

SPEECH BY

**THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE UTILITY REGULATORY
AUTHORITY**

ON

**THE LAUNCH OF URA STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN 2019-
2022**

***Thursday 15th August 2019 at 10:00hrs
Hennessy Park Hotel, Ebene***

The Honourable Ivan Collendavelloo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities,

Excellencies,

The AfDB representative and all our Cooperating Partners,

CEOs and Staff of Operators in the Utility Sector,

CEO and Members of Business Mauritius,

Representatives of the Consumer Advocacy Groups,

CEO and Staff of URA,

All Distinguished guests,

The Press and Media representatives

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the launching ceremony of the Utility Regulatory Authority's (URA) maiden Strategic Business Plan for the period 2019-2022.

The URA Board feels honoured for being entrusted by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public utility with the task of **providing the strategic guidance and overseeing the activities of the first ever independent electricity, water and waste water regulator.**

The Strategic Business Plan being launched today, has taken into account **the country's macroeconomic environment characterised by the changing economic mainstay towards offshore financial services and tourism which demand clean, better reliability, availability and stability of utility services to support businesses that run on twenty four by seven basis.**

The strategic plan has also taken on board the **emerging significance of the renewable energy sources and how to take care of its impact on investment profiles and the regulatory skills requirements** to facilitate their integration in the power supply equation.

The URA's strategic objectives have therefore been aligned with the aspirations of Mauritius and ensures that the strategic plan will catalyse the achievement of Government Policies and Strategies for the utility sectors in line with the broader economic development agenda for the country.

To drive this Strategic Plan forward, the URA has embraced the vision of being **a responsible regulator for sustainable utility businesses.**

Core to the URA Mission will be the **drive and focus on leveraging and promoting competition and creating an enabling regulatory framework that ensures that utility businesses thrive.**

The strategic plan also **recognises the role of utility consumers as an important stakeholder that pays the utility bills which sustain utility businesses.** The strategy is therefore also focusing on **empowering utility consumers to effectively participate on utility regulatory matters that impact on them and ensure that they get value for money services through premium service quality delivered to them.**

It is recognised that the regulation of utility business is dynamic and always following and reflecting the changes and trends obtaining in the regulated environment, **the strategic plan therefore provides for seamless transitional arrangements and the need for ongoing legal reviews and harmonisation of utility sector laws and creation of supporting regulations and signing of Memorandum of understanding to provide for emerging issues, clarity and complementarity of various laws.**

The URA needs partners to successfully implement its mandate. The strategic plan has identified the various partners/stakeholders that URA will work with, including those created through statute and the others that are operational in nature. **Through mapping, the strategic plan has identified the stakeholders/partners expectations and how the various partnerships will be nurtured and managed to achieve the objectives of optimal stakeholder engagement and involvement in the regulatory process.**

To deliver on its mandate, URA will on an ongoing basis be building a team of competent and capable staff that will deliver on its strategic objectives. **URA has carefully selected the core values of Teamwork, Honesty, Innovation, Transparency and Independence as the key and fundamental drivers towards the development of a coherent, professional team that will ensure that URA delivers on its mandate.**

One key success assumption for the strategic plan **is the availability, sustainability and adequacy of funding that will turn the planned activities into a reality and positively impact on the regulated business. The strategy identifies sustainable resource generation options that will ensure minimal regulatory cost impact on the regulated business and ultimate price paid by the consumer.**

The launch of the strategic plan today **is the first step of the 3 year long journey that the URA has embarked on**, I am therefore inviting you all our stakeholder to support us by playing your rightful roles on this journey as the URA endeavors to regulate the utility sector in a manner that allow business to thrive and provide customers with value for money services which will be key in supporting the economic development agenda for the country.

Let me conclude by first acknowledging and appreciating the support and guidance that the Ministry of Energy and Public

Utilities has continued to provide in the formative years of the URA. I would like to also thank the African Development Bank(AfDB) and the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) for assisting the URA in developing the strategy that we are launching today and their commitment to continue supporting URA in the implementation of some of the activities in the strategy. The URA is also grateful to UNDP for the support being provided to the URA on the development of the URA Management Information System and other key regulatory tools through funding made available through MARENA.

Thank you all for your attention and at this point I would like to invite **Mr. Farai Kanonda, representing the AfDB Director General of Southern Africa Regional Business Delivery Office** to give his brief remarks before I invite the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities to officially launch the URA 2019-2022 URA Strategic Business Plan.