- Sheikh Majid Al Mualla, Divisional Senior Vice President for International Affairs
- Mr. Essa Sulaiman Ahmad, Senior Vice President - Commercial Operations – West Asia & Indian Ocean
- Mr. Oomar Ramtoola, Regional Manager for Indian Ocean Islands
- Mr Nirvan Veerasamy, Managing Director, Veiling Ltd

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

## **Introduction**

It is with great pleasure that I extend a very warm welcome to the distinguished delegation of Emirates Airline visiting our shores once again.

I understand that this evening's event is part of Emirates Airline's objective to further strengthen the longstanding strategic partnership between Emirates and the Republic of Mauritius.

I am also informed that in this context, Emirates will inaugurate its Emirates Travel Store at the United Docks in Caudan, Port Louis, tomorrow.

So, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to begin by expressing the sincere appreciation of the Government and people of Mauritius for the long-standing partnership that Emirates has built with our country, particularly in a vital sector of our economy: Tourism and Hospitality, which accounts for 9% of our GDP.

### **Strategic Partnership**

Over the years, Emirates has become much more than an airline serving Mauritius; you have become a strategic partner in our economic and tourism development journey.

You have played and are playing a catalytic role in supporting Mauritius' air connectivity, economic resilience and international tourism.

We recall with pride that it was in 2013, more than a decade ago, that Mauritius had the honour of becoming the first destination in Africa to be served by the world's largest passenger aircraft, the Emirates A380.

This bold move by Emirates was a strong demonstration of confidence in Mauritius as a leading tourism and business destination.

We also remember, with equal gratitude, that Emirates was the first international airline to resume flights to Mauritius after the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Your decision to reconnect Mauritius to the world at such a critical moment gave a strong signal of trust and partnership, and for that, we remain truly thankful.

Today, Emirates continues to connect Mauritius to over 140 destinations worldwide, playing a key role not only in bringing tourists to our island but also in linking our people, businesses, and communities to the world.

Additionally, Emirates facilitates the movement of Cargo, hence promoting trade opportunities in the regional and global markets.

This connectivity helps us grow not just economically, but also culturally and socially.

Emirates actively collaborates with the Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd and Air Mauritius, as well as with companies like Veiling Ltd, further reinforcing our status as a regional aviation hub.

### **Fostering Humanity**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a world where we are witnessing rising tensions and divisions across various regions, travel remains one of the most powerful bridges between people and cultures.

Beyond commercial and economic benefits, it fosters understanding, respect, and peace, which are values we all cherish deeply. Emirates, through its global network, contributes to this important mission of bringing humanity closer together.

I also wish to recognize Emirates' commitment to Mauritian talent.

Emirates employs a significant number of our citizens.

We are proud to see Mauritians among your dedicated staff, both in the air and on the ground.

Allow me to commend you especially for the all-Mauritian crew that operated a special flight of the A380 on Mauritius Independence Day.

This gesture touched the hearts of every Mauritian and made our nation proud on that very special occasion.

## **Conclusion**

As we look to the future, we are confident that this partnership between Emirates and Mauritius will continue to grow and deliver even greater benefits for our people, our economy, and our global connections.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Mauritius, I thank you once again for your trust, your partnership, and your contribution to the development of our beloved island.

We are grateful to Emirates Airline, and we look forward to many more years of collaboration and success together.

Thank you.