

# Speech of Honourable Deepak Balgobin

MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY,  
COMMUNICATION AND INNOVATION

Launching of the MoKloud Platform

Sir Harilall Vaghjee Hall, Government House

*Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021*

- **Honourable Prime Minister, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth,  
Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External  
Communications,  
Minister for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity**
- **Mr Nayen Koomar Ballah, Secretary to Cabinet & Head of the  
Civil Service,**
- **Mr Om Kumar Dabidin, Secretary for Home Affairs,**
- **Permanent Secretaries of the Prime Minister's Office,**
- **Ms Sandrine Valere, Permanent Secretary of my Ministry,**
- **Mr Ayelou, Registrar of the Civil Status Office,**
- **Representatives of my Ministry,**
- **Representatives of the Civil Status Office,**
- **Members of the press,**
- **Dear guests and friends,**

Good morning to you all.

It has never been so timely for the digital transition of our society, which has so much accelerated with the pandemic.

This is why, I am particularly honoured today, as we are launching this important innovation masterpiece, the MoKloud platform.

The more so, that this event is being graced by the presence of the Honourable Prime Minister, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth.

This Government, led by our Prime Minister, is continuing to build on the progress we've made over the last years, rebuilding our economy and making it even stronger, progressive, resilient and inclusive, continuously fighting this global pandemic together.

As a team, we are moving forward to adapt, innovate, expand and reach out for new opportunities and make our country safer and stronger than ever before.

We firmly believe that Mauritius will continue to make formidable progress as a leading digital country for decades to come and will establish itself as a reference for other countries.

With this in mind, this Government is continuously investing in new and bold initiatives to take our ICT sector to new heights.

Under the abled leadership of our Prime Minister and his unwavering commitment towards the betterment of the lives of the people of our Republic, this Government is setting the stage for an even brighter future, embracing digital transformation initiatives and an accelerated adoption of new technologies at a much faster pace.

As a result, Government has developed and implemented digital solutions for its different services to enhance the quality of life of our citizens.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

MoKloud's journey started last year when Government boldly announced in its Budget Speech that the issuance and verification of documents & certificates would be done in a digital way with the creation of a digital safe...

Today MoKloud is a reality.

This project is perfectly aligned with the Digital Mauritius 2030 Strategy action of going digital.

### **So, what is MoKloud?**

It is a Government cloud, that will be used for online storage of official documents.

Citizens, are each allocated, a space slot – their own digital safe - to keep the digital version of their documents which can be accessed through a computer or a smartphone and in the near future we will develop a MoKloud mobile application.

For the first phase of this project, it will contain the Birth Certificates and Marriage Certificates, as official online digital version.

### **What is going to change?**

- The online versions of your Birth Certificates and Marriage Certificates will be completely free of charge.
- The digital versions of your documents can be accessed from anywhere and anytime for verification.
- The documents available on MoKloud may be shared electronically to relevant authorities or institutions.
- The documents to be ported on MoKloud will be digitally signed by the respective issuing authorities or institutions.
- For Ministries and Departments, this eliminates administrative overheads.
- It reduces service delivery time and associated costs through paperless transactions.

- And as the Honourable Prime Minister announced last week, it is possible to port documents like Driving Licences, Academic Certificates and Utility Bills, on the platform.
- Other documents that may be uploaded include Vehicle Registration Cards, Certificates of Incorporation, Business Registration Cards, and many more.
- Moving forward, Public Officers will be able to obtain their **e-Payslips** through the new payroll system which has been developed by my Ministry and this will also be available on MoKloud.

## Security – QR Code and MauPass

### Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Going online raises the question of cybersecurity.
- Rest assured, we have tackled this.
- The Online versions of the Birth Certificates and Marriage Certificates will bear a QR code at the bottom right corner of the documents.
- And this **CANNOT** be tampered with as compared to paper-based documents, as it will bear the digital signature of a trusted source.
- Each citizen will have to register through the **MauPass** identifier to get an account, and obtain a secure access to Government e-services.
- For the confidential nature of documents, citizens will have to confirm their identity at any Port Office of their choice and this has to be done only once.
- Citizens who will upload their personal documents on MoKloud will therefore need a MauPass account to warrant their “**digital safe**” on MoKloud.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Government is initiating new changes and introducing new technologies to society. With the vision of building a Digital Mauritius, a number of initiatives have been implemented and some are currently being undertaken, through my Ministry.

### **MoRendezVous**

In March this year, we have launched MoRendezVous online platform and mobile application with the aim of eliminating traditional queuing system and avoid crowd gathering in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Citizens can schedule appointments on MoRendezVous at a specific time and date.

### **Certification Authority**

Operating under the National Computer Board, the Certification Authority will be officially up and running in the coming weeks. Previously, we had to seek digital signatures from **eMudhra**, but now citizens, companies and organisations can seek a local digital signature from a Government Authority.

### **Chatbot**

We are also implementing a Chatbot. It will be an Artificial Intelligence powered software that can simulate a text conversation. The objective is to respond to citizen's queries on a 24/7 basis with respect to services offered by the different Ministries and Government Departments.

## **e-Services**

A high mobile penetration rate, pervasive connectivity, and the constant generation of data have enabled us to leverage further digital technology. Today, at a time when people expect more from Government, we are offering some **100 e-Services** which can be accessed through the Government Portal.

## **High Speed Connectivity in Schools**

Government is investing in the deployment of WIFI connectivity in 155 secondary schools in Mauritius and Rodrigues. This project will allow our secondary students and teachers to interact on online learning platforms.

## **Data Centre**

My Ministry is currently embarking on hosting in a state-of-the-art Tier IV Data Centre which will be a modern, reliable, energy efficient, secure and fit-for-purpose Data Centre. It will provide high availability of Government services and reliable resources that meet the Government Data Centre demand.

## **Digital Vaccination Pass**

As you are aware, the Government is putting huge efforts in completing the data entry exercise for all those who have been vaccinated against COVID-19. We are expecting to complete this process by the end of this

month. The Digital Vaccination Pass will hence become a reality and will be ported on the MoKloud platform.

### **Training on Robotics in Schools**

The National Computer Board has been entrusted with the introduction of robotics courses to primary school students. This initiative is expected to promote a culture of innovation in our youth.

### **Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Bill**

With the accelerated digital transformation which is happening across the economy, we are now living in a cyber world, consuming data and technology. This unfortunately opens up the door for new threats and attacks. It urges us to consolidate appropriate safeguards to mitigate cyberthreats and attacks in our digital ecosystem, and can only be addressed by a strong and comprehensive piece of legislation.

Accordingly, We will soon introduce in parliament, the new Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Bill. This Bill will also help to position the country as an even safer place for cyber-business, and provisions for ICT related services.

### **Global Cybersecurity Index**

I am pleased to highlight that in its latest report published last week, the International Telecommunication Union, ranked Mauritius **1<sup>st</sup> in Africa** and **17<sup>th</sup> in the world** on the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020. Our score has improved from 88% to 96.89%.



And, of course, with the new legislation on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime, we are aiming for a better rank globally in the next ITU index on Cybersecurity.

## **Conclusion**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To conclude, I am confident that the MoKloud platform will be **Game Changer !**

Along with online services, cashless transactions and e-Commerce, it will support the transition process on our journey to a digital environment.

I do trust that our institutions will take advantage of facilities like the MoKloud platform to streamline their services.

Of course, the relevant authorities or institutions will be able to verify these documents online and on request.

Our goal is to make transacting with Government much easier, using digital means to work jointly with institutions.

Building a **Digital Mauritius** is about putting citizens at the center, so that they have access to better services and more opportunities.

**Thank you very much for your attention.**