

**Toast on the Occasion of the 52nd National Day of the
United Arab Emirates**

By

Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism

Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 19:00 Hrs

Savoy Resort & Spa

President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. Wavel Ramkalawan

Chargé d’Affaires of the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Ahmed Alnayedi

Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. Ahmed Afif

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, His Lordship Rony Govinden

President of the Court of Appeal, Honourable Justice Anthony Fernando

Former President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. Danny Faure

Designated Minister

Colleague Ministers

Leader of Government Business in the National Assembly

Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening,

On the occasion of the National Day of the United Arab Emirates, it gives me great pleasure, on behalf of President Wavel Ramkalawan, the Government and the people of the Republic of Seychelles to extend our sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, to the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates.

Fifty-two years ago, the United Arab Emirates was founded, bringing together seven emirates under the visionary leadership of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al

Nahyan. His enduring legacy of unity, development and forward-thinking governance was continued by his successor, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and further reinforced by the dynamic leadership of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, ensuring the UAE's remarkable progress, achievements and global influence.

The UAE National Day holds great significance not only for the Emirati people but also for the entire region and beyond. It is a day to reflect upon the remarkable journey of the United Arab Emirates, its rich heritage, and its tremendous achievements in various fields. The United Arab Emirates has emerged as a shining example of progress, innovation, and prosperity. The UAE has transformed itself into a modern and dynamic nation, placing great emphasis on sustainable development, innovation and diversification of its economy.

Seychelles and the UAE share a longstanding friendship and a strong partnership. Our two nations have worked closely together in various sectors, including tourism, trade, investment, education, healthcare, housing and renewable energy. The UAE has been a vital partner in the development of our infrastructure, contributing to the growth of our economy and the well-being of our people.

Formal diplomatic relations between our two countries were established in 1982. Since then, our bilateral ties have grown from strength to strength. The relationship between Seychelles and the United Arab Emirates has been built on mutual respect, shared values, and a common vision for a better future.

We deeply appreciate the assistance and support provided by the UAE in areas such as infrastructure development, capacity building, maritime security, the Blue Economy, renewable energy, investment, trade, tourism, education and healthcare. As regards this last, a recent, significant gesture on the part of the UAE is the financing and construction of a modern and state-of-the-art hospital on La Digue, which was inaugurated on 15th August this year.

Other important projects in the pipeline include the completion of the West Coast Road Improvement Project and the construction of the Orkid Estate housing project phase 2 and 3 at Barbaron, comprising a total of 80 social housing units.

In addition, the offer of scholarships made to Seychellois students this year is testament to the UAE's commitment to investing in the empowerment of our youth.

Last, but not least, the frequent exchanges of high-level visits denote the importance that our two countries attach to the strengthening of our bilateral relations.

We are not only appreciative of the UAE's unwavering support and cooperation, but are also constantly reminded of its boundless generosity.

Beyond the bilateral ties, the UAE has played a significant role in promoting regional stability and fostering cooperation among nations. The UAE's commitment to peace, security, and humanitarian efforts in the region is commendable. We appreciate the UAE's efforts in facilitating dialogue, resolving conflicts, and promoting development in the Gulf and beyond.

Moreover, the UAE has been at the forefront of addressing global challenges, such as climate change and sustainable development. The UAE's initiatives, including the establishment of Masdar City and its commitment to renewable energy, have set an example for the world to follow. Seychelles, as a Small Island Developing State, greatly values the UAE's leadership in environmental conservation, renewable energy and sustainable practices.

Today, as we commemorate the UAE National Day, I would like to thank the Chargé d'Affaires of the United Arab Emirates to the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. Ahmed Saeed Rashed Al Humaid Al Neyadi, for his tireless efforts and excellent work in ensuring that the collaboration between our two nations continues to flourish. I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the leadership and people of the United Arab Emirates for their friendship, support, and partnership. We reaffirm our commitment to further strengthen our bilateral ties and explore new avenues of cooperation.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please join me in a toast:

- To the good health and well-being of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi,
- To the prosperity of the people and the Government of the United Arab Emirates,
- To the strong bonds of friendship that exist between our two nations.

Thank you.