



Prime Minister  
Republic of Mauritius

### MESSAGE

*My Dear Students,*

*National Day celebrations give us an opportunity to rally around our National Flag with a sense of pride and happiness.*

*Such a day calls for rejoicing because our country has come a long way since the days when world-famous economists predicted that we would not survive as a nation. We not only conquered the odds but moved on to become a prosperous and stable country.*

*We are enjoying today the fruits of national unity, social cohesion and hard work. These values are at the core of our nation. I am quite confident that they will remain so because you, the young people, have the determination and will to uphold these values. This is our best guarantee for the future of the country.*

*I can see in you capable young men and women who can use technology while maintaining a commitment to values and environmental stewardship.*

*Dear Students,*

*Government wants to offer you exciting prospects both in terms of economic development and personal fulfillment. This is why Education has been at the forefront of our agenda. Quality Education will give you the weight and muscle to reshape our nation's future.*

*The reform we initiated in 2015 aims at ensuring a more inclusive and equitable quality education. All children are now required to follow at least nine years of basic schooling before moving to post-basic education in their areas of interest.*

*During the past years, we have addressed vital issues in the primary, secondary and post-secondary sectors, and accomplished a major transformation of our education system.*

*We are now investing in facilities to cater more efficiently for learners. As from this year, students of Grades 7, 8 and 9 of State and registered private secondary schools are being provided with free textbooks. In addition, various technology-driven innovative approaches to teaching have been introduced.*

*To make more opportunities available to students who wish to pursue post-secondary training, we have invested in the development of various programmes geared towards the needs of industry. We do not want any child to remain out of the system any more.*

*However, Government can only provide so much in terms of structure and facilities. It is your responsibility to develop and maintain a culture of effort and hard work. You will also have to avoid yielding to bad habits such as alcohol and drug abuse.*

*Dear Students,*

*We want a better, safer, and healthier future for all. This is why we are advocating a broader engagement in sport. We came up with a National Sport and Physical Activity Policy in 2018. The target is to bring 65% of children and 35% of adults to participate in sport and physical activities at least three times a week by 2024.*

*To develop a winning mindset, you will have to be, not only mentally strong but physically fit as well. Practising any sport or other physical activities is enjoyable, has a positive impact on your learning capabilities, and will help you acquire values such as discipline, teamwork and leadership.*

*You are growing up in a highly dynamic environment characterized by major technological changes. Many believe that Artificial Intelligence will rework most aspects of the modern world.*

*To keep up with the change that emerging technologies are bringing to the workplace, Government is developing a Strategy to drive the uptake of these new technologies in the economy. We want you to be ready to operate in tomorrow's digital world.*

*I wish now to say a few words about another major concern of today's young people. During the 'Assises de L'Environnement' held in December last, many young people have voiced support for the much needed environmental transformation. The youths pleaded for eco and climate-friendly actions. Their recommendations will be taken on board.*

*I hope that we shall have the pleasure to continue discussing with you matters pertaining to environmental conservation.*

*I have a profound trust in you and your capability. I call upon you to be the architects of a resilient and prosperous Mauritius.*



*You are the very foundation of our nation. I know that by the end of this decade, many of you will be fully engaged in nation-building and bring your precious contribution to bear upon the technological or socio-economic fields.*

*Long live the Republic of Mauritius!*



*Pravind Kumar Jugnauth  
Prime Minister*

*10 March 2020*

