Today, we find ourselves at the center of the first global pandemic in over 100 years where the COVID-19 virus spread at an unprecedented rate throughout the world surpassing the 5-million mark. Around 213 countries and territories have been affected with severe ripple effects triggering a sanitary and economic crisis as never witnessed before. Like almost all countries worldwide, Mauritius has not been spared by the COVID-19 when it confirmed its first three cases on 18th March 2020.

The priority of the Government since day-one has been the health, safety, and security of the nation, overriding any other considerations and/or interests.

Steadfast, decisive, and responsive approach

On the 20th March 2020, the Hon Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth announced stringent lockdown measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 all over the island coupled with a complete closure of its borders. Three days later, the Government imposed a Sanitary Curfew restricting access only to essential services. On Friday 29th May 2020, the Prime Minister has officially announced the upliftment of the sanitary curfew in Mauritius effective as from 31st May 2020. As the country is gearing up for the gradual easing of the lockdown in a phased manner, a series of sanitary measures continue to be in force to protect the population. Moreover, laws have been amended to better face the situation and a new Act - the COVID-19 Act - has been voted by the National Assembly.

A Tribute to our Unsung Heroes

We acknowledge the sheer determination and diligence of our unsung heroes of this crisis: the front liners including the healthcare and medical staff, the police force, the food delivery services, banks, pharmacies and all those who have ensured basic services for the essential needs of the population.

This crisis has indeed galvanized the support of the private and public sectors together with Mauritians from all walks of life to combat the invisible enemy.

Ushering a sense of optimism

Mauritius has been highly acclaimed by leading research organizations and international media for its coordinated and timely response. The country has also topped the University of Oxford’s Stringency Index and has been ranked 1st in Africa in the Happiness Index 2020. These achievements further reaffirm that the Mauritian Government has at heart the quality of life and well-being of the population.

New growth poles as vectors of development

This pandemic has given the opportunity to local enterprises to re-adapt and re-focus their businesses and align their objectives towards a common goal to address the urgent need for face masks, face shields, medical gowns, sanitizers, and ethanol. Moreover, the e-commerce sector including online shopping along with contactless payment have gained momentum.

The EDB is also committed to provide the necessary framework to revitalize the agricultural and pharmaceutical sector whilst bolstering research and development. Post-crisis, EDB will also gear efforts on building new economic pillars and develop strategies to enhance the resilience and competitiveness of our exports.

Crafting a renewed and inclusive future

In line with its mandate to spearhead development, the EDB remains committed to restore confidence and trust amongst the international investing community.

A review and overhaul of the promotion and communication strategy of EDB is sine qua non amidst the new world architecture being shaped. As the movement of people around the world has been severely limited, the EDB will deploy a communication and marketing strategy mainly comprising a multilingual website, targeted campaigns on social media and hosting of webinars to focus and drive investment promotion in this challenging time.

The solidarity shown by Mauritians has been exemplary. A true role model to the world.

Our sincere appeal to Mauritians is to stay united, focused, and vigilant in our fight against this invisible enemy. The challenge is immense but our capacity as Mauritians to solve our problems and overcome difficulties must not be underestimated.

As we grapple with this pandemic, the Government has remained sensitive to the voice of the population with a view to steer the economy towards a path of recovery.

“Our capacity as Mauritians to solve our problems and overcome difficulties must not be underestimated”

Mr. Hemraj Ramnial, CSK
Chairman | Economic Development Board
"The University of Mauritius, thanks to its longstanding initiative to promote digital learning dealt with the confinement in a quite smooth manner ensuring completion of all its taught programmes via the online mode, thus enabling students to complete their academic year through quick implementation of various remedial actions."

Professor Dhanjay Jhurry, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius

"Our family had a great experience spending nearly two and a half months in Mauritius during the quarantine. Even in the conditions of lockdown, Mauritians, specially the hotel staff have ensured that foreigners are treated in the best possible conditions during this hard period."

Vasile, Kristina and Sofia, Republic of Moldova

"I believe that when the Covid-19 pandemic was announced in early March, the exact extent as to how deadly the virus could be was not known, but the Mauritian authorities took the correct action and “self isolated” the island from the outside world. I believe overall the Mauritian authorities have done themselves proud and so far led the country well through a difficult crisis."

Justin Pearson-Taylor, Director, Pearson-Taylor Commercial Properties Ltd

"Studying during this confinement period has undoubtedly been a positive experience. We’ve had our online classes via Google Classroom and Google Hangout whereby it was an opportunity to be closer to our lecturers. Forgetting the online library of the university would be a big mistake as our revisions would not have been complete without it."

Hima Greedharry, BSc Maths with Finance (Year 2), University of Mauritius

"We commend the responsiveness and efficiency of the Economic Development Board during the COVID-19 health crisis. Despite challenging circumstances prevailing, the team remained constantly in touch with our organization. They have accomplished decisive work for the good continuation of our operations in Mauritius."

Michaël Ruel, Président, Groupe MJ Développement

"Our family stayed in Mauritius because of the inability to fly back, but we feel very comfortable and safe here, as the lockdown implemented by the government was the right decision, as the country is today Covid-Free."

Pavel, Elena, Sofia and Polina Podtopta, Ukraine

"Middlesex University was fully prepared to support our students virtually during the COVID-19 lockdown. Our campus is set up to be operational remotely and staff have the required equipment and access to systems to work from home. For us, it is business as usual and feedback from students and parents suggest that our efforts were widely appreciated."

Professor Mari Jansen Van Rensburg, Campus Director, Middlesex University Mauritius

"C-Care Group has immediately engaged its colleagues and doctors to support the country in the fight against Covid-19. For our medical and support teams, it was a real challenge to build the new isolated areas for maximum patient safety and the new Molecular Biology Laboratory (Biosafety Level 2) within a few days. We took the necessary steps to provide the best treatment to suspected Covid-19 patients while setting up a separate patient pathway to allow us to continue to serve other patients safely."

Hélène Echevin, Executive Chairperson, C-Cara (Mauritius) Ltd

"Vatel responded to the Covid-19 outbreak by digitalizing its courses online for all students on google classroom including an interactive induction session for the new students. As a support to the hotel and tourism industry, Vatel has also opened its online learning portal for free to hotel professionals to keep the tie with the industry."

Renaud Azema, Chief Executive Officer, Vatel Mauritius

"House of Lords is indebted to EDB’s role in helping to promote business in new markets in Africa and Europe. Very good approach as a one-stop-shop for all your issues; may it be business, administration, licensing etc."

Dr. Sukhbirr Puri, Managing Director, House of Lords

"In the days immediately following the sanitary curfew, a fantastic spirit of solidarity and generosity developed, and still exists. Thanks to the generous donations and the hard work of our members, all Lions and Leo Clubs around the island have successfully adapted the way we serve to offer support and to provide relief to vulnerable people."

Rolando Bergicourt, Region 5 Chairperson, District 417, Lions Club International

"Me, my family and our hotel guests from different countries of Europe who decided to stay during these two months of confinement in Coral Azure Beach Resort felt very safe in Mauritius, as being on an island is like being protected by the ocean."

Dennis Verkhorubov, Director, Coral Azure Hotel

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