

**Opening Ceremony of Creative Social Entrepreneurship Expo 2023 at Plaza
Exhibition Centre on Monday 4 December 2023 at 10:00 hrs**

**Hon. Mrs. Fazila Jeewa Daureeawoo, Vice Prime Minister and Minister
for Social Integration, Social Security and National Security**

Hon. Ivan Collendavelloo, Member of Parliament

**Your worship Mrs. Mootoo Caroopen, Mayor of the Municipality
of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill**

**Mme. Sylvie Rasolofonjanahary, Présidente de la Fédération des Chambres
des Métiers et de l'Artisanat de Madagascar**

Mr. Boopen Doobah, Founder IOCDAfrica – CODEPArta

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

Economies around the world are changing profoundly. And yet sustained economic development requires diversification, which is precisely where entrepreneurship and innovation play their role contributing to economic prosperity and to social cohesion.

Indeed, these two objectives cannot be divided if a government is to deliver increased welfare to its people.

Worldwide, there is an agreement on the importance of entrepreneurship for economic and social development. All governments recognise entrepreneurship as an economic power, and implement policies to promote it.

As economies change, so does the nature of work. There are fewer '**jobs for life**' than there were in previous decades. Employment is less certain and people are more likely to change jobs during a lifetime, or make a career from a 'portfolio' of jobs.

Whilst parents want their children to have safe and secure jobs, young people know that the world is now different for them. Around the world, young people know that they have to be versatile in finding work. Compared to earlier generations, they are more comfortable with the idea of having a portfolio of part time jobs, hobbies, projects and enterprises. They are the new entrepreneurs.

Thousands of young people around the world are creating jobs for themselves by setting up small companies, especially creative businesses and social enterprises.

Ladies and gentlemen

Nowadays, many people, mainly economists, speak about **Social Entrepreneurship**.

Social entrepreneurship differs from other form of entrepreneurship in that its successes are not measured necessarily by profits or revenue, but instead by the ways that society improves as a result of the work.

The motivation for setting up a social business is always a passion for a social purpose. This is necessary but not sufficient.

To be successful in both social and economic terms, there needs to be another ingredient, which economists call '**Smart Business Thinking**' that is we should

embrace business and use the techniques of business for our own purposes, according to our own values and objectives.

The contribution of entrepreneurship and innovation to economic prosperity has grown with the shift of the global economy towards a mode of production in which knowledge has become a key input. The challenges of the knowledge economy originally interested the most advanced economies, but are now critical to growth in emerging economies as well. Vigorous entrepreneurship and SME development are among the most important conditions for successfully meeting the challenges.

In Mauritius, entrepreneurship has followed a successful historical path, with its potential to contribute to the country's economic development. Both the Mauritian Government and the private sector are giving recognition and support to entrepreneurship development.

To achieve this target, Government has put in place various schemes to promote entrepreneurship and to boost the entrepreneurial culture in Mauritius. People, especially youngsters, are provided adequate support and training to improve their skills in order to familiarise themselves and become competent in entrepreneur activities.

As I conclude, I wish to express my appreciation to the participants, mostly women, who are showcasing their artworks and crafts through this Creative Social Entrepreneurship Expo 2023.

I congratulate you all, irrespective of whether you will receive an Award at the end of the day. I urge you to keep up the good work.

I would also like to encourage every one of you to put your passion to good use and do your part in contributing to the community.

A special mention to the organiser of this Expo cum workshop, Mr. Boopen Doobah, founder IOCD-Africa – CODEPArta Creative Social Entrepreneurship Network.

Mr. Boopen Doobah, is one of the rare multi-talented Mauritian having studied and excelled in both Art and Strategic Management and Policy Studies.

He has been very active as Founder Member of Studio D'Art, Art Action, Le Collectif, CODEPA, among others where local artists were involved in Art residencies, workshops and exhibitions in Mauritius, Indian Ocean and at International Levels.

Congratulation Mr. Boopen and I wish you plenty of success in your future endeavours.

Ladies and gentlemen

The world is changing and young people are at the forefront of that change. They are empowering themselves as entrepreneurs and in doing so creating new jobs.

Let us use the energy and enthusiasm of their youth; let us help to empower young people; let us use the momentum of their initiatives to create jobs in new ways.

I seize this opportunity to extend to you all my best wishes for a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year 2024.

THANK YOU