

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

Launch of GINS

**9 June 2022 at 13.15 MUT,
Conference Room, MITCI**

- **Ms Sandrine Valere, Permanent Secretary of my Ministry,**
- **Mr Sandeep Rambhojun, Head of Government Solutions and Special Projects, Mauritius Telecom,**
- **Staff of my Ministry,**
- **Representatives of Mauritius Telecom,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon to you all.

It is a great honour for me to take part of the signature for the new framework agreement between my Ministry and Mauritius Telecom. This enhanced Government INtranet System (GINS) is in line with our Government's Vision 2030.

As a matter of fact, the digitalisation of Government services and facilitating access to those services have always been the main driving force of my Ministry.

Let's go through a quick recap on GINS: it was launched in 2004 with the goal of providing secure Internet access within Government, such as the Registry System, Electronic Attendance System, and Human Resources Management Information Systems through the Government Online Centre (GOC).

It also allows communication between:

1. Government to Government
2. Citizens to Government (For example the PSC, Application for Learner, application for the Certificate of Character, and other e-Services), and,
3. Business to Government (For example: e-Licencing – EDB, applications to the Registrar of Companies, and so on)

The GINS network has undergone various upgrades over the years, from copper wire to optical fibre with provision for Wi-Fi connectivity. The GOC is the Data Centre which provides Government services to citizens, businesses, public officials as well as other Government agencies.

The existing GINS currently interconnects around 224 Government sites. As more Government services are being digitalised and a surge in demand for cloud and video conferencing applications is being witnessed, a higher capacity and more resilient infrastructure is required.

The backbone of such an infrastructure rests on a good and robust connectivity between the various Government sites and the GOC, as well as state-of-the-art technologies to support digital services. This calls for a transformation of the GINS network to accompany our digitalisation roadmap for an intelligent and smart Mauritius.

My ministry is constantly promoting accessibility of digital connectivity and services all over the country. A reliable and high connectivity is key to realising this vision.

This being said, I am pleased to announce that the GINS will now be able to serve 300 additional Government Sites over the next three years, and this will also include 160 secondary schools across Mauritius and Rodrigues. This new phase will start in the coming weeks, now that the new Framework Agreement will be signed, reaching more than 500 sites having high-speed connectivity to the GOC. And in doing so, we are proudly supporting the country's efforts in moving to the next level of its development.

Dear Friends,

The GINS is being built on a fully-fibred network using SD-WAN technology (*Software Defined – Wired Access Network*). This technology delivers a robust and secure branch connectivity over different fibre or mobile network connectivity and contributes to improving network capacity effectively. In short, this technology ensures a guaranteed availability of Government services.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following a procurement exercise, Mauritius Telecom has been selected to implement the new GINS network. I am confident that connectivity in Government will be reinforced and will better equip us to serve our people.

On this note, I thank you for your attention.