



## **SPEECH**

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

**EVENT: 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OY KING SAR CHAN  
SOCIETY**

**VENUE: CHINESE CULTURE HOUSE,  
BAIE DU TOMBEAU**

**DATE: 10 AUGUST 2025**

**TIME: 18:30 HOURS**

## **Protocol**

Honourable Ministers and MPs

Mr. Yang Jun, Cultural Counselor, Embassy of People's Republic of China & Director of the China Cultural Center

Mr. Yves Chan Kam Lon, OSK, President of the Oy King Sar Chan Society

Past and Present Members of the Oy King Sar Chan Society

Distinguished Guests

All Protocol Observed.

## **Introduction**

Nin Hao, Bonsoir, Good Evening.

C'est avec un immense plaisir et une profonde gratitude que mon épouse Brinda et moi nous joignons à vous ce soir pour célébrer le 80<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Société Oy King Sar Chan.

Une célébration qui est bien plus qu'un jalon historique : un vibrant hommage à la force des liens familiaux, à la richesse du patrimoine culturel, et à l'engagement continu d'une communauté pleinement ancrée dans l'histoire ainsi que l'avenir de notre nation.

Permettez-moi donc de débiter en exprimant ma profonde reconnaissance à la Société Oy King Sar Chan, à l'ensemble de ses membres — anciens comme actuels — ainsi qu'à son président, Monsieur Yves Chan Kam Lon, O.S.K.,

pour leur engagement à préserver des traditions riches et vivantes, et pour leur précieuse contribution à l'enrichissement du tissu culturel de notre nation.

With your permission, I shall make my speech partly in French and in English.

### **The Sino-Mauritian Legacy in Nation-Building**

I have listened carefully to what previous speakers mentioned about the significance of this evening's celebration, and rightly so, about the remarkable legacy and enduring contributions of our friends from the Sino-Mauritian community.

Particularly the Oy King Sar Chan Society — one of the earliest *kwongs* established in China Town.

And Societies like the Oy King Sar Chan Society continue to hold a unique and respected place in the national tapestry, with the ability to play a transformative role in our country's social, cultural, and economic development.

I am particularly heartened by your continuing efforts to connect with the wider Chan diaspora around the world.

With an estimated 80 million members of the Chan clan globally, there is immense potential to explore cultural, intellectual, and economic partnerships — all of which can benefit Mauritius.

I am certain that you will continue to be a beacon of solidarity, resilience, and continuity, while helping us shape a better future.

### **Way Forward – From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism**

Dear Friends,

This evening's celebration must also be an invitation to reflect on the path that lies ahead.

We live in a rainbow nation that proudly celebrates our multicultural heritage and diversity. And our greatest beauty is our unity in diversity.

However, as our society faces new challenges, we need to strengthen our unity and solidarity as one people, one nation.

For this to happen, we must encourage inter-cultural and inter-faith exchange among our different communities.

It is my conviction that our true strength will be measured by how far we evolve- not just by living in harmony but by truly engaging with one another.

We must therefore move from multi-culturalism to inter-culturalism, where we actively share, exchange, and build bridges between cultures and faiths.

Each one of us has a role to play in this transformation. And it requires nothing more than open hearts and open minds.

We must create spaces where we not only teach our own children about our traditions but also encourage them to learn about others.

We must celebrate each other's festivals, not as friends looking in, but as fellow brothers and sisters rejoicing together, in a spirit of tolerance, mutual understanding and harmony.

Only then can we live and reflect the true Spirit of our Republic and the values enshrined in our Constitution: "One people, One nation, in peace, justice and liberty."

## **Conclusion**

Allow me to conclude by once again extending my warmest congratulations to all members of the Oy King Sar Chan Society on this remarkable 80th anniversary.

May God bless you all.

I wish you continued success in your mission.

Merci et Bonne Continuation.