



Signature Ceremony for the Award of Contract
for the Digital Services Centre (DSC) Project

Port Louis: The ICTA-funded Digital Service Centres Project was launched today by the Honourable Deepak Balgobin, Minister of Information Technology, Communication, and Innovation.

The DSC project was launched during a signature ceremony organised and held at the ICT Authority. Also present were Mr Neeraj Mounien, Chief Enterprise Solutions Officer, Mauritius Telecom Ltd and the CEO of Mauritius Post Ltd, Mr Giandev Moteea.

Mauritius Telecom Ltd had submitted the successful bid and obtained its letter of award on 8th March of this year as the designated universal service provider for the DSC Project.

Minister Deepak Balgobin stated, *"We are confident that this social project will be beneficial to the community at large and we invite those persons who do not have a computer at home to make full use of the Digital Services Centre to fulfil their needs of online services. It goes in line with the Government's objective of providing equal opportunity to all citizens and taking our ICT sector to even new heights."*

Mr Dick Ng Sui Wa, the Chairman of the ICT Board today stated that, *"in a world where digital platforms are all-pervasive, connectivity to the Internet and services that can be offered for citizens' ease of access and participation is vital. This is why the ICTA has pushed ahead with the DSC project to bring about greater democratization of ICTs as provided in the ICT Act: Sections 16 (a) and (e). It's another building block to bridge the Digital Divide."*

Access to these e-services will be available to the public in 97 post offices, five of which will be in Rodrigues. Mr Moteea, of Mauritius Post Ltd, gave some examples of e-Services as *"Driver's Learner Application, NLTA Registration Mark Reservations, Trade Fees and Farmers Service application and payment, and recently during COVID, MRA Self-Employed Assistance Registration, and COVID-19 online Vaccine Registration as well as WAP applications options."*

The equipment comprises 47 all-in-one computers and 80 all-in-one printers. The post offices in Rodrigues are those at Grande Montagne, La Ferme, Mont Lubin, Port Mathurin and Rivière Cocos. It is expected that the DSCs will enter into operation 6th October 2021.

The DSC project follows a procurement exercise launched in October last year by ICTA under the Universal Service Fund (USF) Regulations 2008. Holders of an **Internet Service licence** were able bid for the project to provide **Internet connectivity and IT equipment** at Post Offices in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

The ICTA is funding this project in line with the Universal Service Fund regulations. One of the functions of ICTA is to establish and manage a Universal Service Fund under Section 18 (1) (w) of the ICT Act.

6 July 2021

