



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: ANTI -DRUG AWARENESS RALLY BY ISLAMIC
CULTURAL COLLEGE VALLEE DES PRETRES**

**VENUE: DR. IDRIS GOOMANY CENTRE,
PLAINE VERTE**

DATE: 15 JULY 2025

TIME: 11:15 HOURS

Protocol

Mr. Aslam Adam Hossenally, Lord Mayor of the City of Port Louis

Mr. Samioullah Lauthan, M.S.K., Chairperson of the National Agency for Drug Control

Mr Yassine Sheik Fakir Saheb, Rector of Islamic Cultural College Vallée des Prêtres

Distinguished guests

Dear teachers and students,

All Protocol Observed.

Introduction / anniversaire/ marche contre la drogue

Bonjour.

Good morning and thank you for inviting me to be a part of the 20th anniversary celebration of your educational institution.

Your initiative today to link the 20th Anniversary celebration of your educational establishment to an anti-drug rally and awareness campaign — is laudable, visionary, and aligns with my core mission and values as President.

So, I am immensely pleased to be associated with this event today.

Islamic Cultural College

I understand that the Islamic Cultural College started as a small college, with 150 students at Rabita Hall in 2005, and you now teach over 400 students at your own campus in Vallée des Prêtres.

I have also taken stock of the activities you have organized to raise awareness about societal issues and contribute to our community:

- fundraising for people in need,

- anti-drug video challenge, and
- fund raising to buy a specialized wheelchair for the Muscular Dystrophy Association Mauritius.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute particularly to your rector, your teachers, and all staff members on this remarkable milestone today.

- L'Education, ce n'est pas seulement la connaissance, enne diplôme ou enne certificat.
- Li aussi enne engagement civique et citoyen

Pas demander ki pays pou fer pou moi,

Mais ki mo capave fer pou mo pays.

Mid-1990s perspective of a world complexity, a UNESCO commission under the leadership of Jacques Delors proposed four pillars that education could rest upon:

Learning to know, Learning to do, Learning to live together, and Learning to be, as four fundamental types of learning.

I congratulate and commend you for your unwavering dedication to academic excellence and fostering the moral, social, and spiritual development of our youth.

As you may be aware, before becoming President, I have been an academic all my life, teaching at the University of Mauritius, and I have been Minister of Education.

So, my entire life has revolved around the dreams, aspirations and challenges of our youth.

Anti-drug awareness rally; laudable initiative, we need to sustain it.

THE DRUG PROBLEM (KREOL)

- Crises les plus graves qui touchent nos jeunes aujourd'hui – abus et trafic de drogues.
- Problème **multidimensionnel** et **complexe**, qui n'est pas survenu du jour au lendemain
- Il s'est **aggravé** au cours des 10 dernières années.
- Cela a affecté nos écoles, familles et l'ensemble de la population.
- Non seulement un problème de toxicomanie ou de trafic — mais une **crise de santé publique**, de **sécurité nationale**, et une **urgence sociale**.

Context of participation at the event

- En tant que Président de la République - Assurer la construction de la nation mauricienne et le bon fonctionnement de notre pays.
- **Lutte contre la drogue** - l'une des **principales missions** de la Présidence/Vice President

Reflections

I have listened very carefully to our previous speakers, who have offered valuable insights into the extent of the problem of drugs, its complexities, and the need for prevention.

I will not repeat what they have already shared.

However, I will share my own reflections as President and as someone who believes in the power of education to shape a strong, safe, resilient, and drug-free nation for all of us:

Government's Stand and Response (Kreol)

Government Programme 2025-29

(Pg 28 Para 56)

- “Significant increases in drug trafficking over the last few years and the breakdown of law and order”
- “Government will set up a National Policy, Monitoring and Coordination Agency”
- Nous sommes tous conscients du problème. Quelles solutions proposons-nous?
- Efforts sincères du gouvernement pour surmonter ce lourd héritage de l'ancien régime.
- **NADC (Replaced NATReSA ; National Agency for the Treatment & Rehabilitation Of Substance Abuse)** -approche holistique basée sur l'empathie, la prévention et le soutien durable.
- PREVENTION, REINSERTION REHABILITATION
- Role centrale du PM- National Drug Control Commission
- **Collaboration** entre la force policière et les principales institutions.

- 15 Ministères engagés - **Coordination interministérielle** - Ministère de la Santé, Ministère de l'Éducation et des Ressources humaines, Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports, Ministère de la Sécurité sociale, Ministère de l'Égalité des genres et du Bien-être familial etc.
- Efforts des **ONG** et de la **société civile**.
- **Drug Users Administrative Panel**
- **Unité Special pour HIV AIDS**
- **Directeur des Poursuites Publiques (DPP), Me Rashid Ahmine** - Mener des enquêtes plus approfondies pour identifier les barons de drogue.
- **Government Programme 2025-2029** - Réformes structurelles, amendements constitutionnels pour renforcer les institutions publiques, les écoles et les familles.
- **Collaboration régionale et internationale** -
 - Commission de l'océan Indien (COI)
 - Programme des Nations unies pour le développement (PNUD)
 - Union Européenne ((EU)
 - USA, Japan (Surveillance Maritime)
- Concentrer nos efforts sur la lutte contre les problèmes connexes- le blanchiment d'argent et les biens et propriétés acquis de manière illicite : Rôle et travail de la **Financial Crimes Commission (FCC)**, **douanes** et **Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA)**.

- **Judiciare**

- Le souhait de la population est que les trafiquants de drogue soient punis.

State House initiatives (Kreol)

- Ground Visits - par les enfants, les étudiants du primaire, secondaire et tertiaire pour favoriser le dialogue et la réflexion.
- Rencontres avec ONGs pour un échange approfondi à propos d'une stratégie nationale pour lutter contre la drogue:
 - a) Mr Manishwar Purmanund, directeur de l'association Youth for Human Rights - 21 mars 2025
 - b) Mr Cadress Rungen et autres représentants de Lacaz A – 14 mai 2025
- Collaboration étroite avec le vice-président Robert Hungley concernant la lutte contre la drogue.

A Call for Unified Efforts

- No institution – whether government, NGOs, State House, Schools - can face our common challenges in isolation.
- Anou travail ensam – la main dans la main – pour enn meilleur avenir pour nous tous : « As One People, As One Nation, in peace, justice and liberty »

- We must ensure that today's event doesn't go down as a one-time initiative where we just meet to speak and share views. It must culminate into sustainable, meaningful collective action.
- I encourage you to continue speaking up, seek help and guidance, and empower those around you.
- As President, I reaffirm my commitment towards investing in youth development, and in ensuring that everyone has access to opportunities, mentorship, and safe environments in which they can grow.
- **Role of Media**

Conclusion

I congratulate you once again on your 20th anniversary and your laudable initiative.

Nou Motto :

Sans pitié pour les criminels

Enne approche humain vers bann victimes de drogue

Mot d'ordre général- No Retreat, no Surrender.

Nou bizin gagne la bataille contre le fléau de la drogue

Merci et bonne continuation