

# Challenges and opportunities for the ports of the Indian Ocean

Port Louis, Port of Mauritius

12 January 2021

# The harbour, key to Mauritius competitive advantage

- Substantial investments over the last 10 years, where are we today?
  - Cruises
  - Bulk
  - Transshipment
  - Imports
  - Exports
  - Bunker supplies
- Wakashio, what impact for Mauritius port? Is surveillance of our coastal waters adequate?

# Port Louis

- Infrastructure remains a problem, many days are lost due to bad weather (every year > 20days in Jan and Feb)
- Operations: I hear many operators complaining about delays due to operational issues
  - Cranes not operating
  - Port carriers not efficient
  - Sorting of containers taking delays
  - Procedures affecting availability of containers (mainly for large orders)
  - Increasing costs, longer delays
  - The negative impact of drug trade (apparently using Mauritius as a hub)

# Major challenges

- Port efficiency is low
  - (around 50% according to World Bank Group analysis)
- MPA acts as landlord AND regulator
  - (is that conducive to investments and growth?)
- Financing of port development is unclear
- National Development Plan is outdated (2003)

# Regional attractiveness

- Infrastructure in ports of the region
- Port traffic in the region
- A decrease in regional port connectivity to and from Mauritius
- A limited number of lines calling Mauritius
- Mauritius is isolated, its only chance to stand out is its attractiveness to the outside world
- Possible consequence of environmentalists movement (a green tax, how would we fare due to our distance to major supplies and markets)

# Concluding remark

- Port attractivity is a consequence of economic activity.
  - How do we compare in 2021 compared to 2000 or 2010?
  - How do we compare to emerging ports/emerging regions?
- Can we measure our country's attractivity as a regional player in monitoring , facilitating and enabling sea going traffic?
- It is time to measure with precise and mutually agreed performance criteria port efficiency and return on investment, similar arguments are proposed for many years, but what is the outcome.
- It is time to move from rhetoric to performance, we need to identify the stumbling blocks and promote enablers.