

**Welcoming Remarks by Ms Urmeelah Devi Ramchurn,  
Clerk of the National Assembly**

**Held on Friday 30 August 2024  
Chamber of the National Assembly**

**On the occasion of the Meeting and Interactive Session with  
Participants and Mentors of the Third National Youth  
Parliament (2nd and 3rd March 2023)**

**Honourable Adrien Charles Duval, Speaker of the National  
Assembly,**

**Dear Mentors and Participants of the 2023 National Youth  
Parliament,**

**My dear colleagues Clerks at the Table,**

**Esteemed staff of the National Assembly,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good morning,**

I am privileged to welcome you to today's special event. We are in fact delighted to reconvene and reconnect with you, esteemed participants and mentors of the former National Youth Parliament after **more than a year**.

This gathering is particularly meaningful as we not only honor your past contributions but also look forward to your continued engagement in our democratic processes. Your commitment and active participation have been instrumental in promoting youth engagement, and we are eager to hear about your current endeavors and achievements since we last met.

Today, we also have the distinct privilege of introducing our new Speaker, Honourable Adrien Charles Duval who has been elected by the Assembly on 18 July 2024.

**Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As some of you may be aware, Mr Speaker is a lawyer by profession. In December 2014, Hon. Adrien Charles Duval contested the General elections for the first time and was elected as First Member for Constituency No.17 - Curepipe and Midlands to serve the National Assembly at the very young age of 24. During his mandate, he has also served as Deputy Speaker.

**Dear Participants**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

You may wish to note that after his official visit to India, Mr Speaker led a parliamentary delegation to Beijing from 18 to 22, August 2024, to participate in the 2024 Interregional Seminar on the **Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for Parliaments** of Developing Countries organized by the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China jointly with the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), a global organization regrouping 180 Member Parliaments.

During his intervention on the Panel Discussion entitled: "Developing Democracy Suited to National Conditions to Provide a Strong Underpinning for Modernization", Mr Speaker highlighted the crucial role of digitalization in modernizing democracy, with particular emphasis on the parliamentary processes.

On the sidelines of the Interregional Seminar, Mr Speaker had a meeting with Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mrs Tuliah Ackson, President of the IPU and Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania and Mr Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU for enhanced collaboration between the Mauritius National Assembly and the IPU under its Global Digital Transformation Initiative.

**Dear Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to announce that the Secretary General of the IPU has officially confirmed that Hon. Adrien Charles Duval is the world's youngest Speaker of Parliament, **a matter of utmost pride for the Republic of Mauritius.**

In this context, the Secretary General of the IPU has invited the Honourable Speaker to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians to be held in Yerevan, Armenia from 12 to 14, September 2024 to deliver a keynote speech at the distinguished gathering to share his unique perspective on the value of youth political leadership to protect and promote education and employment for youth in times of crisis, particularly from the perspective of one of many Small Islands States dealing with emergencies, including the climate emergency.

As an ardent supporter of the younger generation, Mr Speaker is deeply committed to ensuring that youth perspectives are represented and valued in all aspects of governance at the national, regional and international level. It is worth noting that since the assumption of office, Mr Speaker has made this meeting a topmost priority on his agenda.

The main aim of this meeting is to connect with you, former National Youth Parliament members, and celebrate your ongoing contributions to our democratic process. Your role remains vital, and this event underscores our appreciation for your continued involvement and insights.

I have no doubt that this privileged interaction with the Speaker will serve as a valuable source of inspiration for you, enriching your efforts in the process of youth engagement and motivating you with his insights.

**Dear participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

With these words, it is now my singular honour to invite the Honourable Adrien Charles Duval, Speaker of the National Assembly to address you.

I thank you.

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