

**Toast on the Occasion of the 53rd National Day of the
United Arab Emirates**

By

**Mr Sylvestre Radegonde
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism
Monday 2nd December 2024 at 19:00 hrs
Savoy Resort and 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
Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Roger Mancienne
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
Colleague Ministers
Leader of Government Business in the National Assembly
Leader of the Opposition
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Chief of Defence Forces
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Members of the National Assembly
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen
Good evening,**

As we commemorate the National Day of the United Arab Emirates, I am pleased, on behalf of President Wavel Ramkalawan, the Government, and the people of the Republic of Seychelles, to extend our warmest congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Government, and the people of the UAE.

The UAE's remarkable journey began with the visionary leadership of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose foresight unified the seven emirates into a strong and progressive nation. His legacy endures through His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who has continued to build upon this foundation with exceptional dedication, ensuring the UAE's sustained advancement.

Today, the UAE stands as a global leader in innovation, economic diversification, and sustainable development. This success reflects the resilience and determination of the Emirati people, whose efforts have transformed their nation into a beacon of progress.

The bilateral relationship between Seychelles and the UAE, established in 1982, is one of enduring friendship and dynamic collaboration. Rooted in shared values and mutual aspirations for peace, prosperity and progress, this partnership serves as a bridge, connecting our peoples and fostering goodwill.

Through joint efforts and the UAE's support, Seychelles has achieved significant progress in numerous sectors, including tourism, trade, education, healthcare, renewable energy, and housing. The generous contributions from the UAE, such as vital medical equipment for the new La Digue Hospital, capacity-building initiatives, and scholarships for Seychellois students, exemplify the depth of our cooperation. The ongoing Leadership Programme for Government Executives further highlights the UAE's commitment to Seychelles' development.

Infrastructure development, too, has benefitted greatly from UAE assistance. Projects such as the improved road infrastructure on Mahé's west coast and the upcoming phases of the Orkid Estate housing development are elevating living standards for our citizens. Additionally, the approval for funding of the Anse Royale Sports Complex and Holistic Centre underscores the UAE's tangible impact on our communities.

Beyond our bilateral ties, the UAE's proactive role in fostering regional stability, mediating conflicts, and addressing global challenges like climate change reflects its dedication to global peace and sustainability. Initiatives such as Masdar City demonstrate the UAE's leadership in renewable energy, while its partnerships with Small Island Developing States like Seychelles amplify efforts to protect the environment and enhance quality of life for future generations.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this occasion, I extend heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Ahmed Saeed Rashed Al Humaid Al Neyadi, Chargé d'Affaires of the UAE to Seychelles, for his unwavering commitment to strengthening our partnership. I also express our deep gratitude to the leadership and people of the UAE for their steadfast friendship and invaluable support.

As we look forward to deepening our collaboration and exploring new opportunities, let us raise our glasses in a toast to:

- The health and well-being of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
- The continued prosperity of the UAE and its people, and
- The enduring friendship between Seychelles and the UAE.

Thank you.