

REMARKS BY MR BARRY FAURE
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND THE DIASPORA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE
OF SEYCHELLES' INDEPENDENCE
AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you this evening as Seychelles celebrates the Golden Jubilee of its Independence and fifty years of diplomatic relations with your countries and with nations across the world.

This is a landmark occasion in the life of our Republic. As we celebrate let us remember that we stand on the shoulders of giants who laid the foundations of our Republic. As the President, Dr Patrick Herminie, evoked last night; France Albert René and James Richard Mancham, each in his own way, are the undisputed champions of our Republic. Our citizens and future generations must remember always.

Today, we gather not only to commemorate the birth of an independent Seychelles, but also to celebrate the friendships and partnerships that have accompanied our nation from its earliest days. Many of the countries represented here established diplomatic relations with Seychelles soon after our independence. Those relationships, formalised fifty years ago, have endured, evolved and flourished, becoming an integral part of our national story.

This evening, therefore, we celebrate not only our independence, but also five decades of friendship, cooperation and shared endeavour with the international community.

On 29 June 1976, Seychelles took its rightful place among the family of nations as a sovereign Republic. Independence gave us the freedom to determine our own destiny, together with the responsibility to safeguard it. It also gave Seychelles its own voice in international affairs. Through diplomacy, that voice found purpose, reach and influence.

Over the past five decades, our foreign policy has enabled us to build bridges across continents, forge enduring partnerships and contribute constructively to regional and global affairs.

Our diplomatic journey has been inseparable from our national development. The progress we celebrate today has been shaped first and foremost by the resilience, determination and ingenuity of the Seychellois people. It has also been strengthened by the goodwill and support of our international partners. Through cooperation in education, healthcare, infrastructure, environmental protection, maritime security, trade and economic development, the friendships established in the early years of our independence have created opportunities, strengthened our institutions and improved the lives of our people.

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

Every nation must decide the principles upon which it engages the world. For Seychelles, diplomacy has always reflected our belief in sovereign equality, peaceful dialogue, respect for international law and constructive cooperation. As a Small Island Developing State, we have never measured influence by size or power, but by credibility, consistency and the ability to build consensus.

Our foreign policy has therefore sought to cultivate friendships across regions, cultures and political traditions. We have worked with countries large and small, near and far, recognising that diversity of partnership is itself a source of resilience. Throughout these fifty years, Seychelles has remained committed to being a trusted, balanced and reliable partner—one that chooses dialogue over division and cooperation over confrontation.

Our diplomacy has matured alongside our Republic. From seeking recognition in the early years of independence, Seychelles has become an active and respected contributor to international dialogue. We have championed the interests of Small Island Developing States, advocated for sustainable ocean governance, climate justice and effective multilateralism, and demonstrated that even the smallest states can exercise influence through ideas, innovation and principled engagement.

The Blue Economy stands as a defining example of this approach. By pioneering innovative financing for marine conservation, protecting significant areas of our Exclusive Economic Zone and promoting the sustainable use of ocean resources, Seychelles has shown that environmental stewardship and economic development can advance together. These achievements have been made possible through the commitment and cooperation of governments, international organisations and development partners represented here this evening.

Our shared ocean also reminds us that security and prosperity are indivisible. Maritime crimes, illegal fishing, trafficking, climate change and economic shocks recognise no borders. They demand trust, cooperation and collective action. Over the years, many of our partners have supported Seychelles in strengthening its maritime capabilities, institutional resilience and capacity to respond to emerging challenges. For that enduring solidarity, we express our sincere appreciation.

Excellences, Invités distingués, Mesdames, Messieurs,

S'il est une leçon que nous retenons de ces cinquante dernières années, c'est que la force d'une nation ne se mesure pas uniquement à ses réalisations, mais aussi à la qualité des amitiés qu'elle noue et à la confiance qu'elle inspire.

Aux membres du Corps diplomatique ainsi qu'à tous les pays représentés ce soir, j'adresse les sincères remerciements du Gouvernement et du peuple seychellois. Depuis les premiers jours de notre indépendance, vous avez accompagné notre parcours, respecté notre souveraineté et soutenu nos aspirations. En célébrant cinquante années de relations diplomatiques, nous rendons hommage à ces partenariats durables qui ont contribué à notre développement et qui continueront d'éclairer notre avenir commun.

Alors que les Seychelles entament le deuxième demi-siècle de leur histoire en tant que République indépendante, nous regardons l'avenir avec confiance et détermination. Les défis qui nous attendent sont nombreux, mais les possibilités le sont tout autant. Nous demeurons résolus à renforcer les liens d'amitié qui nous unissent, à développer de nouveaux partenariats et à poursuivre notre coopération dans un esprit de respect mutuel, de solidarité et de responsabilité partagée.

Ekselans, Envite distenge, Msye, Madanm, Manzel,

Lendepandans pa zis en keksoz ki noun erite, me en responsabilite ki nou bezwen kontinyen gard vivan. Ozordi i en loportinite pour nou rapel valer relasyon ki Sesel in batir avek lemonn: relasyon ki'n donn nou lafors, louvertir, respe, e enlavwa parmi bann nasyon lo nivo global.

Annou kontinyen protez linite nou pep, dinyite nou pei, nou souvrennte dan sa monn ki pe sanze, e prezerv sa bon repitasyon nou pei.

Annou mars ver sa prosen letap avek konfyans, responsabilite ek lafyerte.

Ekselans,
Envite doner,
Madanm ek Msye,

Menm letan ki nou pe komemor senkant an lendepandans ek senkant an relasyon diplomatik, nou pe selebre bokou plis ki senpleman pasaz letan. Nou pe selebre en voyaz ki'n transform en zenn nasyon zil pour li bati en manm konfidan e respekte dan kominote enternasyonal—en nasyon ki'n reste ferm dan son prensip anmenmtan ki i pe aksepte sa bann loportinite dan en lemonn ki pe touzour sanzan.

Lemonn ozordi i prezant nouvo lensertitid ek bann defi ki nou partaze. Me pourtant, nou repons i reste anrasinen dan sa bann valer ki'n gid Sesel depi Lendepandans: respe pour lasouvrennte, angaze pour dyalog, fidelite anver lalwa enternasyonal ek en lafwa ferm ki koperasyon i reste sa pli bon semen ver lape ek progres.

An mezir ki Sesel pe antre dan sa prosenn senkant a son voyaz nasyonal, nou fer li avek konfyans dan nou pep, lafwa dan nou bann lenstitisyon ek loptimizm pour lavnir. Nou regard ver lavnir pou ranfosi bann partenarya ki'n telman byen ed nou, pou konstri nouvo lanmitye e kontinyen travay akote tou nasyon pour realiz bann laspirasyon ki nou partaze dan domenn sekirite, lape, prosperite ek devlopman dirab.

Ki sa prosenn demi syek i ganny marke par sa menm lespri konfyans, bonnvolonte ek solidarite ki'n anmenn nou ziska la, e ki bann zenerasyon demen ler zot get deryer ver nou letan ki zot ava annan sa menm gratitid ki nou santi pour sa bann ki'n poz fondasyon nou Repiblik ek pour sa bann lanmitye dirab ki nou pe selebre ozordi swar.

Msye, madanm, manmzel,

Lev zot ver e zwenn mwan pour swet lasante:

Pour Larepublik Sesel lo son Zibile Lor Lendepandans!

To the enduring friendship between Seychelles and all the nations represented or not here this evening!

Pour en lavnir lape, prosperite e koperasyon pour tou!