

**Speech of Hon Leela Devi Dookun Luchoomun, VPM,
Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and
Technology**

Launching of QBL recycling hub

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests,

I am truly honored and grateful to be in your midst today on this momentous occasion which is the launching ceremony of the QBL Recycling Hub.

This initiative represents a remarkable step forward in our ongoing efforts to promote environmental sustainability and responsible waste management and I congratulate QBL for this laudable initiative.

Today, ladies and gentlemen, our world stands at a critical juncture when it comes to sustainable decisions and actions. More

than ever is it imperative that we come together to address the pressing challenges posed by climate change, management of wastes and for collegially finding the right solutions for our planet.

Today, we all have a critical responsibility that lies in our hands – a planet that we are crafting as a legacy for our future generations. Our actions today will shape the world they inherit, and it's our duty to ensure that it's a world they can thrive in.

The establishment of the QBL Recycling Hub stands as a testament to the dedication and collaborative spirit of all those involved – from the visionary minds at QBL to the committed individuals who have worked tirelessly to bring this project to fruition. This endeavour symbolises the shared commitment to

safeguarding our environment and embracing a more sustainable future.

In a world grappling with the consequences of unchecked waste production and its impact on our ecosystems, initiatives like the QBL Recycling Hub shine as beacons of hope. The hub is not merely a facility. It stands as a most valuable symbol of positive change, a place where discarded materials are given a new lease on life, where the concept of waste is transformed into one of resourcefulness.

The launch of this hub is particularly timely as we navigate the challenges posed by climate change, resource depletion, and pollution. By providing a central location for recycling, the implementation of such a project simplifies the process for everyone, making it easier for all members of our

community to participate in the crucial task of waste reduction. It will act as a platform where individuals, families, and businesses will be able to actively contribute to reducing carbon footprint and minimizing its impact on our delicate ecosystem.

Furthermore, the hub fosters education and awareness, inviting individuals to learn about the importance of recycling, the materials that can be recycled, and the positive impact our collective actions can have. This knowledge empowers us to make informed choices and inspires us to adopt sustainable practices not only within the hub's walls but in all aspects of our lives.

Ladies and gentlemen

My Ministry has been working hand in hand with the private sector for several projects,

one of these being the *natation scolaire programme*. This enterprise has been materialised with the collaboration of the Mauritius Sports Council (MSC) and has benefitted from the sponsorship of QBL.

This programme serves as a remarkable example of a collaborative effort between educational institutions, sports organizations, and sponsors to promote essential life skills and water safety awareness among the younger generation. It is an initiative that not only equips students with practical swimming abilities but also instils a sense of responsibility and preparedness when it comes to being around water.

Ladies and gentlemen

Our Government's policies have been sustained throughout the years for incentivizing sustainable practices. We have been encouraging the promotion of green infrastructure, and supporting industries that prioritize sustainability as means of encouraging a green culture.

Education and awareness are equally vital and we have also ensured that sustainable development is infused in the curriculum as from the early years of education. In fact, the Government has resorted to several means of encouraging a green and sustainable Mauritius, one of the key ones is the banning of plastic that is not biodegradable.

To tackle this challenge, we must adopt a multi-faceted approach. It starts with

acknowledging the importance of clean and renewable energy sources. As we encourage the transition away from fossil fuels and embracing of solar, wind, hydroelectric, and other sustainable energy sources, we have invested in rainwater harvesting projects in several primary and secondary schools across the island. We have also engaged in the eco school programme in all of our primary and secondary schools so as to foster a culture of environment friendly habits and for ensuring a widespread adoption of such practices.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have to remember that sustainability is not a choice, but a necessity.

It is important to remember that positive change begins with individual actions and a commitment to our shared environment.

Let us all pledge to utilize this hub to its fullest potential, to make recycling a fundamental part of our daily routines, and to champion the cause of sustainability in every facet of our lives.

Thank you for your attention.