

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

“Launching Ceremony of the Awareness
session on 3D Printing Technology for
Secondary Students”

Wednesday 20 March 2024
Manilall Doctor SSS, Lallmatie

- **My Colleague, Honourable Sudheer Maudhoo, Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping,**
- **Honourable Vikash Nuckcheddy, PPS,**
- **Mrs Sandrine Valere-Boli, Supervising Officer, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology and Permanent Secretary of my Ministry,**
- **Mr. Soburrun, Chairman, MDPA**
- **Dr. Suraj Juddoo, Executive Director, MDPA**
- **Heads of Ministries and Parastatal bodies,**
- **Rectors and Teachers,**
- **Dear Students,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good Afternoon to you all.

It gives me great pleasure to be in your midst this afternoon to launch the Awareness Session on 3D Printing Technology.

I am deeply honoured to be part of an initiative that holds such an immense potential for shaping the future of our youth and our nation.

I wish to thank the Rectors and Students for being here today and also my gratitude to the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education Science and Technology for having facilitated the participation of the neighbouring colleges.

In today's rapidly evolving world, technological advancements are driving progress and reshaping industries.

3D printing stands at the forefront of this revolution, offering limitless possibilities for innovation, creativity, and problem-solving.

By introducing secondary students to this transformative technology, we are not only equipping them with valuable skills but also empowering them to become architects of change in their communities and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency is the lead Government agency to pioneer 3D Printing technology.

In 2019, the MDPA set up its 3D Printing Centre at Coromandel and I was overwhelmed to learn about the numerous projects that were completed by university students, using the services of the centre.

These talented students produced objects like:

- Automated pool cleaning machine,
- Automated Plasma Cutting Machine,
- Beach Cleaning Machine,
- Robotic Arms,
- Prosthetic Hands,
- anemometers,
- modules used for efficient farming and many others.

This clearly shows that our universities are dispensing quality education to our youth.

In view of today's event, MDPA has displayed various 3D Printers to demonstrate the various types of objects that can be fabricated.

In addition to this, numerous 3D Printed projects have been showcased, as you will see shortly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3D Printing, is a revolutionary technology that is disrupting business practices today and the way things are being manufactured.

In the late 1980s, it was originally conceived as a fast and cost-effective method for creating product prototypes.

Today, it has evolved beyond prototyping and the technology is used for producing functional parts used in commercial products.

You may be surprised to learn that through 3D Printing, we now have 3D printed aircraft parts, cars, food, jewellery, buildings and even body parts like skin!

Recently, a university student in Singapore successfully built Singapore's first urban solar electric car with an innovative 3D printed body, made up of 150 parts.

By 2030, it's predicted that 10 percent of production will be done by 3D printers.

This implies that the pace of change and the rates of production are increasing exponentially.

The whole concept of production is taking another turn and we have to question ourselves with what materials and human input we are going to produce.

We talk about the future of manufacturing, but the future has arrived.

Being an emerging technology, 3D Printing will be opening new doors for the rising generation, thus it is important for you, especially students who have opted for Design and Technology, to have a knowledge on 3D Designing and 3D Printing.

I would encourage all of you present here to meet the 3D Printing team so as to benefit from the various services that are offered.

Dear Students,

According to the “Future of Jobs 2023” report of the World Economic Forum, Technology adoption will remain a key driver of business transformation in the next five years.

Within technology adoption such as Big Data, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, E-Commerce, and Digital Trade, feature highly on likelihood of adoption and more than 75% of companies in the world are looking to adopt these technologies in the next five years.

Since 2015, Technology and Innovation have been seen as a key to transforming Mauritius into a green, high-income, and inclusive country.

Without a mastery of Technology and smart citizens who innovate, this vision will be difficult to achieve.

Emerging technologies have changed the nature of jobs.

As various sectors of the economy continue to use and depend on these new digital technologies, the legacy skills as well as existing ICT skills are becoming obsolete. Thus, this increases the demand for new digital skills.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The technology sector is already a major part of our economy.

With more people in this sector and, above all, a focus on very high value-added services and products, technology could become the leading sector of our economy.

My dream is to make our ICT sector the first pillar of our economy.

As we embark on this journey, let us remember the profound impact that Education and Technology can have on shaping the future.

Let us inspire our students to dream big, think outside the box, and embrace the possibilities that 3D printing technology offers.

Together, let us cultivate a generation of innovators, problem-solvers, and changemakers who will lead us into a brighter tomorrow.

I thank you for your attention.