



## **SPEECH**

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

**EVENT:**     **Launch of the Book *Law of Banking in Mauritius*  
                  By Siv Pottayya**

**VENUE:**    **Municipality of Port-Louis**

**DATE:**      **27 May 2026**

**TIME:**      **16.30 HOURS**

## **Protocol**

The Honourable Mr Gavin Glover, Senior Counsel, Attorney General;

The Lord Mayor, Ms Christelle Pondard;

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

Mr Rundheersingh Bheenick, Chairman of SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd

Mr Siv Pottaya;

Distinguished Members of the Judiciary,  
Members of the Legal Profession,  
Representatives of the Banking and Financial Sector,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

## **Introduction**

Good afternoon.

### **Celebrating a Significant Contribution to Mauritian Legal Scholarship**

Let me begin my address by thanking Mr.Siv Pottayya,the author of the book being launched to-day for his invitation and warm welcome.

It gives me great pleasure to be present this evening for the launch of ***Law of Banking in Mauritius***, authored by my distinguished friend and respected legal practitioner, **Siv Pottayya**.

This is not simply the launch of another legal publication. It is the celebration of a work that enriches Mauritian legal literature and strengthens the intellectual foundations of an important field of practice.

### **Personal Reflection**

Allow me here a brief personal reflection.

My friendship with Siv goes back many decades. Though life and professional responsibilities have not allowed us to remain in close contact over the years, our friendship has never suffered from the passage of time.

When he came to my office to invite me to launch this book, I was genuinely delighted to renew contact with an old friend. I immediately accepted, not only because of the value of the work, but also because this occasion became, in a very real sense, a celebration of a longstanding friendship.

There are people one meets in life with whom one develops a bond of trust and respect that endures across the years. Siv is one such friend, and I am honoured to share this important moment with him today.

### **An Important Reference Work for the Legal Community**

One of the great strengths of this book lies in its practical value.

As both the Foreword and Preface remind us, banking law in Mauritius is not gathered into a single code. Its sources are dispersed across statutes, delegated legislation, judicial decisions, and regulatory texts developed over many decades.

Bringing together this vast body of material into a coherent and accessible work is, in itself, a considerable achievement.

Mr Pottayya's background uniquely prepared him for this task. His experience in the banking sector, combined with his later career at the Bar, has enabled him to bridge the worlds of banking practice and legal analysis.

This publication is therefore more than a technical manual. It is a serious professional companion, one that practitioners can consult with confidence.

### **Why This Book Matters**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The subject matter of the book concerns the law and even more so the banking law—a field that touches the daily lives of citizens, the stability of institutions and the functioning of the economy itself.

The importance of this book extends well beyond banking specialists.

For the legal profession, it offers a valuable local reference grounded in Mauritian legislation and jurisprudence. For lawyers and legal advisers, it provides guidance in an area where legal sources are often scattered and complex.

For judges, practitioners, and young barristers beginning their careers, such works are indispensable.

Young members of the Bar, in particular, often face the challenge of navigating a legal system that is rich, hybrid, and demanding. A carefully

researched local text can make an enormous difference, not merely as a source of information but as a guide to legal reasoning, context, and professional understanding.

This book will undoubtedly serve that purpose.

Its importance is equally significant for academia.

**Students of law, banking, finance, commerce, and business studies** will find here a resource rooted in Mauritian realities, a work that speaks directly to our own legislation, institutions, courts, and legal traditions.

In a country like Mauritius, where **our legal system** reflects **both French civil law and British common law** influences, local scholarship matters profoundly.

We need **books written from within our own jurisdiction**, books that organise knowledge, interpret developments, and help build a distinctly Mauritian legal doctrine.

This publication contributes meaningfully to that objective.

### **Banking in the Digital Age**

It is also important to recognise that **banking today** is undergoing **profound technological transformation**.

The **traditional banking hall** has increasingly given way to internet banking, mobile applications, digital payments, fintech platforms, and rapidly **evolving financial technologies**. Customers now expect banking services to be **instantaneous, accessible, secure, and available at the touch of a screen**.

This transformation creates **extraordinary opportunities** for financial inclusion, efficiency, and innovation. But it also raises **new legal and regulatory questions** concerning cybersecurity, digital fraud, consumer protection, data privacy, artificial intelligence, and cross-border digital transactions.

In this context, banking **law cannot remain static**. It must continuously evolve alongside technological change. The inclusion in this work of areas such as internet and electronic banking reminds us that the future of banking will be shaped not only by finance and regulation, but increasingly by technology itself.

Mauritius as an international financial centre, has over the years developed a strong reputation for regulatory compliance, institutional stability, and adherence to international norms and standards.

Maintaining that reputation requires continuous legal development and intellectual engagement from members of the legal and financial community.

### **Knowledge, Professional Excellence, and Institutional Development**

As such, the publication of legal works is never a routine exercise.

It requires discipline, research, intellectual patience, and a commitment to sharing knowledge with others.

As the Honourable Attorney General, Mr Gavin Glover, notes in his thoughtful Foreword, the legal profession depends not only on those who practise the law, but also on those who take the time to explain it, analyse it, and transmit it to future generations.

Siv's contribution deserves recognition.

Every serious legal publication strengthens professional culture. It enriches legal education. It supports better practice. And ultimately, it strengthens institutions and the rule of law itself.

Works such as this help ensure that knowledge is not confined to individual experience but becomes part of the collective professional heritage of the country.

### **Conclusion**

Before I conclude, I wish once again to warmly congratulate Mr Siv Pottayya on this outstanding achievement.

Through this publication, he has rendered an important service to the legal profession, to academia, to students, to young barristers, and to all those who seek deeper understanding of Mauritian law.

I am confident that *Law of Banking in Mauritius* will become an essential companion for practitioners, scholars, students, and professionals for many years to come.

I wish the book every success, and I congratulate once again its distinguished author and my dear friend, Siv Pottayya.

Thank you.