

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

**Signature Ceremony Award  
of  
Contract for Digital Service Centers  
at 10h30 – ICTA**

**Tuesday, 6 July 2021**

**Ms Sandrine Valere, Permanent Secretary of my Ministry**

**Mr Dick Ng Sui Wa, Chairman of the ICTA**

**Mr Jerome Louis, Officer in Charge of the ICTA**

**Mr Giandev Moteea, CEO of the Mauritius Post Ltd**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Members of the Press,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good Morning to you all!

It is indeed a great pleasure to be here this morning for the signing of the agreement between the ICT Authority and Mauritius Telecom Ltd for the procurement of internet connectivity and IT equipment, such as printers, at Post Offices in Mauritius and Rodrigues under their **Digital Services Center Project**.

Initially named **Public Internet Access Point**, the project was introduced at the Mauritius Post Limited as from the year 2004 to 2005 onwards, in view of allowing and motivating the public at large to get access to the internet.

Currently, there are 99 public access points across all post offices throughout Mauritius and Rodrigues, with a support team of 137 Digital Service Assistants (DSAs) and 5 Digital Service Officers (DSOs). My Ministry has worked out with the Mauritius Post on the most efficient protocol to provide adequate assistance to our citizens.

Moreover, the Mauritius Post has the responsibility to ensure that the Digital Service Assistants provide the support required by our citizens to fulfill their online transactions and the good running of the project.

In this context, this Digital Services Centre provides to all citizens in Mauritius and Rodrigues with a one-stop access to all e-Government services through a newly revamped Government portal to benefit from the different online services.

Connectivity and use of digital technologies are dynamic goals as we face the pandemic. And here, in order to avoid long waiting lines, we invite the public to make the most of all the 130 e-Services offered by the Government, for example online payments of utility bills, Motor Vehicle Licence (Déclaration), application for learner's license, amongst others. Some of these e-Services can be easily found on the website FASIL.MU which was launched last year by my Ministry.

This can be done by using MAUPASS. It is a strong authentication platform which ensures that citizens who wish to interact online with Government are authenticated and they will have only one password to remember.

With this MoU, Post Offices have now 20 Megabytes connection which will allow the public to surf easily on the internet.

I have the pleasure to announce that my Ministry is launching soon the Certification Authority. It will be operated by the National Computer Board. As we transact more and more online, signing documents must be done online itself and for that purpose, Digital Certificates are used when we have to sign documents, contracts, permits and so on.

We are confident that this social project will be beneficial to the community at large and we invite those persons who do not have a computer at home to make full use of the Digital Services Centre to fulfil their needs of online services.

This Government, through the vision of our Honourable Prime Minister, firmly believes that Mauritius will continue to lead as digital country for decades to come and establish itself as a reference for other countries. And we need to highlight that Mauritius has achieved major milestones as part of this Government Programme in relation to our ICT Strategy.

This social project goes in line with Government's objective of providing equal opportunity to all citizens and take our ICT sector to even new heights.

I look forward to the successful implementation of this MoU and I would like to express my sincere thanks to the ICTA and Mauritius Telecom for their joint efforts and strategic engagement in this ongoing collaboration.

Thank you for your attention.