

Speech of Honourable Deepak Balgobin

**Minister of Information Technology,
Communication and Innovation**

**Visit of a delegation from the
National Informatics Centre of India
21 - 25 February 2022
for the formulation of a
Digital Government Applications Blueprint**

**Conference Room, Ministry of Information Technology,
Communication and Innovation, Level 7, SICOM Tower, Ebene**

21st February 2022

- **Her Excellency, Mrs. Nandini Singla, High Commissioner of India**
- **Ms Sandrine Valere, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry**
- **Representatives of the National Informatics Centre,
Mr Deepak Chandra Misra,
Dr Gayatri Pandurangi, and
Mr Saba Akhtar,**
- **Officers of my Ministry and other Ministries and Departments present today**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good afternoon everyone.

It is my pleasure to welcome the team of the National Informatics Centre which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India. Your presence today is yet another testimony of the unflinching support that the Government of India is providing to the Government of the Mauritius for the growth of the ICT sector in Mauritius and the accelerated digitalisation of public services.

The success of India on the ICT front is reckoned and revered worldwide, both from the private sector and Government perspective. The contribution of the National Informatics Centre in shaping the Government ICT infrastructure and services landscape has no doubt been a determining factor for the progress achieved and bringing about a progressive and inclusive society.

Here in Mauritius we have established an ambitious e-Government agenda which seeks to digitalise the services offered by all Ministries and Departments and ensure that this happens with a very citizen centric focus.

My Ministry developed a Digital Government Transformation Strategy for the period 2018-2022, which sets the tone for engagement in digitalisation at Government level, with the wellbeing of the people as being the finality.

Accordingly, in line with the digital Government some projects of paramount importance have been materialised over the past few years whilst others are yet to be embarked upon. The support of your esteemed institution will surely be critical for the successful implementation of these projects.

Our InfoHighway project has been determinant in accelerating our digitalisation programme. This data-sharing platform has been set up for the secure sharing of information between Government agencies for more efficient public service delivery.

Citizens willing to transact safely with Government online now can avail of their digital identity from the MauPass authentication framework.

The MoKloud platform is another project which has been implemented for the posting of citizens' documents in digital format in their personal safe. The model is much inspired from India's Digilocker.

A Certification Authority has recently been set up for the issue of digital certificates to public as well as private entities.

The Government Online Centre, which is the data centre of Government, is being revisited. It is proposed to be scaled to a modern Tier IV architecture coupled with a disaster recovery centre for enhanced resilience.

Many more similar projects have been realised in Government. You will have the opportunity to interact with the respective Ministries and Departments and find the right mix of solutions that will accelerate our e-Government agenda forward.

With a view to developing a new strategy, it is the opportune moment for us to seek collaboration from our friendly partners and here we are soliciting the support of the National Informatics Centre to formulate a new strategy, namely a **Digital Government Applications Blueprint**.

This Blueprint would serve as the compass for steering Government efforts in implementing the very important Digital Government Transformation Strategy. We foresee that the Blueprint will cover, *inter alia*, the following:

1. Development of e-services and systems that facilitate public service delivery to citizens,
2. Rolling out of digital and mobile payments, in view of achieving cashless transactions in Government and in the economy at large, and
3. Sharing and customisation of Indian applications that would fit within the Blueprint.

Dear delegates, we have accordingly worked out an agenda for your visit, which includes the holding of meetings with various Ministries and Departments. These meetings will help in identifying the IT solutions that meet the challenges being faced in line with the proposed Blueprint. Once the Blueprint is finalised, deployment of solutions will follow across all the agencies targeted.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For us, it is of paramount importance to have responsive partners like the Indian Government especially the office of the High Commissioner, which has been instrumental in moving this idea of collaboration with NIC from the early discussions in September 2021 to today with the visit of this important delegation. This engagement with the Indian authorities will again bring to the fore the special relationship that exists between our two countries.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank the Government of India, Her Excellency the High Commissioner of India, her staff, the National Informatics Centre and all those who in one way or another for making this visit and the ensuing actions a reality.

I wish you, the Indian delegation, an enjoyable stay in Mauritius despite it being a short one and despite the cyclonic weather prevailing at this time. Above all, I wish that our discussions will be fruitful and will have positive impacts regarding the ambitions of our two countries.

Thank you very much.