

**Speech by Mr Speaker - Launching Ceremony of  
Rodrigues Regional Assembly's  
e-Parliament System - 17 August 2023 at 14:00 hrs  
Le Cocotiers Hotel, Rodrigues**

**Mr Johnson Roussety, GOSK, Chief Commissioner**

**Mr Franceau Aubret GRANDCOURT, Deputy Chief  
Commissioner**

**Mr Joseph Christian Leopold, GOSK, Chairperson  
of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly**

**Respected Commissioners of the Rodrigues  
Regional Assembly**

**Mrs Rose Marie Franchette GASPARD  
PIERRE LOUIS, CSK, Minority Leader**

**Respected Members of the Rodrigues Regional  
Assembly**

**UNDP Resident Representative, Amanda Serumaga**

**I also acknowledge the presence of the Australian  
Deputy High Commissioner.**

**The Island Chief Executive Mr J.Claude Pierre  
Louis, OSK**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**On behalf of Members of the National Assembly and in my own name, I convey our warm greetings and well wishes to all of you and the people of Rodrigues.**

**May I also seize this opportunity to thank the Chairperson of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to my goodself and my delegation in this beautiful island of Rodrigues.**

**It is indeed a matter of great honour and privilege for the National Assembly to be associated with the digital transformation of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.**

**Respected Commissioners and Members of the RRA**

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**The National Assembly embarked on its digital transformation as far back as 2009 with the digital recording system and the voice to text transcription of the proceedings of the Assembly.**

**Today, as you may be aware, Information Communication Technology has become a strategic and vital resource for parliaments. The challenge is not only to apply new technologies to improve traditional parliamentary processes performed by legislative bodies, but to use the full potential of ICT to take legislatures and their members well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

**In that context, Members of the Mauritius National Assembly were provided with digital tablets to empower them to discharge their parliamentary duties through a digital mode.**

**To that effect, the Mauritian Parliament developed the Members Sitting Application, commonly known as the MNA App, which enable Members to access their Parliamentary documents digitally, thereby allowing us to become a paperless Parliament.**

**Respected Commissioners and Members of the RRA**

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**I am given to understand that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has in 2015 introduced the voice to text transcription of its Hansard to improve**

**its parliamentary service delivery and the digitalization of its processes.**

**In 2020, the RRA solicited the assistance of the Mauritius National Assembly for extending the e-Parliament project to the Regional Assembly. However, with the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, the project was delayed and in March 2022, the request for the extension of the e-Parliament project to the Regional Assembly was reinitiated.**

**Respected Commissioners,**

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**In that respect, the National Assembly, with the unflinching support of the UNDP, embarked in the conceptualization of the e-Parliament project for implementation at the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.**

**Allow me, at this stage, to place on record that the National Assembly secured the financial support of the UNDP to the tune of Rs 1,150,000 for the implementation of the project following the signature of a Letter of Agreement between the UNDP and the National Assembly on 15 September 2022.**

**I avail myself of this opportunity to express my appreciation and sincere thanks to the UNDP Resident Representative Amanda SERUMAGA for the support of the UNDP towards this laudable initiative of enlarging the democratic space of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.**

**Respected Commissioners and Members of the RRA**

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**It is in this context, that in October 2022, officers of the Parliamentary Digital Services Unit of the National Assembly came to Rodrigues for the installation of the Auto scripting System, data collection, analysis and transfer of knowledge.**

**Thereafter, the officers of the National Assembly embarked on the replication and customization of the Members Sitting Application (MNA App) to allow Members of the RRA to access their parliamentary**

**documents digitally, another major component of the e-Parliament project.**

**With this digital application, customized as the RRA App, Members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly will now access their Order Papers, notice of Parliamentary Questions, Draft Regulations and Hansard, amongst others, through their I-pads.**

**Respected Commissioners and Members of the RRA**

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**The National Assembly, with the financial support and collaboration of the UNDP, has now procured 30 Apple I-pads for the benefit of the Members of the RRA.**

**You will agree that Covid-19 has, amongst others, so forcefully demonstrated that digitalization has become a vital component for the efficient and**

**effective functioning of Parliaments around the world.**

**I have no doubt that with the implementation of the e-Parliament system in the RRA, Members will now embark on a new journey in the discharge of their parliamentary duties which will help in fostering Parliamentary democratic values in terms of transparency, accountability and accessibility for Rodrigues**

**Respected Commissioners and Members of the RRA**

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**The Mauritius National Assembly remains committed to further extend its assistance to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in a spirit of ensuring that the RRA aligns itself with the digital transformation of the National Assembly and before concluding, I wish**

**to thank you very much for your kind attention.**

**And it is now my singular honour and privilege to launch the e-Parliament system for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.**

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