

**Toast by Ambassador Barry Faure
Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora
On the occasion of the National Day Reception of the Russian Federation
(19 June 2026 at 1700 Hrs)
Savoy Resort & Spa**

President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr Patrick Herminie and First Lady, Mrs Veronique Herminie
Your Excellency, Ambassador Artem Kozhin and Mrs Kozhina
Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles and Mrs Lina Pillay
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 great pleasure to join Ambassador Kozhin, the staff of the Embassy of the Russian Federation, and all distinguished guests gathered here this evening to celebrate the National Day of the Russian Federation.

On behalf of President Patrick Herminie, the Government, and the people of the Republic of Seychelles, I extend our warmest congratulations to His Excellency President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, the Government, and the people of the Russian Federation on this important national occasion.

Today, we celebrate a nation whose history, culture, and achievements have had a profound impact far beyond its borders. Across centuries of change and transformation, Russia has cultivated a rich heritage rooted in literature, music, science, innovation, and a deep sense of national identity. The works of its writers, composers, scientists, and explorers continue to inspire people across the world and form an important part of our shared human heritage.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we celebrate this occasion, we also celebrate the friendship that has developed between Seychelles and the Russian Federation over nearly five decades of diplomatic relations.

The relationship between our two countries has always been characterised by mutual respect, friendship, and a willingness to work together for our common benefit. This spirit was clearly reflected in the recent visit of President Patrick Herminie to the Russian Federation, which provided an important opportunity to deepen dialogue and explore new avenues of cooperation. The visit reaffirmed our shared commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and laid the foundation for even closer engagement in the years ahead.

Tourism remains one of the strongest links between our nations. The Russian Federation continues to be one of Seychelles' most important tourism markets, and we are grateful for the many Russian visitors who choose our islands as their destination. Beyond their contribution to our economy, these exchanges bring our peoples closer together and strengthen the bonds of friendship between our countries. We remain encouraged by the growing connectivity between our nations and the opportunities it creates for tourism, trade, and people-to-people contacts. We are pleased that Aeroflot will be resuming operation on 8 July 2026 with two weekly flights to Seychelles. This follows the tête-à-tête in Moscow between our two leaders on 22nd April 2026.

We are equally pleased to see cooperation expanding into new areas. Recent progress in cultural exchanges, heritage preservation, education, sports, science, and technology reflect the growing breadth of our partnership. These initiatives not only create opportunities for our institutions and professionals but also help build lasting connections between our peoples, particularly among the younger generation.

Seychelles deeply values the solidarity and friendship extended by the Russian Federation over the years. We remain grateful for the support provided through the supply of essential commodities, which has served as a tangible expression of Russia's friendship with Seychelles. Such cooperation reflects the mutual respect and goodwill that continue to underpin our relations and has contributed meaningfully to the well-being and development of our people. As we look to the future, the planned establishment of a Seychelles Embassy in Moscow will mark another important milestone in the growing partnership between our two nations.

As we approach the milestone of fifty years of diplomatic relations, we can look to the future with confidence. Our partnership continues to evolve, guided by mutual

respect, shared interests, and a common desire to see our peoples prosper. We are confident that the friendship between Seychelles and the Russian Federation will continue to grow stronger in the years ahead.

Your Excellency, Ambassador Kozhin,

As you prepare to end your tenure as the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Seychelles later this year, let me use this occasion to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for all that you have done to enhance the bonds of friendship between Seychelles and Russia.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now invite you to join me in raising a toast to His Excellency President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, to the Government and people of the Russian Federation, and to the enduring friendship and growing cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Seychelles.

May the relations between our two countries continue to prosper and flourish.

“С Днём России”! (Happy Russia Day)

“Спасибо” (Thank you)