



SPEECH

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

EVENT: EID UL FITR CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

**VENUE: EMBASSY OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT,
NEXTERACOM TOWER C, CYBERCITY, EBENE**

DATE: 01 APRIL 2026

TIME: 16:00 HOURS

Protocol

His Excellency Mr. Robert Hungley, Vice-President of the Republic;

Honourable Ministers, Junior Ministers

Former Vice Presidents

Her Excellency Mrs. Abir Alam Eldin, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Excellencies and Members of the Diplomatic Corps

The President - Mrs. Shireen Motala, and members of Al-Shams Ladies Association

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Introduction

Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to say a few words on this very special occasion.

At the very outset, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to Her Excellency Mrs. Abir Alam Eldin, to the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and to the Al-Shams Ladies Association, for the kind invitation extended to me and my wife, Brinda.

I would like to associate myself with the thoughtful remarks made earlier, to underscore the key role that events such as today's play in strengthening dialogue, deepening mutual understanding, and reinforcing the ties that bind us as one human family.

Eid-ul-Fitr: A Moment of Reflection and Renewal

Eid-ul-Fitr marks the culmination of the sacred month of Ramadan.

The month of Ramadan marks the revelation of the Holy Quran, beginning with the first word: “Iqra” - meaning “Read”.

This simple word carries a profound message. It calls upon us not only to read, but to understand, to reflect, and to seek knowledge guided by values.

Beyond the physical dimension of fasting, it calls for patience, self-restraint, accountability, integrity, generosity, and compassion- universal values that resonate across cultures and faiths..

I extend my warmest wishes to all those of you celebrating.

I also extend a special thought to families in distress or those mourning the loss of a loved one, who cannot fully experience the joy of this occasion.

Rainbow Nation

In our rainbow nation, this celebration takes on a unique, transcendental dimension in our Mauritian context.

Much like Diwali, Maha Shivratri, Christmas, Easter, Cavadee, or the Spring Festival, Eid-ul-Fitr is also celebrated as a national event reflecting the very essence and beauty of our Mauritianism - our unity in diversity.

In fact, the months of February and March have been marked, in my capacity as President, by my participation in various religious and cultural festivities across our country.

This is something truly remarkable.

I am not aware of many countries where a Head of State can experience such a rich tapestry of traditions, sharing in the celebrations of so many communities with such ease, warmth, and sincerity.

Reflections – Values

As Head of State, my daily responsibilities continue to be guided by these principles, shaped by my lifelong journey as an academic and former Minister of Education.

In today's world, marked by rapid technological advancement, global conflicts, and the erosion of values, knowledge alone is not enough, especially when confined to a purely academic or theoretical level.

We must create opportunities to share experiences and to get to know each other better - For peace, harmony and unity to prevail.

Our strength as a nation has always lain in our ability to embrace, respect, and celebrate our differences.

Our secularism does not impose sameness. Rather, it safeguards our uniqueness while ensuring that we live together in mutual respect -as guaranteed by our Constitution.

It is therefore both our individual and collective responsibility to preserve this delicate balance and to ensure that it continues to guide our national journey.

More than co-existing and celebrating multiculturalism, **we must now go a few steps further towards inter-culturalism**, where we learn from each other, participate actively, share each other's cultures, listen to understand, and grow together.

We have experienced the beauty of our diversity; we must now enjoy and share its fragrance.

Only through open, inclusive dialogue and mutual respect can we ensure that our society remains resilient and forward-looking.

Mauritius - Egypt Relations

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mauritius and the Arab Republic of Egypt share longstanding and meaningful ties, established in 1970 and strengthened over the years through bilateral and multilateral cooperation in various fields.

But beyond formal relations, what truly defines our bond are our people-to-people connections, rooted in a shared appreciation of culture, heritage, and dialogue.

I still recall with deep appreciation my presence here last year, at the reception marking the inauguration of the Grand Egyptian Museum- a powerful symbol of civilisation and cultural heritage.

Today's gathering for the Eid-Ul-Fitr Cultural Celebrations is a natural continuation of that same spirit.

Conclusion

I thank and congratulate Her Excellency Mrs. Abir Alam Eldin, the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Al-Shams Ladies Association, and all organisers once again for this beautiful, thoughtful and meaningful gathering.

Let us move forward together, guided by respect, understanding, and peace-**As One people, as One nation.**

And as One humanity in Peace, Justice, Liberty, Harmony and Unity.

May the reflections of Ramadan and the spirit of Eid extend to the rest of the year.

Eid Mubarak. Merci et bonne continuation.