<u>MESSAGE</u>

My Dear Students,

We proudly come together every year on the 12th of March to commemorate our Independence Day and the founding of our Republic.

As we rally around our national flag on this auspicious occasion, we share the glory of Mauritius, a nation that charted its path towards development despite all odds.

I encourage you to take inspiration from our ancestors and uphold the values of hard work, discipline, determination, and social harmony, which all lie at the heart of the success of our Independent country.

You will be the architects of our nation's destiny. Your abilities and dreams will define and shape the future of our country.

Believe in yourselves and allow your energy, creativity, passion and zeal to strengthen your resolve to move forward in your personal life and contribute to the progress of your country.

You will not be alone. Together, we will work hand in hand to fulfil your potential. Our schools and universities are preparing you to continue on the road of personal growth and excellence by not only giving you academic skills but also fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

A country can only grow and develop if its people grow. Thus, Education is the foundation of our nation's development. It is the most important driver of a nation's evolution and is why we have been so committed to delivering free quality education to all students, starting from pre primary day and all the way to university education.

As we resolutely put behind us the difficult Covid period and move forward as a high income economy, we must build on the areas upon which we have won and also secure our country's future in the face of a world that is ever digitalising and experiencing major climate change. So we must see how to harness technology even better and ensure that actions such as protecting and restoring ecosystems and leveraging renewable energy to reduce our carbon footprint are taken.

All of us must do our part. We want to empower young minds in all areas, whether business, public office or professions so that you, as future leaders, in turn, sustain this culture in the national building process.

And this must remind us that patriotism is at the heart of our culture. And I encourage you to plan on using your skills and expertise that you are building and will build further for Mauritius. Our country is waiting to gain from this.

You have the power to create change and to build a stronger, happier and more prosperous nation.

Let us stand together as one people and continue to build a better tomorrow for the future generations.

Happy Independence Day.

Long live the Republic of Mauritius!

Pravind Kumar Jugnauth
Prime Minister

07 March 2024

