



Mauritius National Assembly

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Official Visit of the Hon. Adrien Charles Duval to India – 16 to 18 August, 2024

Hon. Adrien Charles Duval, Speaker of the National Assembly is on an official visit to India, accompanied by Ms Urmeelah Devi Ramchurn, Clerk of the National Assembly and Mrs Saseeta Rakha-Ramsahye, Manager, Parliamentary Digital Services and Broadcasts, on the invitation of his Indian counterpart, His Excellency Shri Om Birla.

The visit started at the Rajghat Memorial on Friday 16 August 2024 whereby the Hon. Speaker paid homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. Thereafter, the Hon. Speaker proceeded to the Lok Sabha for a bilateral parliamentary dialogue during which His Excellency Shri Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha extended a very warm and cordial welcome to his Mauritian counterpart. Shri Om Birla congratulated Hon. Adrien Duval upon his election as Speaker and conveyed to him his good wishes.

Speaker Om Birla expressed his appreciation that India is honoured and privileged to receive Hon. Adrien Duval for his first official visit soon after he assumed the speakership which happens to be in India, thereby symbolising and further reaffirming the special bond of kinship along with the bilateral and diplomatic ties between India and Mauritius.

Speaker Adrien Duval also congratulated Shri Om Birla, upon his re-election for a second mandate and extended his good wishes by stating that his experience, skills and his unwavering commitment to uphold democratic values will go a long way into further strengthening parliamentary democracy and lead India as the largest democracy in the world.

Mr Speaker conveyed to Shri Om Birla and the people of India, the warm greetings and the good wishes of the Hon Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius and the people of Mauritius on the celebrations of the 78th Independence Day of India.

Expatriating on the purpose of his visit, Speaker Adrien Duval affirmed in no uncertain terms that Parliament should not and can no longer operate in the business-as-usual mode in this era driven by new technologies and artificial intelligence. He informed his Indian counterpart of his commitment taken to embark on a Digital Transformation Strategy initiative to propel the National Assembly into a new era whereby the sacrosanct duty of Parliament's engagement with the people to uphold the principles of democratic values becomes seamless process.

Speaker Om Birla firmly undertook to extend the full support and collaboration of the Lok Sabha in making our Parliament a landmark within the digital landscape, reflecting the advancements made by the Parliament of India.

Emphasis was also laid by both Speakers during the parliamentary dialogue on the importance of parliamentary exchanges and cooperation which will further serve to contribute to the enhancement of the bilateral relations between India and Mauritius and to the reinforcement of our people's shared vision for peace and prosperity.

Speaker Adrien Duval extended an invitation to his Indian counterpart His Excellency Shri Om Birla to lead a Parliamentary delegation to the Parliament of Mauritius.

During his guided visits to the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, Mr Speaker had the opportunity of acquainting himself with the digital advancements of the Parliament of India and its workings.

Speaker Adrien Duval also had the singular honour and privilege of having a courtesy meeting with His Excellency Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, the External Affairs Minister of India who also reaffirmed the continued support of India for the welfare of the people of Mauritius and our Parliament's engagement with the Citizens through digital transformation.

Speaker Adrien Duval also seized the opportunity of this visit to have a fruitful meeting with the Director of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for exploring possibilities of collaboration with the ICCR to develop parliamentary diplomacy in its wider perspective.

The official visit will continue on Saturday 17 August 2024 with a Courtesy Call on the Hon Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, ending with technical meetings with the team of the Sansad TV for the Phase two of our Parliament TV channel.

**Office of the Speaker
Parliament House
Port Louis**

16 August 2024