

**People's Choice Awards organised by Members Business Network on
Thursday 30 November 2023 at 18:30 hrs at Voila Hotel**

**Excellency Dr. Hlamalani Manzini, High Commissioner for the
Republic of South Africa in Mauritius**

Mrs. Maya Hanoomanjee

Mr. Sheik Mahamoodally, Chairman of Members Business Network

Participants of the People's Choice Awards 2023

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening

It is with pleasure that I have accepted the invitation of Members Business Network of Mauritius to attend this People's Choice Awards Ceremony. Thank you for the invitation.

I recognise that this is the third edition of these awards to reward entrepreneurs in different sectors. The competition aims to increase awareness for all participating businesses representing 12 sectors ranging from food to finance and retail.

This Competition has gained popularity amongst businesses, be it small, medium or large and has become an eagerly awaited event for them.

I feel The People's Choice Award is special in that you are nominated and voted for by the people who matter the most to your business, your clients.

Such initiative can increase confidence within the business community and give visibility to operators who are doing their best to adopt best practices.

At a time when we are still working to sustain the global economic recovery and put people back to work, helping some to start new business can spur broad-based growth.

At a time when the world is more interconnected than ever, we have got unprecedented opportunities to help more people access capital, resources and networks that they need to succeed.

At a time that we are facing challenges that no country can meet by itself — lifting people out of poverty, combating climate change, preventing the spread of disease -- helping social entrepreneurs mobilize and organize brings more people together to find solutions.

At its level, the Government of Mauritius is creating the appropriate conditions to allow businesses to thrive in the most conducive environment. Our focus is our people.

On this specific point I would like to borrow the words of Peter Drucker, Austrian-born American Management Consultant who said, I quote - **“The ultimate resource in economic development is people. It is people, not capital or raw materials that develop an economy”** - Unquote.

Government is consolidating existing sectors and identifying new ones to further enhance economic growth. The private sector remains a privileged partner to achieve objectives set.

I believe that to make our country flourish, we should stand as one. Paths may be different but both Government and the Private Sector share the same ultimate destination. Obstacles are easily overcome if we join heads and hands to make things better for our people and our country.

The Members Business Network (Mauritius) can be used as a platform to all businesses and small entrepreneurs. Business professionals can network with other industry members to learn about new trends, share insights and receive valuable mentorship.

Business networking is important because it allows professionals to identify new opportunities and increase their chances of entrepreneurial success.

Many business owners may not consider networking as important when they just start their business. In doing so, they fail to realize that having a strong network is extremely important for setting up the base for a successful business.

When you have a good network, you can stay up-to-date with industry trends and news. This can be beneficial for you as you can learn about new opportunities or potential threats to your business. This can help you plan your strategies accordingly and be ahead of your competitors.

I shall conclude by congratulating all the nominees, with special mention for those who will receive awards.

Thank you Members Business Network to give the business community an opportunity to gauge their popularity among their respective consumers.

Wish you all an enjoyable evening