

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

Workshop on the Future of ICT Regulations  
to celebrate the  
21st Anniversary of the Authority

Caudan Arts Centre, Scala Conference Room  
Thursday 14 September 2023 at 09.00hrs

- **His Excellency, Eddy Boissézon, Vice President of the Republic of Mauritius**
- **My colleague, Honourable Kenny Dhunnoo, Parliamentary Private Secretary,**
- **Mr Dick Ng Sui Wa, Chairman of the ICTA**
- **Mrs Sandrine Valere-Bolli, Permanent Secretary of my Minister and also Board Member of the ICTA,**
- **Mr Jérôme Louis, Officer in Charge of the ICTA**
- **Board Members of the ICTA**
- **Staff of the ICTA,**
- **Members of the Press,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning and Greetings to all of you on this auspicious occasion as we gather to celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the ICTA. I wish to congratulate the Authority for reaching this remarkable milestone and on this occasion, it is a great pleasure for me to address you today on the future of ICT regulations.

I also wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the ICTA for its relentless dedication to promoting affordable and quality telecommunication services in the Republic of Mauritius.

For over two decades, the ICTA has been instrumental in shaping our nation's digital landscape.

Its mission to foster functional market-driven competition and the regulatory principles that have been laid down, have undoubtedly paved the way for a Networked Information and Knowledge Society in Mauritius.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The journey began in 2001 when Parliament passed the Information and Communication Technologies Act, effectively establishing the ICTA as a regulatory authority.

Since then, the ICTA has played a pivotal role in ensuring that telecommunications operators meet the required standards and criteria to provide services to our citizens, in a fair transparent and inclusive manner.

The responsible allocation of resources, including numbers and radio frequencies, has been managed judiciously to ensure equitable access for all stakeholders.

Among other functions, the ICTA also acts as the Controller of Certification Authorities (CCA) to certify the technologies, infrastructure and practices of all the certification authorities licensed to issue digital certificates, more and more needed in this digital age.

Currently, the ICTA is actively engaged in the formulation of the SIM Card regulations for a proper control over the sales and issue of SIM cards with a view to avoid misuse by terrorist groups/ drug dealers carrying out illegal activities.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we all know, the ICT sector is one that is continuously evolving.

With the rapid advancement of technology, the ICTA faces contemporary challenges that require innovative approaches to regulation.

Today, I am pleased to announce that the ICTA is taking a bold step into the future by launching its Blockchain-based eVerify services.

This initiative signifies the commitment of our country to embrace cutting-edge technologies and adapt our regulatory framework accordingly.

Blockchain-based eVerify services refer to a system or platform that utilizes blockchain technology to verify and authenticate various types of information or transactions electronically.

These services harness the inherent characteristics of blockchain, such as immutability, transparency, and security, to establish trust and ensure the integrity of data or documents.

Blockchain-based eVerify services have applications in various sectors, including education, Healthcare, supply chain, Legal and Regulatory and more.

These services are particularly valuable in cases where trust and data integrity are critical.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

This workshop is a testament to this Government's dedication to staying at the forefront of ICT regulation.

With the leadership and vision of our Honourable Prime Minister, our aim is to sustain the growth of the ICT sector in Mauritius with the right focus and the right regulatory framework:

- by exploiting Emerging Technologies, such as Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things (IOT) and 5G.
- by bringing together industry experts, stakeholders, and thought leaders to brainstorm, and deliberate on emerging technologies.

These technologies are shaping the world as we know it, and it is crucial for us to keep pace with their evolution to transform our technological landscape.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

On a conclusive note, I would like to emphasize the importance of collaboration within the digital ecosystem.

The challenges and opportunities that the future holds for ICT regulation cannot be tackled in isolation.

We must work together, policy makers, Government officials, industry leaders and stakeholders, to chart a course that is in line with the international best practices and that will benefit all Mauritians.

I wish to express my gratitude to the ICTA for their tireless efforts in advancing our nation's telecommunication sector.

I am confident that with their commitment and the collective wisdom in this forum, we will continue to thrive and remain at the forefront of technological innovation.

I look forward to the insightful discussions that will come up as we proceed.

**Thank you.**