

Speech of Hon. Minister
on the occasion of Safer Internet Day 2020
on 12 February 2020
Atal Bihari Vajpayee Tower, Ebene

Protocol:

Mr Dhurma Ashdeo Soburrun, Chairman of National Computer Board

Mrs Joanne Esmiot, Executive Director of National Computer Board

Mr Chettandeo Bhugun, Permanent Secretary of my Ministry

Experts from the Cyber4D Team of the European Union

Heads of Ministries and Departments

Head of Parastatal and Private Organisations

Speakers for the conference today

Lecturers and dear students

Members of the press

Ladies and gentlemen

Speech:

A very good morning to you all.

It's a pleasure for me to be here this morning to address you all on the occasion of the Safer Internet Day 2020 workshop which is being organized by CERT-MU of the National Computer Board which falls under the aegis of my Ministry.

The **Safer Internet Day** is a yearly event and is organised by my Ministry since 2009 to promote the safe usage of Internet among young people like you.

This year, **Safer Internet Day** is focused towards the sensitisation of tertiary-level students from universities across Mauritius.

As such, I am happy to see you all here today. I am sure you will draw major benefits from this workshop.

Dear students,

I want to announce that, in line with the objectives of my Ministry, this month is what we call our **Cyber Security Month** during which we will explore ways to fight against Cyber Threats.

As a matter of fact, today's event on the occasion of the **Safer Internet Day** marks the first activity of the Cyber Security Month.

The theme for this year's Safer Internet Day is "**Together for a better Internet**", in line with the vision of Government to empower all our citizens to use technology responsibly, respectfully and in a safe way.

You will be happy to note that, since 2009, CERT-MU has managed to sensitise some 33,000 secondary-level students. Additionally, 1500 housewives from different community centres have been sensitised.

Dear students,

The Cyber Security landscape has drastically changed during the past 10 years. Today, young people such as yourselves are vulnerable against online dangers such as predators and pedophiles and acts such as sextortion, sexting and cyberbullying.

When faced with such problems, it is important for you to know what effective measures you need to take. I would invite you to listen carefully to the various speakers we have with us today. Some are from Mauritius such as staff of CERT-MU and Tylers and some come from abroad such as our friends from Estonia and, for the first time, from Facebook.

Dear students,

It is with immense pride that I am announcing, as part of the Cyber Security Month, a similar workshop will be organised next week for children with disabilities.

Young people from 70 **Special Education Needs** schools will be invited and this will be a first in Mauritius.

We should not forget that our children with disabilities are also avid users of technology and, consequently, can be targeted by ill-intentioned people as well.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Just to give you some insights on how Cybercrime is affecting the world, the worldwide spending on cybersecurity is going to reach \$133.7 billion in 2022 according to **Gartner**.

This is because, as determined by **Cyber Security Ventures**, across the planet, there was a Cyber Attack every 40 seconds in 2019 resulting in the stealing of hundreds of millions of personal records.

Personal records containing your name, address, credit card details, bank account numbers, etc. are very valuable as they can be used by bad people to commit all sorts of crimes.

Dear students,

To be complete, allow me to mention that, to close the Cyber Security Month, my Ministry will organise a **Cyber Security Drill** for IT professionals working in Government on 27 and 28 February.

You will agree that it is vitally important to train these professionals so that they can keep pace with the rapidly evolving Cyber Threats which exist in our world today.

You will be glad to know that my Ministry now has a single website for reporting Cyber Incidents. It is known as the Mauritian Cybercrime Online Reporting System (MAUCORS) and can be accessed at

maucors.govmu.org

Use it to report incidents such as online harassment, hacking attempts, phishing, cyberbullying, sextortion identity theft, online scams and frauds.

As soon as you do so, relevant authorities such as CERT-MU, the National Computer Board, the ICT Authority, the Data Protection Office and the Cybercrime Unit of the Police will take action.

MAUCORS was launched in March 2018 and, up to now, over 1600 cases have been reported and addressed.

Dear students,

We all use social media. I am sure that most people in the audience use Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc. on a daily basis.

I do not want to sound negative but, as you all know, threats exist on these platforms. Hence, the necessity to be well prepared to face these threats if and when needed.

You will agree that Internet safety is the responsibility of all of us.

With these words, **dear students and teachers**, I would advise you to make the most of this workshop.

I now have the pleasure to declare the **Safer Internet Day 2020 Workshop** officially open.

Thank you for your attention!