

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

**CIO Insights and Innovation 2024
organised by the Mauritius Information
Technology Industry Association (MITIA)**

**Thursday, 18th April 2024 at the Hennessy
Park Hotel, Ebene at 1630hrs.**

- **Mr Ranoo Patil Hunma, President of the Mauritius Information Technology Industry Association**
- **Mr Vincent Bourelly, Vice President of MITIA,**
- **Executive Committee Members of MITIA,**
- **Chairpersons and CEOs,**
- **Chief Information Officers,**
- **Representatives of the Public and Private Sectors,**
- **Members of the Press**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**
- **Good afternoon to you all.**

First of all, I wish to thank the Mauritius Information Technology Industry Association for the invitation and for the organisation of this platform which gather CIOs and key actors of the ICT sector.

Today, we are at the cusp of a new era, where technological advancements such as AI, Blockchain, and the IOT are reshaping business landscapes and creating unprecedented opportunities for growth and development.

In our journey towards digital excellence, collaboration and knowledge-sharing are key to bring about the digital transformation of our economy.

I am pleased to see the stellar of the industry today, ready to exchange insights, best practices, and innovative solutions.

This conference allows us to learn from each other, to forge new partnerships, and to collectively navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The private sector is playing an important role in contributing to the progress of the ICT sector.

Renown Multinationals are operating in Mauritius, bringing in significant investments and creating employment opportunities, as well as providing a testament to the vibrancy of the sector.

There are approximately 900 companies operating in the ICT sector, employing 32,000 professionals.

The sector has been crucial to the country's economy, with a remarkable GDP contribution of 5.9%.

We are well-positioned to maintain our status as a dynamic and growing ICT hub in the region.

As we cruise on our digital transformation journey, it is imperative that we recognize the importance for robust cybersecurity measures to safeguard our nation's digital assets and infrastructure.

My Ministry has taken proactive steps to address contemporary cyber threats and challenges, which unfortunately is a reality.

The Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Act of 2021 stands as a testament to our commitment to creating a secure digital environment for all stakeholders.

This legislation not only addresses current cybersecurity issues but also lays the groundwork for future resilience against emerging threats.

Building on this, we have developed the National Cybersecurity Strategy 2023-26, designed to ensure that Mauritius remains adaptive, capable, and resilient in the face of evolving cyber risks.

It encompasses a comprehensive framework of policies, initiatives, and collaborations aimed at strengthening our cybersecurity eco-system.

I appreciate the efforts and commitment of the private sector to pursue cybersecurity initiatives and for investing in robust security measures within their organizations and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year, we marked a significant milestone in our journey towards having a proper framework for technological advancements with the establishment of the Mauritius CIO Association.

This initiative, spearheaded by the Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council (METC), was envisioned as a platform to foster leadership and innovation among our technology chiefs and to be at the forefront in advising policy makers.

The establishment of the CIO Association has not only enhanced collaboration among Tech Leaders but has also streamlined our approach to embracing cutting-edge solutions across various sectors.

It is crucial that we fully support our CIOs and Tech Leaders as they lead the charge in digital transformations within their organizations.

Their role is central to building the digital foundations of our economy.

By backing them, we are not just improving operational efficiencies, we are advancing Mauritius as a whole.

As we move forward together on this digital path, we are consolidating the sustainability of our nation's success and competitiveness globally.

We must ensure our tech leaders have the right environment, resources, and opportunities they need to foster innovation based on cutting-edge technologies.

This commitment aligns directly with my Ministry's objective to create a sustainable and innovative digital future for Mauritius.

Looking forward, I am pleased to announce the upcoming Mauritius Emerging Tech Expo 2024 (METX), where there will be an Industry Day on the 10th of May at the SVICC with the esteemed presence of Members of the MITIA.

The Industry day will bring together vendors from across the globe, showcasing the latest in technology, products, and services.

I encourage all of you to engage actively in this event, as it will be instrumental in shaping the future of our IT landscape in Mauritius.

This event promises to be a cornerstone for all technology leaders aiming to make a substantial impact in their respective organizations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, I wish to thank the MITIA and all its Members for their unwavering commitment in bringing the IT Industry leaders together and to help maintain Mauritius's competitiveness as an IT hub.

Collaboration between the public and private sectors can unlock immense potential.

I encourage all of you to continue to embrace change, to harness the power of innovation, and to lead with vision and purpose.

Together, we can build a digital ecosystem that drives sustainable growth, fosters inclusivity, and creates a better world for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention.