



## **SPEECH**

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

**EVENT: CULTURAL DINNER: PEACE THROUGH  
IMAGINATION AND ART EXPRESSION**

**VENUE: MUNICIPALITY OF QUATRE BORNES**

**DATE: 04 OCTOBER 2025**

**TIME: 18:00 HOURS**

## **Protocol**

Honourable Ministers and Junior Ministers

Honourable Stephanie Anquetil, Government Chief Whip

Excellencies and Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Honourable MPs

Mr. Bryan Kennoo, Mayor of Quatre Bornes

Mrs. Angel Angoh, President of the International Women Artists Federation

Mr. Jean Paul Lam, Chairman of the Chinatown Foundation

Distinguished Guests

All Protocol Observed

## **Introduction**

Good evening.

I am very happy, together with my wife Brinda, to join you for this meaningful double-celebration in the context of the 76th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Allow me to begin by thanking The Chinatown Foundation and the Municipality of Quatre Bornes, for the kind invitation they have extended to me and the opportunity to make an address.

On 19th September, 2025, we were together with Her Excellency Dr. Huang Shifang, friends and well-wishers of our two countries and people, to celebrate together the 76<sup>th</sup> National Day of the People's Republic of China and to reaffirm our firm desire to further consolidate the long-standing, cordial and friendly relations, in a spirit of mutual respect and shared prosperity.

As you are aware, our official diplomatic relations go back to 1972, when Mauritius opened its first embassy in Beijing.

But our people-to-people relations date back to the 1800s, when many Sino-Mauritians began arriving in Mauritius.

Mauritius and China share a long and enduring relationship for centuries, built on trade, migration, cultural exchange, and friendship, and our connection has been one of mutual respect, cooperation, and shared progress.

With the passage of time, our historical and cultural ties have been further strengthened through various bilateral agreements on economic, technological and scientific cooperation and it is our mutual wish that we work together to further consolidate these bonds of friendship and fraternity.

### **Peace through Imagination and Art Expression**

This evening, we are gathered in the context of a very special cultural event under the theme of “Peace through Imagination and Art Expression.”

This is yet another laudable initiative. Sharing culture and cultural expressions is a beautiful medium to bring people together. Culture nurtures mutual understanding, respect, connects people and contributes to peace and harmony.

In June this year, I attended the inauguration of the Soong Ching Ling Foundation Library in Port Louis by the Chinatown Foundation.

I was particularly pleased to see how the youth had shaped corners for art, creativity, and expression and turned the library into a vibrant space for imagination, learning and human interaction.

Once again, I take this opportunity to congratulate the initiators of the project and I hope that our children are enjoying the facilities.

Interestingly, in June this year, I also had the pleasure to attend a “Tea for Harmony” event, organised by the China Cultural Centre.

I reflected on how something as simple as our shared reverence for tea- in China and here in Mauritius- can become a powerful symbol of unity and common ground.

### **Lessons from the two celebrations**

Tonight’s gathering is yet another continuity of this beautiful philosophy - that art, culture, and imagination can bring people together, inspire unity, and build a more peaceful society.

So, it is a pleasure to be in your midst and I extend a very warm welcome to our international guests. I hope that you are enjoying our Mauritian hospitality and our beautiful sites and sceneries.

Though different in form, tonight’s celebration of two different events carries a shared essence.

The founding of modern China is a reminder that nations are not defined by their hardships but by their ability to overcome them through resilience, vision and the collective participation of its people.

China has transformed itself from the shadows of conflict into a country that today shapes the destiny of the world, not only through its economic and technological advancements, but also through its message of harmony, cultural richness, and commitment to peace.

The Mid-Autumn Festival speaks to the quieter yet profound truths of our soul and shared humanity about the need for human connection, the joy of belonging, and the act of looking up at the same moon, wherever we are.

So, the moon’s fullness is not only a symbol of unity in diversity, but also a powerful reminder of the wholeness we need as individuals, communities, and nations.

In essence, these two commemorations are like two sides of the same coin, reflecting the strength of national progress and the warmth of human intimacy - solid foundations upon which peace can be nurtured, and nations can advance.

### **Mauritius-China Ties**

Today, our two nations continue to be enriched through the celebration of traditions, festivals, and values that resonate with both the Mauritian and Chinese spirits.

It is events like these that remind us that even simple shared traditions, like enjoying a cup of tea, can bring people together, build understanding, and create a sense of harmony across cultures and continents.

We must continue to nurture these bonds and ensure that our friendship remains alive, dynamic, and forward-looking, inspiring the younger generations to carry it with pride and purpose.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and commend our Sino-Mauritian community for the special place you hold in the history of our beautiful rainbow nation and for your continued efforts in enriching our cultural life, strengthening our economy, and fostering social harmony.

### **Women Artists and National Unity**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Art is a beautiful paradox.

It is a messenger of peace by exposing conflict and provoking conscience. It showcases resilience through resistance, and breaks invisible walls of gender, race, and ethnicity.

Reminding us that to see and to feel as human beings, we must only open our hearts to receive and to understand.

Today, we are confronted by complex and interconnected challenges - the scourge of drugs, ethical dilemmas posed by artificial intelligence, the devastation of our climate, and conflicts around the world that sow division and hatred.

During such times, we must always remember that there is more that unites us than what divides us.

**This evening, this message takes on even greater significance, especially through the voices and visions of women artists who have travelled from over 20 countries to be with us for the Art Exhibition and International Conference.**

For centuries, women have been creators of life and keepers of memory, yet their voices have been confined to the margins.

Allow me to share that just last month, the State House hosted the 5th Edition of the *Prix de Poésie Édouard Maunick*.

**And one lady, Shama Abdool Rahman, won the contest for her poem “*Rhythm of My Heart*”, which spoke about the resilience and survival of women who have endured miscarriage.**

So, if we are to truly progress as a nation, it is vital that the voices and the works of art created by women are seen, heard, and celebrated.

I commend and extend my best wishes to The International Women Artists Federation, and I hope that you will continue to transform personal and collective experiences into shared understanding, empathy, and inspiration.

## **Conclusion**

In closing, allow me to congratulate the organisers once again for tonight's meaningful celebration.

As President of the Republic, I reaffirm my commitment to all initiatives that harness the power of art, culture, and imagination to build our nation, strengthen our unity in diversity, promote intercultural and interfaith exchange, and nurture peace - both within and beyond our borders.

Let us continue to create spaces where voices are heard, creativity is celebrated, and our shared humanity is honoured - As One People, As One Nation. And why not One Humanity!

I wish you a happy and memorable evening ahead.

Thank you for your attention.