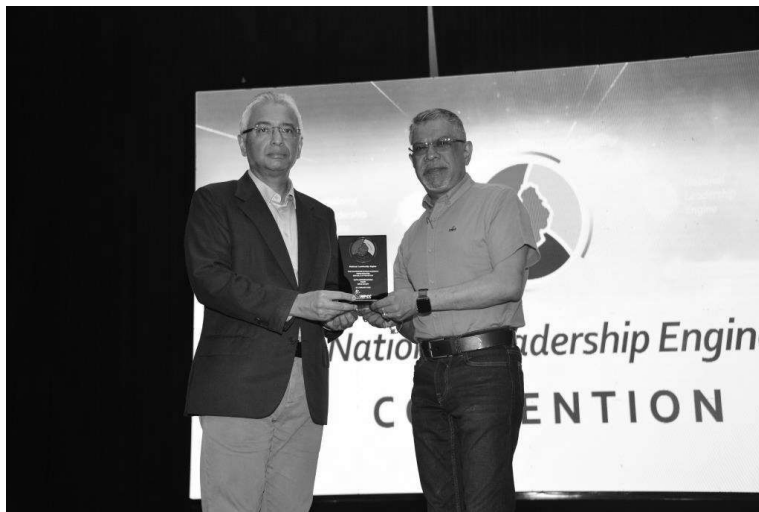




NPCC Award Ceremony: PM exhorts youth to avail of facilities put at their disposal





GIS - 23 January 2021: The youth should take advantage of a plethora of facilities and opportunities being put at their disposal to support and empower them in their self-development as well as to contribute to the socio-economic progress of the country.

The Prime Minister, Mr Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, made this statement at the award ceremony of the National Leadership Engine Convention 2020 (NLE), organised by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), today, at the Paul Octave Wiéhé Auditorium in Réduit.

The Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation, Mr. Stephan Toussaint, the Minister of Industrial Development, SME and Cooperatives, Mr Soomilduth Bholah, the Executive Director of <https://govmu.org/EN/newsgov/SitePages/NPCC-Award-Ceremony--PM-exhorts-youth-to-avail-of-facilities-put-at-their-disposal.aspx>

Industrial Development, SME and Cooperatives, Mr Souhassan Bholah, the Executive Director of the NPCC, Mr Ashit Gungah and other personalities were present.

Prime Minister Jugnauth commended the participants for their creativity adding that the Convention is yet another opportunity to enable the youth develop their skills, aptitudes and hidden talents. He further spoke of the vast experiences and achievements of the elderly urging the youth to heed to their advices and guidance so as to be more alert and better informed in making the right choice when choosing their pathways.

The Prime Minister also dwelt on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the employment industry in the country adding that Government is doing its best possible to safeguard employment and create new job opportunities. In the same vein, he spoke of entrepreneurial development and encouraged the youth to launch themselves in the small and medium enterprises which according to him is a potential industry.

He also indicated that a National Youth Environment Council is being set up to provide the youth with opportunity to contribute in the decision making process for matters relating to the protection of the environment.

Prime Minister Jugnauth also made an appeal to the youth to adopt a sports culture and maintain a healthy lifestyle which according to him is primordial to be more performing and efficient in day to day tasks.

As for Minister Toussaint, he said that the youth are full of potentials, innovative ideas and resources and called for their support in the face of the emerging challenges caused by the pandemic. He also cautioned the youth of the ills prevailing in the society, urged them to be wise in decision-making and to engage themselves in community-based activities. Social engagement and community projects, he added, are vital for the advancement of the Mauritian society.

For his part, Minister Bholah underlined that the NLE programme is an excellent platform for the youth to demonstrate their capabilities. Training, he said is an essential tool to empower the youth, especially now when the world is embracing new technologies such as 4.0, and Artificial Intelligence. He emphasised on the need to rethink on the educational, social and economic architecture in the post-covid era adding that the youth have a pivotal role in reshaping the economy. He thus, urged the youth to become conscious of their roles and responsibilities and contribute to socio-economic growth.

The Executive Director of the NPCC, Mr Ashit Gungah, pointed out that various programmes and schemes have been put in place to ensure that the youth are provided with the right support and proper guidance. The NLE, he said, is an innovation-based project to to develop leadership potential among the youth and equip them with requisite skills and talents for the future.

The winners of the NLE 2020 are as follows: Souillac Youth Centre (1st Prize); Mahebourg Youth Centre (2nd prize) and Flacq Youth Centre (3rd prize). They were awarded a sum of Rs 75 000, Rs 50 000 and Rs 25 000 respectively.

National Leadership Engine

The NLE is an initiative of the NPCC in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to bring Mauritius to the next level of socioeconomic development through a new leadership drive. The initiative calls on young Mauritians to be trained and eventually work on community projects which will contribute to the advancement of society and at the same time demonstrate their leadership skills in different fields. Some 500 youngsters between the ages of 18 to 35 have been trained under the programme since 2019.

