

**Opening of 3 days- Mega Health Screening organised by Hindu House and
Rotary Club of Port Louis, Citadelle, on Friday 24 May 2024 at
18:00 hrs at Tribeca Mall**

**Hon Fazila JEEWA-DAUREEAWOO, Minister of Social Integration, Social
Security and National Solidarity**

Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening.

Health is an individual's most primary possession. It is a valuable asset irrespective of the strata one belongs to. Mahatma Gandhi had said and I quote: "**It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver**" (unquote).

In fact, the health of a country's population defines the state of development since a healthy population holds greater capacity to access opportunities for education, knowledge and employment.

The importance of health care has never been so well understood as it in the present time. We saw how the pandemic brought economies and nations to their knees. It was the moment of realisation that health is an investment in the future.

Coupled with government initiatives are the services of philanthropists and Non-Government Organisations who render valuable service towards the healthcare of people.

I therefore commend Hindu House, the Rotary Club of Port Louis and the other collaborators for the organisation of this 3 days Mega Health Screening.

This Mega Health Screening is aligned with Government's vision of providing accessible and affordable healthcare to the common man as well as to make fitness an integral part of our daily lives.

Since preventive healthcare has to assume importance due to the increasing trend of lifestyle diseases, our health coverage strategy is looking beyond medical cure and intervention.

Ladies and gentlemen

Our health system is gearing itself to treat people and also provide guidance about prevention of medical conditions. A 'Healthy Mauritius' is possible! For that, disease prevention, early detection and treatment have to be encouraged.

Health care in Mauritius is recognized for its quality and is accessible to all its residents. In recent years, the capacity and capability of our healthcare system have been strengthened significantly to focus on health, rather than cure.

We have regional hospitals, specialised hospitals and private clinics. This is supported by a network of regional and community health centers evenly distributed throughout the island.

In a country like Mauritius where lifestyle related diseases have shown a rising trend, precautionary strategies have become important. Our healthcare sector is equipped to not only treat people but also guide them about prevention of medical conditions.

We need to remind the population that health screenings help people identify risk factors, signs and symptoms of common conditions, which if not detected early could result in serious health issues. They are important for the early detection of potentially life-threatening illnesses.

With early detection come a higher chance of more effective treatment and a possible cure of the associated illness. Early treatment prevents further progression of a new onset of diseases. The earlier that treatment begins, the more effective it will be.

For instance, a person who has a family history of a certain condition like heart disease, must be advised and encouraged to undergo periodical health screenings. In a case like this, knowing his current blood pressure and cholesterol levels will help that person to determine if he needs to make lifestyle changes to keep his heart health on track, or whether he may need further investigation or medicine to help them.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, routine medical screenings are the most effective way to obtain early detection of illnesses. I thus congratulate the organisers of this Health Screening and invite as many Mauritians to come and take advantage of this facility.