

Minister's Message for the Safer Internet Day 2024

The Safer Internet Day is an annual event celebrated in over 180 countries around the world during the month of February. Its objective is to build awareness amongst youngsters to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. In Mauritius, the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-MU), a department under my Ministry, has been celebrating this event since 2009.

This year, we are commemorating the 20th edition worldwide. My Ministry, through the CERT-MU, is planning a series of activities, including a Hackathon event for secondary schools, a Poster Design Competition for primary schools and the dissemination of a Digital Poster on the latest cyberthreats and countermeasures.



We are all aware of the dangers that lurk on the Internet and very often, our youth are prime targets when it comes to offences such as sextortion, sexting, identity theft, cyberbullying and scams, amongst others. These incidents are reported daily on the MAUCORS platform which my Ministry has put in place for the public in general. The Government is leaving no stone unturned in its mission to protect the citizens of our country including youngsters from cybercriminals. In this regard my Ministry came up with a modern and robust piece of law in December 2021, known as the Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Act 2021. This legislation caters for various offences including new ones such as "Misuse of fake profiles", "Cyberbullying", "Cyber extortion", "Revenge pornography" among others.

The cyberthreat landscape of our country keeps on evolving and cybercriminals keep on finding new ways and tactics to target Internet users. We have noted a significant rise in incidents occurring on social media such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok where many victims have suffered against monetary losses. These are financial scams where cybercriminals employ schemes such as "Investment in Cryptocurrency with lucrative returns", "Flash Sales", "Lottery", and "Heavily discounted products" amongst others.

I wish to highlight that my Ministry has been doing a rigorous work in order to tackle such incidents. We are constantly carrying out sensitization campaigns on the burning themes of Internet Safety for a diverse range of audience including students, teachers, housewives and corporates. The CERT-MU Team conducts these campaigns in schools, colleges and community centres as well as through Radio and TV programmes.

We have to proactively work together in the combat against cybercrime as the safe usage of Internet is the responsibility of everyone. So, on this Safer Internet Day, my message to you all is to **"Join Hands Together for a Better and Safe Internet"**.

Honourable Deepak Balgobin
Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation



CERT-MU



Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius

A Department under the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2024 - "TOGETHER FOR A BETTER INTERNET"

Since the beginning of the year 2024, CERT-MU has noted an increase in the number of incidents reported on the Mauritian Cybercrime Online Reporting System (MAUCORS) with regards to **scams and frauds, online harassment and hacking**. As a result, personal information is stolen, leading to reputational and financial losses. On the occasion of Safer Internet Day 2024, CERT-MU would like to bring into the attention of the community on these incidents and also highlights the measures that they can take to be safe online.

1 SCAMS AND FRAUDS

- Be cautious of offers (loan, investment, jobs or online sale of vehicle) that appear too good to be true.
- Do not transfer money to strangers who interacted with you online or by phone.
- Be cautious of people who force you to pay before delivering the product.
- Contact CERT-MU in case of any suspicious activity.



2 ONLINE HARASSMENT

- Do not post your personal information on social media.
- Before accepting requests from strangers on the social media, please verify if their profiles are genuine.
- Do not share your intimate or sensitive pictures/ videos.

3 HACKING

- Do not click on suspicious links (even those received from friends).
- Use strong password consisting of letters, numbers and alpha-numeric characters (@\$%&).
- Use multi-factor authentication.
- Avoid using same password for different online accounts.



Contact CERT-MU for advice or support if you encounter such incidents.

Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU)

Level 3, Wing A, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Tower, Ebene

Hotline: 800 2378 | Website: <https://cert-mu.govmu.org> | Report incidents: <https://maucors.govmu.org>