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The fourth edition of the National Leadership Engine (NLE) project concluded on January 21 with a national convention during which the overall winner and two runners-up were announced.

The winners are:

Big winner: Nu-Nat-li project – use of a locally sourced raw material, vacoas, with a low carbon footprint and biodegradable to design and create new kinds of products (Grand-Port region).

Second winner: SoilStrong project – to improve the image of the farmer (Moka region).

Third winner: SaVer Banane – production of banana flour (Savanne region).

NLE 2022 was organized by the NPCC in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation. The project aims to create a pool of leaders to achieve higher productivity and a better life for the nation. More than 200 young people have registered for training in the following regions: Rivière-Noire, Plaines-Wilhems, Port-Louis, Pamplemousses, Flacq, Rivière-du-Rempart, Grand-Port, Savanne and Moka.

Young people aged 16 and over were equipped with personal and social skills which they had to demonstrate by designing and implementing community projects in their locality. Youth training was completed in September 2022, followed by regional project reviews and

a national review which took place in October and November 2022 respectively. A total of 30 community projects were submitted under the NLE 2022. These projects addressed a range of issues relating to the environment, animal rights, mental health, and more.

NPCC Executive Director, Ashit Gungah, in his opening remarks, stressed “the importance of maintaining a good balance in our personal, professional and social lives”. He also called on young people to take initiatives to fight the scourge of drugs in Mauritius and to network to find lasting solutions to challenges in the areas of climate change, geopolitical tensions, health and environment.

“The NLE project empowers young people, not only to help them stay away from the scourge of drugs, but also to enable them to find solutions to prevent other young people from fall prey to drugs. Furthermore, it is a great satisfaction that the NLE Action Drivers (NLEAD), which I announced two years ago, is today a reality. The aim of NLEAD is to provide a platform for all NLE participants to develop and demonstrate their leadership skills,” Ashit Gungah emphasized.

Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Sunil Bholah, explained how the ministry spares no efforts to encourage young people to embark on entrepreneurship. He cited areas such as information and communication technology, renewable energy, agriculture and artificial intelligence, where young people can engage as entrepreneurs. “We need our young people with an innovative mindset to create a new generation of entrepreneurs. Moreover, I salute the determination of our young people to develop solutions in their own way to tackle the problems of society,” said Sunil Bholah.

The NLE 2022 convention was also marked by an online motivational speech by Marius Frey, a Swiss expert in the field of innovation and coaching. He spoke about the importance of ‘servant leadership’. The servant leadership style is based on the idea that leaders prioritize serving the greater good. Leaders who adopt this style serve their team and their organization first.

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