SPEECH FARHAD AUMEER 9 MAY 2025

After giving the loudspeaker, the marching orders and clearing the space to Shirine, our lady of grace and dignity, the Mauritian people, in their great wisdom, opened their arms wide to welcome Farhad Aumeer to the National Assembly in November 2024. What intrigues me is "what is the source of inspiration for my friend Ibrahim, your father, to call his first child Farhad, a Persian or Afghan name meaning "charmer", "man of joy", "intelligent" and a name also associated with courageous and virtuous characters. I grant it, it's a wise choice because Farhad has lived up to his name.

After brilliant studies in London, Farhad received his MBBCh BAO, M.R.C.O.G and then F.R.C.O.G. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine (UK), a Fellow of the Royal Irish Academy of Medicine in June 1993 and then a Fellow of the British Society of Colposcopists. He teaches medicine at the University of Mauritius while helping and lending his support to the World Health Organization. Farhad, you are married and you have two sons, both lawyers, and a daughter who works in London. Your sister Shenaz and her husband Ali are here with you tonight and I greet you all.

Farhad, you're a doctor, it's a profession I know well. I am not a doctor but I have helped admit at least forty students to medical schools in Malaysia.  At least a dozen are serving the country in different hospitals. By taking into account the evolution of medical knowledge that has brought about treatments you were not aware of at the time of your studies, you have maintained your hunger to always remain at the top of your profession. It was great to listen to your public interventions during the COVID 19 panic that stunned an entire people a few years ago.

Suggestions for treatment were coming from numerous sources, sometimes some conflicting with others. You had an authoritative voice that made me think of the words of Arthur chopenhauer who had said: What the herd hates most is the one who thinks differently; it is not so much the opinion itself, but the audacity of wanting to think for themselves, something that the herd does not

know how to do. And Galileo Galilei "In the sciences, the authority of thousands of opinions is not worth as much as one tiny spark of reason in an individual man."

You helped the nation and the medical profession proposing diagnoses and remedies that became standard references. Obviously, we cannot control a crisis and a global pandemic without the collaboration of all the expertise available. COVID 19 was a health crisis that threatened to mutate and evolve in worrying conditions. Decisions had to be made in all lucidity. Faced with the seriousness of the situation, you willingly and courageously committed yourself to the service of your country because health remains at the heart of your concerns. Then your collaboration was won and the battle was won. What a tremendous achievement! Leo Tolstoy approves of you; he said If you feel pain, you are alive. If you feel other people's pain, you are a human being.

No wonder then that your services are in high demand and so is your friendship which I judge by the number of colleagues and friends who has accompanied you tonight and whom I greet with great pleasure. I will limit myself to mentioning your medical career which brought you to the attention of the many. Also, Congratulations for the

GOSK, an additional feather to your cap which you fully deserve.