

FRIDAY 9 MARCH 2018

**GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE 50<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY  
OF MAURITIUS' CELEBRATIONS AT THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE  
OF EDUCATION**

50 years in the history of a country appears to be a short period of time. But, within this span, our beloved country has achieved spectacular progress rising from a mono crop economy (sugar) to a developed one.

Who would have believed that Mauritius was capable of such a feat? Not even in our wildest dream. Even, Nobel Prize Winner like Professor Meade and eminent writer like V S Naipaul have predicted gloom and doom.

Today, Mauritius has become the envy and role model of many African States. When Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam on 12 March 1968 lowered down the Union Jack Flag and instead hoisted the Mauritian Flag, he broke the shackles of colonial domination and exploitation. A new era has dawned upon our country. The wind of Independence has brought a complete change and has transformed our country in many aspects. It has opened the doors to democratization of education, industrialization, tourism, international trade, commerce and the finance sector.

Independence paved the road to Bilateral Agreements with other countries. At the beginning of our Independence, ACP countries have helped Mauritius for our sugar in the ACP Sugar Protocol and this has given us a fixed price for our exports. ACP countries later helped us again for our textiles.

These structured bilateral agreements with other countries, the signature of MOUs and the memberships of the SADC, AFRICAN UNION and COMESA enable us to consolidate and expand cooperation in the political, economic and cultural spheres and to foster Mauritian trade, investment and tourism potential and opportunities.

With the opening of the sky traffic and the National Airline, the influx of tourists visiting Mauritius now outnumbers the actual population.

Our role as Honorary Consuls is to share the development that can exist between the countries we represent and Mauritius.

MOUs will be signed between the Mauritius Institute of Education and other institutions in Namibia and the Mauritius Institute of Education has accepted to have joint ventures for the training of teachers as well as other professional in areas of Education to benefit both countries.

Mauritius has travelled a long way, but there is still a lot to achieve. We are blessed to have political and social stability and we,

Honorary Consuls hope to play our role in this development.

Thank you for you attention.

Long Live Mauritius!!!