

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

**Launch of Mobile ID and “MWA” Mobile
App**

Prime Minister’s Office and MITCI

**Thursday, 29th August 2024 at 1000Hrs
Sir Harilal Vaghjee Memorial Hall, New Government
Centre, Port-Louis**

- **The Speaker of the National Assembly,**
- **My colleague Ministers, Parliamentary Private Secretaries and Members of Parliament,**
- **Mr. Ravi Meettook, Secretary for Home Affairs, Prime Minister's Office,**
- **Excellencies and Dignitaries,**
- **Senior Chief Executives and Permanent Secretaries,**
- **Chairpersons, CEOs and Directors of Public and Private Institutions,**
- **Representatives of Thales and Harel Mallac,**
- **Officers of various Ministries and Departments,**
- **Representatives of Higher Education Institutions,**
- **Dear Students,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**
- **All Protocols respected,**

Good Morning to you all.

In February this year, the Honourable Prime Minister launched the MNIC 3.0, the latest version of our National Identity Card which is a significant step forward in our ongoing journey of modernisation and digital transformation.

The new Identity Card aligns with international standards leveraging advanced technologies to enhance security and usability with the introduction of new design features, such as provision of digital certificates and introduction of colour photograph.

With the Visible Digital Seal (VDS) compliant with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards, we are providing for both reading and verifying the card's data.

The back of the card also includes the islands of the Republic of Mauritius, including Chagos Archipelago. Under UV light, we have an artistic design with the National Anthem lyrics. At the back of the card under UV light, we have a picture of our national bird, the Mauritius Kestrel.

Today, we mark yet another milestone in our country's progress : the launch of the Mobile ID.

The Mobile ID is not just a technological upgrade, it is a bold statement of our commitment to modernising our digital ecosystem, ensuring that Mauritius remains at the forefront of innovation, as well as ensuring that our citizens benefit from convenience offered by Emerging Technologies.

Mobile ID in other Countries

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the implementation of the Mobile ID, Mauritius becomes the first African country and amongst the first few in the world to bring in a Digital ID Wallet, based on international ISO standards.

Therefore, it is a matter of pride to all of us to know that Mauritian citizens will have access to their digital wallet even before many other advanced countries around the world.

Mauritius is setting an example not just in the African continent, but for the world.

Features of the Mobile ID

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Mobile ID is the digital equivalent of the physical ID card and will be accessible, as from today, on citizens' mobile devices, integrated within a secure digital wallet app.

It is important to highlight that citizens can use their mobile ID in lieu of their physical ID as a proof of Identity.

Amendments have been brought to the National Identity Card Act to give legal recognition to the use of the mobile ID as a proof of Identity.

Most importantly, as per the National Identity Card Act, a citizen has the option to register for a Mobile ID.

They can choose to register for the Mobile ID or decide not to register.

The Mobile ID contains information found on the physical Identity Card with enhanced security features made possible by cutting-edge digital technology.

It will be the first digital document in the wallet and will be available for holders of the previous version of the MNIC and for holders of the MNIC 3.0.

The Mobile ID is a dynamic document and is refreshed automatically whenever there is a change of the citizen data.

When a citizen is issued a new identity card, the Mobile ID is updated with the latest information of the citizen.

Besides, the mobile ID will also be used for:

- **Online Authentication** – it will provide a strong verification tool to Government applications enabling citizens to prove their identity online securely through MauPass by simply scanning a QR Code with the mobile ID.
- **Electronic and Digital Signature** – it will provide the possibility to sign a digital document using the wet signature printed on your physical Identity Card. Citizens will be able to use their Mobile ID to digitally sign documents by using the eSign service of the Mausign Certificate Authority. We will reduce the reliance on paper documents paving the way to go paperless.

How to get your Mobile ID

In order to obtain a Mobile ID, a citizen will therefore need to have both a physical ID (the Card) as well as, a MauPass account.

The above entails that the citizen has passed two strong Know Your Customer (KYC) exercises, one during registration for an identity card and one during MauPass account creation and 2FA (Two Factor Authentication) activation.

A citizen will also need to enter the Card Body Serial Number during the registration process. This will ensure that the citizen is in possession of his or her identity card.

The strong onboarding process guarantees that only the legitimate holder of an identity is assigned to his or her di-gi-tal wallet.

Citizens wishing to get the Digital Wallet will then have to download the Digital Wallet App “MWA” from the Google Playstore or the Apple Appstore.

Additional Features of the Mobile ID

1) Citizens Portal

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are also launching a Portal which is personalised for each citizen who has a MauPass account as you can see.

The citizen will be able to view his/her information and perform other card related transactions on his own webpage.

The citizen portal leverages on the MoRendezVous platform to allow a citizen to pre-register and book a RendezVous prior to calling at the National Identity Card Centres for services like application for a new Identity Card and application for the replacement of an Identity Card.

It would be possible for the citizen to report any loss of his/her Identity Card.

Anyone changing his place of residence will be able to upload his/her new proof of address and once approved, the address will be updated in the National Identity Card database.

The citizen portal will also provide the possibility to file a complaint pertaining to the ID card services or request for information through a ticketing system integrated in the citizen portal.

2) Kiosk

Another innovation that has been brought forward with the Mobile ID services, is the installation of four self-service kiosks (as you can see on the screen) in the National Identity Card Centres in Port Louis, Rose Hill, Flacq and Port Mathurin.

The kiosks allow the address in the chip of the card to be updated, the digital certificate on the chip of the card to be renewed, etc.

The PIN protecting the digital certificate can also be updated or unblocked by the citizens.

SECURITY ASPECTS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With such an innovative and modern service, we left no stone unturned when it comes to security.

A series of advanced security features have been meticulously integrated into the system to safeguard the citizen's data.

Mobile ID Security

A Mobile ID can be installed on only ONE mobile device and a mobile device can hold only ONE Mobile ID.

This allows for better management and security as this ensures that there is only one copy of a citizen's digital credentials.

Only citizens who are already holders of the physical identity card will be eligible to onboard the Digital Wallet as per the amended National Identity Card Act.

Citizens with a Maupass account will be able to onboard the digital wallet online at their convenience.

Smartphone Protection

In addition, the Digital Wallet including the Mobile ID is protected by the citizen's existing security on his/her smartphone, for example: fingerprints, facial recognition, PIN or pattern.

Furthermore, the permission for the app is managed by the citizen himself / herself through his / her smartphone settings.

Verifier App

You will also see in the video which will be played shortly, a Verifier App is has also been created, issued by the National Identity Card Unit and will be used to verify the genuineness of a Mobile ID.

The verifier app ensures that the data from the Mobile ID has not been tampered with and that it is authentic.

Information on the Digital Wallet is verified through the Verifier app only as per the provision of law and upon consent of the holder.

Privacy and Data Protection

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We fully understand the concerns of some citizens and of the academia as regards to the introduction of the mobile ID in the perspective of preservation of individual rights and freedom.

Let me reassure you that the digital wallet and verifier app adhere to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2017 as regards the handling, processing, and verification of data ensuring that the MNIC Mobile Apps upholds the highest standards of privacy.

Our priority, as a responsible Government, is to safeguard the privacy and integrity of our citizens' data.

We have also ensured that the digital wallet platform is compliant with international ISO standards, ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of identity data stored on mobile devices.

Independent Security Audit

I wish also to highlight that an Independent Security Audit was conducted on the entire MNIC system and the Mobile ID to assess and enhance our Data Protection measures.

This audit ensures that the Mobile ID complies with all relevant data security policies and meets the highest security standards.

This exercise will be repeated every three years to maintain and continuously improve our security protocols.

Use of Mobile ID for the Elections

There has also been many concerns on whether the mobile ID will be used for the forthcoming elections. As stated by the Honourable Prime Minister at the National Assembly, in his reply dated 9th July 2024, and I quote: *“the possibility to use it for authentication of voters will require, in the first instance, the conduct of a feasibility study”*.

“In view of the wide-ranging implications for the introduction of Mobile ID as proof of identity in the voting room, it will not be possible to make use of Mobile ID for the coming elections”. (Unquote)

Therefore, for the forthcoming elections, the existing methods of voter identification - through the physical ID card - will remain in place.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Mobile ID represents the future — a future shaped by the visionary leadership of our Honourable Prime Minister.

This is more than just the launch of a new feature; it is the foundation of a more connected, secure, and innovative Mauritius.

This Government has laid the groundwork for a digital ecosystem that empowers every citizen and enhances public services.

With the Mobile ID, we are embracing technology that will propel our country forward, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of progress in this digital age.

I wish to emphasise on the fact that there is no obligation for any citizen to adopt the mobile ID.

I repeat, there is no obligation to adopt the mobile ID.

They have the choice to use the Mobile ID or not.

On a final note, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Prime Minister's Office, the consortium Thales and Harel Mallac and my Team at the Ministry who have worked relentlessly from the inception of the project up to its successful completion today.

Together, we are forging a legacy of progress, innovation and opportunity for all.

Thank You.