National Assembly

Announcement

Sitting of Friday 02 August 2024

"Digital Transformation Strategy to propel the National Assembly into a new era".

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Honourable Members, I have an announcement to make.

The digital landscape of organisations (including parliaments and legislative bodies worldwide) has drastically changed and more so as we enter a new age driven by new technologies and Artificial Intelligence.

As we face the future the digital transformation of the National Assembly is a vital step towards ensuring its efficiency and transparency.

The objective of the Digital Transformation Strategy is to propel our legislative body into a new era.

This Strategy will uphold the principles of our democracy by providing an unprecedented level of clarity and accessibility to all citizens of Mauritius.

Our vision is to create a modern legislative body that leverages the latest digital technologies to enhance its operations and public engagement.

By achieving these objectives, we will not only streamline our processes but also strengthen the bond between the government and the citizens that it serves.

The main Components of this Strategy are as follows:-

1. **AI Chatbots**

   Chatbots Platforms will be used to assist citizens navigating our services and for general enquiries.

   This will ensure a better understanding of the Standing Orders, rules, and other provisions relating to parliamentary procedures.

2. Tools and Applications

The Strategy will comprise of interactive tools and applications for all citizens to foster greater interaction with Parliament. These tools will enable Citizens to better engage with their representatives and stay informed about parliamentary activities.

3. Live Transcription / Captioning

Our live streaming of parliamentary proceedings will be accompanied by live and in house captioning in both English and French. This will promote accessibility and inclusion by allowing more citizens to follow and understand our legislative process.

4. Speech translation

English / French translation – to be made available on our existing Parliament TV Channel Video-On-Demand (VOD) Internet streaming platform.

5. Hansard Production

Generative AI will also be introduced within the existing Hansard Cycle for instant transcription of the House proceedings. This will significantly reduce the time and effort required to produce accurate records of our debates and discussions.

6. Open Data Initiatives

Legislative data and documents will be published in open formats to facilitate public access and research in order to encourage civic engagement and academic research.

7. Workflow Automation

Workflow automation with Generative AI will be integrated within the legislative processes such as bill drafting, amendment tracking and committee workflows in order to streamline these processes. However, the documents will still be manually reviewed to ensure complete accuracy.

8. Timeline

The timeline and roadmap for this digital transformation are ambitious yet achievable.

The Strategy is to achieve quick wins within the coming months, the chatbots, the development of interactive tools and applications, live transcription and the open data initiatives.

By next year, the implementation of the live captioning of proceedings is expected to be completed.

Over the next three years, the digitalisation of our archives will be completed and routine processes will be automated.

The digital transformation of the National Assembly is a bold step towards a more efficient, transparent and inclusive legislative body.

The support of all stakeholders, including members of the assembly, staff, and citizens will be required to engage this initiative.

I have consulted the Leader of the House and the Deputy Speaker who support this initiative.

Honourable Members,

Together, we can transform the Assembly into a ground-breaking parliamentary institution that not only meets the demands of our time but also sets a standard for others to follow.

I thank you for your attention.

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