

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

IT Capstone Event Day 2023 by  
Polytechnics Mauritius

Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 4pm  
Réduit Triangle, Moka

- **Professor Theesan Bahorun, Chairman of Polytechnics Mauritius,**
- **Mr Yamal Matabudul, CEO of Polytechnics Mauritius,**
- **Mrs Nishtee Gopee, Programme Leader IT and Emerging Technologies, Polytechnics Mauritius,**
- **Captains of the IT Industry,**
- **CEOs, CTOs and Directors of the Private Sector,**
- **Dear Students,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon to you all.

First of all, I wish to congratulate Polytechnics Mauritius for inaugurating its first campus in Ebene dedicated primarily for the IT and Emerging Technologies cluster.

It is such a conducive environment to study towards a career in ICT at a campus located in the very heart of Ebene Cybercity, where Innovation and Transformation happen daily.

### **Capstone Showcase Event**

Today, we are celebrating the culmination of months of hard work, dedication, and innovation demonstrated by brilliant young minds.

As the Minister of ICT, it fills me with pride to witness the groundbreaking ideas and technological advancements showcased here today.

As we revel in the success of our young IT trailblazers, let us also remember that with great innovation comes great responsibility.

We must remain steadfast in our commitment to ethical practices, Data Protection, and Cybersecurity.

We must ensure that the technology we create serves humanity and fosters an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future.

I urge our talented students:

- to continue pushing the boundaries of innovation,
- to continue to challenge the **status quo**,
- and to use their imagination, creativity, skills and knowledge for the greater good.

May your endeavours not only inspire others but also bring tangible, positive change to our society.

To the educators and mentors who have guided and nurtured these bright minds, I extend my heartfelt gratitude.

Your dedication and commitment have played an instrumental role in shaping these young talents into the future leaders of the IT industry.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Information Technology is the driving force behind innovation and progress, and events like this exemplify the talent and dedication of IT students.

In a rapidly evolving field like IT, the skills and knowledge gained through projects like these are invaluable.

They empower students with the problem-solving abilities, critical thinking, and adaptability that are essential in the digital age.

As a Government, we are more than ever committed to nurturing talent and ensuring that our educational institutions continue to produce creative IT professionals.

Of course, the responsibility does not lie with the Government alone.

**Industry leaders, too, have a crucial role to play.**

Collaborations between Academia and Industry foster innovation and provide students with real-world experience.

I commend business leaders for engaging with these bright minds, for offering internships, and for providing mentorship to help them transition seamlessly from the academic world to the professional one.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am informed that the panoply of Capstone Projects, on display here today - 77 projects to be precise - confirms that Mauritius is equipped with talented innovators and would-be Cyber-Preneurs, to tackle our modern challenges and position the country as a hub for Research and Development.

Here, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Polytechnics Mauritius that have taken the forward-thinking step of offering courses in IT and Emerging Technologies.

You are playing a pivotal role in equipping our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the modern world.

Your efforts are shaping the leaders of tomorrow and fostering a brighter future for us all.

According to the “Future of Jobs 2023” report of the World Economic Forum, Technology adoption will remain a key driver of business transformation in the next five years.

Within technology adoption,

- Big Data
- Cloud Computing
- AI
- E-Commerce
- and Digital Trade,

feature highly on likelihood of adoption and more than 75% of companies in the world are looking to adopt these technologies in the next five years.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This Capstone showcase is a testament to the collaborative spirit that drives our nation's IT ecosystem.

Together, we are building a future where technology enriches our lives, empowers businesses, and solves our most pressing challenges.

May this event inspire us to continue building a stronger IT landscape for our nation.

With these words, I have the honour to declare the IT Capstone Showcase open and I thank you all for your attention.