



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: TRADITIONAL DINNER - CHINESE NEW YEAR BY
OY KING SAR CHAN SOCIETY**

VENUE: DRAGON FORTUNE RESTAURANT, PORT LOUIS

DATE: 01 FEBRUARY 2026

TIME: 18:20 HOURS

Protocol

Honourable Michaël Sik Yuen, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection and Mrs Sik Yuen

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

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All Protocol Observed.

Introduction

Good evening.

Thank you for your invitation and warm welcome.

I am very happy, together with my wife Brinda, to join you this evening in an atmosphere of fraternity, elegance, and happiness, to celebrate the coming of the Chinese New Year - a time of renewal, hope, and shared joy.

Avec votre permission, je voudrais mentionner mon programme du Dimanche 1er Février 2026, comme Président de la République. Ce matin j'ai participé à la messe dans une église à l'occasion de la célébration du 191ème anniversaire de l'abolition de l'esclavage.

Pendant la journée, j'ai pris part dans la procession pour la fête de Cavadee.

Et maintenant, je suis parmi vous pour célébrer la fête du nouvel an Chinois.

Je ne sais pas dans quel pays au monde, un Président a ce genre de calendrier.

It is because we are blessed, we are a unique society. And we must be proud of our multicultural heritage. We are a truly rainbow nation.

That's why, me and my wife feel deeply honoured by your kind invitation.

Special occasion

Allow me, at the outset to extend my warmest wishes to you all, to all members of our valued Sino-Mauritian community, and our Chinese and Mauritian diaspora celebrating all around the world on this special occasion.

In August last year, my wife and I had the honour of gracing the celebration of the Society's 80th anniversary- yet another landmark event- and I am delighted to be with you once again this evening.

I commend and congratulate you for your continuous efforts to preserve cultural heritage, strengthen community bonds, and contribute meaningfully to the social and national fabrics of our country.

Reflections on Chinese New Year and Shared Values

Chinese New Year is a time deeply rooted in meaning and symbolism - a moment to reflect on the year gone by, to honour family and ancestors, and to look ahead with optimism and responsibility.

In our rainbow nation, it continues to be a national celebration embraced by all.

A constant and beautiful reminder of who we are: a people united by diversity and strengthened by mutual respect.

The Year of the Horse, as we all know, symbolises energy, resilience, determination, and progress.

These are values that must continue to guide us - both individually and collectively - as we move forward together, while remaining grounded in respect, humility, and solidarity.

I make a special appeal to you to do everything possible to hand over this special heritage to our younger generation.

Mauritius- China Ties

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tonight's celebration is yet another living testament to the enduring bonds of friendship and mutual respect that unite the people of Mauritius and the People's Republic of China.

Our formal diplomatic relations, established in 1972, have evolved into a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership, founded on trust, dialogue, and shared interests.

Yet it is our people-to-people exchanges, cultural understanding, and acts of solidarity- that gives true meaning and warmth to this partnership.

In fact, I must share with you that last year, I had the opportunity to collaborate with Her Excellency Dr. Huang Shifang, Ambassador of China, and the Chinese Embassy on initiatives that truly touch lives.

Together, we visited the the Centre d'Accueil de Terre Rouge for young victims of drug who are undergoing rehabilitation, and she donated furniture.

More recently, we extended support to the children of the Gayasingh Ashram, and we provided medical beds for elderly citizens.

Powerful acts of solidarity and humanity.

And I have no doubt that our partnership will continue to bring meaningful benefits to our people.

Reflections: interculturalism

Dear Friends,

Tonight's gathering must also invite collective reflection.

Our Sino-Mauritian community continues to play an important and cherished role in the fabric of our nation through their dedication, entrepreneurship, cultural preservation, and commitment to social welfare.

Our freedom to be different, yet still be one, is our greatest strength. But it is not enough to simply live side by side or to merely co-exist.

We must now move beyond multi-culturalism towards **interculturalism** - where we actively learn from one another, share our cultures, languages, and traditions, and open ourselves to new perspectives. Just like knowledge grows through sharing culture remains vibrant through shared celebration.

In a world divided by technology, inequality, conflict, and hate, we must remember that what brings us together is far stronger than what divides us.

And it is in this very openness, this willingness to learn from and care for one another, that we can reflect the true ethos of our Republic.

As One People, As One Nation.

Conclusion

May we continue to strengthen the bonds between our communities, nurture understanding, and celebrate the richness of our diversity.

I thank the Oy King Sar Chan Society once again for their kind invitation.

May the coming year bring health, happiness, harmony, and prosperity to you all, your friends and your families.

Xin Nian Kuai Le

Happy New Year.

I wish you a memorable evening. Thank you.

