

Speech of Hon. Deepak Balgobin  
Minister of Information Technology,  
Communication and Innovation

Launching of Laboratory Information  
Management System (LIMS)

Conference Room, Victoria Hospital  
09 00hrs – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**My colleague, Honourable Kailesh Jagutpal, Minister of Health and Wellness,**

**His Excellency, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan,**

**Her Excellency, Ms Amanda Serumaga, UNDP Resident Representative,**

**Mrs. Dalida Allagapen, Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Health and Wellness**

**Miss Sandrine Valère, Permanent Secretary of my Ministry**

**Distinguished guests,**

**Members of the Press,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good morning to you all.**

It is a great pleasure for me to be in your midst today for the launching of the **Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)** and the Flu Clinic of the Victoria Hospital.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Innovation is key to navigating this 'new normal'. Indeed, how Governments and its agencies lead and influence Research and Innovation, can have major implications for the future, as these are critical factors in injecting resilience into the economy and society as a whole.

With the outbreak of the pandemic, there was a need to trace COVID-19 cases with a view to mitigating the virus spread. In this regard, the assistance of the UNDP was solicited for the development of the **Laboratory Information Management System**. The aim is to deliver a comprehensive, standardised testing service for hospitals.

After a successful implementation at the **Central Health Laboratory** of the Victoria Hospital, my Ministry and the Ministry of Health proceeded with the rolling out the **LIMS** at the flu-clinics of the 5 regional hospitals as well as at the SSR International Airport. It has been configured for delivering COVID-19 test results through SMSs and emails.

In order to process the results of tests being carried out, it was imperative to ensure that the names of individuals are correctly recorded. This exercise was simplified with the leveraging of the **InfoHighway** data sharing platform. This platform was set up by my Ministry for the exchange of information between Government agencies; and in the case of the **LIMS**, sharing was done between the **Civil Status Division** (*the provider of the information*) and the Ministry of Health (*the consumer of the information*).

This platform has been critically useful to share vaccination information from the database of the Ministry of Health in order to be able to view citizens' **Vaccination Passes** in digital format on **beSafeMoris** and the **MoKloud** platforms.

MoKloud is another initiative of my Ministry which is used to provide citizens' birth and marriage certificates in digital format. In the near future driving licences and proofs of addresses of citizens will also be made available on MoKloud.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This Government, under the leadership of our Prime Minister, has always believed in investing in new technologies. The Governmental Programme provides for building the economy of the future. And we are creating all the necessary conditions to take our country to greater heights of development.

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Health and my Ministry are currently working toward the implementation of the **National e-Health Project**. This transformative project would be hosting patients' data and provide a seamless management of hospitals bringing better convenience for patients and their companions calling at our health institutions.

An expression of interest is under consideration for the procurement and implementation of the e-Health System.

One salient feature of the e-Health project is that it is intended to interface with the **Laboratory Information Management System**. Doctors will be able to order clinical tests, like blood tests, and receive the results electronically.

In preparation for the coming into operation of these new features, the LIMS has been integrated with the test machines at the Central Health Laboratory. This adds value to the automation of the operations of the health labs.

The LIMS is able to send test commands to the test machines and receive results almost **ins-tan-ta-neous-ly**. Sharing of information and integrated reporting on test results become also more manageable.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

COVID-19 will not leave us soon. We are condemned to bear with it for some while. Nevertheless, it has taught us one important thing. There is a need for the digitalisation of our services more than ever, not only for sanitary precautions but also to improve effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery.

With the LIMS, digitalisation in the health sector has taken a new turn. My Ministry and the Ministry of Health and Wellness will continue to pursue our efforts for the improvement of the LIMS project and the successful implementation of the e-Health project.

The Central Informatics Bureau, the Central Information Systems Division and the Government Online Centre have been instrumental in getting the LIMS project off the ground.

**With these words, I wish you all a pleasant day and I thank you for your attention.**