

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

Launching of “Objectivity UK” in Mauritius

2nd June 2022 at 18.30hrs,
Le Suffren Hotel & Marina, Port-Louis

Protocol

- **Mr Rob Helle, CEO of Objectivity UK,**
- **Mrs Pritee Gungah-Dabeea, Head Objectivity Mauritius,**
- **Captains of the Industry,**
- **Members of the Press,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good evening to you all.

It is my pleasure to join you for this event which marks the start of operations of “Objectivity” in Mauritius. It has certainly been the result of hard work and determination to set up your office on our island. It is encouraging to see that the company is now sharing its experience and knowledge here.

The presence of a company like Objectivity in Mauritius is in line with the Government’s strategy to attract more internationally renowned companies in the field of high and emerging technologies.

It is definitely impressive to know that your company employs over 1000 people in UK, Germany and Poland, and that you ambition to recruit and train more than 100 top talents in the IT sector in its new delivery centre in Mauritius. In short, this is the kind of operator that we seek to attract in order to advance the ICT sector of our country.

I do take note though that Objectivity’s aim is to create the best working conditions your employees. This will only be beneficial to our local talents

with access to training, new methodologies, new technologies and world-class experts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Technological advances are evolving so fast, and this trend continues to accelerate. In this rapidly changing world, it is essential to adapt and acquire new skills and abilities. The development of digital technologies and digitisation affects all citizens, regardless of their age. It is therefore imperative for youngsters to develop digital skills, to be able to navigate to a meaningful and interesting future.

Skills and competencies stand out as the key enablers for a strong digital ecosystem. Not all countries are capable of identifying the necessary resources to set up the required infrastructure and develop the necessary digital services to keep pace with the evolving world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The objectives of my Ministry are to improve service delivery and dissemination of information by providing a high-speed communication infrastructure, developing our digital economy and encouraging innovation through the optimal use of emerging technologies.

The aims of Objectivity are, thus, perfectly aligned with our vision of Mauritius as an innovative, modern, and better place to live in. And the development of ICT is one of the sure ways to build the future of our country.

The global economy has been subject to economic shocks following the wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, ICT is the only sector in Mauritius which has been able to withstand the effects of the pandemic and which has also been able to mitigate to some extent its impacts on other sectors of our economy.

This is why it is necessary to further consolidate the pillars of the sector by bringing in a touch of new technologies. The development of a country at the economic and social level, is nowadays constantly being influenced by advances in the field of technology, digitalisation and innovation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The reason why our ICT sector has been able to prolong its services during the pandemic, is mainly attributed to the robustness of our Internet connectivity.

Mauritius is currently connected to three submarine cables. A fourth cable is expected to reinforce the international connectivity by mid 2023. This endeavour will also stimulate competition among the various Internet Service Providers.

As regards to local connectivity, our island is fully covered with optical fibre. Last year, 5G network has been deployed in the upper regions of the country and will be extended to other areas in the very near future. You may wish to know that Mauritius has reached 99% in terms of internet coverage, 137% broadband penetration and 155% mobile penetration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The coming into operation of Objectivity in Mauritius will, no doubt, enrich our business ecosystem. I would encourage other ventures like Objectivity to set up business in Mauritius. Other operators in the ICT sector are also called upon to do the same. This is how Mauritius is going to be transformed into a real digital hub in the region, and in the interest of every stakeholder.

Of course, it is not going to be an easy task. I urge business leaders to revisit their objectives so that we are all aligned with a common strategy. This Government will listen to all proposals that can remove constraints off your way for us to realise our common projects.

I would like to thank, once again, all the representatives of Objectivity for their willingness to contribute to the Mauritian ICT sector. I wish you good luck in this new adventure.

Thank you for your attention.