



## **SPEECH**

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

**EVENT: SYMPOSIUM: “FROM MADINAH TO  
MAURITIUS- THE AMBASSADORS OF  
MUSTAPHA’S KINGDOM”**

**VENUE: SHAH NOORANI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,  
WORLD ISLAMIC MISSION, BELL VILLAGE**

**DATE: 14 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**TIME: 10:30 HOURS**

## **Protocol**

Mr. Cassam Uteem, GCSK, Former President of the Republic of Mauritius

Honourable Ministers and MPs

His Eminence Maulana Shah Mohammad Anas Noorani Siddiqui Qadri Madni, Chief Patron of the World Islamic Mission

Mr. Hamade Aubdoollah, General Secretary of the World Islamic Mission – Mauritius

Distinguished Guests from Mauritius and Abroad

All Protocol Observed.

## **Introduction**

As Salamu Alaykum, Good Morning.

It is an immense honour to be in your midst today for this Symposium 2025 entitled “From Madinah to Mauritius- The Ambassadors of Mustapha’s Kingdom”.

Allow me to thank Mr. Hamade Aubdoollah and all organisers for the kind invitation they have extended to me and for the opportunity to make an address.

First of all, let me extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests from abroad, and I hope that you are enjoying our Mauritian hospitality.

A few days ago, I was pleased to join the Eid-e-Milad un-Nabi celebration, marking the 1500th anniversary of Prophet Muhammad’s birth.

Today’s symposium continues that celebration, reflecting on the enduring legacy of his Ambassadors.

## **SNIT and World Islamic Mission**

I am particularly pleased that this symposium is being hosted at SNIT.

As an academic and a former Minister of Education, I hold deep respect for institutions which embody the values of learning, knowledge-sharing, and intellectual dialogue.

SNIT has been a pioneer institution in the field of ICT, and I would like to congratulate the founders for their vision.

I have listened with great attention to previous eminent speakers who have offered valuable insights on the theme of today.

I would not like to repeat what has already been said.

Allow me therefore to share my own reflections which I hope will contribute meaningfully to today's event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While preparing my address for today, I had the opportunity to take stock of the origins and contributions of the World Islamic Mission, an organisation closely tied to the Siddiqui family.

From its foundation by visionaries like **Maulana Abdul Aleem Siddiqui**, to the leadership of **Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui**, and now the stewardship of **Maulana Anas Noorani Siddiqui**, the Mission has been a carrier of faith, wisdom, service, fraternity and unity both around the world and in Mauritius.

One which is also intertwined with our nation-building journey - through friendship and collaboration with our leaders, including Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and Sir Abdul Razak Mohamed.

I often reminisce about the unique blend of multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural unit of our people with Bhai Cassam and Bhai Yousouf and so many others. We must do everything to preserve this unity in diversity.

The World Islamic Mission in Mauritius has since grown into an organisation of meaningful impact, especially by empowering citizens through education.

This represents a practical continuation of the values symbolic to the first word revealed to Prophet Muhammad in the Quran: “*Iqra*,” meaning “Read.”

It is therefore most fitting that today’s Symposium has shed light on and reminded us of how faith, learning, and service have contributed to both our spiritual life and our national development.

So, I commend and congratulate the World Islamic Mission – Mauritius for its continued efforts towards societal progress and national welfare.

I hope that the values we have reflected upon today will not remain confined to this event but will be embedded in our daily lives so that we may carry forward the noble legacy we are honouring here.

### **Education, Unity, and Nation Building**

As much as holistic education has been central to Islam’s vision for humanity, it has also been our unifying force in Mauritius because Islam is based on universal values.

When we look at the traditions of all faiths – whether it is Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism, Islam – we see the same emphasis on knowledge, moral formation, character development and community service.

Faith in Islam, as I understand, stands on six pillars and this was taught to the Muslims in a famous narration of the Prophet (peace be upon him).

He said: Faith means to believe in Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day, and the Divine Decree, both good and bad.

It is this very convergence of universal values and philosophies that has shaped our “rainbow nation” – one which is rooted in peace, dialogue, and shared values of dignity, respect, and unity in diversity.

We need to always remember that there is more that unites us than what divides us.

It is therefore my conviction that Mauritius, with its plural identity, has a unique role to play in showing the world that faith is not a cause of division, but a bridge towards unity and humanity.

### **Reflections for the Way Forward**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As President of the Republic, my main mission is nation building, and this requires the participation of all.

Our youth today face unprecedented challenges: ethical dilemmas of the downsides of Artificial Intelligence, misuse of and abuse on social media, the drug scourge, climate and environment disasters, exposure to global conflicts and the erosion of core human values.

And this is where the work of organisations like the World Islamic Mission takes on greater significance, through their ability to provide an ethical and moral compass to nurture both the heart, the mind and the conscience of all.

And equip our present and future generations with the resilience and the wisdom to confront complexity with hope, peace, and a sense of shared humanity – in alignment with the vision and mission of the Presidency.

So, I congratulate and extend my best wishes to the World Islamic Mission- Mauritius in all its present and future endeavours.

As President of the Republic, I reaffirm my commitment to all initiatives that enable the advancement of education and moral guidance in our society.

### **Tribute to Maulana Anas Noorani Siddiqui**

In this context, I wish to pay a heartfelt tribute to His Eminence Maulana Shah Mohammad Anas Noorani Siddiqui, who has his family roots tracing back to the Prophet's Companion and first Caliph, Abu Bakar, through his lineage, for carrying forward this noble legacy by nurturing the youth with knowledge and values; promoting of inter-faith dialogue, and for his contribution to the Mauritian nation.

A remarkable, inspirational, spiritual and religious leader.

And I am also pleased to be associated with the launch of the publication detailing the Life and Services of Maulana Abdul Aleem Siddiqui, also known as Muballigh-e-Islam, an Islamic scholar, spiritual master, author and preacher.

I also learn that despite being a great preacher of Islam, he was scholar of comparative religion.

For over 40 years, Maulana Aleem Siddiqui traveled extensively overseas to preach and propagate Islam; advocated inter-religious harmony, spread the message of peace, and came to be seen by some people as a **Roving Ambassador of Peace**.

I am confident that this publication will preserve his legacy as an ambassador of peace and make his remarkable journey accessible to new generations.

## **Conclusion**

With these reflections and much optimism for what lies ahead, allow me to conclude by quoting these words from the Urdu Poet, Allama Iqbal:

**Ki Muhammad se Wafa tu ne, to hum tere hein**

**Yeh jahaan cheez hai kya, Lauh o Qalam (LAW HO KALAM) tere hain**

*If you are true to Muhammad - and his values - I belong to you,*

*What is the world, when the Divine Decree is yours?*

Let us therefore come together to build a safe, inclusive and resilient Mauritius for all - As One People, As One Nation, In Peace, Justice and Liberty.

True to the essence of the Prophetic message – that goodness, justice, and compassion are universal and meant for all mankind.

May God Bless Our Republic.

Thank you for your attention.