**Official Launching of the Enterprise Go Digital Platform**

**Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Tower, Ebène**

**Friday 28 April, 2023**

**Speech of the Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Hon Soomilduth Bholah**

**His Excellency, Mr. Kawaguchi Shuichiro, Ambassador of Japan;**

**Mrs Amanda Serumaga, Resident Representative, Mauritius and Seychelles for the United Nations Development Programme;**

**Mr. Sujoy Busgeeth, Chairman of the NPCC;**

**Mr. Ashit Gungah, Executive Director of the NPCC;**

**Council Members;**

**Representatives of companies,**

**Distinguished guests;**

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

**Good evening!**

I am very pleased to join you for the launching of the Enterprise Go Digital Platform.

Enterprise Go Digital is a project spearheaded by the NPCC with financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Japan.

Let me extend my appreciation to the UNDP for the long-standing support to Mauritius in all fields. UNDP continues to be a key partner and contributor in our country’s socio-economic development.

I must also put on record Japan’s unwavering support. Over the years our bilateral ties have been consolidated. We appreciate the fact that Japan plays an active role in providing us with the necessary assistance especially in the fields of disaster risk reduction, environment protection, training and technology.

I would like to also commend the NPCC for always being on the lookout for the development of projects to support the economic needs of the country. NPCC plays a crucial role in establishing support programs to instil productivity and quality.

The aim of the Enterprise Go Digital Project is to strengthen the resilience of enterprises in a new normal environment with the implementation of digital solutions.

The specific objectives of the project are:

a. To create awareness about the need of enterprises to digitalise.

b. To assess the digital maturity and provide a digital roadmap for 10 enterprises.

c. To link digital solution providers to enterprises and implement digital projects in each enterprise.

The first part of this project covered an awareness campaign to sensitise Mauritian organisations about the importance of digitalisation in the present era. A series of webinars as part of this campaign was conducted to show the importance of digitalisation for enterprises. In the second phase, 10 enterprises were selected through a selection exercise for the implementation of digitalisation projects.

The Enterprise Go Digital project intends to transform the way businesses work together and drive productivity through an innovative and interactive smart platform.

This new platform will provide a unique opportunity initially for ten enterprises to join forces and create a more productive and efficient working environment.

We can say that technology has given us new capabilities to collaborate, connect and create.

We must dare to leverage these technologies to further our objectives to remain competitive.

The Government, through the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, has put in place several measures to help enterprises grow and sustain.

Promotion of emerging sectors remains on top of our agenda. I am hereby referring to emerging sectors such as Information and Communication Technology, production of renewable energy, new agricultural techniques (hydroponics and aquaponics) and Industry 4.0 which makes it way towards the manufacturing sector, as well as Artificial Intelligence and E-Commerce.

We need an innovative spirit among young people to create a new generation of entrepreneurs.

The Ministry has launched the Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (2020-2025), which recommends several training programmes for young people in the areas of entrepreneurship and innovation.

I would like to express my gratitude to the ten enterprises for their participation in this project, which I am confident will produce tangible and long-lasting benefits. The ten pilot enterprises have decided to embrace change by embarking on this journey of digitalisation. I would like to thank them for their belief and contribution to the productivity movement through this initiative.

I also want to acknowledge the talented team of developers and designers who have worked tirelessly to create this cutting-edge platform.

I take this opportunity to invite Mauritian enterprises to join this platform and take advantage of its different features to increase their productivity. The NPCC shall also provide assistance to enterprises in implementing digitalisation projects through the Enterprise Go Digital Platform to streamline their processes and improve their performance and productivity over time.

Preparing ourselves for tomorrow’s economy and society means seizing the opportunities presented by digital technologies today. For some, this will mean continuing and building upon the digital transformations they have already started. For others it will mean embracing change.

The stage is now set for the next phase of digitalisation in Mauritius, so that we can continue to reap the benefits offered by digital technologies.

Thank you all for your attention, and I wish you all the best in your endeavours.

**SB**

**28.04.23**