

Toast by Ambassador Barry Faure,
Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora

On the occasion of the National Day Reception of the Arab Republic of Egypt and 50 years of
diplomatic relations

9th July 2026
L'escale Resort

Your Excellency Ambassador Hatem Yousri Hosni,
First Lady,
Ministers,
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is a timeless Arabic saying that beautifully captures the spirit of this evening:

Yad wahida la tusaffiq — "A single hand cannot clap."

Its wisdom is both simple and profound: no nation fulfils its aspirations in isolation. Lasting progress is achieved through partnership, mutual trust and a shared commitment to the common good.

Tonight, as we celebrate the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt and mark the fiftieth anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two Republics, we celebrate precisely that spirit of partnership.

Mr Ambassador,

Since presenting your Letters of Credence earlier this year, you have brought great energy and commitment to strengthening the ties between our two countries. Our exchanges have been constructive and forward-looking, and I trust you have also had the opportunity to experience the warmth of Seychellois hospitality and the beauty of our islands.

Although separated by geography, Egypt and Seychelles are united by the sea and by a common belief in dialogue, cooperation and peaceful coexistence. The Nile and the Indian Ocean have shaped our peoples in different ways, yet both remind us that water has never merely divided nations—it has connected them. For centuries, it has carried commerce, culture and ideas across continents, and it continues to bind our destinies together.

It is therefore fitting that our partnership continues to deepen in areas of mutual importance, including maritime security, environmental stewardship, the blue economy and sustainable development. These are not merely common interests; they are shared responsibilities.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt occupies a distinguished place in Africa's modern history. Its contribution to the liberation and decolonisation of our continent inspired generations of Africans in their pursuit of freedom, dignity and self-determination.

Today, Egypt continues to play a leading role in advancing Africa's development and promoting regional stability. As one of the continent's foremost economies and an influential voice in international affairs, it contributes meaningfully to dialogue, multilateral cooperation and collective action in addressing the challenges of our time.

For Seychelles, Egypt is a trusted African partner with whom we share a common vision of a peaceful, resilient and prosperous continent. Our cooperation continues to expand across many fields, including maritime affairs, capacity building, climate resilience and sustainable development, reflecting our shared determination to translate friendship into practical outcomes for our peoples.

The strength of this relationship, however, is measured not only by official agreements or institutional cooperation, but also by the ties between our peoples. We see this in the dedication of Egyptian medical professionals serving in Seychelles, and in the valuable work of the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development, whose training programmes continue to equip Seychellois professionals with new knowledge and skills. These enduring human connections remain the true foundation of our friendship.

As we mark fifty years of diplomatic relations, we celebrate not only the strength of our partnership, but also the promise of its future. Built on mutual respect, solidarity and a steadfast commitment to cooperation, the friendship between Egypt and Seychelles continues to deepen and evolve.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen.
Yad Wahida la tusaffiq

The Arabic saying with which I began reminds us that a single hand cannot clap. For fifty years, our two nations have demonstrated the enduring truth of that wisdom. Together, we have shown that genuine partnership is built not on proximity, but on trust; not on circumstance, but on shared purpose. May the years ahead see our two countries continue to work hand in hand in advancing peace, sustainable development and prosperity for our peoples, our continent and the wider international community.

It is in that spirit of friendship and cooperation that I now invite you to raise your glasses and join me in a toast:

- To the good health and continued success of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi;
- To the peace, prosperity and continued progress of the Government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt; and
- To the enduring friendship and fruitful cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Seychelles.

Tahya Masr!

Viv Sesel!

Sahha!