

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

Launch of DSTv Stream by Mauritius Telecom

**Tuesday, 14th November 2023 at 7pm Royal Green
Wellness Resort, Réduit Triangle, Moka**

- **Board Members of Mauritius Telecom**
- **Mr Kapil Reesaul, CEO of Mauritius Telecom,**
- **Representatives of MultiChoice Africa**
- **The First Secretary, High Commission of the Republic of South Africa,**
- **Chairmen and CEOs of the Public and Private Sector,**
- **Members of the Press,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good evening to you all.

We are here today, not just to witness the launch of a new partnership, but to celebrate a vision.

A vision of a connected and empowered society and the transformative power of technology in shaping our country.

In an era where information is paramount, where connectivity is the essence of progress, the importance of accessible and affordable communication channels cannot be overstated.

The Government's commitment to fostering innovation and inclusion has led us to this significant partnership between Mauritius Telecom and DSTv, that is, MultiChoice Africa.

Mauritius Telecom, as a key player in the socio-economic development of our country, has consistently been at the forefront of the digital transformation that is reshaping the fabric of our society.

This partnership exemplifies Mauritius Telecom's commitment to providing world-class entertainment and the best of live football and sports to our people through paid IP TV services.

It is a collaboration which will set a new standard in TV content, creating an engaging and rewarding viewing experience for our citizens.

Affordable access to world-class content and entertainment is crucial in our quest for inclusivity.

As announced by the CEO, Mauritius Telecom in partnership with DStv has launched an entry-level package of Rs 390 per month.

Today 81 percent of the households in Mauritius are equipped with Pay TV offered by Mauritius Telecom as well as the other Pay TV service providers.

By launching one of the PAY TV pack at Rs 390 per month, Mauritius Telecom is democratising access to Premium TV content.

This initiative ensures that individuals from all walks of life and socio-economic status can enjoy a diverse range of content and experience renowned sports events.

Television has been a powerful medium in achieving this, serving as a source of entertainment, education, and information.

However, access to quality paid IP TV content has not always been equitable, with affordability being a significant barrier for many.

This partnership embodies the spirit of progress, acknowledging that in the digital age, access to information is a fundamental right that should be enjoyed by all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Government, led by our visionary Honourable Prime Minister, has been committed all the way to positioning Mauritius as an ICT hub for the region.

We believe that working smartly, producing quality results, and operating resources efficiently are the cornerstones of economic progress.

To achieve this, embracing new and emerging technologies is not just a choice but a necessity.

In this pursuit, the establishment of the Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council is very determining to providing the strategic recommendations for both the public and private sectors.

Our vision extends beyond mere communication infrastructure.

It encompasses a profound transformation in the way we educate and care for our citizens.

By harnessing technology, we aim to create an ICT landscape that prepares our youth for the challenges of the digital era, fostering innovation and critical thinking.

We are continuously investing in the digital transformation which is enhancing the quality and accessibility of public services.

From Healthcare and Education to Financial services, technology allows us to build more efficient, transparent, and citizen-centric systems that benefit the entire population.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This collaboration is not merely a business endeavour.

It is a commitment to bridging the digital divide and ensuring that the benefits of technology reach every corner of our society.

By making paid IP TV services more affordable, we are empowering individuals and families to stay informed, entertained, and connected in ways that were once considered out of reach.

I extend my gratitude to Mauritius Telecom and MultiChoice Africa for their dedication to this shared vision.

As we embark on this new era of affordable world-class entertainment and live sports, let us embrace the opportunities that technology provides for a more connected, informed, and prosperous Mauritius.

Thank you for your attention.