

**Speech of Hon (Mrs) L.D.Dookun-Luchoomun  
Minister of Education and Human Resources  
Tertiary Education and Scientific Research**

**Launch of Global BBA by ESSEC Business School  
Monday September 12, 2016**

**Good Afternoon,**

I am deeply pleased to be in your midst today on the occasion of the launch of the Global Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) programme of the ESSEC Business School.

To say that this programme is a highly prestigious one would in fact be an understatement.

This is a programme that is internationally recognised in Singapore, Morocco and France and undoubtedly a more than useful addition to the Higher Education landscape of Mauritius.

It is in fact praiseworthy that the Medine Group should have decided, through this launch, to add this feather to its education cap. The Group is thereby consolidating its presence as a provider of higher level professional education and training aimed at both a local and a regional clientele.

I am pleased to say that the ongoing contribution of the Medine group to the higher education landscape is turning out to be a major linchpin of this Government's drive to transform Mauritius into a Regional Knowledge Hub, a knowledge provider in the global value chain.

**Distinguished guests,**

I believe we have what it takes to act as a catalyst for students and experienced academics and researchers from overseas to opt for Mauritius as a destination for higher studies or pursuing a career in higher education.

That inevitably means bringing in reputable institutions of higher learning that run programmes of a world class nature.

Private providers have certainly a role to play here.

In fact, on this celebratory occasion, I would wish to use this opportunity to request the private sector to continue to bring in their collective support to complement the efforts of the Government to enable a greater internationalisation of the higher education sector.

This can only augur well for the development of our human resources.

**Distinguished guests,**

One of the priorities my Ministry has set for itself is most definitely to facilitate the upscaling of educational institutions . We want all of them to be geared towards excellence, towards a level that is internationally comparable. Excellent institutions, as we know, are a signpost towards human resource excellence. And such highly qualified and developed resources are more likely to be better equipped to face global challenges, economic or otherwise.

This is one of the underpinnings of the crucial reforms we have embarked upon in the higher education sector through the oncoming Higher Education bill and the diversification of the sector through the addition of Polytechnics to that landscape.

I need hardly stress that employability has become the by-word. It is universally recognised today that careers and jobs for life are

fast becoming a thing of the past. People entering the labour market are expected to have a rich diversity of aptitudes and competences. Such versatility guarantees their adaptation to and sustenance in a labour market whose requisites and demands are constantly changing.

In this context, running a programme like the Global BBA that is ranked first across BBA programmes in France is welcome. I believe that the programme will certainly earn a lot of esteem. Its attractiveness resides in its provision of cutting- edge knowledge in administration, accompanied by a mix of academic learning and hands-on experiential pale, and especially an exposure to professional education in multicultural contexts within the ESSEC network.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I will be brief. The challenges we are confronting today are huge but not insurmountable. In my capacity as Minister responsible for Education and Human Resources. I am confident that Mauritius has the means to face these challenges head on and overcome them.

I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation for our partners from the private sector for helping in this enterprise that has a significant social reach.

Let me express my best wishes to the new programme. Good luck as well to the local and foreign students learners who will be following the programme.

Top of the grade programmes go a long way towards developing the capacity of those who, tomorrow, may well be at the helm of the affairs of their countries.

That's how high the return on investment can be for them.