

***Speech by Mr K. Ponnusamy, Senior Chief Executive  
Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport  
and Shipping on the occasion of the inauguration  
of the Reduit-Vandermeersch link Road***

***Venue : Vandermeersch, Rose Hill***

***Date: 17 August 2005***

***Time: 16.00 hrs***

**Honourable Acting Prime Ministry, Minister of Public  
Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping**

**Mr Moreea, Officer in Charge, Road Development Authority**

**Hon. Ministers**

**Hon. Private Parliamentary Secretaries**

**Mayor of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill**

**Chairman, Moka/Flacq District Council**

**Officers of my Ministry and the Road Development Authority**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

It gives me great pleasure In my capacity as the Administrative Head of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping and as Chairman of the Road Development Authority to be amongst you this afternoon for the inauguration of the Reduit-Vandermeersch Link Road.

Road transport fulfils a major role in the Mauritian economy and society. Roads are at the heart of Mauritian economic and social integration. Today, the totality of passengers make use of the road network which is equally used for inland freight. There is no doubt that roads contribute to economic welfare of our country. Over the years, the road sector has become an efficient and growing part of the

country's economy, accounting for hundreds, if not, thousands of jobs and has constituted an important proportion of Government's expenditure and income. As the main provider of personal mobility, roads bring people closer to various opportunities. In fact, roads are an undeniable source of socio-economic welfare and will continue playing a dominant role in the transport of people and goods for many years.

One of our challenges rests in identifying pragmatic ways of curbing congestion, tackling road-related emissions, and the growing energy concern, particularly in urban areas where most of the country's population works, bearing in mind the spiralling increase in the price of petroleum products.

Efficient public transport in urban areas undoubtedly forms one part of the equation, but the greatest potential comes from a more efficient use of the road network itself. Through a coherent road development policy, the government will endeavour to optimize the existing road network through targeted road infrastructure improvement to relieve congestion and improve traffic fluidity. In this modern world dominated by evolving technologies, it is important that we devote some of our time and resources for the conduct and coordination of research and investigation on materials best suited for road construction. As a matter of fact, according to the Road Development Authority Act, this is one of the responsibilities of the Authority.

A customer care approach to public service offers individual users more responsive and accessible attention. The Ministry and all its departments and the Road Development Authority are committed to ensuring that customer service excellence is integral to the planning, resourcing and delivery of all services.

These standards will ensure that all sections of our diverse multi-cultural community, including those with special needs, are not excluded from any area of service delivery.

The construction of new roads and upgrading of existing ones have been ongoing in order to cope with demands exerted by the expanding economy. In line with

this objective, the Government has provided funds to the Road Development Authority for the construction of this link road from Vandermeersch street near the Central Electricity Board Station to the new roundabout on the Ebene-Trianon link Road at Ebene. The aim is to provide access to the Cyber City from the lower Plaines Wilhems area and relieve traffic congestion in Rose Hill town centre by providing a direct route for the traffic from Beau Bassin-Rose Hill to the University, the East and Port Louis.

The Vandermeersch-Reduit Link Road has come at an opportune time as we are witnessing major developments in the Ebene area which will have far-reaching effects on the new economic landscape.

It goes without saying that the vision of the government to transform Mauritius into a knowledge hub would be incomplete in the absence of adequate physical infrastructure. This link road forms an integral part of the business-friendly environment in the Cyber City which offers a unique blend of advantages, namely its cost-effective service, the quality of its workforce and state-of-the art infrastructure that make it an attractive location for ICT activities. The Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping will work on a viable and coherent Road Infrastructure Programme and associated infrastructure to facilitate inland communication for the benefit of the population and all economic operators

I congratulate and thank the officer in charge of the Road Development Authority and his staff as well as all the stakeholders involved in the construction of the Link Road for a job well done. I need also to thank the thousands of road users and pedestrians for their patience and understanding in view of the diversions during the construction period.

The new Link Road will be yours after its opening by the Acting Prime Minister in a few minutes. I express the wish that road users pledge to drive carefully on this beautiful road and that we do not record any road accidents on this Link Road.

Thank you for your attention