



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: CELEBRATION OF WORLD
BLOOD DONOR DAY 2026**

VENUE: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CUREPIPE

DATE: 15 JUNE 2026

TIME: 11:00 HOURS

Protocol

Honourable Ministers;

Dr Abdou Salam Gueye, Resident Representative of the WHO to Mauritius;

Ms Tashyana Latchmana Pillay Kuppadu, Mayor of Curepipe;

Mr Dewanand Hossen, President, and members of the Blood Donors Association;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Introduction

Good morning. I am pleased to join you today to mark the **World Blood Donor Day, celebrated every year on 14 June.**

At the outset, allow me to commend the Blood Donors Association for its longstanding contribution to the promotion of voluntary blood donation in Mauritius and for organising today's event.

I also congratulate the Ministry of Health and Wellness, National Blood Transfusion Service and all partners involved in organising the various blood collection activities marking the 2026 edition of **World Blood Donor Day.**

I would like to associate myself with the thoughtful remarks and important messages shared by the previous speakers.

World Blood Donor Day

As has rightly been pointed out, this is an occasion not only to recognise blood donors, but also to reflect on an issue that concerns us all.

The theme chosen by the World Health Organization this year - *"One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives."* - is both simple yet meaningful because while medical technologies and AI continue to

evolve rapidly, opening new possibilities for diagnosis and treatment that did not exist a few years ago, one reality remains unchanged:

Blood cannot be manufactured artificially.

It still depends entirely on the willingness of one person to donate for the benefit of another.

This remains one of the few areas where modern medicine continues to rely entirely on our shared humanity, compassion, and sense of solidarity.

Every blood donation is an act of hope. It is a gift that cannot be bought, produced, or replaced. It is freely given, often anonymously, by one human being to another.

In a world where divisions sometimes seem more visible than what unites us, blood donation reminds us of a fundamental truth: our lives are interconnected, and our well-being often depends on the generosity of others.

Reflections

In Mauritius, our healthcare system requires approximately 50,000 pints of blood every year.

At the same time, demographic trends indicate that demand is likely to increase in the years ahead, particularly as our population ages and healthcare needs evolve.

This is therefore not only a health issue but one of preparedness and collective responsibility.

What is encouraging, however, is that Mauritius has developed over the years a culture of voluntary blood donation.

This progress has been possible because of the sustained collective efforts of donors, healthcare professionals, voluntary organisations, and public and private sector partners.

Allow me therefore to pay my tribute to the true heroes among us - ordinary citizens who, through a simple act of generosity, help save lives and bring hope to families they may never meet.

Their contribution reminds us that some of the greatest acts of humanity are often the simplest.

A single donation can help several patients, including accident victims, mothers facing complications during childbirth, children suffering from serious illnesses, and individuals undergoing major surgical procedures.

Behind every unit of blood collected lies a human story, a life saved, a family comforted, and a future preserved.

Tribute to the Blood Donors Association

I wish to pay special tribute to the Blood Donors Association.

From its official launch in 1999 with only fifteen members, it has grown into a respected national organisation bringing together thousands of donors, volunteers, organisers and partners.

Its vision of achieving one hundred percent voluntary, safe and non-remunerated blood donation remains both relevant and commendable.

Over the years, the Association has not only mobilised donors but has also helped cultivate a spirit of civic responsibility and solidarity within our society.

I am confident that the Association will continue to play an important role in supporting our national blood donation programme.

Future - Opportunities and Challenges

When representatives of the Blood Donors Association met me at State House on 14 April this year, we had a constructive exchange on the future of blood donation in Mauritius.

Among the challenges highlighted was the need to encourage a greater number of regular donors, particularly among younger generations, while ensuring that our national blood supply remains safe, adequate and sustainable.

I also took note of several proposals submitted by the Association to Government regarding measures that could further support blood donation and facilitate access to blood-related services.

I am sure that these proposals will receive the attention they deserve.

A few days later, during the Open Days organised at State House on 18 and 19 April, the Blood Donors Association was among our valued partners and conducted a blood donation campaign on the premises.

The response from visitors was particularly encouraging and demonstrated once again the willingness of Mauritians to support such initiatives when given the opportunity to do so.

As we look ahead, we must continue to strengthen public awareness, encourage regular donations throughout the year, and make greater use of education, community outreach, and digital communication to reach new generations of donors.

Maintaining a safe and adequate blood supply is not solely the responsibility of health authorities. It is a national endeavour that requires the active participation of all sectors of society.

Message to the Youth

I shall now address a few words, particularly to our young friends, present in this hall.

Today, some of you will be taking a pledge in support of voluntary blood donation.

This is an important gesture.

Every generation has its own responsibilities.

One of yours will be to preserve and strengthen the culture of voluntary blood donation that previous generations have helped to build.

You represent the future of this movement. Through your commitment, your example, and your willingness to serve others, you can inspire many more people to become regular donors.

I therefore encourage you, and everyone present here today, to remain informed, engaged and ready, when the time comes, to play your part in this national effort.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With these words, allow me to conclude by wishing the Blood Donors Association every success in its future endeavours and congratulate all those who continue to support this important mission.

Together, let us continue to encourage voluntary blood donation and strengthen the collective efforts that help ensure a safe and adequate blood supply for Mauritius- As One People, As One Nation.

Thank you for your kind attention.