



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: WELCOMING NEW CALLEES – THE MIDDLE
TEMPLE ASSOCIATION (MAURITIUS)**

VENUE: CITY COUNCIL, MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS

DATE: 27 MARCH 2026

TIME: 14:30 HOURS

Protocol

Lord Justice Mr Eddy Balancy, Former Chief Justice,

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Abdool Rashid Ahmine,
Senior Counsel,

The Solicitor General of Mauritius, Mr Rajesh Sharma Ramloll, Senior
Counsel,

The President of the Mauritius Bar Association, Mr Antoine
Domaingue, Senior Counsel,

The President of the Middle Temple Association (Mauritius), Mr
Rashad Dawreeawo, Senior Counsel,

Secretary of the Mauritius Bar Association, Mr Yatin Varma,

Learned Senior Counsels

Executive Members of the Middle Temple Association (Mauritius)

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

Good afternoon. Thank you for the kind invitation and for the opportunity to address you on this important occasion.

It is a pleasure and an honour to be present at this gathering of the Middle Temple Association (Mauritius), as we come together not only to reflect on the values of our legal tradition, but also to welcome a new generation to the Mauritian Bar and to participate in this important Conference.

This event brings together members of a distinguished legal tradition, while also fostering dialogue across generations- particularly with our younger members of the Bar, who will shape its future.

Allow me at the outset to thank Mr Rashad Daureeawo, Senior Counsel, for his leadership and for convening this timely exchange.

On 4 March 2026, I welcomed Mr Daureeawo to State House, where we engaged in a meaningful discussion on the evolving role of the legal profession - its principles, its pressures, and its responsibilities.

In the same vein, in February, I had a very cordial exchange with Mr Antoine Domaingue, Senior Counsel, in his capacity as President of the Bar Council, on ongoing reforms aimed at reinforcing professional accountability and ethical standards within the Bar.

It is in this continuing spirit of dialogue and reflection that I join you today.

The Event

Today's programme is both timely and meaningful.

It reflects a commitment to collegiality, mentorship, and continuous professional development.

I have listened very carefully to the thoughtful remarks delivered by Former Chief Justice Mr Eddy Balancy on "Integrity of the Bar: Cornerstone of Justice", and by Me Antoine Domingue, Senior Counsel, on "Ethics at the Bar."

These principles - ethics and integrity - are essential to sustaining public confidence in our legal system.

They are not abstract ideals, but practical obligations that must guide every act, every submission, and every decision taken by members of the Bar.

As President of the Republic, I am entrusted with upholding the Constitution - the Supreme Law of our nation:

Safeguarding the rights and freedoms of our people, protecting democratic institutions, and ensuring that the rule of law is respected in both letter and spirit is one of my central responsibilities.

And I am fully aware that the integrity of the legal profession is foundational to the strength and stability of our democracy.

The legal profession, perhaps more than any other, serves as a guardian of public trust, balancing individual advocacy with societal responsibility.

Presidency Perspective

Lawyers occupy a unique position in this framework.

The legislature, judiciary, and executive alike depend upon you to provide representation that respects **not only the letter but also the spirit** that gives law its true legitimacy and moral force.

Our Constitution enshrines a delicate balance: it confers rights upon citizens while outlining the responsibilities that accompany those rights.

In this regard, the Bar is not merely a profession- it is an institution that sustains the Rule of Law and ensures that justice remains accessible, fair, and credible.

You must therefore uphold these principles consistently.

Every decision you make will carry the weight of public trust.

You must always safeguard the law - as a shield for the vulnerable, a guide for conduct, and a foundation that allows democracy to flourish.

As I mentioned earlier, I have been very attentive to the observations and insights presented to us by our two eminent law professionals.

In my experience as a former politician, a long-serving academic and now President of the Republic, I have always upheld that ethics and integrity are the cornerstones of any institution and should constitute the moral compass of every citizen.

On this count, we have a lot of backlogs to clear, to re-establish the credentials of many of the institutions of our Republic.

I take this opportunity to make a solemn appeal to all who are in Leadership positions to join hands to redress the situation.

Message to the new Callees

To the new callees, I extend my warmest congratulations.

Your call to the Bar is not merely an achievement; it marks your formal entry into a noble profession grounded in service, discipline, and ethical responsibility.

As members of the Bar, you are entrusted with a profound responsibility: to uphold justice without fear or favour, and to act always with honour.

In a world that is rapidly evolving, with new challenges including technology and ethical complexities, the need for principled and grounded legal practitioners has never been greater.

In moments of difficulty, let integrity be your moral compass.

There may be times when expediency appears tempting, or when external pressures test your resolve, but it is precisely in those moments that your character as a legal practitioner will be defined.

Mauritius has long been proud of its strong and independent legal system.

It is now your responsibility to preserve and strengthen that legacy.

I wish you wisdom, strength, and integrity in the journey ahead.

I wish you good luck and success in all your activities.

Conclusion

The role played by this Association in fostering excellence, mentorship, and professional values within the legal community is both commendable and essential.

It is essential that legal practitioners continue to diversify their expertise beyond traditional litigation, developing skills in specialised areas of law, including financial law, technology law, international arbitration, and regulatory practice, to remain relevant in an increasingly complex and globalised world.

Such adaptability will ensure that the Mauritian Bar continues to uphold its reputation as a pillar of competence, integrity, and innovation.

To conclude, I wish to extend my best wishes to the Middle Temple Association (Mauritius), its President, and all its members in their future activities.

Thank you for your attention, and I congratulate you once again on your achievements.