

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

**Signature Ceremony of Project  
Portfolio Document on E-health  
Initiatives**

**Conference Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ministry of Health and Wellness,  
Emmanuel Anquetil Building  
Port-Louis**

**Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 13 00hrs**

**My colleague, Hon. Kailesh Jagutpal, Minister of Health and Wellness,**

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

**Mrs Chand Seewooruttun, Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Health and Wellness,**

**Ms Sandrine Valere, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation,**

**Representatives of both ministries,**

**Members of the Press,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

## **A very Good Morning to you all.**

It is indeed a pleasure to be here today as we are going to witness the signature of this Project Portfolio Document between the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the UNDP for the shared funding and realisation of the E-health project. It is through sheer hard work and dedication that we are seeing the contours of the cooperation between the Government and the UNDP on e-health.

Our most recent collaboration with the UNDP, we will recall, is the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). This system is today an important tool for the recording and management of PCR Tests in these tough Covid times. The LIMS has been deployed with the support of the UNDP since we had our first lockdown. At a time when we were faced with the first wave of the pandemic in Mauritius, the UNDP extended a helping hand to the ministry for the implementation of this project.

Following the successful installation of the LIMS at the Central Health Laboratory at Victoria Hospital, it is now being rolled out to the other regional hospitals in the country.

Having worked together on the very topical issue in the health sector it was quite natural for the Ministry of Health and my ministry to engage with UNDP on the e-health project. It allowed us to tap on the wide experience and expertise available in the UN network to equip our health facilities with a digital solution for managing Health records and the management of hospital operations.

Officers of the Central Informatics Bureau, which is a department of my Ministry, have worked in collaboration with officers of the Ministry of Health and Wellness to set out the specifications for the e-health solution for Mauritius.

With the assistance of the UNDP a review exercise was conducted on the e-health project such that today we have a one which is quite innovative and forward looking. This, I am sure, will positively transform the services offered to the public in hospitals. And it is in line with the Digital Mauritius 2030 Strategic Plan and the Digital Government Transformation Strategy 2018 - 2022 of my Ministry, which are our guiding stars on the road to the Digital Transformation of our country.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As part of our response to the Covid pandemic, this Government under the able leadership of our Prime Minister, Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, waged a successful vaccination campaign that has today progressed to the administration of the booster dose. In the same line, my Ministry developed the COVAC system for recording the vaccinations details and conceived the digital vaccination pass for the public, which is available on the Mauritius Telecom platform besafemoris.

As for the e-health project, it is proposed to adopt a phased approach towards its implementation, starting with patient administration then moving to pharmacy, health/patient portal, accidents and emergency, nursing and doctors and a patient department system amongst others.

The project is expected to bring a lot of benefits to the patient community where they would be able to secure appointments for their visits and know the status of the treatment and medical professionals, doctors and nurses would be having a digital tool to facilitate their work.

The software is planned to be piloted at the Jawaharlal Nehru hospital, Rose Belle and its associated Health Centres. Building on the experience gained in the pilot phase, the system will be rolled out across the country. The coming months promise to be innovative for patients, health professionals, and IT professionals alike.

Following the signature of this agreement, the UNDP will soon be floating an Expression of Interest to identify potential suppliers on the market, who will be called upon to respond to a request for proposal for the solution.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are at the dawn of a new chapter for the digitalisation of Mauritius with the e-health project on the horizon.

**Thank you for your attention.**