**Speech of the Executive Director - NPCC, Mr. Ashit Gungah**

**Business Continuity and Resilience Planning (BCRP)**

**Programme Launching**

**NPCC Training Room, Ebène**

**18 November 2020**

Honorable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives,

His Excellency, Mr. Keith Allan, British High Commissioner to Mauritius,

Mr. Sujoy Busgeeth, Chairman of the NPCC

Council Members,

Mr. Kalyan Ganesh, our lead consultant

Representatives from participating companies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning,

Thank you very much for making time to attend today’s event to launch the Business Continuity and Resilience Planning course (the BCRP) in collaboration with the British High Commission in Mauritius.

At the very outset, let me express on behalf of the NPCC, our warmest thanks to all companies that have responded positively to our calls to participate in this project.

Ladies and gentlemen, the world today is facing a crisis like no other. To me humanity is facing one of its darkest periods in living memory due to the global Corona Virus pandemic. In Mauritius, thanks to the sanitary measures put in place by the government, we can say today we are in control of the situation.

For sure a virus or a natural calamity will not necessarily close down a business but it will undoubtedly disturb its operations. This is why during the lock-down, the NPCC has left no stone unturned to accompany our stakeholders by devising several projects.

I will mention just a few of them. We started with the **#morisienprodiktif** campaign. This was launched to motivate Mauritians to adopt a productive lifestyle and is today continuing to inspire many more Mauritians working from home to adopt productive habits.

We also unveiled the Enterprise Productivity Solutions, the EPS platform. This was done to provide local organisations with guidelines and assistance to help them proactively resolve problems, implement the right solutions and successfully restart their businesses.

A series of webinars were further conducted by foreign experts in different fields. The webinars aimed at arming Mauritian companies with the necessary knowledge to face the highly volatile and unpredictable economic environment.

The Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprise project (SCORE) that was implemented in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and facilitated by Mr. Kalyan Ganesh was completed just before the lockdown. This proved to be a timely project given that it focused, among other areas, on occupational health and safety.

Besides, last week itself, the NPCC launched another course on Occupational Health and Safety. This programme focusses on the importance of a Covid-19 Health and Safety plan and the ways to devise and implement measures to face such challenges provoked by the pandemic. Here, I am pleased to share with you that all our courses are being conducted free of charge.

Ladies and gentleman, a pandemic does not happen everyday. But natural disasters, man-made disasters, security threats, are today a reality. Amidst tremendous uncertainty around the future, if businesses want to ensure a smooth recovery process and continuity of operations, they need to be prepared.

This is why when the British High Commission made a call for proposals for funding of projects under the Covid-19 Fund, we seized the opportunity to submit a project proposal with regards to Strengthening Resilience of Enterprises in the face of disasters – post Covid and beyond.

Here, let me here convey a special word of thanks and gratitude to you, Excellency and to your team for having believed in our project and extended your collaboration for its implementation.

The project aims at fostering the adoption of a business disaster management culture in enterprises in order to help them navigate through disasters and crisis. Selected enterprises are expected to participate in an extensive training and develop a plan for their organisations with the support of our consultants.

If we want need to emerge stronger from this crisis by becoming resilient. After all resilience is about accepting the new reality, even if it is not as good as it was before but putting together something that is good.

To conclude ladies and gentlemen, it is worth noting that our Government has introduced several schemes to foster resilience of businesses amid the pandemic. I am confident that businesses, which have a crucial role as far as resiliency of the economy is concerned, will play their part. With this synergy, we will together succeed in overcoming the present unprecedented situation.

I would like to end my speech with a famous quote: “It is in the darkest night that the stars shine the brightest”. End of quote.

I thank you all for your attention.