

NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY EXCELLENCE AWARD CEREMONY 2022-

23

VENUE: CAUDAN ARTS CENTRE, PORT LOUIS

DATE: 28 JULY 2023

SPEECH BY HON SOOMILDUTH BHOLAH, MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, SMES AND COOPERATIVES

Mrs. Sandhya Boygah, Executive Director of the NPCC,

Mr. Sujoy Busgeeth, Chairman of the NPCC,

NPCC Council Members,

Members of the panel of assessors,

Representatives of participating organisations,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening!

I am pleased to be here for the National Productivity and Quality Excellence Award (NPQEA).

Before I pursue my speech, allow me to pay tribute to late Mr Ashit Kumar Gungah, former Executive Director of the NPCC. Mr Gungah was a loving friend and colleague. With his rich experience and expertise, he has contributed in various projects aiming at consolidating national productivity. He will always be remembered as a dedicated official.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our gathering today, underscores the vital role productivity has assumed globally.

The NPQEA a special way of recognising resilience... celebrating success... acknowledging extraordinary commitment... and most importantly rewarding hard work.

Tonight, we shine a spotlight on enterprises that have succeeded against all odds.

The rationale behind the NPQEA is to:

1. recognise best practice companies and showcase the strides that they have made in improving productivity.
2. galvanise companies into adopting productivity.
3. instill a productivity culture and attitude.
4. motivate other enterprises to avail to the services of NPCC in order to build sustainable businesses.

Productivity is a fundamental determinant of rapid economic growth, social progress and improved standard of living.

Whatever sector it may be, productivity remains a key factor that enables societies to generate wealth.

Improving national productivity and innovation levels is the most efficient way to realise inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

A productivity-driven growth and development agenda must be actively pursued if the demands of the future economy are to be met at sectoral level.

I strongly believe that these must be complemented by stronger collaboration between government, business, workforce and academia.

Productivity is everyone's business. We need to work together to chart a path of transformation, economic growth, and sustainable development. We need all hands on deck!

It is worth reiterating that “*Productivity is always doing what I do today better than I did yesterday, and even better tomorrow.*” Who does not want that?

We have come a long way, for sure. But we live in challenging times where change is the biggest opportunity for progress and impact.

It is important to grow our economy. We wish to consolidate our industrial base through innovation. It is a national effort.

Through the NPCC, the Government is putting in place the appropriate policies to promote productivity within the industrial sector.

Through the NPCC's training and capacity-building programmes, businesses gain access to specialised skills and expertise, strengthening their human capital and technical capabilities.

Companies should not be afraid to implement technological solutions or change business processes to improve efficiency.

Education and training institutions have to equip workers with the relevant skills.

Employees also must be encouraged to upgrade their skills.

In short, we have to be open to change. Because productivity requires change in mindsets! Not just in businesses and workers... but also mindsets of customers who have to be prepared to accept new business models.

I know it is hard to cope with change. But like I said previously, we are mounting a national effort. And everyone should be on board in this productivity movement.

Today we are evolving in the era of Artificial Intelligence, Industrial Internet of Things, Robotics, Cloud Computing, and 3D Printing.

We are talking about how to produce better output... not just about how to produce more output.

Seeing your enthusiasm in the NPQEA is an encouraging sign. I am sure more enterprises will be willing to relook at how things are done to raise productivity.

Let me seize this opportunity to applaud NPCC for its guidance and support to businesses in adopting best practices, enhancing operational efficiency, and implementing productivity enhancement strategies.

I congratulate all participants and wish you all well in your future endeavours.

Thank you!