

**Inaugural speech by President James Michel After Election into Office.**

Tuesday 1 August 2006 Victoria, State house.

**Dear Seychellois brothers and sisters, Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, representatives of France/Reunion, the special envoy of Madagascar, Excellencies, Distinguished guests,**

Thank you for sharing this great moment with me. I also thank all the people who are following this ceremony at home. I wish to thank all those who participated in this Presidential election: the electoral commissioner, the electoral officers, all the services that were working to ensure the good conduct of the election and the normal functioning of the country during that time, as well as the religious and civil bodies and all the people who had a positive attitude to the democratic process we have just lived together.

I wish to express my gratitude to the international observers and the media, national and international, for their work. I would like to thank the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr Navin Ramgoolam, the distinguished representatives from Reunion, the Special Envoy from Madagascar, as well as the ambassadors, high commissioners and other representatives of friendly countries based in Seychelles.

Excellencies, by your presence you bring a new dimension to this ceremony and we see this as a strong expression of friendship and solidarity in the spirit of the democratic values that we share. We are deeply touched by your support and I am grateful for this show of fraternal interest and warm feelings for Seychelles during this historic moment.

Seychellois brothers and sisters,

My biggest thank-you goes to you. As a proud people, with an exemplary maturity, we have exercised our right and duty with responsibility. I thank you sincerely for judging me by my actions during the past two years. You are the people who shared my vision; who believed in me; who rallied behind me; who worked hard to spread the message of love, compassion and unity; who gave me the opportunity to continue the work I started together with all Seychellois. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I want to reassure you that I will, with all my energy and determination, continually build on the confidence you have put in me. I will continue on the road we have started building together: it is the invitation to all Seychellois, without exception, to make their contribution; it is the road of unity, peace, fraternity and opportunity for all. Together our nation will continue to flourish, and we will reap the fruits of our collective work.

The five-year mandate is a great opportunity to build on the work we have started together. Vice-President Belmont and I will work for all Seychellois. We will work hard, we will work with discipline. Our door will remain open to receive your suggestions and contributions. We will continue to be by your side, to live your aspirations, to be there in your times of joy and pain.

We will remain true to our values, to the principles of our party, to the type of

development our people have approved. While we work to promote an economy that is strong and performing well, we will at the same time preserve our social achievements. We will ensure that the dynamic economy we are putting in place provides us with the means to enable us to take care of all our people.

We want all Seychellois to have a stake in the economy of their country. We want all Seychellois to be part of this caring society where peace, harmony, sharing and joy prevail. We want to preserve and strengthen our way of life, our good values, and the Creole Seychellois culture. Our culture is in our roots. It is our identity, which gives us the confidence and pride to venture out into the world, to learn from others and create new things for our progress.

While we are conscious of the size of our country and our possibilities, we will play a positive role on the regional and international stages, led by the common belief that men and women should be at the centre of all development. We will promote our interests and those of small island states and our continent, Africa, in a spirit of international solidarity; to stand on our dignity and strive for human progress for all.

Dear people of Seychelles,

In order to realise all of these, and to take Seychelles ahead, we all need to work: that is working together, working hard and with intelligence, and working with love for our families and country. I will announce the composition of my new government soon. It will be a government that will be more dynamic and professional. It will be a government that will serve the Seychellois people with efficiency and transparency. It will be a government that has a heart for all Seychellois. In this solemn moment today, I invite all Seychellois, without exception, to put our differences aside and let us work together for our country. Let us have a positive mind and look towards the future together. Let us concentrate on what unites us, on what should and can unite us.

Seychelles is the cradle of our children. It is the land of opportunities for our youth, this new generation that needs to fulfil all its potential, to enable it to continue our struggle and guarantee that our people will forever enjoy the fruits of development. Seychelles is the land where we earn our living for the benefit of our families. It is the land of comfort for our elderly citizens.

Let us all work together, the public sector, the private sector, civil societies, the religious bodies; let us talk, let us engage ourselves in consultations, let us work in harmony. Let us, together, create the modern Seychelles; a Seychelles that is stable and prosperous; a Seychelles where there are opportunities for all Seychellois; a Seychelles of achievements and pride for all its people; a Seychelles that is an economic, social, cultural and spiritual jewel.

I invite you all, Seychellois brothers and sisters, to join me to work for one Seychelles. Long live Seychelles! Long live the Seychellois people! May God continue to shower us with His grace and bless our country!

**Thank you.**