

**Shanghai Chinese Orchestra Performance on Sunday 2 June 2024 at 19:00 hrs
at Noah Wealth and Business Centre, Jinfei.**

Hon. Salim Abbas Mamode, Member of Parliament

**Your Excellency ZHU Liying, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
in Mauritius**

Mr. Guiyu, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Conference

Mr. Jean Paul Lam, President Chinatown Foundation

The President Shanghai Chamber of Commerce

Distinguished guests

All protocol observed

Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening

A special welcome to the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra and the delegation from the Chinese People's Political Conference who are visiting Mauritius in the context of the Shanghai Week.

As part of the programme we are, this evening, given the golden and unique opportunity of appreciating the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra which is the first large-scale modern Chinese orchestra in China, and one of Asia's most illustrious and established orchestra groups.

I must congratulate and thank Chinatown Foundation and the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce for this initiative.

In recent years, Shanghai Chinese Orchestra has taken it as its mission to promote the innovative development of Chinese music, putting forward the ideas of "**Chinese music, contemporary temperament, and international expression**".

In his Musical Records, Confucius rightly says, "**Music is that which moves man from the internal; rites are that which affects man on the external. Music brings about harmony.**"

Ladies and gentlemen

This year we are celebrating the 52nd anniversary of diplomatic relations between Mauritius and China – relations based on mutual respect, understanding, and mutual support.

On several issues the two countries share the same views, and with time, our relations have consolidated and stood the test of time. Three years have elapsed since the Free Tax Agreement has been in operation, and great progress has been noted.

Cultural relations between our two countries have further improved immensely.

Culture is the bridge between mind and emotion, and a link for deepening understanding and trust between countries. Cultural exchanges are always important to the bilateral relations. When we try to share our cultural experience and traditions, we help understand each other better.

The China Cultural Centre of Mauritius is a symbol of China and Mauritius' commitment to long-term collaboration. Since its inauguration, it has provided the public with a variety of events and trainings in order to fulfill its objective of

introducing the numerous elements of the Chinese culture and therefore promoting bilateral cultural exchanges. The institution, is not designated for a certain community, but for all Mauritians. It is a place for immersion of different cultures.

The Centre and other NGOs, like the Chinatown Foundation, are playing leading roles in enhancing the cultural exchange between our two countries.

Chinese culture is very vibrant in Mauritius, made possible by the relentless efforts of the Sino-Mauritians who have upheld the banner of this culture through decades. Mauritius is one of the rare countries where the Chinese Spring Festival is celebrated with a public holiday.

Last month, I attended the Finals of the Water Cube Cup Chinese Song Contest. I was overwhelmed. I was very much impressed by the level of the participants, and particularly amazed while listening to non-Chinese singing songs in Chinese language.

Ladies and gentlemen

We are here to appreciate the masterly performances of many great artists who are revered for their significant contribution to Chinese music. Together, in this hall, we will in a few minutes be united by music, which is the only universal language, transcending ideologies.

I shall therefore conclude by thanking the organisers and more particularly the artists of the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra.

Let us sit back and enjoy a variety of original Shanghai-style Chinese music brands.