

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

Huawei DigiTalent 3.0 Launching
Ceremony

Wednesday, 10th July 2024 at 14hrs
Le Suffren Hotel & Marina, Port-Louis.

- **His Excellency, Prithvirajsing Roopun, President of the Republic of Mauritius,**
- **His Excellency, Zhu Liying, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China,**
- **Mr Zhao Junjie, Board Director Huawei Eastern Africa,**
- **Mr Zheng Kui, CEO of Huawei Mauritius,**
- **Mr Doonunjoy Dassaye, Permanent Secretary of my Ministry,**
- **Vice Chancellor, CEOs and Directors of Higher Education Institutions,**
- **Dear Students and Lecturers,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my great pleasure to join you today at the DigiTalent 3.0 Launching Ceremony.

This momentous occasion signifies a crucial step in aligning talent creation with the ever-growing demands of the digital age.

The ICT industry covers a wide range of sectors, including Telecommunications, Data Centers, Network Engineering, Cybersecurity, and Software Development, just to name a few.

These specialisations offer a range of gainful opportunities and prospects for young professionals.

The application of Emerging Technologies such as Cloud, AI, Big Data requires ever more capabilities and competencies and have to be taken advantage of.

The industry requires innovative talent to drive the progress of the entire ecosystem as well as taking our country to newer heights.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Huawei has been a valuable partner in our digital journey.

Their commitment to cultivating high-quality ICT talent is evident in their extensive talent building ecosystem.

The talent ecosystem for teachers and students is a testament to Huawei's dedication to building a strong foundation for the present and next generation of ICT professionals.

By training more than 200,000 students annually and partnering with over 2,600 universities worldwide, Huawei is empowering the future of our human capital to be more and more productive, efficient and modern.

I am informed that in Mauritius, Huawei has signed agreements with seven universities and trained more than 35 trainers, offering courses in cutting-edge technologies like AI, 5G, Datacom, Cloud Computing, and Photovoltaic Energy System.

More than 350 students and professionals have obtained Huawei's Certified ICT Associate certification, and this year, Huawei plans to expand its efforts by training teachers to further enhance their skills.

I do hereby heartfully commend Huawei for investing in training to empower more Mauritian students and professionals, thus bringing its support to our digital transformation agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mauritius has always been recognised as being on the forefront of innovation in the region.

We have been hailed in the recent Oxford Insights as first in sub-Saharan Africa for AI readiness.

The Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council, which falls under my Ministry, is now actively working on a National AI policy.

And most recently, the Africa Policy Research Institute in its report published on the 4th of July, stated that Mauritius is among the 4 top performers in Africa in terms of E-Government Development Index.

Our journey towards a digitally empowered Mauritius is well underway.

Our strategic investments in ICT, coupled with our commitment to fostering a knowledge-based economy, have laid a strong foundation for our digital future.

The Government has invested heavily in infrastructure, including four submarine cables, full fibre and mobile coverage, and the current deployment of 5G across the island.

These enablers have accelerated our digital transformation through innovative solutions.

Our ICT sector is projected to contribute 10% of GDP by 2030, creating approximately 50,000 jobs.

This growth will not only consolidate our leadership in Africa but also enhance our global ranking in key ICT indicators.

In addition to our domestic efforts, we are actively engaging with international partners, such as Huawei, to share knowledge and expertise.

These collaborations are vital in keeping us at the cutting edge of technological advancements and ensuring that we remain competitive on the global stage.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Students,

Continuous training and skill upgrading are essential throughout your professional career in the ICT sector.

It ensures that we remain competitive, innovative, and capable of tackling the challenges of tomorrow.

As we continue to invest in our people, infrastructure, and technology, we are paving the way for a yet more prosperous and resilient Mauritius.

The journey ahead is filled with opportunities and challenges, but with our collective efforts and unwavering commitment, together we can achieve remarkable progress.

I wish to express my gratitude to Huawei for their unwavering commitment to developing ICT skills in Mauritius.

Their talent ecosystem is a shining example of how we can work together to build a prosperous ICT talent in our country.

I am confident that this partnership will continue to yield positive results and propel our digital transformation agenda forward.

Thank you for your attention.