

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

Launching Ceremony of Price Monitoring and Control Application (MOPRI) under the Public Sector Transformation Scheme

Conference Hall A
Shri A B Vajpayee Tower, Ebène
Thursday 18 May 2023 at 10h30

- **My colleague, Honourable Soodesh Callichurn, Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection**
- **Mrs Mathur Dabidin – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection**
- **Mrs Valere-Bolli, Permanent Secretary of my Ministry**
- **Dr Sukon, Chairman of the MRIC**
- **Professor Bahorun, Executive Director of the MRIC**
- **Mr Noonaram, Co-Founder and Partner, VERDE Frontier Solutions Ltd,**
- **Members of the Price Observatory Committee**
- **Representatives of different Ministries**
- **Participants**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Morning to you all.

This event today, marks a new turn for our public service.

Especially in the sector of price control and monitoring services which constitute an important measure of the status of trade and business in our economy.

With this project, a digitized system which is easy to use and fully integrated will allow officers and other concerned stakeholders to monitor prices of goods

The Public Sector Transformation Scheme (PSTS) is aimed at supporting innovative collaborative projects that test new approaches/ technologies by start-ups and SMEs for improving processes and enhancing service delivery in the public sector.

The objective is to support innovative projects that will enable, through a collaborative approach, the development, pilot testing and evaluation of new solutions to deliver better outcomes in the public sector.

This scheme was developed during the last quarter of 2020 through a series of consultations with various stakeholders of the public sector, including an innovation needs assessment of Ministries and Departments, to determine the most appropriate mode of operation.

A Call for Proposals was launched on the 1st of March 2021 with a deadline of 14th of May 2021. The MRIC received a total of 25 innovation collaborative proposals.

This project named 'Price Monitoring and Control Application (MOPRI)' is the second completed project under this scheme.

The first project was entitled 'An Artificial Intelligence (AI) Powered Trusted Due Diligence Platform with Integrated Dynamic Scoring Engine', was launched on the 2nd of February 2023.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the face of the current circumstances, we are constantly re-adapting our approach in the way we work, leveraging even more on technology and knowledge innovation.

In this context, our Public Sector is increasingly moving in a direction where it is embracing novel and emerging innovation.

I must, in this regard, thank the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC), which operates under my Ministry, for the quick and effective implementation of this budget measure, along with all the other collaborating stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am endeavouring, through my Ministry and the MRIC to establish the right ecosystem for Mauritius to embrace innovation.

Our Mauritian population needs a new mindset towards creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

It is people who innovate - not machines.

Excellency in Science and Research for innovation are necessary but not sufficient.

Innovation is not only made by one institution but calls for multi-disciplinary initiatives, teamwork, knowledge, and reward sharing.

It is also about wide collaboration between institutions, both local and overseas.

Our country, through its rainbow nation, is indeed a fertile ground for innovation.

All we need to do to unleash the potential is to provide the intrinsic motivation.

This is what my Ministry is endeavouring to do with the collaboration and support of other Ministries, institutions and organizations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Promoting an innovation culture among our population is of utmost importance.

It fosters creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, leading to economic growth, societal progress, and improved quality of life.

By encouraging and supporting innovation, the Government is able to empower its citizens to develop groundbreaking ideas, products, and services that address pressing challenges and drive technological advancements.

With these words, I would like to thank Verde Frontier Solutions Ltd for its creativity and innovation.

My thanks go to the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection for implementing this project, to the MRIC for facilitating its development and to everyone who has contributed to this project under the Public Sector Transformation Scheme.

I thank you for your attention.