



SPEECH

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

EVENT: LAUNCH OF BOOK “SEEDS OF TOMORROW”

VENUE: MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS

DATE: 25 MAY 2026

TIME: 13:00 HOURS

Protocol

His Excellency Mr Cassam Uteem, Former President of the Republic;

Honourable Ranjiv Wochit, Minister of Local Government

His Excellency Mr Raouf Bundhun; Former Vice President of the Republic,

Honourable Arvin Babajee, Member of the National Assembly,

Mrs Aneeta Ghoorah, Ombudsperson for Children,

Ms Rukayah Khayrattee, Author and Founder-President of Fam An Mars

Esteemed Religious and Community Leaders

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Media

All Protocol Observed.

Introduction

Good afternoon and thank you for the kind invitation and the opportunity to address you.

We are gathered for the launch of the book “Seeds of Tomorrow”, authored by Ms Ruqayah Khayrattee.

I thank the author, the Ombudsperson for Children, and all partners associated with this initiative.

It comes at a very opportune time when societies are under severe strain due to a multitude of challenges in the form of a polycrisis.

I associate myself with the thoughtful remarks made by Ms Ruqayah Khayrattee and Mrs Aneeta Ghoorah in reiterating the importance family responsibility, guidance, emotional well-being, in shaping the future of our society.

Why This Book Matters

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are acutely aware of the visible symptoms of deeper fractures affecting human relationships, emotional resilience and social cohesion.

With more than 6,400 cases of domestic and intimate partner violence recorded since 2025- despite existing institutional safeguards - we continue to observe situations where some survivors withdraw complaints or return to unsafe environments, and where in certain cases the situation escalates to fatal outcomes, as highlighted in the National Assembly in April.

A stark reminder of the complex emotional, financial and socio-cultural challenges that often shape human relationships and dependency.

We also hear disturbing accounts of parents being threatened, robbed, or living in fear because of addiction affecting their children, while other children are abandoned to institutions and civil society organisations already operating under immense pressure because in many cases parents themselves are trapped in addiction.

Digital exposure, online violence, social media pressure, mental health struggles, fragmented attention spans, and weakening human connection further exacerbate these dramatic circumstances.

Today's generation is navigating realities previous generations did not encounter, and they are not adequately prepared to handle them.

It is against this backdrop that this book matters, and why I decided to be present for its launch today.

Not because it claims to solve every problem, but because it encourages honest reflection and introspection before crisis.

It speaks about relationships before violence;
Emotional intelligence before emotional breakdown;
Responsible parenthood before family collapse;
Communication before alienation;
and awakening before tragedy.

Dialogue

Too often, discussions around parenting, emotional health and family life remain confined to policy circles and institutional reports.

But societies are shaped through simple, daily conversations within homes, schools, places of worship and communities.

And through empathy, internal dialogue that we maintain with ourselves - our self-talk, self-reflection and sense of self-accountability.

This book therefore contributes meaningfully to that wider process of social and individual education and awareness.

National Ecosystem

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the central questions before us is this:

We know the problems. But are we responding to them collectively enough? How can we best respond to them?

Public institutions and civil society organisations are already doing important work.

But efforts remain fragmented, reactive, and isolated from one another.

What is required now is a national ecosystem of prevention, emotional support, education and family counselling.

Not only interventions after tragedy, but sustained investment in personal and social resilience upfront.

Here, I would like to address, in particular, our respected religious and community leaders present in this room.

While launching the Strategic Plan 2025-2029 of the Council of Religions in June last year, I underscored that governance, civil society and faith are not adversaries, but **partners**.

I remain deeply convinced of this.

We cannot address twenty-first century realities through fragmented disconnected approaches. Nor can we expect the authorities alone to deal with the situation. It is a central civic responsibility.

Practical Tool

It is therefore my considered view that this book should not remain confined to a launch ceremony or be forgotten on library shelves after today's speeches.

It can and **must** become a practical educational tool.

-Why should it not be used in schools, universities, NGOs, community programmes, marriage and family counselling initiatives, religious institutions and parenting workshops?

-Why should it not support broader national sensitisation efforts?

-Why should it not contribute to programmes on emotional literacy, responsible relationships and conflict prevention?

Ministries, law enforcement agencies, civil society organisations and community stakeholders can all find in this publication, useful material to stimulate reflection, dialogue and awareness among young people and families.

Presidency - Reflections and Engagement

Today, I also wish to recognise the continued commitment of Ms Ruqayah Khayrattee, whom I have met on several occasions at State House.

Through her journalistic work, civic engagement, and the initiatives of “Fam An Mars”, she has sought to encourage difficult but necessary conversations around more effective social response systems, strengthened family support structures, and greater emotional and relational resilience within communities.

As President of the Republic, and drawing from my lifelong engagement with education, I reaffirm my support for initiatives such as today’s, which contribute towards a more compassionate, emotionally resilient and socially responsible nation.

It is precisely this ethos that guides my engagement at State House - whether through initiatives such as our National Essay Competition, the Learn-AI School Innovation Challenge, ground visits where I engage directly with all sections of the population, or the promotion of creativity and expressive engagement as a form of psycho-social development.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The title of this book is particularly meaningful: Seeds of Tomorrow.

Seeds require patience, care, and nurturing.

And the future of our nation will depend greatly on the values, attitudes, and responsibilities we cultivate in ourselves and in the next generation.

No law alone can create a caring society.

No institution alone can heal fractured relationships.

No single ministry alone can rebuild the emotional foundations of a nation.

May this publication therefore encourage honest dialogue and strengthen our shared commitment to building a more compassionate and socially responsible society together - **As One People, As One Nation.**

With these words, I thank you for your attention.