

**Toast by Ambassador Barry Faure,
Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora
On the occasion of the Independence Day Reception of the United States of
America
(01 July 2026)
Canopy by Hilton Seychelles Resort**

President of the Republic of Seychelles Dr. Patrick Herminie and Mrs Veronique Herminie

Mr Chargé d'affaires Adham Loutfi and Mrs Loufti

Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles

Speaker in the National Assembly

President of the Court of Appeal

Principal Minister

Ministers

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to join you this evening as we celebrate the Independence Day of the United States of America and the 250th anniversary of American Independence.

This year is also significant for Seychelles as we mark 50 years of independence. It is therefore particularly meaningful that our two nations commemorate important milestones together: 250 years of American nationhood and 50 years of Seychelles' independence.

The Declaration of Independence of 1776 articulated enduring principles of liberty, equality and the pursuit of happiness that have resonated far beyond the borders of the United States. Over the past two and a half centuries, the United States has grown into a global leader whose influence has shaped international affairs, science, technology, education, innovation and culture.

The American spirit of enterprise and innovation has inspired generations around the world. From advances in medicine and technology to achievements in space exploration, the United States has consistently expanded the frontiers of human knowledge and possibility.

Seychelles shares a unique connection to that legacy. For several decades, a United States satellite tracking station at La Misère supported early space exploration programmes, including the Apollo

missions. It remains a noteworthy chapter in the history of cooperation between our two countries and a reminder that even small island nations can contribute to endeavours of global significance.

This occasion is further enriched by the fact that today also marks the fiftieth anniversary of diplomatic relations between Seychelles and the United States.

Over the past five decades, our partnership has been characterised by mutual respect, shared interests and practical cooperation. Maritime security remains a key pillar of our relationship, reflecting our shared commitment to a secure, stable and prosperous Indian Ocean region.

Our cooperation has expanded further through the recently established State Partnership Programme between the Seychelles Defence Forces and the New Mexico National Guard, creating new opportunities for collaboration in disaster preparedness, emergency response, cyber security and institutional capacity-building.

Education and professional development continue to strengthen the ties between our peoples. Programmes such as Fulbright and the Young African Leaders Initiative have provided Seychellois with valuable opportunities to develop their skills, broaden their perspectives and contribute to national development. This tradition of learning and exchange is now enriched by the introduction of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship, launched for the first time in Seychelles this year. Seychellois will now join this distinguished Programme, gaining valuable opportunities to deepen their expertise and broaden their networks.

We also appreciate the support provided by the United States in strengthening the capacity of our national institutions, including law enforcement, anti-corruption efforts and the administration of justice.

Looking ahead, the U.S.–Africa Business Summit, once rescheduled, will continue to represent a valuable opportunity to further strengthen economic engagement between Seychelles and the United States. The Summit will bring together government and business leaders to explore opportunities in trade, investment and innovation, particularly in sectors such as renewable energy, the blue economy and financial services. For Seychelles, it offers an important platform to support economic diversification, strengthen partnerships and promote sustainable growth.

As we look to the future, we see further opportunities to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, innovation, maritime affairs and sustainable development. We remain committed to building a partnership that delivers tangible benefits for our peoples and contributes to regional stability and prosperity.

Adham,

As you conclude your tenure in Seychelles, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your contribution to strengthening the relationship between our two countries. Your dedication and commitment have been greatly valued. We also look forward to welcoming your successor, Mr Christopher Green, and to continuing the close cooperation that has characterised our bilateral relations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we celebrate this evening, let us honour the achievements of the past, reaffirm the strength of our partnership today, and look forward with confidence to the opportunities that lie ahead.

Please join me in raising a glass:

To the good health of President Donald J. Trump;

To the 250th anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America;

To the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Seychelles and the United States of America;

And to the enduring friendship and cooperation between our two nations.