INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MAURITIUS 2020-2025



RevitalisingMauritius' Economic Growth





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MESSAGE BY HONOURABLE MINISTER



Honourable Soomilduth Bholah
Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives

I am immensely pleased to launch the Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (2020-2025), which comes at a highly opportune time, particularly when the manufacturing sector is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year. Over this journey, the manufacturing sector has been the main engine of economic growth as evidenced by its substantial contribution to Gross Value Addition, total employment and foreign exchange earnings. During the past year, it accounted for 12.5% to Gross Value Addition and 17% to total employment. Nonetheless, it is widely recognised that today the manufacturing sector is standing at a critical juncture and a set of novel industrial policies and strategies is warranted to ensure that the sector sustains its momentum and increase its resilience amidst the backdrop of emerging and unpredicted challenges associated also with the outbreak of Covid -19.

Indeed, the manufacturing sector has undergone several successive phases of structural transformation owing to the various industrial policies adopted by the country in the past. It started in the sixties with an import-substitution policy followed later by an export-led strategy. The competitiveness of our manufacturing sector was centered mainly around trade preferences and the availability of low-cost labour. However, we are currently at the dawn of a new era which hinges on new imperatives such as the use of intelligent and lean production systems embedding digitalisation, eco-friendly and fair-trade practices, product quality, branding, research and development and innovation, supplemented by a versatile and high-skilled labour force.

No doubt, the sustainability of the manufacturing sector rests on these predominant factors which are now dictating the very competitiveness and survival of our enterprises.

The Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (2020-2025), which has been elaborated with the assistance of the United Nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD) proposes a policy framework that should be implemented to bring about transformational changes for a globally competitive and sustainable manufacturing sector. It focuses on the creation of a solid industrial foundation based on the availability of a technically qualified labour force to service the manufacturing base and an enhancement in our soft and hard infrastructure. The policy framework also supports the drive to diversify our products and production processes with the adoption of high-end technology, promotes local production, and provides a lead on how to boost regional and global exports. The new Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan comprises different policies that will have to be implemented in the coming years. We have to ensure that a paradigm shift towards elevated growth rates takes place.

I would like to emphasise that the preparation of this Strategic Plan has benefitted from the collaborative efforts of key Ministries as well as various public and private sector organisations. It is, undoubtedly, a shining example of cooperation between the Government and its partners. It endorses my belief that together we can make a difference and achieve more. I am confident that this privileged relationship will prevail during the implementation phase of the proposed strategies in the Report and will yield concrete results.

I am thankful to UNCTAD for its continued assistance in the future Monitoring and Evaluation exercise which would ensure that we are treading on the right path for a re-dynamised and vibrant manufacturing sector contributing towards enhanced economic prosperity.



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