

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

Opening ceremony of the
CIO Summit 2023
Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council

Le Meridien Ile Maurice,
Pointe aux Piments

Thursday, 25th May 2023 at 10hrs

- Mr. Suraj Juddoo, Chairman of the METC,
- Mr. Vrigesh Futta, Executive Director of the METC,
- Jean Marc Lejeune, Vice-President of Gartner Europe
- Ms. Nadia Tazi, IS/IT Director Africa, Middle East, and India, Renault Group
- Mr. Clint Bryce, Design Strategist
- Heads of Ministries and Departments,
- Chief Information Officers,
- Captains of the Industry,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning to you all.

We are here today for one common reason.

We are all bound by the need to embrace the transformative power of emerging technologies. These technologies are rapidly advancing and hold a significant promise for shaping our future in numerous ways, if only they adopted wisely and timely. The setting up of the Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council (METC) and the launch of the Mauritius CIO Association, bear the testimony to the commitment of the Government to technological advancement and innovation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We find ourselves at a pivotal moment in history, in an era of rapid technological advancements. Our nation cannot afford to be outside the band wagon of the ongoing digital revolution. We need to leverage on emerging technologies as catalysts for socio-economic growth and sustainable development.

The establishment of the Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council underscores our unwavering dedication to these goals. The METC will vigilantly monitor the rapid advancements in technology. By staying attuned to the latest trends, breakthroughs, and disruptive technologies, the Council will need to identify and unlock opportunities to enhance the day-to-day lives of every Mauritian and keep our nation on the path of modernity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today also marks a significant milestone in our journey towards technological advancement. In every field, be it finance, engineering, medicine, or any other, Professionals connect, collaborate, and learn from one another through their respective associations. Understanding the significance of a unified voice and a platform that empowers Technology Pioneers and Enthusiasts, is of utmost importance. We recognize the

pressing need for the technology sector to have its association – its own unique voice.

The Mauritius CIO Association will be a platform that will help foster collaboration and share knowledge in a collective effort to shape the technology landscape of the country, in a unified and coordinated manner. The Association will unite our technology leaders, providing a platform for networking, mentorship, and continuous learning – driven by the METC. By fostering strong partnerships across sectors, we can collectively address the challenges posed by emerging technologies and shape a digital future that is inclusive and sustainable.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would be remiss if I do not express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you gathered here today. Throughout the unprecedented challenges of the global pandemic, you have exhibited unwavering commitment, resilience, and adaptability. Tirelessly seeking and implementing new systems, technologies, and strategies, you ensured the continuity of operations of your businesses, support for our citizens, and the functioning of our economy. Well done to all of you!

You have epitomized the true spirit of innovation and collaboration, proving that technology is not a luxury but an essential lifeline that enables us to overcome adversity and forge ahead with confidence. As we transition into a post-pandemic era, the METC and the Mauritius CIO Association will play critical roles in shaping our collective future, driving digital transformation, and building resilient systems so that we are well prepared for any challenges in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this journey, let us firmly grasp the essence that technology is not an end in itself, but a powerful means to uplift the lives of our citizens. I am certain that the METC will devote unwavering efforts to harness the boundless potential of blockchain, AI, and other emerging technologies, igniting inclusive growth, optimizing service delivery, and empowering every Mauritian.

In the spirit of progress, I invite each and every one of you to actively engage and collaborate with the METC and the Mauritius CIO Association. Together, let us seize this opportunity to forge powerful alliances, exchange knowledge, and co-create innovative solutions that will consolidate our nation's digital landscape.

Thank you for your attention.