SPEECH FATHER LABOUR 9 MAY 2025

After Father Souchon, Bishop Piat and Bishop Durhone, Father Maurice Labour would have been the fourth representative of the Catholic Church to be honoured by Alif Society. But our proposed honoree has opted to attend the wedding of a relative. We respect his choice.

Allow me to open a parenthesis to tell you how pleased I was to have had the privilege of dining with bishop Piat and the Apostolic Nuncio on his visit to Mauritius. Inviting Father Maurice Labour and honoring him in front of an audience like the one in front of me would have been a pledge of fruitful relations that have been continued and nurtured between the Catholic Church and Alif Society. We would also like to celebrate the good memories left by Pope Francis in his fight on behalf of the wretched of the earth. Let me reminisce on my involvement along Jean Yves Violette, whose lovely wife is with us, and Father Filip Fanchette to bring those involved with friends of Caritas closer to Andy Young, Governor of Georgia in the United States.

Dear Friends. The exploit of our guests, together with the respect of the entire nation which shares the same ideal, must make them excited at the idea of taking over. And I am pleased to express my very warm congratulations to them on my own behalf and on behalf of Alif Society. Alif Society believes that the greatness of our country is based on its history, with its dark pages as well as its glorious pages. What we are doing tonight, in your presence, my dear friends, will be history tomorrow and we want to open a glorious page to inscribe the names of our laureates for their love for our rainbow nation.

Join me wish our journalist friend Murtuza Rahim a very happy birthday. And I leave you to reflect on this question: is it man who creates history or is it history that creates man? Thank you.