

Foreword by Executive Director

The coronavirus or Covid-19 has taken the whole world by surprise. The country has been locked down for one and a half months now. The Government has come up with extensive measures to support the business community as well as the citizens. Yet the future is gloomy with increased uncertainty which is a big deterrent for businesses to operate productively and create the so much required value to sustain our socio-economic system. We nevertheless have to improve our preparedness against such uncertain developments and strengthen our capabilities to take full advantage of the upturn and stay competitive.

Whereas the easing of lockdown restrictions has already been announced, conversations are ongoing in terms of what life might look like beyond the coronavirus even though we don't know much so far about the long-term. It will, however, be imperative to learn to live with the virus while at the same time ensure that businesses stay alive. There is a lot we can achieve through teamwork, solidarity and unity. It is to be noted that the deadly and contagious Corona virus does not distinguish between ethnicities, religions, nationalities, social classes, language or gender.

For businesses to survive, it will therefore be important to strike the right balance between safety and spread whereby all precautions are taken to prevent a resurgence while we continuously innovate to put our organization back on track.

Leaders have the sacred responsibility to protect their people who are so much essential to the running of the business.

The productivity equation of output/input must today more than ever take into account the human factors of employee dedication, motivation, and the willingness to give without calculative personal gains. There is an immediate need to forge a new social contract based on trust where everybody is happy to make a sacrifice initially with the objective that everyone will be better off in the longer term.

At the level of NPCC, we have launched the Enterprise Productivity Solutions (EPS) platform, which consists of a series of guidelines which address issues such as state of health and safety of employees and customers, finance, human resources, supply chain and communications to support businesses, especially SME's, to prepare for a restart and plan towards recovery.

Following discussions with clients, we realised that the culture of Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity planning is very much missing among small and medium businesses in Mauritius. The NPCC will soon come up with a learning support service to guide the thought processes surrounding the same and strengthen the preparedness of SME's towards Covid-19 type of circumstances and other calamities. As soon as the situation permits, we will deploy our people to support you on the field. As at now our Productivity Practitioners will be available on-line to guide and support you through the challenges you are facing. We look forward that businesses will take advantage of the EPS for a speedy recovery and to return to a situation of value creation more quickly and sustainably.

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