

**Award Ceremony of EXU Ltd on Saturday 17 June 2023 at 10:15 hrs at
Hennessy Park hotel**

Good morning

I feel honored and privileged to have been asked to be the Chief Guest for the Award Ceremony of EXU Ltd.

I am particularly pleased to address you, dear awardees, as Mauritius is embarking on an economic recovery journey with confidence and where we are monitoring our projections and targets closely. To achieve this we need young people like you with skills in entrepreneurship, business, administration, leadership and marketing to facilitate your integration in the corporate world.

Congratulations to all of you awardees assembled here today. Soon you will receive a well-deserved certificate that will be the key to open doors for your better future and a more fulfilling life.

It was not easy, we know that well. To arrive to this day, this ceremony took so much study, so many tests, assignments, final projects... so much serious and determined work. But you did it....with your commitment, ability, and spirit of sacrifice.

This is a time of celebration and triumph and marks the end of one phase and beginning of the next phase. It is a very proud moment for the awardees, parents and

teachers who have all played their part in the end result. The students have worked hard with focus, determination and discipline.

Many of you, as you leave here to-day will be on the look-out for a job or for a better one. My proposition is that you need not only be a job seeker but you can also be a job creator.

I am convinced that each one of us has been born to do something unique. We have to reflect on what we were born for, which coincides with what we really like. Without this inner passage it is difficult to move forward well. If we do not know where we want to go, it is really hard to get there. So always try to listen to that voice—which, for some, is immediately strong; for others, it is a whisper—that tells you who you really are and what your mission in life is.

It is not enough to simply try and get by in life—that does not move the world forward—you must strive to excel in everything you do—excellence in every task, large or small. The decisions you make starting today will determine what you become. Your academic journey is not over yet and you must be clear on the end result and how you wish to get there. You will face many challenges but this is what the “real world” is all about and the next phase in your life is a great training ground for your future success.

Ladies and gentlemen

Entrepreneurship has recently developed a new dimension on the international market.

Mauritius, despite being small in size, has recognised the importance of entrepreneurship to its nation. Government and allied institutions are encouraging a

greater part of the population, especially the young generation to step in the business world with their own business ventures.

Given the role of SMEs in the restructuring of the economy, the government has come forward with a series of measures to promote entrepreneurship, facilitate the creation and business development and improving access to capital and other forms of financing. People, especially youngsters, are provided adequate support and training to improve their skills in order to familiarise themselves and become competent in entrepreneur activities.

Youth unemployment is one of today's big global challenges. By 2030 the world will need about half a billion jobs by then.

To help meet this challenge, we should encourage, educate and empower young entrepreneurs. We need to make a shift from talking about **creating jobs for youth** to talking about **inventing jobs by youth**. Entrepreneurship can be a part of the solution by transforming unemployed young people into major employers.

Entrepreneurial activities and entrepreneurship education are considered crucial to the economic development of nations. These activities are not only the incubators of technological innovation; they provide employment opportunities and increase competitiveness.

Furthermore, entrepreneurship education is more than just learning about business management. It is a human capital investment to prepare a student to start a new

venture through the integration of experience, skills and knowledge to develop and expand business.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that EXU LTD has designed its courses to provide individuals and organisations with the management competencies and critical skills necessary to build and sustain competitive advantages in a rapidly changing and complex business environment.

Dear Awardees,

I would like to invite all of you to consider today's success as a stepping stone in achieving greater success in the future – be it academically or in other areas of your life. Our country needs talented and hardworking individuals like you.

I encourage all of you - our youngsters and Mauritian citizens - to contribute fully by using your skills, knowledge and talents to create a bright future for Mauritius because you matter, your ideas matter, you have the potential, and because you are the future of this country.

I shall conclude by thanking EXU Ltd for this invitation and wishing all the best to the awardees.

Thank You