



SPEECH

**His Excellency Mr Dharambeer Gokhool G.C.S.K.,
President of the Republic of Mauritius**

EVENT: LAUNCH OF “AI FOR ALL” BOOKLET

VENUE: THE DOCKS, CAUDAN, PORT-LOUIS

DATE: 29 OCTOBER 2025

TIME: 14:00 HOURS

PROTOCOL

Dr. the Honourable Avinash Ramtohol, Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation,

Her Excellency Ms. Lisa Simrique Singh, UN Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Respected Government officials

Esteemed Representatives of the Private Sector and Collaborators

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the media,

All Protocol Observed

INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon.

I am happy to be with you this afternoon for the launch of the **AI For ALL/ “AI POU NOU TOU” Booklet**, a laudable and meaningful initiative in an era of rapid technological transformation

This is yet another special occasion for me to be associated with the journey of digital transformation that our Republic is going through.

As you may be aware, it all started with the Government Programme - A Bridge to the Future - which I had the opportunity to present to the nation on Friday 24th January 2025.

We made two important pledges:

- Transforming Mauritius into a Hi-Tech Intelligent Island
- Digital Rights and Citizens' Privacy Protection

On April 5, 2025, at a Forum of The Mauritius Internet Governance Forum (IGF) organized by the Halley Movement on the theme: "AI, Cybersecurity, and Digital Trust: Pioneering a Secure Future",

I stated:

Our vision is to position Mauritius as a hub for digital innovation and cyber security excellence in the region. This includes:

- ***Promoting Digital Inclusion: Ensuring that all Mauritians, regardless of their background or location, have access to affordable and reliable internet services.***
- ***Strengthening Cyber security: Developing robust cyber security frameworks to protect our critical infrastructure and citizens from cyber threats.***
- ***Harnessing AI for Good: Leveraging AI to drive sustainable development, improve public services, and create new economic opportunities.***

Thereafter, on 26 May 2025, while launching the Blueprint on Digital transformation, I stated:

“The launch of this Digital Transformation Blueprint 2025-2029 is a defining moment in the history of our Republic - a moment that sets the tone for the future we seek to build: inclusive, innovative, resilient, environmentally sustainable and distinctly Mauritian.

The launch of the Digital Transformation Blueprint 2025–2029 is a bold expression of our national resolve to position Mauritius at the forefront of the digital age, to empower our people with opportunity, and to reinforce trust in a transparent, data-driven, and citizen-centric AI governance model.”

At Internet Governance Forum (IGF 20) in Norway in June 2025, the main focus was:

“to reflect on the principles, people and processes that shape inclusive and effective governance of digital space.”

THE AI BOOKLET

So, Ladies and Gentlemen, this AI Booklet to be launched today and its accompanying video, are a concrete demonstration of inclusive and safe digital transformation in action.

The booklet brings Artificial Intelligence down from the clouds and places it gently into the hands of every Mauritian.

Through its friendly guide, DIVA (the Digital Interactive Virtual Assistant), this publication teaches us that AI is not about machines taking over; it is about people taking charge.

It demonstrates to us that AI can listen to an elderly person, can guide a child’s learning, can help a farmer protect his crop, or a doctor save a life.

It explains technology not through fear or jargon, but through stories, empathy, and imagination; reminding us that behind every algorithm are human hopes, choices, and values.

It reveals the potential of AI for inclusive national development while underlining the need for fairness, transparency and trust.

It reminds us that digital progress must never be limited to the privileged few.

It also reminds us of what late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, confided to me in 2008:

“Technology has no value if it does not improve the lives of the common people.”

Every citizen, regardless of age, ability, gender, or background, must have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from this transformation.

It is this very ethos that is behind the Learn AI. School project, for secondary schools, where my Office has partnered with the Ministry of ITCI and the Ministry of Education and Human Resource, together with the private sector.

Through the Learn-AI Programme, we are ensuring that our young friends at the school can understand, engage with, and benefit from Artificial Intelligence.

Because an AI-literate nation is a future-ready nation.

REPOSITIONING MAURITIUS

As AI evolves, Super-intelligent AI poses both immense potential and profound risk.

If guided ethically, it could solve some of humanity's greatest challenges—climate change, disease, poverty, and more.

But if left unchecked, it could destabilise institutions, compromise safety, and widen inequalities at an unprecedented scale.

This transformation demands introspection. It forces us to ask:

- How do we ensure these systems benefit everyone, not just the few?
- How do we align this technology with our values and with our responsibility to future generations?

And equally, how do we reconcile the benefits of AI with its unintended consequences – socially, psychologically, and environmentally?

Our Digital Transformation Blueprint 2025–2029 outlines a bold, inclusive roadmap for integrating AI into our development agenda, anchored in three key principles:

1. **Digital Equity:** Ensuring that every citizen, regardless of location or background, can access and benefit from AI technologies.
2. **Human-Centricity:** Placing people, ethics, and societal wellbeing at the centre of innovation.
3. **Environmental Responsibility:** Recognising our duty to future generations by making sustainability a core tenet of technological progress.

Our vision must be clear: a digital, intelligent society that includes all Mauritians, leaves no one behind, and is built on trust.

By combining research with compassion, and progress with purpose, we can demonstrate that technology and humanity can move forward, not as rivals, but as partners.

Through collaboration with academia, the private sector, and international organisations, we will continue to build a future where every citizen feels connected, capable, and confident in the digital world.

CONCLUSION

As we celebrate the launch of the AI FOR ALL booklet today, let us see it as another milestone in our digital transformation journey.

Congratulations to the Minister and all his valuable collaborators.

Let us commit to building an AI future that is innovative, inclusive ethical, powerful yet compassionate, and intelligent yet profoundly human.

Together, we can build a smarter Mauritius, one that thinks boldly, acts responsibly, and cares deeply.

As One People, As One Nation... and yes, As One Humanity.

Thank you for your attention