

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**S**PEECH OF

HAZRAT MUHYI-UD-DIN AL-KHALIFATULLAH

*Munir Ahmad Axim*

## **STUDY CIRCLE**

13 July 2019

(11 Dhul-Qaddah 1440 AH)

Après greeting everybody with the salutation of peace in Islam, Hadhrat Muhyi-ud-Din Al-Khalifatullah (atba) read the Tashahhud, the Ta'uz and the Surah Al-Fatiha, and he talked on the following subjects :

### **THE POLITICAL FINANCING BILL**



As you know, the general elections in Mauritius will be held in a few months. The present Government is presenting many Bills in the National Assembly and making many promises to regain power.

The Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth presented the Political Financing Bill at first reading in the National Assembly on Tuesday, 02 July 2019. When he reported on this bill, the majority of the public did not agree that the state finances the parties. According to them, some parties will use state funding as an excuse not to vote the

law. Their members will say a missed opportunity. (On the side of the Current Government).

All members of the Opposition (all parties forming the Opposition) will not vote the Bill as it stands now. They say they are against the Political Financing Bill in its current form and will not vote on the amendment of the constitution to put it into practice.

According to the leader of the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM), *“the bill is totally different from what the Government proposed in November 2018.”*

The goal, according to them, is to try to have a dangerous hold on political parties. And according to the leader of the opposition, Xavier-Luc Duval of the Mauritian Social Democrat Party (PMSD), he claims the institution of a ‘Select Committee’. According to him, *“section 6 (f) of the current law is fuzzy, because the commission can ask for documents without specifying anything and section 6 (3) states that ‘the commission may register a political party’ but not ‘shall’. The ‘may’ leaves some doubt floating ...”*

## **MY OPINION**

A law on the financing of political parties is necessary. Certainly, our democracy suffers when this funding goes through a slush fund, an obscure safe or a hiding place in the back of a car. We [many Mauritians and I] suspect high-ranking officials, businessmen or drug traffickers to act as bribers, and politicians to be corrupt. But this can become more serious/ grievous when we [the Mauritians] legalize and institutionalize a system where those who have money take control of political parties. They can only have one purpose: to protect their own interests and to enrich themselves further.

Are we on the verge of privatizing our political parties? No, we are not yet there. Moreover, a political party that is composed of shareholders who presents a business plan that treats the voters as customers and is managed like a company on the stock market will have no chance at the polls, even if its professionalism will not miss to attract some.

However, the Political Financing Bill, in its current form, risks allowing the privatization of a political party in a hidden way. And that is even more serious, despite the goodwill of everyone.

## CONCRETE PROPOSALS

1. Why not make public the identity of donors when it comes to private companies that contribute more than Rs. 300,000? Is there anything to hide?
2. Why not limit the amount of private financing from a company to a candidate or party to a maximum in order to reduce the risk of influence and promote “small” parties and independent candidates who normally struggle to raise funds?
3. Why not introduce a minimum of public support for each candidate or party, not necessarily in terms of money? For example, when it comes to multimedia and social media, it is important to ensure that television and radio airtime is distributed equitably.

An official mega-site on the internet could provide free information, videos and other messages of candidates, a great tool for those who cannot afford.

4. Why not make available to new candidates, those under 30 to encourage their political commitment, minimal public funding and logistical facilities such as electoral registers etc.? I have a lot to say, but for lack of time, I have to stop here for today.

The four proposals mentioned above will help make the Political Financing Bill a more just law democratically.

Remember, we as Muslims should never forget God’s words. Surely God says, **“Do not consume one another’s wealth unjustly, nor deliberately bribe authorities in order to devour a portion of others’ property, knowing that it is a sin.”** (Quran 2: 189)

So, I put the Government as well as the Mauritian public on guard against treachery and greed. Let’s make our island, a transparent, democratic island. Let us make it a peace and security hub in every sense of the word, and make our politics a sound politics aimed at securing morality and stability for the well-being of the country in general.

O Allah, exalt those who have the interest of the humans in sight, who honour those whom You honour and who facilitate the life of the people, not by greed but by spirit of servitude and charity. *Insha-Allah, Ameen.*

And before concluding my speech for today's study circle, I also wanted to talk to you about the recent drug seizure here in Mauritius.

## **RECORD DRUG SEIZURE OF 90 KG OF COCAINE**

The anti-drug squad seized 90 kilos of cocaine on Wednesday, 10 July 2019, in Pailles. The value of the drug is estimated at Rs. 1.35 milliard. Made quite intriguing in this case, how could this quantity of drugs, hidden in a backhoe (JCB), have escaped the vigilance of police officers, customs officers, sniffer dogs and the effectiveness of drug scans to finally land at Pailles?

For me personally, I'm not shocked by this seizure. If a parcel of 90 kilos of cocaine passed through the customs to arrive at Pailles, how many parcels of this type could have been conveyed without being intercepted. It would be a network of high personalities of the country, if not how to explain that cocaine in such large quantity can enter Mauritius? So, my personal opinion, it would be impossible for small drug traffickers to import as much cocaine whose market value is estimated at Rs. 1.35 milliard. And how can so much cocaine leave customs despite the presence of the ADSU, police, drug detectors, sniffer dogs and many other agents while customs is a highly secure area? It is high time to reflect on the corruption that plagues our society.

Our island has become a drug hub and it makes us understand that the import of the drug is similar to a common product on the market. Where there is demand, there is supply. All these seizures show that Mauritius unfortunately holds the gold medal in drug use.

From Heroin, Subutex, synthetic drugs and Cocaine, Mauritian consumers have tasted almost everything! Cocaine, known as "the drug of the rich" is for high society people who have money. Cocaine is generally used in "Rave parties", discos or bungalows frequented by the upper middle class.

These are the guys who are at the head of the drug trafficking network. There is now a new trend: young people, even minors, deliver drugs at home to avoid suspicion of police. We are living a hell on earth. These people use these innocent children to make money and our little society then sink into a deep abyss; it is being trapped in the vicious circle of drugs.

So, it is time for people to wake up and take the necessary actions to silence these evils, to protect the future of our children, to secure our society against the pangs of evil in all its forms. May God Almighty help us in this work, to eradicate this evil for the bright future of the future generation. *Insha-Allah, Ameen.*