

**Launching of Workshop on “Myths and Realities of 5G”
by Honourable Deepak Balgobin,
Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation
Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel
21st September 2020 at 10 00hrs**

Mr. Philippe Jiang, General Manager of Huawei Technologies (Mauritius) Co. Ltd

Miss Sandrine Valère, Permanent Secretary of my Ministry,

Mr. Ashish Ramsurrin, Chief Operations Officer of Huawei Technologies (Mauritius) Co. Ltd

Mr Ian Valentine, Principal Consultant, Digital Strategy and Product, Southern Africa Region of Huawei,

Representatives of my Ministry, Departments and Parastatal Bodies,

Members of ICT organisations,

Members of the Press,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are living in a world where Technology is ever-changing and it is constantly evolving. Nothing is going to stay the same and we certainly aren't doing things the way we were, three years ago. Constant evolution impacts Technology significantly in many ways. Today, we are commonly using the terms Big Data, Internet of Things (IOT), Machine Learning, Blockchain, and now, more and more about 5G.

5G is a Technology which Mauritius must embrace for the future of our Nation. I am sure we have all heard a lot of things about 5G, both good and bad, but now is the time to separate Myth from Reality in our minds.

So, what is 5G? 5G is the 5th generation mobile network. It is a new global wireless standard after 1G, 2G, 3G, and 4G networks. It enables a new kind of network that is designed to connect virtually everyone and everything together including machines, objects, and devices.

5G is meant to deliver higher multi-GBPS peak data speeds, ultra-low latency, more reliability, massive network capacity, increased availability, and a more uniform user experience. Higher performance and improved efficiency empower new user experiences and connects new industries.

Compared with previous cellular generations, the architecture of 5G creates opportunities for Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to expand. As livestreaming of TV, games and e-sports enters the mainstream, the need to reduce latency and lower cost is driving hyperscale cloud providers, device manufacturers and developers to expand their influence out to the edge of ISP's networks.

So, when Huawei proposed to hold a workshop on 5G, we thought that this would be an excellent opportunity for all the participants to get acquainted and understand this new emerging technology. This will allow them to grasp all the aspects of 5G, that is, the technology, the economical aspect and all its other possible characteristics which exist.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mauritius has the highest percentage fibre penetration to homes and offices in all of Africa. But, progress demands that we do not stand still. There is a new revolution coming in new services, new capabilities and new industries, because of 5G. This technology is spreading rapidly across the world. We are not going to be the first in 5G, but in Africa but we might stand to benefit the most. In South Africa new telecommunications companies are connecting homes and businesses to fast internet via 5G. Even Madagascar has started deploying 5G!

So, how does 5G work?

Let me give you an example. Around the world, researchers predict that this technology will allow for the world's first "smart factories". Such factories, for example, would leverage the faster speed and reliability of 5G networks to eliminate cabled connections, improve automated processes, and most importantly, gather more data. Combined with machine learning algorithms, this data can help companies predict when expensive equipment is about to fail.

With the lower latencies, that is, shorter delay, boasted by 5G networks, virtual and augmented reality devices can become reliable enough for use in high precision work. This exciting development has the potential to greatly increase a human worker's productivity, as well as allow them to work in closer harmony with robots.

Dear Friends,

As this new technology is going towards a natural development of our networks in Mauritius, we have to be prepared and understand its potential. With high speeds, superior reliability and slight latency, 5G will expand the mobile ecosystem into new

realms. 5G Technology, as it will become a reality in a near future, will impact every industry, making for example safer transportation, remote healthcare, precision agriculture, digitised logistics and more, a reality.

This is why, we have among us today, representatives of all key departments of my Ministry, as well as the regulator, the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA), The Mauritius Research and Innovation Council as well as the National Computer Board.

I am also informed that we have a group of young Graduate Engineers watching us online right now; they are part of the 5G Empowerment Program of Huawei, as well as new Graduates who are aspiring certified experts in 5G.

In a publication released in March this year, Forbes listed the Best Tech Jobs for the Future. It includes:

- **Security Management Specialist**
- **Network Engineer / Architect**
- **Cyber/Information Security Engineer / Analyst**
- **IoT Designer / Developer / Engineer**
- **Software Developer/Engineer**
- **Machine Learning Designer / Developer / Engineer**
- **Data Engineer**

- **Mobile Applications Developer**
- **Systems Analyst**
- **Data Scientist, to mention only a few.**

Dear Students,

The jobs of the future are found in the ICT sector. This is why, we hope that this workshop will inspire you to pursue your higher studies in the technology field, later be part of the numerous companies based in Mauritius in the ICT sector, and hence, contribute to the development of our country.

To all my colleagues, my appeal to you, is to start a common reflection on how 5G Technology will help us bring our country forward, benefit every citizen of Mauritius and serve them even better.

To all participants, this workshop is a true gathering of the 5G ecosystem developers in our country, I have no doubt that you will all make the most of it.

And lastly, I wish to thank Huawei for organising this workshop for us.

I thank you for your attention.