

President Gokhool Receives New South African High Commissioner; Bilateral and Regional Cooperation Discussed

His Excellency Mr Heinrich Giovanni April, the new High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Mauritius, presented his credentials to President Dharambeer Gokhool, G.C.S.K., at State House this morning.

The High Commissioner, who succeeds Her Excellency Dr Hlamalani Nelly Manzini, was accompanied by his spouse and Mr Matlhaba Mogadingwane, First Secretary - Political at the South African High Commission.

President Gokhool took the opportunity to express his appreciation to Dr Manzini for her dedicated service since 2020 and for her excellent contribution to strengthening the close and cordial relations between Mauritius and South Africa, including in her capacity as Dean of the Diplomatic Corps until the conclusion of her diplomatic tenure.

The Head of State and High Commissioner Heinrich Giovanni April reviewed the longstanding and cordial relations between Mauritius and South Africa, which evolved from representative trade missions established in 1992 to full diplomatic relations in 1994. Bilateral ties have since deepened across key areas, including trade, tourism, education, technical cooperation and cultural exchanges.

Discussions also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation, including Mauritius' longstanding engagement with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which it joined in 1995, and the ongoing 46th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of SADC being held in South Africa. The importance of strengthening regional integration and economic cooperation was underscored.

Exchanges further touched upon South Africa's successful hosting of the 2025 G20 Leaders' Summit, the first G20 Leaders' Summit to be held on the African continent, under the theme "Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability".

The adoption of the G20 Leaders' Declaration and its focus on key global challenges, including climate finance, debt restructuring and the pursuit of peace in conflict-affected regions, were also noted, alongside the importance of advancing the interests and priorities of developing countries and SIDS in global forums.

The Mauritius-South Africa Joint Commission, established under the General Cooperation Agreement signed in May 2023, was also discussed as a key framework for strengthening bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, educational and cultural fields.

Against this backdrop, existing cooperation in key sectors of mutual interest was reviewed, while opportunities for further collaboration were explored, notably in renewable energy, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, as well as in addressing the specific challenges and priorities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).