

**Opening Ceremony of the International Conference on the
Constitutional Development – University of Mauritius**

14 March 2018

Honourable Minister,
Vice-Chancellor,
Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps,
Distinguished Judges from Abroad,
Academics and Students,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My presence with you today is firstly to congratulate the University of Mauritius for the initiative it has taken to organise this conference and secondly to encourage you all in this challenging task of making an appraisal of the Mauritian Constitutional Development.

We have to say that our constitution has beautifully stood the test of time over the last 50 years.

Our Constitution has been written with inputs from political leaders but more importantly from professionals of the legal field.

In my view, 50 years is a long enough time to justify a new enlightened scrutiny that can hopefully produce ideas for improvement and refinement, although we have to have it at the back of our mind that a constitution is sacrosanct and has to be handled with utmost care.

There will be 3 days of most interesting presentations and discussions on pertinent issues with inputs from experienced lawyers from France, Germany and Mauritius.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I, have the honour and great pleasure to declare the International Conference France/Germany/Mauritius on the Mauritian Constitutional Development in the context of the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Mauritius OPEN.