My fellow citizens,

Good evening.

We have today reached the 23rd day of confinement.

We have closed our frontiers and our schools and most of the economic activities of the country have come to a halt.

This is the first time in our history that we have borne witness to such a situation and the understanding and cooperation of the Mauritian people have been outstanding.

I salute your courage and your solidarity in these difficult times.

I must also commend the Leader of the Opposition for his collaboration, and the representatives of the private sector for their contribution to the Solidarity Fund and for the means they have made available for the manufacture of masks and protective equipment.

Following the initiative of Government, an aircraft sent to China has touched down this evening carrying more than 2 million masks and 100,000 goggles.

The collaborations we have so far ensured must continue as patriotism ought to prevail.

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We must all relentlessly continue our battle against COVID 19.

I am fortunate to have with and around me a dynamic and devoted team, at Government level, from the Prime Minister’s Office, as well as, and significantly, from the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

I must also acknowledge the contribution and sacrifice of those who are in the front line in the struggle against COVID 19, namely the law and order forces and the medical personnel.

This task which we have been undertaking is not without risks.

I chair a High Level Committee every day in the context of our fight against the virus.

The Minister of Health, Dr. Kailesh Jagutpal, sits on this Committee, and he is also in contact with the various members who actively intervene in the press briefings on COVID 19.

This being the case, we have had, last night, to take the decision to isolate ourselves when we came to know that the secretary of the Minister of Health and Wellness has been tested COVID 19 positive.

The results of the first tests carried out to detect contamination were negative.

However, we must submit ourselves to a second test next week prior to considering an eventual exit from isolation.

Fortunately, technology has enabled us to continue working.

Today, I have thus been able to preside over the Cabinet Meeting and the Committee on COVID 19 by means of videoconference, and I am presently addressing you from my residence.
My dear compatriots,

Our fight will not end soon and we cannot thus afford to soft pedal on all the measures we have taken.

As at to date, we number 318 positive cases of COVID 19.

Though 23 persons have been cured of the disease, we have also, and unfortunately, registered 2 new cases of death.

I present all my sympathy to the families and to all their close ones.

Let me once again emphasize that confinement is vital in our fight and we imperatively need to remain prudent and disciplined.

Cabinet which met today has reviewed the evolution of the pandemic globally and it is a fact that confinement has considerably impacted upon our economy.

But we cannot put the health and life of our citizens at stake.

We have decided to extend the sanitary curfew until Monday 4th of May.

This was not an easy decision but it was imperative for our country.

Concerning Rodrigues and Agalega, the sanitary curfew will end on Wednesday 15 April, barring the education sector.

The Government is working on a plan for the reopening of the country. Such a reopening will simultaneously ensure the protection of the health of the population and the resumption and upturn of economic activities.

We will of course have a particular focus on our most vulnerable citizens.

Let us fight together.
More than ever sacrifice and discipline are the order of the day to win this battle so that eventually we all meet again among colleagues, friends and family without fear.

In my capacity as Prime Minister, it is my duty to ensure that we reach this outcome rapidly.

Long live the Republic of Mauritius.

Pravind Kumar Jugnauth
Prime Minister

Friday 10 April 2020