

Mr Ralph Jean-Louis, PS, Youth and Sports

Mr Abert Duncun, CEO, SNYC!

My young friends going to India,

Parents,

It is wonderful to see you all here today as we send off another amazing delegation of Seychellois youth to India for the Youth Exchange Programme of the National Cadet Corps. And what perfect timing – yesterday was the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, a visionary who always said that the youth are the real game-changers of society!

I am happy that this is our fourth delegation heading to India, and I have got to tell you - I'm really excited about what's in store for you. You'll be joining young people from different countries in Delhi. Just imagine that - it's almost like a mini United Nations of youth!

Let me tell you why I think this is such a big deal. You see, in today's world, we often talk about global challenges - climate change, technological disruption, artificial intelligence, social media influence - but who's going to tackle these challenges? It's you - the youth! You're not just future leaders; you're current change-makers. You guys have this amazing ability to look at old problems with fresh eyes and come up with solutions that we "older folks" might never think of!

And that's exactly why this Youth Exchange Programme is so special. It's a double bonanza - visiting India and connecting with other young minds from around the world. When you share your unique Seychellois perspective and learn about others'

viewpoints, that's where the magic happens. That's how great ideas are born!

Speaking of India and Seychelles - we've always been great friends, you know? Our people are constantly connecting - whether it's for studies, training, or even medical treatment.

Now, let me give you some practical advice - and this is important! Do pack some warm clothes because Delhi can get pretty chilly. And yes, absolutely do some shopping - Indian markets are an experience in themselves! But most importantly, soak it all in - the culture, the food, the conversations, the friendships.

I want to give a quick shout-out to the Seychelles National Youth Council and the Ministry of Youth and Sports for pulling this together so quickly. You guys rock!

Before I wrap up, here's my message to our young delegates: Go out there, make some noise, share your ideas boldly, and show the world what Seychellois youth are made of! Remember, when you're out there, you're not just representing yourselves - you're representing the vibrant spirit of beautiful Seychelles.

Don't forget to come back and tell us all about it - the good, the could-be-better, and everything in between. But most importantly, have a ball!

Thanks everyone, and safe travels to our amazing delegation!
