

**Speech of Honourable Deepak Balgobin  
Minister of Information Technology,  
Communication and Innovation**

**Back Up License to University Students by  
Veritas Technologies**

**Caudan Arts Centre, Caudan Waterfront,  
Port Louis at 09.30am  
19th May 2022**

- **Mr. Johnny Karam, Managing Director and Vice President of International Emerging Region at Veritas Technologies,**
- **Ms Sandrine Valere, Permanent Secretary of my Ministry,**
- **Mr Nitish Rucktooa, Country Manager, Indian Ocean Islands and Central and East Africa, Veritas Technology,**
- **Heads of Higher Education Institutions in Mauritius,**
- **CEOs and Captains of the Industry,**
- **Members of the Press,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning to you.

First of all, I would like to thank Veritas Technologies for hosting such an important event, especially with the presence of the Vice-President Mr Johnny Karam. It gives me great pleasure once again, this time to conclude our negotiations on ICT matters with Veritas Technologies, after our first business meeting at the Dubai Expo 2020 at the beginning of this year. And I am pleased that our discussions have materialized for the benefits of our public universities and polytechnics students.

According to The Economist, data is now reckoned as the most valuable resource in the world, ahead of oil. Businesses use data to power their business opportunities. Today, no business can afford to put the integrity of its valuable data at stake.

If you cannot rebuild your lost data, your business can be ruined. In such situations, some people are ready to spend a lot of money to recover their lost data. Just to tell you how your data is important for you.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am proud to announce that my Ministry has entered into a collaboration with Veritas Technologies for the provisioning of Veritas NetBackup SaaS Protection licences to public university students for the safekeeping of their official mailboxes and personal folders. Students know very well how precious their information are for them to advance in their academic programme, hence the need to safeguard this information.

In addition, Veritas will customise a training programme for database administrators of our Higher Education Institutions to operate the Veritas NetBackup SaaS Protection solution. This training will serve the database administrators for the restoration of data in case of loss or other issues.

The following institutions are proposed to be serviced by Veritas:

- University of Mauritius
- Open University of Mauritius
- University of Technology, Mauritius
- Université des Mascareignes
- Polytechnics Mauritius

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This initiative follows the decision of my Ministry to take part in the Dubai Expo 2020, where a multitude of business opportunities have been presented to the Mauritius delegation, Government and private participants alike. I wish to highlight that besides Veritas, other international corporates like ORACLE, ACER, and others, met our delegation in the Dubai Expo 2020 and have as well offered to extend their support and services to the people of Mauritius.

Furthermore, we are expecting the visit of the Chief Executive Officer of Emirates Post Group in the forthcoming days. His mission relates to a training programme in the area of e-Commerce for the Mauritius Post Staff. As you know e-Commerce has now become a pre-requisite for trade, whether in times of crisis or not.

Another fallout from the participation of Mauritius in the Dubai Expo 2020 is the upcoming collaboration of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre with the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council for the furthering of the Mauritius space programme. Space technology is an area that will, no doubt, foster innovation for the socio-economic benefit of the country.

The Ministry of State for Artificial Intelligence of the United Arab Emirates also expressed its wishes to collaborate with my Ministry for the adoption of emerging technologies to push forward our industrial sectors. They will be in Mauritius in weeks to come to initiate discussions on the subject of emerging technologies in the industry.

Coming back to our Veritas Event today. Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to highlight here that within our collaboration, Veritas Technologies is handing over 30,000 Veritas NetBackup Saas Protection licences to Mauritian public university students for a period of three years.

All this to tell you, that Mauritius' participation in Dubai Expo 2020 has been significantly fruitful. The Veritas NetBackup Saas Protection solution allows to protect, recover and archive the mailboxes and personal folders of students while enabling a strong data protection profile for the respective institutions, particularly with regard to compliance legislations and regulations such as the

Data Protection Act 2017 and the EU-GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations).

As you know our Data Protection Act takes on the latest developments in terms of best practices in the area of data protection and also covers the EU-GDPR. As a non-European country, Mauritius has enacted a law which is compliant to the GDPR.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On the Internet, we not only want to protect our data, but also to feel secure. As you know, last year, my Ministry has introduced the Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Act to protect citizens and businesses transacting online. This new law is well adapted to the current situation prevailing in cyberspace making our digital ecosystem more resilient and secure for use by Internet users.

To conclude, on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, I would like to thank Veritas Technologies for making our collaboration happen for the benefit of our university and polytechnics students.

I thank you all for your kind attention.