

Together.
Ensemble. Ansam.



10th of March 2021
Mauritius Independence Day

Message from Arnaud Lagesse, IBL Group CEO

Dear colleagues,

Every year, it is the same emotion that I feel as I prepare my message on the occasion of the Independence Day celebration of our beautiful island, Mauritius.

Despite the special circumstances surrounding this 53rd anniversary, I have to share my thoughts with you as our Country celebrates its National Day.

The pilgrimage for Maha Shivaratree this Thursday serves as a reminder that we, as a nation, have come a long way since our Independence in 1968. Every generation, mine, yours, and that of our youngest, has been inspired by our forefathers who built the Republic of Mauritius. For here, as in many other countries which have been successful, our History was written by many helping hands, who shared a vision: building a better future for the island.

Today, the citizens of Mauritius must continue to unite and promote our multiple energies, our diverse know-how, and the many points of view that have altogether contributed to the major achievements of Mauritius.

As we do so, it is also essential for us to remain humble in the face of our past successes and future ambitions. If Mauritius was built through the work of its people, it has also received and continues to receive the support of friendly countries. "Independence" does not mean "autarky" and today we fully understand the importance of remaining open to the World.

I am proud, as Group CEO of IBL, to see the wonderful microcosm of the Island in our big family of 26,000 team members. I look at you and I see talent, uniqueness, and resourceful ingenuity. I see people from a myriad of cultures, backgrounds, and countries, working in a variety of industries. We are all different, of course, but we are all looking into the same direction in order to fulfil our company's mission: **Creating a brighter future for all.**

We are working on it in Mauritius, of course, but also with the same stamina in 18 other countries of the region and beyond. Accomplishing our international expansion will strengthen our national footing.

Let us continue to excel and innovate in order to achieve the ambitions of the IBL Group and our Republic of Mauritius. Let us strive to be exemplary as a company, as employees and as citizens.

Our magnificent Country has everything to continue to grow sustainably this goal.

I cannot end this message without mentioning a word regarding our Prime Minister's address to the nation last night. Almost one year ago, we entered a first national lockdown which had consequences for our entire country. We all experienced challenging times, but we went through and overcame them together. And today, we should leverage on that experience to manage this second lockdown. Some of us will continue to work in the shadows to guarantee the stability of our sectors. Our frontliners will provide essential services to the entire population. Recalling your efforts last year, I have no doubt in our ability to get through this second period of confinement. I would like, from this very beginning, to assert the deep respect that I have for your courage.

Finally, this second lockdown reminds us that getting vaccinated is a responsible act of solidarity to ensure that our borders reopen, that our economy recovers, to preserve employment, and more importantly to protect our health and that of our country which is facing multiple challenges due to the virus. I sincerely believe that this is a solution for our families, loved ones and employees. I therefore invite you to join me in the vaccination campaign that we have started.

Mauritius is still there, holding on tight, and it is thanks to each of us that it can continue to do so. Long live Mauritius, long life to the Men and Women of Mauritius!