

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

InnovEd 2026 Award Ceremony Celebrates the Spirit of Innovation Among Mauritian Students



Ebène, 18 August 2026 — The National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) brought its flagship programme InnovEd — Innovation for the Education Sector — 2026 to a triumphant close this week with an Award Ceremony held at the Auditorium of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation, Technopole, Réduit.

The ceremony was attended by students and teaching staff from secondary institutions across the island and was graced by the Honourable Sayed Muhammad Aadil Ameer Meea, Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives and Dr. the Honourable Mahend Gungapersad, Minister of Education and Human Resource.

A Programme Built on Ambition and Inclusion

InnovEd 2026 was officially launched in February 2026, followed by online teacher training sessions in March and a face-to-face Design Thinking workshop to equip educators with innovation tools and methodologies. The programme drew an extraordinary response: 81 teams from 50 schools competed at the First Level Assessment in June, from which 32 teams advanced to the Final Assessment celebrated at this week's ceremony.

Winners and Runner Ups — InnovEd 2026

The following teams and their projects were recognised across six categories:

Cultural Heritage

Winner: Ramsoondar Prayag SSS — Eco Ravanne

Runner Up: Quatre Bornes SSS — RassinNouPei: The Smart Heritage Flour

Design

Winner: Ebène SSS (Boys) — Upcycled Coffee Table

Runner Up: Ananias André Le Chou College — EcoCraft: Furniture from Waste Paper

Interactive Media

Winner: London College — Lorizon: Bringing Light to Your Everyday Life

Runner Up: Queen Elizabeth College — Career Path Mauritius

Language and Publishing

Winner: Ramsoondar Prayag SSS — Vindaye 2.0

Runner Up: Patten College Girls — Healing Ourselves: A Poem for Wellness

Performing Arts

Winner: France Boyer de la Giroday SSS — Be a Light and Spread the Light

Runner Up: Muslim Girls College — Healthy Stage: Perform, Learn, Eat Better

Visual Arts and Crafts

Winner: Muslim Girls College — Eco Deco

Runner Up: Droopnath Ramphul State College — Verdant Steel

Innovation as a National Imperative

Speaking at the ceremony, the Honourable Aadil Ameer Meea, Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, underlined the urgent need for a generation of Mauritians prepared to think differently in a rapidly changing world.

“Artificial intelligence, automation, digitalisation, climate change and changes in global supply chains are transforming the way countries produce, trade and compete. Mauritius cannot afford to remain a spectator. Our country has succeeded over the years because we have always been able to adapt. We moved from an economy largely dependent on sugar to textiles and manufacturing. We developed tourism, financial services, ICT and other sectors. Today, we have to adapt once again. This is why innovation, entrepreneurship and technology are important parts of Government’s economic programme,” the Minister said.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. the Honourable Mahend Gungapersad, Minister of Education and Human Resource, encouraged students to continue pursuing innovation with confidence, curiosity and determination. He underscored that innovation must be accompanied by discipline, commitment and perseverance, emphasising that success in education and beyond requires students to remain focused and dedicated to their goals.

The National Productivity Master Plan

In his address, Dr Vinay Ancharaz, Executive Director of the NPCC, revealed that the Council has begun work on a National Productivity Master Plan — a landmark initiative that will shift the country's approach to productivity improvement from a bottom-up to a top-down model.

"This will foster a top-down approach to productivity improvement, contrary to the current bottom-up approach, which has struggled to show an impact on macro-level productivity indicators. The Productivity Master Plan will seek to promote a culture of productivity at the national level — ensuring that the values of continuous improvement, innovation and excellence are understood and embraced by every Mauritian," Dr Ancharaz said.

Innovation as an Existential Imperative

Mr Arshad Duymun, Chairman of the NPCC, reinforced the centrality of innovation to Mauritius's long-term competitiveness and prosperity.

"For Mauritius, this reality is especially acute. As a small island economy with limited natural resources, our competitive advantage has always rested on the quality of our human capital — on the intelligence, the creativity and the commitment of our people. In that context, fostering a culture of innovation is not merely a policy priority. It is an existential imperative. Innovation drives productivity. It opens new markets. It creates new industries and new jobs. It solves problems that traditional approaches cannot. And perhaps most importantly, it gives individuals — including every student in this room this morning — the power to shape their own futures rather than simply accept the futures they are handed," Mr Duymun said.

About InnovEd

InnovEd — Innovation for the Education Sector — is a flagship programme of the NPCC designed to cultivate a culture of innovation, creativity and continuous improvement among secondary school students in Mauritius. The programme challenges students to identify real-world problems and design practical, creative solutions — equipping them with the skills, mindset and confidence to contribute meaningfully to the society and economy of the future.

END OF PRESS RELEASE

For further information, please contact:

Debesh Beedasy

Public Relations and Marketing

National Productivity and Competitiveness Council

3rd Floor, The Catalyst, Silicon Avenue, Cybercity, Ebène 72201

T: (230) 467 7700 | E: contact@npccmauritius.com

www.npccmauritius.org

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