



**NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY EXCELLENCE AWARD 2022-2023  
AWARD CEREMONY**

**VENUE: CAUDAN ARTS CENTRE, PORT LOUIS**

**DATE: 28 JULY 2023**

**SPEECH BY MRS. SANDHYA BOYGAH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NPCC**

Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives,  
Mr. Putchay, Permanent Secretary of our parent Ministry,  
Mr. Busgeeth, Chairman of the NPCC,  
NPCC Council Members,  
Mr. Appalswamy, Director – NPCC  
CEOs and chairmen present,  
Members of the panel of assessors,  
Representatives of participating organisations,  
The staff of the NPCC,  
Distinguished guests,  
All protocols observed,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening,

Let me extend a warm welcome to you all at our event tonight, which marks an important milestone for the National Productivity and Quality Excellence Award (NPQEA) 2022-2023.

Ladies and gentlemen, before I move further in my speech, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Ashit Gungah, my predecessor, a visionary leader, who gave a new stimulus to the productivity movement.

Mr. Gungah is not amid us today as he departed for the heavenly abode on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. In his passing, we reflect upon his life and legacy he leaves behind—an unwavering dedication to the productivity cause, a trailblazing leadership style, and an exceptional embodiment of love and devotion as a son, husband, father and colleague. To me, Mr. Gungah has been a personal coach and a dear friend.

We express our heartfelt gratitude for the profound difference he made in the lives of individuals, organisations, and the nation as a whole. His legacy serves as a guiding light, igniting a passion within us to continue his noble work and strive for productivity, innovation, and excellence.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you might be aware, the National Productivity and Quality Excellence Award was launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2022 by late Mr. Gungah. The NPQEA places the pursuit of excellence at the very centre of the productivity journey of organisations.

The quest for excellence has always been a driving force behind human progress. Its significance is even more critical in our interconnected and fast-paced society. Mauritius currently finds itself at a crossroad where it has to make the

best and boldest choices to remain competitive and sustainable as an economy. And this is where we find the importance of excellence in all that we do.

Excellence is not merely a desirable trait; it is today a prerequisite for success. Whether it is a government department, a non-profit organisation, or a private company, the pursuit of excellence is essential for achieving organisational goals, delivering value to stakeholders, and making a positive impact on society.

By nurturing a culture of excellence, organisations create an environment that encourages creative thinking, problem-solving, and innovation. Excellence enables organisations to adapt to changing circumstances, embrace emerging technologies, and seize opportunities in a rapidly evolving landscape. Moreover, it enhances efficiency and productivity.

At the NPCC, we are leaving no stone unturned to take the productivity movement to newer heights. The NPQEA is among the various platforms that we have created to help organisations embark on their journey of productivity and excellence.

Our different projects testify the efforts made to live to our mission, that is to “Make Mauritius Work. Together” and our vision of a “Better Living for the Nation”.

The Enterprise Go Digital platform, that we unveiled this year, is a vivid example of how we are contributing to giving the

Mauritian industry a new dynamism. Through this platform, enterprises can now operate in a digital environment for higher productivity. In the same veins, I would like to invite all organisations present to register and join the platform.

The ECONO-Biz project on Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production is being implemented in 10 pilot enterprises in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management & Climate Change and the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC). The project aims at improving productivity of enterprises in a green and circular economy and at the same time, reduce wastes and save on costs.

I am pleased to share with you that the NPCC has been recognised as a potential Centre of Excellence in productivity and quality improvement in Africa. The Centre of Excellence is an important element of the Africa Kaizen Initiative spearheaded by the AUDA-NEPAD and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to strengthen and expand Kaizen in the African continent.

The Africa Kaizen Award is also organised every year whereby winners of our national awards have distinguished themselves among the best in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen, this year the National Productivity and Quality Excellence Award has attracted the participation of a total of 40 organisations in three different categories, namely Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Mid-market and large

private enterprises and government departments, parastatals and registered associations.

Dear participants, I had the opportunity to go through the projects submitted by your organisations and I am fully convinced of your commitment to aim at higher productivity, competitiveness and resilience.

For the current edition, 77 organisations had registered for the NPQEA, and all participants were trained on a set of established criteria with examples of best practices from international companies. Coaching sessions were also conducted by the NPCC to assist the participants in better understanding the NPQEA criteria.

Online assessments were conducted by a group of jurors from 26 to 28 April. Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards will be bestowed on the participating organisations. To recognise each team member's effort and contribution to the project, each participant will also be awarded a Certificate of Participation.

For the first time this year, onsite visits to all the Gold Awardees were conducted to select one Grand Winner in each category. The winners will be announced shortly.

Ladies and gentlemen, the initiatives and projects of the NPCC would not have been possible without the support of our parent ministry.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the esteemed Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah for his guidance and attention to the productivity movement.

The Minister's leadership has been instrumental in fostering a culture of enhanced efficiency, innovation, and growth within our industrial sector.

I would like to thank the dedicated staff of the NPCC for their tireless efforts in ensuring the success of the NPQEA 2022-2023. Your contribution has been instrumental to enable organisations move up the productivity ladder. The participation of the 40 organisations is a testimony to your hard work.

A special word of thanks goes to the assessors from the public and private sectors and the academia for their time and expertise. Last and not least, we congratulate and thank all participants of the 2022-2023 edition.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to end with a quote by Dr. Abdul Kalam. I quote: *"Excellence is a continuous process and not an accident."* Unquote.

I thank you for your attention and wish you an excellent evening.

S.B