

**Award ceremony of 6<sup>th</sup> edition of intercollege Film Competition organised by MFDC on Thursday 16 March 2023 at 11:00 hrs at MGI**

Good morning.

It is a pleasure for me to be among you for this Award ceremony because I believe in the talents of our students, and in short film production as a powerful means of sensitization on issues of general interest.

Cinema, as we all know, is a form of art that is used to show a story. Before cinema was found, people used to watch a story unfold on stage dramas. On December 28, 1895, the world's first commercial movie screening took place at the Grand Cafe of Paris. We should be thankful to two French brothers who go by the name of Louis and Auguste Lumiere. They were the ones who introduced the world to the art of cinema.

Cinema sometimes helps in showing the reality of the world through its documentaries about the different incidents which occurred around the world. Most people are so busy now that they don't have time to read 300-page books much less watch full-length documentaries.

The Government of Mauritius has a vision to develop the film industry and reflects on a number of initiatives in this field.

Since its setting up in August 1986 the Mauritius Film Development has set as objective to make cinematography a pillar of the economy. The work done over the past ten years has made it possible to propel and consolidate Mauritius as a privileged destination for foreign productions. The presence of foreign productions on our soil is now commonplace. Our Mauritian artists have benefited a lot in terms of experience and training.

Digital technology has transformed the face of filmmaking; award-winning movies can now be shot entirely on an iPhone and published online in no time at all. So in an age where filmmaking opportunities are so accessible, why aren't we using them more in the classroom?

This is what the Mauritius Film Development Corporation has been trying to achieve with its several short film competitions for primary and secondary schools. The competition aspires to provide young people with an opportunity to develop their interest in cinema and inspire them.

Moreover the themes chosen are very instructive and thought provoking, such as '*Lamour pou lafami*', '*our roots journey to now*', '*Respect and courtesy on the road*' and '*Lamour Pou Lenvironnman*', which is the theme chosen for this 6th edition of intercollege competition.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

Since the 20th century, humans have gradually turned their attention to the issue of environmental protection and become aware that our environment provides resources for human development.

The quality of our environment has a direct impact on the existence of all humanity and other living things. The challenges we face are not limited to global warming and climate change, as many scientists and experts have issued warnings and declared a climate emergency.

The United Nations urges global citizens to grow increasingly aware of the importance of environmental protection and make changes to become environmentally friendly in all aspects of their lives.

With public interest in environmental issues higher than it has been for years, it is important to maintain the momentum and build on people's understanding and motivation to protect our natural world.

Through this competition the MFDC explores how environmental films can be used to engage people to make a difference for the environment. In fact, movies can help young people fight climate change and other global challenges.

What's special about filmmaking is that it combines creativity, teamwork, and technology. From screenwriting to storyboarding to video production and beyond, it takes a tremendous variety of skills to make a movie. But, thanks to the evolution of education and technology, today's kids have a rich body of opportunities to flex their filmmaking muscles. With a little bit of guidance and a lot of creative license, even small children can dip their toes in animation and film.

Apart from being an academic motivator, filmmaking develops a wide range of social skills that are integral to success in the wider world. Children collaborate by

assuming different roles – narrator, director, cameraperson, actor – all of which have a significant part to play in the overall success of the film.

By discussing, debating and rehearsing ideas within mixed groups, they establish purposeful opportunities to improve their speaking and listening skills – an aspect of the curriculum that can sometimes be overlooked.

I shall conclude by congratulating all students who have participated in this 6th edition of intercollege Film Competition, with special mention to the winners. I commend the MFDC for this initiative and wish to encourage them in their endeavour to make of cinematography a valuable contributor of our GDP.