



SEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

FIRST SESSION

FRIDAY 11 JUNE 2021

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BILL (*Public*) – The Appropriation (2021-2022) Bill 2021

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ADJOURNMENT

THE CABINET

(Formed by Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth)

Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth	Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity
Hon. Louis Steven Obeegadoo	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Land Use Planning, Minister of Tourism
Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, GCSK	Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology
Dr. the Hon. Mohammad Anwar Husnoo	Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management
Hon. Alan Ganoo	Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail
Dr. the Hon. Renganaden Padayachy	Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
Hon. Mrs Fazila Jeewa-Daureeawoo, GCSK	Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
Hon. Soomilduth Bholah	Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity
Hon. Kavydass Ramano	Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives
Hon. Mahen Kumar Seeruttun	Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
Hon. Georges Pierre Lesjongard	Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance
Hon. Maneesh Gobin	Minister of Energy and Public Utilities
	Attorney General, Minister of Agro-

Industry and Food Security

Hon. Jean Christophe Stephan Toussaint	Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation
Hon. Mahendranuth Sharma Hurreeram	Minister of National Infrastructure and Community Development
Hon. Darsanand Balgobin	Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation
Hon. Soodesh Satkam Callichurn	Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training
	Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection
Dr. the Hon. Kailesh Kumar Singh Jagutpal	Minister of Health and Wellness
Hon. Sudheer Maudhoo	Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
Hon. Mrs Kalpana Devi Koonjoo-Shah	Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare
Hon. Avinash Teeluck	Minister of Arts and Cultural Heritage
Hon. Teeruthraj Hurdoyal	Minister of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr Speaker	Hon. Sooroojdev Phokeer, GCSK, GOSK
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MAURITIUS

Seventh National Assembly

FIRST SESSION

Debate No. 11 of 2021

Sitting of Friday 11 June 2021

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Louis, at 5.00 p.m.

The National Anthem was played

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS LAID

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Papers have been laid on the Table.

A. Prime Minister's Office

Ministry of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications

Ministry for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity

(a) The Certificate of Urgency in respect of the Appropriation (2021-2022) Bill 2021 (No X of 2021). (In Original)

(b) The Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Discharged Persons' Aid Committee for the year ended 30 June 2020.

B. Ministry of Housing and Land Use PlanningMinistry of Tourism

The Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Town and Country Planning Board for the year ended 30 June 2020.

C. Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

The Education (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 110 of 2021)

D. Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management

The Municipal Council of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill (Markets and Fairs) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 113 of 2021)

**E. Ministry of Land Transport and Light Rail
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade**

The Road Traffic (Crop Season) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 117 of 2021)

F. Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development

(a) Estimates 2021-2022 & Indicative Estimates 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

(b) The Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (Kingdom of Lesotho) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 114 of 2021)

- (c) The National Payment Systems (Authorisation and Licensing) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 118 of 2021)
- (d) The Banking (Processing and Licence Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 121 of 2021)
- (e) The Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the National Arts Fund for the period 19 March 2018 to 30 June 2019.

G. Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change

The Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the National Environment Fund for the year ended 30 June 2017. (In Original)

H. Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance

- (a) The Captive Insurance (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 115 of 2021)
- (b) The Insurance (Amendment) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 116 of 2021)

I. Attorney General

Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security

- (a) The Annual Report 2018-2019 of the Sugar Insurance Fund Board.
- (b) The Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden Trust for the year ended 31 December 2015. (In Original)

J. Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training
Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection

- (a) The Annual Report 2019/2020 of the Competition Commission.
- (b) The Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-taxable Goods) (Amendment No. 13) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 122 of 2021)

K. Ministry of Health and Wellness

- (a) The Quarantine (Control of Sale and Use of COVID-19 Home Self-Testing Kit) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 109 of 2021)
- (b) The COVID-19 (Horse Race Meeting at Champ de Mars) (Amendment) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 111 of 2021)
- (c) The COVID-19 (Closing Down of Premises and Restriction of Activities) (No. 2) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 112 of 2021)
- (d) The COVID-19 (Restriction of Access to Specified Institutions) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 119 of 2021)
- (e) The COVID-19 (Horse Race Meeting at Champ de Mars) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2021. (Government Notice No. 120 of 2021)

L. Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage

- (a) The Annual Report of the Hindi Speaking Union for Financial Year 2017-2018.
- (b) The Annual Report of the Hindi Speaking Union for Financial Year 2018-2019.
- (c) The Annual Report of the Marathi Speaking Union for the period July 2017 – June 2018.
- (d) The Annual Report of the Marathi Speaking Union for the period July 2018 – June 2019.
- (e) The Annual Report 2020 of the Mauritius Marathi Cultural Centre Trust.

MOTION**SUSPENSION OF S. O. 10(2)**

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that all the business on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 10.

The Deputy Prime Minister seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

PUBLIC BILL

First Reading

On motion made and seconded, the Appropriation (2021-2022) Bill 2021 (No. X of 2021) was read a first time.

Mr Speaker: Minister, you may proceed.

Second Reading

THE APPROPRIATION (2021-2022) BILL 2021

(No. X of 2021)

Order for Second Reading read.

Budget Speech 2021-2022**BETTER TOGETHER****INTRODUCTION**

1. **The Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (Dr. R. Padayachy):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the Appropriation (2021-2022) Bill 2021 (No. X of 2021) be read a second time.
2. Mr Speaker, Sir, I was before this august Assembly almost exactly one year ago to unveil to the nation our response to the COVID-19 crisis and our recovery plan in the Budget Speech.

3. Our priorities then were to protect lives and livelihoods, maintain the production capacity and preserve the stability of our economy.
4. These priorities are today at the heart of this Budget.
5. We have gone the extra mile in whatever we did and we will continue to do so.
6. We have supported businesses and people to limit defaults, prevent bankruptcies and most importantly preserve jobs and livelihoods.
7. This has been our strategy.
8. According to the World Bank, Mauritius' COVID-response is the fourth largest in the world, amounting to 32 per cent of our GDP.
9. Without this unprecedented Government support, the two consecutive contractions of our GDP in fiscal years 2019/20 and 2020/21 would have led to 100,000 unemployed people, that is 20 per cent of our labour force.
10. Yet, we managed to keep unemployment at 9.2 per cent.
11. Inflation has been kept under control.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

12. Vaccination is the game changer.
13. It brings hope throughout the world.
14. International institutions are forecasting a strong global recovery this year.
15. World GDP is expected to grow by 6 per cent in 2021.
16. And as the world engages on the road to economic recovery, we are now beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel.

17. With the roll-out of vaccines in our country, we are setting the stage to emerge stronger.
18. This is why Budget 2021-2022 is about: **Recovery, Revival and Resilience.**
19. These are the three core strategies that will drive our actions, and shape our economic, social and environmental policies in this Budget.
20. Indeed, it is time to rise back.
21. We will recover from the crisis.
22. We will revive all our industries.
23. We will improve our social resilience.
24. We will be better, **TOGETHER.**

ACCELERATING ECONOMIC RECOVERY, TRIGGERING REVIVAL AND STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE

25. Let me first spell out our plan for the economy.
26. The COVID-19 pandemic has struck at the very foundations of our economic growth and development model.
27. This is why we need to accelerate the pace of recovery and build resilience to sustain a high long-term growth path.
28. Today, we are setting a new strategy, which will rest on three main pillars -

A. Giving an Exceptional Boost to Investment;

B. Shaping A New Economic Architecture; and

C. Restoring Confidence.

A. EXCEPTIONAL BOOST TO INVESTMENT

Mr Speaker, Sir,

29. Today, we are facing exceptional challenges that require equally exceptional policies.
30. The path to economic recovery and long-term resilience must be solid and effective.
31. One that will generate more jobs and create more wealth.
32. We are therefore launching an unprecedented investment drive in our economy.
33. Government will invest some Rs 65 billion in priority projects over the next three years -
 - (a) Rs 11.7 billion for a National Flood Management Programme;
 - (b) Rs 12 billion for the Construction of 12,000 Social Housing Units;
 - (c) Rs 4 billion for projects under the Economic Recovery Programme;
 - (d) Rs 9.4 billion for the construction of Rivière des Anguilles Dam and its Treatment Plant;
 - (e) Rs 5.7 billion for Community Development Projects; and
 - (f) Rs 22 billion for land transport projects including roads and the Metro Express.

Flood Management Programme

34. Mr Speaker, Sir, just a few weeks ago, our country and our citizens have been under severe stress with flash floods in the South, South Eastern and the Central Region of the island.

35. Port Louis and the Northern part of the island have also been affected in the recent past.

36. Flash floods and unpredictable weather conditions have today become a recurrence.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

37. Whilst the risks can never be fully eliminated, we need to build up resilience to flash floods and cyclones.

38. We are therefore announcing an unprecedented 3-year National Flood Management Programme to the tune of Rs 11.7 billion.

39. This massive flood management programme will be spearheaded by the Land Drainage Authority.

40. It will consist of the construction and upgrading of some 1,500 drain projects across the island over the next three years, starting with high-risk flood-prone areas, including -

(a) Rs 343 million for Pailles, Plaine Lauzun, Cite Richelieu, Pointe aux Sables and La Tour Koenig;

(b) Rs 479 million for Port-Louis along Ruisseau du Pouce, the City Centre, Tranquebar, Vallée Pitot and Ward 4;

(c) Rs 383 million for Plaine Verte, Roche Bois and Canal Anglais;

(d) Rs 559 million for Chitrakoot, Vallée des Prêtres, Sainte Croix, Crève Coeur, Congomah, Riche Terre and Terre Rouge;

(e) Rs 872 million for Baie du Tombeau, Pointe aux Piments, Terre Rouge and Pamplémousses;

(f) Rs 383 million for Fond du Sac, Grand Baie, Pereybère, Petit Raffray, Goodlands, Grand Gaube, Poudre d'Or, Roche Terre and The Vale;

- (g) Rs 1.1 billion for Amaury, Belle Vue Maurel, Cottage, Piton, L'Amitié, Mapou, Petite Julie, Plaine des Roches, Plaines des Papayes, Poudre d'Or Hamlet and Rivière du Rempart;
- (h) Rs 726 million for Camp Thorel, Quartier Militaire, L'Esperance, Verdun, Dagotière, Saint Pierre, Moka, L'Avenir, La Laura and Nouvelle Découverte;
- (i) Rs 401 million for Centre de Flacq, Poste de Flacq and Queen Victoria;
- (j) Rs 569 million for Montagne Blanche, Medine Camp de Masque, Melrose, Clemencia, Bramsthan and Bel Air;
- (k) Rs 1.5 billion for Anse Jonchée, Bambous Virieux, Bois des Amourettes, Grand-Port, Rivière des Creoles, St Hilaire, St Hubert, Cluny, Rose-Belle, Gros Billot, New Grove, Nouvelle France, Providence and Union Park;
- (l) Rs 594 million for Petit Bel Air, Grand Bel Air, Mahebourg, Mare Tabac, Plaine Magnien and Trois Boutiques;
- (m) Rs 780 million for Chateau Bénaires, Britannia, L'Escalier, Riviere des Anguilles, Tyack, Camp Diable, Bois Cheri, Grand Bois, La Flora, Rivière du Poste, Souillac and St Aubin;
- (n) Rs 572 million for Albion, Bambous, Black River, Chamarel, Chamouny, Chemin Grenier, Surinam, Cité La Ferme, Cotteau Raffin, Flic en Flac, and Pierrefond;
- (o) Rs 172 million for Hermitage and Vacoas;
- (p) Rs 461 million for Glen Park, Henrietta, La Marie and Malakoff;
- (q) Rs 339 million for Dubreuil, Midlands, Eau Coulée, Curepipe and Forest Side;
- (r) Rs 419 million for Quatre-Bornes, La Source, Sodnac, Palma and Belle Rose;

- (s) Rs 382 million for Rose Hill including Berthaud Avenue, Plaisance, Camp Le Vieux, Avenue Hugnin and Cité Trèfles;
- (t) Rs 462 million for Beau Bassin, Chebel, Coromandel, Mont Roches and Petite Rivière; and
- (u) Rs 224 million for Rodrigues.

41. For this exceptional and critical project for our country, parastatal bodies will contribute Rs 8.5 billion from their excess accumulated cash balances.

Economic Recovery Programme

Mr Speaker, Sir,

42. In November last year, we announced an Economic Recovery Programme focusing on the upgrading of roads, education and health infrastructure, community amenities as well as sewerage networks.
43. The implementation of these projects to the tune of Rs 4 billion are now underway. These include -
- (a) Rs 2.8 billion in Infrastructure Development, comprising, amongst others, the construction of roads, sports amenities, water projects, rehabilitation of public buildings, improving road safety and projects in Rodrigues and Agalega;
 - (b) Rs 250 million for embellishment of beaches, cleaning of rivers and canals, rehabilitation of heritage and tourist sites, greening of towns and villages and upgrading of sewerage infrastructure;
 - (c) Rs 650 million in Renewable Energy Projects through the installation of solar panels on rooftops of Government Buildings including hospitals and educational institutions as well as provision of solar water heaters to some 2,000 households;

(d) Rs 120 million for Water Distribution, including -

- Replacement of 281 water production meters at reservoirs and pumping sites;
- Acquisition of 10 water tankers;
- Installation of 7 inflatable reservoirs and 25 heavy capacity tanks; and
- Upgrading of irrigation systems.

(e) Rs 180 million for Public Service Delivery by acquiring modern tools and equipment for hospitals and local authorities.

Water Supply

Mr Speaker, Sir,

44. Government remains committed to deliver on its engagement to provide regular water supply to the population.
45. Rs 9.4 billion will be invested in the construction of the Rivière des Anguilles Dam and its water treatment plant.
46. This will ensure reliable water supply in the southern region of the country.
47. In order to address the long-standing water shortage in Rodrigues, Rs 1 billion is being invested by the Mauritius Investment Corporation.
48. We will further invest Rs 3.2 billion over the next three years to expand our water storage and treatment facilities through the -

(a) Upgrading of La Ferme and Mare aux Vacoas Reservoirs;

- (b) Construction of six service reservoirs at Alma, Sorèze, Cluny, Riche en Eau, Salazie and Eau Bouillie;
- (c) Installation of 18 pressure filtration plants to secure constant water supply at Black River, Montagne Blanche, Calebasse, Saint Pierre, Barlow, Rivière du Poste, Albion, Tyack, The Mount, Piton du Milieu, Chamouny, Amaury and Henrietta;
- (d) Replacement of 300 kms of defective pipes; and
- (e) Installation of 2,600 smart meters to allow for automatic reading of water usage for large consumers.

Social Housing

Mr Speaker, Sir,

- 49. One of Government's main priorities is to ensure that every family in our country has a decent home.
- 50. Last year, we made a commitment to invest in 12,000 social housing units.
- 51. Our commitment to this policy is undiminished and the project will be completed by 2024.
- 52. Over and above, 1,285 social housing units will be completed in the upcoming financial year at Mare Tabac, Dagotièrre, Mare d'Albert and Gros Cailloux.
- 53. The construction of an additional 2,025 social housing units in Wooton, Cascavelle, Baie du Tombeau, La Valettte, Plein Bois, Argy, Mon Goût, Bassin and Petit Bel Air will start in 2021-2022.

Land Transport

Mr Speaker, Sir,

54. We will continue in our endeavour to expand and modernise our road and land transport networks.
55. The Metro should be operational in Quatre Bornes by the end of this month and in Curepipe by the end of 2022.
56. I am providing some Rs 4.5 billion to extend the Metro from Rose Hill to Reduit through Ebène.
57. To expand our road network, investments will be made in the following projects -
 - (a) Motorway M4 between Bel Air and Forbach;
 - (b) Flyovers at Wooton, Ebène, Quay D and Terre Rouge;
 - (c) La Vigie - La Brasserie - Beaux Songes Link Road;
 - (d) Bypass roads at Verdun, Hermitage, Flic-en-Flac, Bois Chéri; and
 - (e) Upgrading of roads at Beau Champ, Anse Jonchée, Palmerstone, and Chemin Vingt Pieds at Grand Baie.
58. A feasibility study will be conducted for the construction of a road between Dubreuil and Montagne Blanche.

Community Development Programme

59. Government is also investing Rs 5.7 billion over the next three years in addition to the Rs 1 billion under the Economic Recovery Programme in community development projects across Mauritius to improve the quality of life of our citizens.
60. Projects under these Programmes include -
 - (a) Promenade Farquhar at Quatre Bornes;
 - (b) Market fairs at Nouvelle France and Belle Rose;
 - (c) A Mini Traffic Centre at Bel Air;

- (d) A modern Sports Centre at Plaine Verte;
 - (e) An esplanade and walk way at Quartier Militaire;
 - (f) 4 MUGA Projects at Pointe aux Sables, Rivière du Rempart, Ste Croix and Flacq;
 - (g) 2 Integrated sports amenities at Quatre Bornes and Dubreuil;
 - (h) 6 Multipurpose complexes at Roches Brunes, Surinam, Amaury, Tranquebar, Amitié and Goodlands;
 - (i) 5 Sub-Halls at St Julien d'Hotman, Dagotière, Résidence Vignol, Rivière du Poste and Bénarès;
 - (j) Construction and upgrading of 25 children's playgrounds, 35 mini soccer pitches, 20 football grounds, 20 gymnasia, 10 volleyball pitches, 5 pétanque courts and 3 health tracks across the island.
61. Rs 220 million is being allocated for the revamping of 10 Social Welfare Centres into Family and Community Centres.
62. Furthermore, preliminary works will start for the construction of a Market Fair at Curepipe.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

63. We are also creating a conducive environment to unlock private sector investment over the next three years
64. Rs 8 billion will be invested in the development of Urban Terminals at Vacoas, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes and Curepipe.
65. Moreover, the measures that we are announcing today are expected to generate an additional Rs 27 billion of private investment.

Transformation and Modernisation

66. As such, we need to support the transformation and modernisation of our industries.
67. We will therefore set-up a Rs 5 billion Modernisation and Transformation Fund, which will be managed by a new Industrial Financial Institution (IFI).
68. The IFI will take over the activities of the ISP Ltd and SME Equity Fund and cater for industries in manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries amongst others.
69. The Modernisation and Transformation Fund will be instrumental in re-igniting industrial development.
70. Projects eligible under this Fund will benefit from leasing facilities at a preferential rate of 2.5 per cent per annum over an extended period of up to 9 years.
71. In addition, I am reducing the annual interest rate for the existing Leasing Equipment Modernisation Scheme (LEMS) as follows -
 - LEMS I, from 3.9 per cent to 2.9 per cent for companies with turnover up to Rs 50 million;
 - LEMS II, from 4.25 per cent to 3.25 per cent for companies with turnover between Rs 50 million and Rs 250 million; and
 - LEMS III, from 4.75 per cent to 3.75 per cent for companies with turnover above Rs 250 million.
72. The Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) will be extended for SMEs to cover 5 per cent of the default amount on leases contracted from private leasing companies.
73. The IFI will also be implementing the Credit Guarantee Scheme in collaboration with the Fonds de Solidarité Africain.
74. I am increasing the maximum investment through licensed crowd lending platforms by the IFI from Rs 200,000 to Rs 1 million per project.

75. A 200 per cent deduction from taxable income will be allowed on the acquisition of specialised software and systems.

Ease of Doing Business

Mr Speaker, Sir,

76. Investment in our economy is dependent on our business environment.
77. We have made significant progress in the recent years and we will build on this success.
78. Government is coming up with a major reform in our doing business environment.
79. We shall introduce a Regulatory Impact Assessment Bill.
80. This legislation will require Regulatory bodies, amongst others, to submit an impact of upcoming regulations on the business environment.
81. To oversee and monitor the quality of assessments, a RIA Office will be established under the purview of the PMO.
82. The ‘silence is consent’ principle will apply to licenses and permits as may be prescribed.
83. We are also streamlining some sixteen different incentives schemes under three certificates issued by the EDB, namely -
- (a) the Investment Certificate;
 - (b) the Export Development Certificate; and
 - (c) the Premium Investor Certificate.
84. The Premium Investor Certificate will allow companies investing at least Rs 500 million to benefit from negotiable incentives, upon recommendation of a Technical Committee and approval by the Minister.

85. All businesses will be required to register with the Economic Development Board to avail of incentives and schemes introduced by the Government. In this respect, the Economic Development Board will -
- (a) set up a Business Support Facility that will provide facilitation and advisory services to all businesses in Mauritius.
 - (b) dedicate an accounts manager to all registered businesses.
 - (c) implement an information sharing platform with the MRA and CBRD to facilitate exchange of information between these institutions.
86. Furthermore, to keep abreast of all business and economic developments, issues and opportunities, the EDB will set up commissions on -
- (a) Trade and Business Facilitation.
 - (b) Export Development.
 - (c) Investment.
 - (d) Sectoral Development.
 - (e) Financial Services.
87. We will further pursue our strategy to automate public service delivery through the -
- Development of a new Companies and Businesses Registration Integrated System;
 - Development of a Notice-Based registry under the Mauritius E-Registry system; and
 - Upgrading of the E-Judiciary system.

88. I will also come up with an Insolvency (Amendment) Bill to factor in developments in insolvency practices since 2009 with a particular focus on preserving businesses amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
89. The Attorney General's Office will work with the Judiciary to undertake a review of court procedures in view of expediting commercial disputes.

B. SHAPING A NEW ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

90. I will now elaborate on the second pillar of our strategy, which is about shaping a new economic architecture.

Green Energy Industry

Mr Speaker, Sir,

91. Today, we are announcing a new economic growth pole - the Green Energy Industry.
92. It is an industry which will have a significant impact on our economy, boost our GDP growth and most importantly, create new job opportunities.
93. There is already a guaranteed local demand of some Rs 20 billion for energy in our economy— most of which are imported as fossil fuel.
94. We have all the renewable sources needed to produce our own energy, be it biomass, solar, wind or wave.
95. We have the human resources, expertise and means to do so.
96. We must produce 60 per cent of our country's energy needs from green sources by 2030.
97. The use of coal will be totally phased out before 2030.
98. In line with this strategy, CEB will invest some Rs 5.3 billion over the next 3 years to -

- Raise tenfold the absorption capacity of intermittent renewable energy through increased battery capacity to some 40 MW from the current 4 MW;
- Set up 10 Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substations to improve reliability and increase the share of renewable energy;
- Implement the various renewable energy schemes of the CEB for Households, businesses, SMEs, Religious Bodies and NGOs;
- Implement the Net Billing Project; and
- Set-up a solar farm of 10 MW at Tamarind Falls, Henrietta.

99. CEB will also launch a Request for Proposal to set up a 40 MW wind farm that will require some Rs 2.4 billion of investment.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

100. The CEB will also allow for integrated green energy projects, combining the use of biomass, wind and solar energy.

101. We will further enable companies and individuals to provide renewable energy directly to the CEB, if the price is below the maximum tariff set.

102. To enable households to purchase solar kits for domestic use, the DBM will provide a concessionary loan of 2% up to an amount of Rs 100,000.

103. To support the development of this industry, the CEB's "Centre de Formation et de Perfectionnement Professionnel" will become an accredited centre to provide training in the fields of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

Supporting Electric Vehicles

Mr Speaker, Sir,

104. Over the last years, we have incentivised the use of electric vehicles by making its purchase duty-free, and reducing registration duty and road tax.
105. This makes it economically more attractive to a consumer to buy an electric vehicle than a conventional one.
106. We are removing the 5 per cent excise duty on Electric Vans of up to 180 Kw used for the transport of goods.
107. To further promote demand for electric vehicles, owners will be allowed to install a Photo Voltaic system not exceeding 10 kW to charge their vehicles and export any surplus to the grid.
108. On one hand subsidies and incentives for the importation of diesel buses are being phased out.
109. On the other hand, the subsidy for the purchase of electric buses is being increased:
- from Rs 1 million to Rs 1.2 million for 9-meter buses; and
 - from Rs 1.3 million to Rs 1.5 million for buses above 9 meters.
110. Operators acquiring electric buses will be eligible to a lease under the Transformation Fund.
111. We are purchasing 25 electric buses for the NTC to renew its fleet.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

112. A major source of renewable energy is biomass.
113. It is readily available and intrinsically linked to our country's economic history.
114. It is already the largest source of green energy, accounting for 11 per cent of the country's electricity.

115. Today, we are announcing the setting up of a National Biomass Framework.

116. Bagasse will henceforth be remunerated at Rs 3.50 per kWh for all planters and producers.

Tourism

Mr Speaker, Sir,

117. The travel and tourism industry has been the most severely hit by the pandemic.

118. We have provided substantial support to maintain the capacity for this industry to bounce back.

119. In fact, more than Rs 8.5 billion have already been spent to assist some 50,000 individuals in the sector through the Wage Assistance Scheme and Self-Employed Assistance Scheme.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

120. One of the components to relaunch the tourism sector is the reopening of our borders.

121. To this end, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, as well as the Minister of Health and Wellness held extensive consultations with a broad range of stakeholders to establish a calendar as well as the appropriate protocols to ensure the safe and productive opening of our country to the world.

122. A Ministerial Committee, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, deliberated on the recommendations.

123. I have therefore the pleasure to announce that -

- (a) As from 15 July 2021, Mauritius will be open to all vaccinated visitors for resort tourism. A tourist will be allowed to leave the hotel after 14 days with a negative PCR test; and
 - (b) As from 01 October 2021, subject to preconditions being met, all vaccinated tourists with a negative PCR test will be allowed on the Mauritian territory without any restrictions.
124. We are preparing for a gradual and sustained recovery of the sector aiming at 650,000 tourists over the next twelve months.
125. To this end, a total amount of Rs 420 million is being allocated to the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) for the -
- (a) Promotion and destination marketing in France, Reunion, UK, Germany, Italy, South Africa and China;
 - (b) Organisation of cultural tourism events locally and internationally;
 - (c) E-promotion through e-marketing, online events and virtual road shows; and
 - (d) Joint Marketing with tour operators and airline companies; amongst others.
126. The EDB will set up a special desk aiming to attract at least 50,000 foreign retirees in Mauritius during the next financial year, through a targeted marketing campaign in collaboration with MTPA.
127. A dedicated portal for foreign retirees will be launched.
128. It will provide practical information on accommodation facilities, cultural and leisure activities, and healthcare services; amongst others.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

129. We are upholding our support to this sector by -

- (a) Extending the Wage Assistance and Self-Employed Assistance Scheme to tourism-related companies for the three-month period up to September 2021;
 - (b) Deferring the payment of lease on State Lands to June 2022; and
 - (c) Waiving the rental fee of counters by hotels and operators at the airport for the period April to September 2021.
130. We are reducing the registration tax on transfer of lease of state lands from 20% to 10% for hotels for a two-year period.
131. The DBM will introduce a Tourism Business Continuity loan for SMEs at a rate of 0.5 per cent per annum.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

132. With a changing tourism landscape, we need to reposition the industry to cater for new business segments. The UNDP is assisting Mauritius in this endeavour.
133. Increasingly, the tourism industry should aim at more long-term visitors. To this end, the Invest Hotel Scheme will be amended to -
- (a) Allow the sale of up to 80% of the units with the possibility for the owner of a room to stay for a maximum of 6 months annually; and
 - (b) Reduce the minimum selling price of a standalone villa from USD 500,000 to USD 375,000.
134. To promote local tourism and talents, 5 “*fêtes l’Art dan Vilaz*” will be organised.
135. We will also provide for the upgrading of leisure facilities on a phased basis in 4 major public beaches namely Mon Choisy, Flic en Flac, Belle Mare and La Prairie.

Agriculture

Mr Speaker, Sir,

136. In line with the vision of our Prime Minister, we shall continue to support and further develop the agricultural sector.
137. I announced earlier the introduction of the biomass framework which will enable sugar cane planters to benefit from Rs 3.50 per kWh of electricity.
138. Thus, all planters and producers will benefit from a remuneration of Rs 3,300 per tonne of sugar for bagasse.
139. Furthermore, we will provide -
 - (a) A guaranteed price of Rs 25,000 per ton for planters producing up to 60 tons of sugar for Crop 2021;
 - (b) A waiver on insurance premium payable to Sugar Insurance Fund Board by planters producing up to 60 tons of sugar for crop 2021;
 - (c) A 50% subsidy on fertiliser for Crop 2021 for planters producing up to 60 tons of sugar;
 - (d) A 50% refund on the costs related to certification, testing and accreditation with a view to achieving standards such as Bonsucro;
 - (e) A Cane Replantation Scheme for small planters; and
 - (f) A modern sugar storage facility of 150,000 tons at Riche Terre.
140. I will now elaborate on measures to boost non-sugar agricultural production.
141. Landscape through the Centralised Digital Land Bank will make available some 1,000 *arpents* of land to private growers with a view to boosting agricultural production.
142. Rs 36 million will be provided to renew the fleet of tractors of the Agricultural Management Unit under the MCIA.

143. Moreover, planters having recourse to MCIA registered private tractor operators will also benefit from the Land Mechanisation Support Scheme.
144. Tea cooperatives will be provided with a grant of Rs 10,000 on the purchase of tea harvesters.
145. Tea growers will continue to benefit from the winter allowance.
146. I am maintaining the 50% subsidy on prices of potato and onion seeds.
147. This subsidy will be extended to seeds for the production of garlic and pulses.
148. The AMB is coming up with a guaranteed price mechanism for onion, garlic and potatoes for producers
149. I am extending the Sheltered Farming Scheme to charitable institutions, primary schools and colleges.
150. I am also increasing the maximum loan under the DBM Backyard Gardening Loan Scheme from Rs 20,000 to Rs 100,000.
151. Planters will be eligible to the following loan schemes from the DBM -
 - (a) Rs 100,000 interest free loan for cash flow issues; and
 - (b) A 0.5 per cent COVID-19 Special Support Scheme of up to Rs 1 million.
152. Planters will be eligible to leasing facilities under the Transformation Fund from IFI for the acquisition of Single/Double Space Cabin Vehicles.
153. For planters facing difficulties in repaying long-overdue loans, the DBM is coming up with an amnesty programme.

Promoting the Agro-Processing Sector

154. Mr Speaker Sir, the African Development Bank is assisting Government to set up an Agro-Processing Zone at Wooton.

155. The zone will include the relevant infrastructure and equipment for processing, food testing, and warehousing.

156. These facilities will be put at the disposal of SMEs, cooperatives and businesses.

Encouraging Animal Breeding and Livestock Production

Mr Speaker, Sir,

157. Livestock production and animal breeding have a significant potential for further growth, investment and job creation.

158. The subsidy on animal feed will be doubled from Rs 4 per Kg to Rs 8 per Kg.

159. We will increase the financial incentive from Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,500 per calf under the Calf Productivity Scheme.

160. We will promote the production of venison in order to reduce our dependence on import of meat.

161. Henceforth, mobile slaughterhouse facilities will be authorised for deer breeders.

162. For breeders facing difficulties in repaying long-overdue loans, the DBM is coming up with an amnesty programme.

163. For the emergence of a breeding industry in Mauritius, I am zero-rating VAT and exempting import duties on animals for the purpose of training, breeding and re-export.

164. These activities will also be exempted from registration duty.

165. In addition, the pasture scheme will be extended to cover areas up to 50 *arpents*.

Blue Economy

Mr Speaker, Sir,

166. We also need to maximise the potential of the fisheries sector.
167. I am coming up with the following measures -
- (a) An additional 500 Fishermen Cards will be provided;
 - (b) The Bad Weather Allowance will be increased from Rs 425 to Rs 475;
 - (c) Every fisherman aged 65 and above will receive a lump sum of Rs 52,500 if they return their fishermen card or transfer it; and
 - (d) Some 1,800 artisanal fishers will be provided with an annual financial assistance to the tune of Rs 2,500 for the purchase of hooks.
168. Fishermen will also be eligible to the following loan schemes from the DBM:
- (a) Rs 100,000 interest free loan for cash flow issues; and
 - (b) A 0.5 per cent COVID-19 Special Support Scheme of up to Rs 1 million.
169. For fishers facing difficulties in repaying long-overdue loans, the DBM is coming up with an amnesty programme.
170. The IFI will provide leasing facilities at an annual interest rate of 2.5 per cent for acquisition of Semi-Industrial Fishing Vessels up to a maximum of Rs 10 million.
171. Navigation aids will be installed in 22 sites to promote safe navigation.
172. The use of fiberglass vessels of 24 meters and above will be henceforth authorised for fishing activities.

Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Industry

Mr Speaker, Sir,

173. I now come to the Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Industry.
174. Globally, the pharmaceutical industry alone generates more than one trillion dollars annually and its growth rate is surging.
175. We can create a major new manufacturing industry in our country, that of vaccine and pharmaceutical production.
176. We will encourage private companies to construct purpose-built factories for manufacturing of pharmaceutical products and medical devices as well as for clinical and pre-clinical trials.
177. To this end, developers will be able to benefit from exemption on -
- (a) Registration duty and land transfer tax;
 - (b) Land conversion tax; and
 - (c) VAT on construction.
178. All companies engaged in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and medical devices will be eligible to a premium investor certificate.
179. Biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies will be allowed a full tax credit on the costs of acquisition of patents.
180. Companies engaged in the medical, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector will be taxed at 3% instead of 15%.
181. Government will provide a seed capital of Rs 1 billion to the Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology for the setting up of a manufacturing plant for the local production of COVID-19 vaccines and other pharmaceutical products.
182. To this end, we will invite renowned pharmaceutical companies and potential investors to participate in this undertaking.

Construction and Real Estate

Mr Speaker, Sir,

183. The surge in public sector investment over the next three years will be a tremendous stimulus to the construction industry.
184. We are also giving a boost to residential construction projects.
185. The measures that I will announce will support Government's vision of a more inclusive society by making home ownership affordable for all.
186. In addition to the 12,000 social housing units being constructed, we are earmarking Rs 2 billion to support the purchase of residential land and property as well as the construction of housing units by individuals.
187. An individual buying a house, apartment, or land to construct his residence in the financial year 2021/2022 will benefit from a refund of 5 per cent of the cost of the property, up to a maximum of Rs 500,000.
188. Those contracting a home loan to construct their residence will benefit from a refund of 5 per cent of the home loan, up to a maximum of Rs 500,000.
189. I am also reviewing the exemption of registration duty for first time buyers.
190. Henceforth, the exemption shall apply on the first Rs 5 million of the cost of a built-up residential property.
191. Previously, this exemption was restricted to properties whose value is below Rs 5 million.
192. Furthermore, some 2,000 lots will be put on sale by the SIC and Rose-Belle Sugar Estate for residential purposes.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

193. Whilst promoting home ownership, we need to ensure that access to finance is easy, swift and efficient.
194. I am announcing today a new policy to stand behind homebuyers.
195. Government will work with commercial banks to introduce a mortgage scheme to cover -
- (a) 80% of housing loans for Self-Employed individuals and contractual employees; and
 - (b) 100% of the housing loans for other individuals.

Shaping the Digital Future

Mr Speaker, Sir,

196. Despite the pandemic, the ICT/BPO sector has performed well with a growth rate of 5.9 per cent in 2020.
197. The METISS cable connecting Mauritius to South Africa is now a reality since March 2021.
198. It will expand our new digital highway to the rest of the world.
199. In order to further enhance the sector's development and resilience, I am announcing a series of measures -
- (a) A Digital Industries Academy will be set up by the EDB. Trainees will benefit from a total stipend of up to Rs 15,000 equally shared between HRDC and the private sector;
 - (b) Digital transformation initiatives and business advisory services will be eligible activities under the training fund of the Human Resources Development Council;

- (c) Government will introduce mobile and contactless payment systems, starting with the Registrar-General, NLTA and the Companies Division.

Resilience of the Financial Services Industry.

- 200. I now come to the Financial Services Sector which is one of the few sectors which has registered a positive growth in 2020.
- 201. The strategy for the Financial Services Sector is two-fold.
- 202. First, to enhance the status of our financial centre as a jurisdiction of highest global standards.
- 203. Second, to continue to improve and deepen the service offerings of our financial centre.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

- 204. We remain committed to be fully compliant on AML/CFT matters.
- 205. Government is sparing no efforts to complete the implementation of the FATF Action Plan for an early exit of the FATF list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring.
- 206. Various measures including supervisory, regulatory and law enforcement have been introduced to further strengthen the sustainability and effectiveness of our AML-CFT system.
- 207. To enhance our AML-CFT Legislative framework and its implementation -
 - (a) Relevant legislations were amended to meet the requirements of the FATF Recommendations on AML-CFT;
 - (b) New personnel have been recruited to strengthen our compliance capacity; and

- (c) Financial Crimes Divisions have been set-up at the Supreme Court and the Intermediate Court with a view to ensuring that financial crime cases are dealt with expeditiously.

208. To continue on this path, the AML/CFT Core Group is being given legal force under the FIAMLA.

209. The Financial Crime Commission will be established for a more effective management in the fight against financial crime.

210. Furthermore, a new Bank of Mauritius (BOM) Bill and Banking Bill will be introduced reflecting best international practices.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

211. To sustain the development of this sector -

- (a) A Securitisation Bill will be introduced;
- (b) The tax holiday for Family Offices as well as Fund and Asset Managers will be extended from 5 to 10 years;
- (c) A new Securities Bill will be introduced;
- (d) A new legislation for virtual assets will be enacted;
- (e) The Bank of Mauritius will roll-out a Central Bank Digital Currency – The Digital Rupee - on a pilot basis;
- (f) The Bank of Mauritius will introduce a dedicated QR Code at national level to facilitate digital payments;
- (g) The Bank of Mauritius guidelines allowing the setting up of regional offices by international banks will be revamped in line with latest international trends;

- (h) The Bank of Mauritius and the FSC will set up respectively an Open-Lab for banking and payment Solutions and a FinTech Innovation Lab to encourage an entrepreneurship culture;
- (i) The FSC will also implement a digital centralised information exchange system to facilitate motor insurance claim recoveries;
- (j) The FSC One platform will be launched as an online licensing portal as from 01 July 2021;
- (k) The Stock Exchange of Mauritius will introduce rules for the setting up of Special Purpose Acquisition Companies; and
- (l) The BOM and the FSC will launch a one-year training programme on AML and related matters for a minimum of 100 graduates with a monthly stipend of Rs 15,000.

Building A Resilient Industrial Base

Mr Speaker, Sir,

- 212. As we recover, we need a more resilient manufacturing base.
- 213. This year has been historic with four trade agreements coming into operation.
- 214. The CECPA with India, the China FTA, the UK-ESA Agreement and the African Continental FTA open new windows of opportunities for Mauritian businesses.
- 215. A Trade Development and Intelligence Cell will be set up at the level of the EDB which will operate as a one stop desk for all trade related matters.
- 216. The EDB will also introduce an Export Development Programme to improve export readiness of enterprises to tap into the potential under the new trade agreements.

217. To maintain competitiveness of our exports -

- (a) The Freight Rebate Scheme is being extended until June 2022;
- (b) We are increasing the maximum refund from 0.2 to 0.5 per cent under the Export Credit Guarantee Scheme up to June 2022;
- (c) The 50 per cent reduction in port dues and terminal handling charges for export will be extended for 2 more years;
- (d) Vessels calling at outer anchorage solely for bunkering services will be granted a 75 per cent reduction in anchorage dues for the first 24 hours and 50 per cent reduction for the next 48 hours; and
- (e) The cap on Gross Tonnage for computing vessel fees calling at anchorage will be reduced from 100,000 tonnes to 35,000 tonnes.

218. The EDB will launch an e-export Directory to display to the world products manufactured by the Mauritian entrepreneurs.

219. The directory will be a matchmaking platform to facilitate movement of goods between Mauritius, Africa and Asia.

220. The Freeport will play a greater role in positioning Mauritius as a trade hub. To this end -

- (a) Third party freeport developers will be authorised to rent space to an enterprise outside the Freeport zone for manufacturing and storage of goods.
- (b) Display showrooms will be added to the list of authorised Freeport activities.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

221. The pandemic has shown the ingenuity of the Mauritian industry to shift production lines and build new products.
222. Masks and sanitizers are a few examples.
223. To support the industry, the minimum shelf space for locally manufactured products will be increased from 10% to 40% within a period of one year.
224. We are also favouring procurement of goods manufactured locally by -
- (a) Increasing the bid price preference of 20% to 30% for products such as tea, fruit juices, margarine and medical gas produced locally; and
 - (b) Adopting a Mauritius First policy for the procurement of sanitizers, masks, PPEs, medical devices and medical gas, amongst others.

Developing the Knowledge Industry

225. Mr Speaker Sir, we will also develop the Knowledge Industry.
226. Some 3,500 foreign students were studying in Mauritius in 2020 in contrast to just 600 ten years ago.
227. We want international students to think of Mauritius as a preferred destination to study, work, invest and live.
228. International students enrolled in a recognised educational institution in Mauritius will benefit automatically from -
- (a) A 20 hours per week work permit; and
 - (b) A 10-Year renewable Young Professional Occupation Permit upon graduation.
229. The construction and expansion of student campuses will be exempted from land transfer tax and registration duty.

- 230. We will also provide a concessional 3 per cent corporate tax rate to private universities set-up in Mauritius.
- 231. The 50 Government scholarships for African students will be open to students attending public universities.
- 232. The Higher Educational Desk at the Ministry of Education will work closely with the EDB to promote Mauritius as a study destination for international students.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

- 233. Research is key to the knowledge industry.
- 234. The Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) will have broader mandates for fostering research and innovation.
- 235. A pool of researchers will be mobilised to effectively respond to the research needs of businesses and Government.
- 236. A total sum of Rs 125 million is being earmarked for Ministries to finance research projects in priority fields.
- 237. The Emerging Technologies Council which is being set up, will be a prominent addition to the research landscape, especially in new technologies such as Blockchain, AI and IoT.

C. RESTORING CONFIDENCE

Mr Speaker, Sir,

- 238. I now come to the third pillar which is about restoring confidence.
- 239. It is a sine-qua-non condition for socio-economic development.
- 240. This Government's philosophy has always been to put people at the heart of its strategy.

241. **WE WILL CONTINUE TO STAND BY OUR PEOPLE SO THAT THEY CAN LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE.**

242. This will ensure a stronger, more inclusive and sustainable society.

Skills and Talents

Mr Speaker, Sir,

243. We must enhance the skills of our labour force to match our economic ambitions.

244. Our aim is to provide training and re-skilling to some 10,000 individuals over the next financial year. To this end -

- (a) The National Training and Reskilling Scheme will cater for some 6,000 unemployed individuals;
- (b) A National Apprenticeship Programme will be launched for the training of some 750 apprentices with a monthly stipend of Rs 5,000 and a travelling allowance of Rs 1,000;
- (c) The Youth Employment Programme will be extended for another year for some 2,250 individuals;
- (d) The SME Graduate Scheme will cater for some 1,000 students, and will also cover vocational training; and
- (e) The Dual Training Programme will be renewed to cover 60% of academic fees of employees.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

245. Mauritius has always been a welcome home for professionals and international talents.

246. As a small open economy faced with a demographic challenge, it is imperative that we further open-up our country.
247. To complement the series of reforms to our openness strategy we announced last year, we are, in this Budget, introducing a new set of policies.
248. The occupation permit will be reviewed as follows -
- (a) The validity period for an Occupation Permit for Professionals is being extended from 3 years to 10 years.
 - (b) Spouses of OP holders wishing to invest or work in Mauritius will be exempted from applying for an Occupation Permit or a work permit.
 - (c) The maximum age limit of 24 years for dependents will be waived.
249. Furthermore, we are introducing a new category under the Occupation Permit Regime, the 10-Year Family Occupation Permit for those contributing USD 250,000 to the Covid-19 Projects Development Fund.
250. The EDB will set up a dedicated concierge service to provide a seamless experience to investors and retirees entering Mauritius.
251. In addition, a Privilege Club Scheme will be implemented providing a range of incentives to Occupation Permit holders and retirees, ranging from privilege access to hotels, golf courses, restaurants, private medical institutions, amongst others.

SMEs, MMEs and Entrepreneurship

Mr Speaker, Sir,

252. SMEs represent one in two jobs in the country.
253. They have been severely affected by the pandemic.

254. Lifting the confidence of our entrepreneurs is key to a strong and sustainable economic recovery.
255. To support SMEs as they ride out the current crisis and so that they can embrace the future with confidence, Government will -
- (a) Sustain the payment of wages through the financing of the salary compensation of Rs 375 monthly for fiscal year 2021/22.
 - (b) Extend the exemption on trade fees not exceeding Rs 5,000 for an additional 5 years.
 - (c) Grant an amnesty on trade fees and related penalties and interests that were due before 01 January 2020.
 - (d) Extend the Tax Arrears Settlement Scheme for SMEs up to December 2021.
 - (e) Increase the total maximum grant across all schemes implemented by SME Mauritius Ltd from Rs 150,000 to Rs 200,000.
256. To encourage large manufacturers to procure from SMEs, a 110 per cent deduction will be allowed on the taxable income for the direct expenditure incurred on the purchase of products manufactured locally by SMEs.
257. The DBM Ltd will -
- (a) Provide a rebate of up to 30 per cent on the annual rental of industrial space to SMEs engaged in the manufacturing sector over the next 3 years.
 - (b) Construct an SME Industrial Park of 5,000 square metres at Solferino in addition to Plaine Magnien and Vuillemin.
 - (c) Allocate 20 per cent of spaces in these upcoming parks rent-free to start-ups for the first three years of operation.
258. SMEs will also be eligible to the following loan schemes from the DBM -
- (a) Rs 100,000 interest free loan for issues; and

- (b) A 0.5 per cent COVID-19 Special Support Scheme of up to Rs 1 million.

259. We will also support SMEs and Mid-Market Enterprises who have been impacted by the current crisis. To this end, DBM will earmark an amount of Rs 1 billion to provide loan facilities of up to Rs 5 million to retailers with turnover of up to Rs 250 million at a concessional rate of 3.5 per cent per annum.
260. The EDB will set-up an online marketplace for start-ups to showcase their products and services.

Social Coherence

Mr Speaker, Sir,

261. Economic development and social development are two sides of the same coin.
262. Our long-term economic recovery can only be sustainable if it includes one and all.
263. Our future can only be better, if it is built together.

Education

Mr Speaker, Sir,

264. This is why we need to invest in quality education for our children.
265. Since 2015, Government has embarked on a transformation agenda across all levels.
266. The objective is to prepare our youth to become responsible citizens and a driving force of our society.
267. This year, I am providing Rs 17 billion in the budget for the education sector, an increase of some Rs 2 billion as compared to last year.

268. The branding process of our schools towards a more conducive teaching and learning environment for both teachers and students will include -

- (a) The upgrading and embellishment of our school infrastructure. This year, we will start with 20 public pre-primary schools, 70 primary schools and 30 secondary schools.
- (b) Investment in a Comprehensive Facility Maintenance Programme led by Mauri-Facilities Management Company Ltd.
- (c) The recruitment of -
 - i. 257 Surveillants, 257 Library Officers and 34 Educational Psychologists for primary and secondary schools;
 - ii. 10 Coordinators and 10 Assistant Coordinators for pre-primary schools. and
 - iii. 235 additional support teachers for the extension of the Early Support Programme to all primary pupils.

269. Early Childhood Care and Education sets a critical foundation for a child's educational journey.

270. We are therefore increasing the monthly per-capita grant for children attending private pre-primary schools from Rs 200 to Rs 400.

271. This measure will benefit some more than 22,000 children annually.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

272. We will also be giving more support to Special Education Needs (SENs) students.

273. The Grant to NGOs running SEN schools will be increased from Rs 138 million to Rs 151 million to cater for -

- (a) An increase from Rs 5,400 to Rs 6,000 for the Basic Grant component in the Grant-in-aid formula for each student;

- (b) An increase in the meal allowance for students attending SEN schools from Rs 60 to Rs 75 per day; and
 - (c) A grant to new registered NGOs to support SEN students with autism and those suffering from visual and hearing difficulties.
274. In addition, Resource and Development Units will be set-up in five SEN schools at Rose Belle, Curepipe, Quatre Bornes, Port Louis and Black River to facilitate access to paramedical services and therapy.
275. Activity books of grades 1 to 6 will be adapted for learners with visual, hearing, intellectual impairment, as well as for autism.
276. Braille notes will be acquired for secondary school students with severe visual impairments.

Secondary Education

Mr Speaker, Sir,

277. This year, academies under the Nine-Year Continuous Basic Education Reform will be operational.
278. In this regard, some Rs 850 million is being provided for the construction of a new school at Rivière du Rempart and the extension of 15 schools over the next 3 years.
279. Multipurpose halls and playfields will be constructed in secondary schools at Goodlands, Floreal, Sodnac, Vacoas, Bell Village and Ebène, at a cost of some Rs 490 million.
280. These sport facilities will be made available to the general public after school hours and during week-ends.
281. Rs 170 million are being provided for the deployment of wireless local area network in 155 secondary schools in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

The TVET sector

282. To modernise our Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector -

- (a) An Institute of Technical Education and Technology will be set-up to provide technical education at Grades 10 and 11;
- (b) A New Technical Education Centre will be constructed at Ebène; and
- (c) The Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd campus at Réduit will be expanded.

Tertiary Education

Mr Speaker, Sir,

283. To support online learning, the University of Mauritius, University of Technology and *L'Université des Mascareignes* will invest some Rs 33 million in an e-Learning Management System.

284. I am also providing this year Rs 70 million for the construction of the Civil Service College at Réduit.

Healthcare

Mr Speaker, Sir,

285. The COVID-19 pandemic has put healthcare resilience around the world to the test.

286. Our healthcare professionals have made a formidable effort in dealing with the pandemic in Mauritius.

287. We will continue to provide all the required infrastructure and equipment to protect our healthcare personnel and better respond to the needs of our population.

288. To this end, we have increased the public health budget to Rs 14.5 billion.

289. This includes an amount of Rs 2.3 billion for the construction of -

- (a) A Cancer Centre at Solferino;

- (b) A new hospital at Flacq;
- (c) An Eye Hospital at Réduit;
- (d) 6 mediclinics at Quartier Militaire, Stanley, Coromandel, Bel Air, Grand Bois and Chemin Grenier;
- (e) 5 Community Health Centres at St Francois Xavier, Roche Bois, Grand Baie, Pointe aux Sables, and Trou d'Eau Douce;
- (f) 4 Area Health Centres at Henrietta, Cap Malheureux, New Grove, and Plaine Magnien; and
- (g) A modern Cardiac Centre at Cote d'Or.

290. This amount will also cater for -

- (a) The acquisition of high-tech medical equipment including a CT Scan for Souillac Hospital;
- (b) The acquisition of 80 Haemodialysis equipment for the Souillac Hospital and the five regional hospitals; and
- (c) Upgrading works and setting up of day care wards for autistic children at the five regional hospitals.

291. In addition, a Cyberknife Robotic Radiosurgery System for advanced cancer treatment will be installed in the New Cancer Centre.

292. The Overseas Treatment Scheme will be reviewed as follows -

- (a) The income eligibility criteria for households will be increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs 100,000; and
- (b) A framework will be established with private clinics to allow patients to undergo treatment locally under the scheme, if treatment is not available in public hospitals.

293. A special zero-interest loan to patients undergoing treatment in private hospitals will be introduced.
294. Private health institutions will also benefit from a double deduction for expenses related to international accreditation.
295. The Medical Council Act and Dental Council Act will be amended to facilitate registration of foreign practitioners.
296. With a view to discouraging the excessive consumption of alcohol and tobacco products, I am increasing with effect as from tomorrow, the rates of excise duty by 10 per cent.
297. I will be moving for a financial resolution to that effect.

Social Security and Integration

Mr Speaker, Sir,

298. The fight against poverty, the integration of the most vulnerable of our society and the improvement of the quality of life of the disabled and our elderly is our '*raison d'être*'.
299. To eradicate absolute poverty in Mauritius, our Prime Minister introduced in the 2016/2017 budget, a historic monthly subsistence allowance for a family of two adults and three children with a maximum threshold of Rs 9,520.
300. These families are the most vulnerable of our society.
301. We are therefore reviewing this threshold for eligibility under the Social Register of Mauritius as follows -
- (a) An increase from Rs 2,720 to Rs 3,000 for an adult; and
 - (b) An Increase from Rs 1,360 to Rs 1,500 for a child.

302. In fact, the maximum threshold will increase from Rs 9,520 to Rs 10,500 as from 01 July 2021.
303. Moreover, the Free Broadband Internet facilities will be extended for another year to eligible households registered under the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM).
304. Households earning a monthly income between Rs 10,500 and Rs 14,000 will be eligible to register for support under the National Database for Vulnerable Groups.
305. The monthly orphan pension will be increased to Rs 8,000 for those aged up to 23 years old.
306. We are extending the incontinence allowance currently paid at the age of 70 years and above to all eligible bedridden persons irrespective of age.
307. Moreover, the monthly incontinence allowance will be increased from Rs 900 to Rs 1500.
308. The National Social Inclusion Foundation will provide a grant of some Rs 845 million to NGOs to support programmes and projects to alleviate poverty and for a more inclusive society.
309. In addition to the existing grant under the Per Capita Subsidy Scheme and the Fixed Grant Scheme, we are also providing a one-off assistance of Rs 10 million to religious bodies.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

310. Despite the difficult situation, we have decided to maintain the basic pensions at Rs. 9,000 monthly for those aged 60 years and above.
311. This is in line with our philosophy.
312. In fact, Government has increased the budget for basic retirement pensions three-fold from Rs 9.1 billion in 2014 to Rs 28.9 billion in 2021.

313. To ensure a fairer and more sustainable pension system, we introduced, last year, the Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG) system.
314. To fully implement the CSG, a comprehensive legislation will be introduced shortly to cater for payment of contribution and benefits.
315. Under the NPF, Self-Employed individuals were not eligible to benefits in case of injury at work.
316. With the CSG, they will now be eligible to those benefits as long as they are registered with the MRA and contributing to the CSG.
317. This will allow them to benefit from any government assistance as is the case for employees in the formal sector.

Gender Equality and Child Protection

Mr Speaker, Sir,

318. Our priority remains upholding gender equality, empowering women and protecting our children for a fairer society.
319. The Government will relentlessly work towards providing equal opportunities and support to everyone.
320. In line with the Children's Act, I am providing for -
- (a) An increase in the monthly foster care allowance from Rs 5,250 to Rs 8,000;
 - (b) The setting up of a Children's Court;
 - (c) The services of **Guardian Ad Litem** to children during their court proceedings;

- (d) Pre-trial and post-trial psychological support to children victims of violence; and
 - (e) A Community Child Protection Programme in vulnerable areas to sensitize community members on the detection of child abuses.
321. Furthermore, an “*Accompagnement des familles*” programme will be set up to educate vulnerable couples on family matters.
322. The Protection from Domestic Violence Act will be amended to include “recordings-sound-video” as a recognised form of testimony.
323. In addition, to support women entrepreneurship, they will be eligible to the following loan schemes from the DBM -
- (a) Rs 100,000 interest free loan for cash flow issues; and
 - (b) A 0.5 per cent COVID-19 Special Support Scheme of up to Rs 1 million.
324. To increase women participation in the economy, women aged 30 and above will now be eligible under the Back to Work Programme instead of 35 years.
325. Moreover, the monthly stipend will be increased to Rs 10,575.

Law and Order

Mr Speaker, Sir,

326. This Government, under the leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister, has adopted a zero-tolerance approach in the relentless fight against drug trafficking and criminality.
327. Our efforts are paying off and we are continuously stepping up our fight.

328. In this budget, we will give additional means to the Police Force, which has been working tirelessly for a safer Mauritius.
329. We are devoting Rs 10.3 billion to the Police Force.
330. This represents an increase of Rs 1.9 billion over last year's Budget.
331. Over the next three years, we will -
- (a) Recruit 4,000 Police Officers;
 - (b) Promote 1,457 Police Officers to the rank of Police Sergeants;
 - (c) Acquire a Passenger Variant Dornier and an Advanced Light Helicopter;
 - (d) Construct the Mauritius Disciplined Forces Academy at Cote D'Or;
 - (e) Replace the Coastal Surveillance Radar Systems; and
 - (f) Acquire -
 - i. High Patrol Vessels for the National Coast Guard;
 - ii. 60 police vehicles;
 - iii. 12 Light Armoured Personnel Carriers; ; and
 - iv. Special vehicles and equipment for the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit.
 - (g) Construct Police Stations at L'Escalier and Vallée des Prêtres.
332. Government is thankful to Japanese authorities for the donation of the Maritime Surveillance System which will enhance our maritime security.
333. I am also providing Rs 500 million for the construction of a complex at La Vigie to house the Forensic Science Laboratory.

Youth, Physical Activity, Sports and Leisure

Mr Speaker, Sir,

334. The promotion of sports, physical activity and leisure for our citizens is high on our agenda.

335. The vision of the Honourable Prime Minister is to create the opportunities for everyone to participate fully in the socio-economic development of our country whilst building a healthier community.

336. Hence, we will continue to invest in modern sports infrastructure across the island:

-

(a) Rs 225 million for the construction of a Multi-Sports Complex at Triolet;

(b) Rs 30 million for the upgrading of existing sports infrastructure, which include 5 Swimming Pools, the Glen Park Sports Complex and the Beau Bassin Sports Complex.

(c) Rs 60 million for the upgrading and modernisation of the Rose Hill Sport Complex into a Dynamic Youth Park; and

(d) Rs 12 million for the construction of the Blue Bay Arena which will be used for the 2022 *Jeux de la Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l'océan Indien (CJSOI)*.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

337. Our youth is our future and their needs, interests, and hopes have to be at the centre of our decision making.

338. In order to deliver on the priorities of our youth, the National Youth Council will be strengthened to transform current youth centres into modern youth hubs over the next three years at the cost of Rs 165 million.

339. The hubs will be community focal points, delivering and matching our youth to appropriate programs, activities, counsellors, careers and sports to further enhance their lives.
340. The Youth Hubs will also engage our youth in issues related to the environment.
341. To this end, the National Youth Environment Council will be provided with a seed capital of Rs 5 million.
342. Furthermore, to ensure that our youth develop a positive relationship with their surroundings, we will introduce Outdoor education programs in the secondary school curriculum for all students in Grades 10 to 12.
343. To deliver this program in secondary schools, Rs 32 million will thus be invested to convert the four existing Outdoor Centres into:
- (a) A National Outdoor Education and Recreation Centre at Pointe Jerome; and
 - (b) Three Regional Outdoor Education and Recreation Centres at Flic en Flac, Belle Mare and Anse la Raie.
344. The *Natation Scolaire Programme* will be fully integrated in the school curriculum to ensure that all primary school leavers have acquired swimming skills and are able to enjoy our lagoons safely.
345. The Sport Facilities Mauritius Unit will supervise the maintenance and long-term strategy of our national portfolio of sport facilities, youth hubs, outdoor education and recreation centres.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

346. Our elite athletes have achieved remarkable results in recent years.
347. We will continue to support them by providing a one-off grant of Rs 10,000 to 125 young high-level athletes for the purchase of sport equipment.

348. We are earmarking Rs 23 million for the High-Performance Centre at the Côte d'Or National Sports Complex to provide the latest sports science, medical and technological support for our athletes.
349. We are also providing Rs 15 million for the hosting of the *CJSOI 2022*.
350. To prepare our athletes for the next *Jeux des Iles de l'océan Indien* in 2023, I am allocating a budget of Rs 10 million for the upcoming financial year.
351. The Mauritius Paralympic Committee will bid for the hosting of the 4th World Para-Athletics Junior Championship at the National Côte d'Or Complex to be held in August 2023.
352. A Recreation Council will be set up for the organisation of recreation programmes at national level.

Arts and Culture

Mr Speaker, Sir,

353. Government will pursue its objective of broadening and deepening skills and TALENTS in the arts and culture eco-system.
354. For the professionalisation of artists, the Status of Artist Bill is being finalized and will be introduced soon.
355. The EDB will act as a one-stop-shop to register and assist our local artists as well as promote the sector internationally.
356. Preservation of our heritage buildings and museums is another key initiative to safeguard, promote and revive the history of our country. To that end:
- (a) The National Heritage Fund will henceforth engage with the private sector to better preserve, protect and promote national heritage sites; and

- (b) Rs 50 million are being provided for implementation of Phase II of the Intercontinental Slavery Museum Project over two years.

- 357. The list of areas of intervention under the CSR Programme will include the restoration of a building designated as a national heritage.
- 358. We will introduce four special lotto draws for the financing of restoration of designated historical sites and museums.
- 359. In addition, a series of events will be organised during the year to promote arts and culture across the island, including:
 - (a) *La nuit du conte et du slam*;
 - (b) *A karavan zistwar*; and
 - (c) A National Artist of the Year Award.

Public Service and Governance

Mr Speaker, Sir,

- 360. To achieve our goals for the economy, we need a strong, resilient and efficient public service.
- 361. In addition to the construction of the Civil Service College, we are providing funds this year for the implementation of the PRB Report.
- 362. This year, we will also recruit some 4,450 new public officers.
- 363. We will also organise for the first time an annual event to mark the UN Public Service Day to acknowledge the contribution of public officers in the socio-economic development.
- 364. Continuous improvement in public service delivery is at the core of our strategy for a better Mauritius.

365. To further strengthen accountability and transparency in the management of public funds, we are changing the format of the Budget Estimates to provide strategic information in line with the principles of performance-based budgeting.

Green Mauritius

Mr Speaker, Sir,

366. Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising on the future generation entails preserving our pristine ecosystem.
367. This Budget sets the stage for a sustainability transition programme.
368. In addition to our green energy strategy, we are engaging in the rehabilitation of our coastlines, the cleaning and embellishment of our country, and the promotion of a circular economy.
369. To this end, Rs 2.2 billion is being allocated to the National Environment Fund (NEF).
370. Some Rs 1.2 billion will be invested over the next three years for the rehabilitation and protection of our coastlines against the consequences of climate change, including:
- (a) Works between Pointe aux Feuilles and Vieux Grand Port;
 - (b) A walkway, jetty, slipway, boat passage and coastal restoration at Vieux Grand-Port and Rivière des Creoles;
 - (c) 15,000 mangroves will be planted in the South Eastern coast from Quatre Soeurs to Rivière des Créoles as well as the Western region from Tamarin to Rivière Noire and Case Noyale to Baie du Cap; and
 - (d) Major landslide stabilization works at Chamarel, Coromandel, Rivière des Creoles, Baie du Cap, Montagne Ory, Batelage Souillac, Souillac Bridge, and Maconde Cliff.

371. I am providing for the establishment of the National Environment Cleaning Authority (NECA) with a seed funding of Rs 100 million.
372. The Authority, under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office will spearhead the national cleaning agenda.
373. An additional Rs 790 million will be earmarked for cleaning, embellishment as well as solid waste management. These funds will be used, amongst others, to:
- (a) Replace and modernize the cleaning equipment.
 - (b) Clean and embellish some 110 public and other sites, including places of worship, children's playgrounds, and health tracks.
 - (c) Embellish road reserves along M1 and M2 Motorways; and
 - (d) Clean, rehabilitate and upgrade drains, bridges and rivers at Ruisseau du Pouce, Canal Kitchree, Tranquebar, Rivulet Terre Rouge, Roche Bois, Canal Anglais, Magenta Canal, Poste de Flacq, Midlands, Rose Belle, and Mahebourg.
374. To further promote the circular economy we are providing some Rs 200 million which will include:
- (a) Investing in three additional Civic Amenity Centres at Poudre d'Or, Roche Bois and La Brasserie Transfer Stations;
 - (b) Setting up of 6 composting plants with a total capacity of 12,000 tons of green wastes at Henrietta, Salazie, La Martinière, La Chaumière, Pamplémousses Botanical Garden and Bras D'Eau National Park;
 - (c) Providing for the installation of some 400 eco-bins around the island and 50,000 bins to households; and
 - (d) Introducing a sustainable public procurement framework to promote green procurement by public bodies.

Rodrigues and Outer Islands

Mr Speaker, Sir,

375. The development of Rodrigues has always been high on the agenda of this Government.
376. As part of the transformational development of Rodrigues, and to enable the development of more economic activities on the island -
- (a) Airport of Mauritius Ltd will invest some Rs 4 billion for the construction of a Runway at Plaine Corail Airport over the next three years.
 - (b) Rs 1 billion will be invested by MIC to provide for a regular distribution of water.
 - (c) DBM will provide a loan of up to Rs 200,000 to registered planters and farmers to construct their own water storage facility and invest in new irrigation systems.
 - (d) Rs 200 million will be provided for the construction of track roads around Rodrigues.
377. To support the tourism industry, the subsidy on Special Rodrigues Holiday Package and Subsidy on Airfare will be maintained.
378. The cost of freight between Mauritius and Rodrigues is being reduced by 20 per cent.
379. As regards Agalega, the new jetty and airstrip will be completed during the next financial year 2021/22.
380. The improved air and sea connectivity will definitely boost up the socio-economic development of the population of Agalega.

CHAGOS

Mr Speaker, Sir,

381. Late Sir Anerood Jugnauth will always be remembered for his invaluable contribution to what he called, I quote, “the sacred endeavour to complete the decolonisation process of our country”. Unquote.
382. Under his leadership, our sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago has been recognised by the UN General Assembly.
383. It is our duty to pursue relentlessly his fight for the completion of our decolonisation so that Mauritius can fully and effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.
384. This year, I am introducing a special budgetary item of Rs 50 million under the Prime Minister’s Office to raise global awareness to the unlawful detachment of the Chagos from the Republic of Mauritius.
385. I am also providing Rs 50 million for the organisation of a trip to the Chagos which will be led by the Honourable Prime Minister.

Mieux Ensemble

M. le président,

386. Je vais maintenant m'adresser à tous nos concitoyens.
387. Le Gouvernement a été à vos côtés contre vents et marées, et continuera sans cesse d’agir ainsi.
388. Prendre soin de notre population est notre priorité.
389. L'emploi, la santé et le niveau de vie constituent le triptyque de notre stratégie.

Emploi

390. Pour préserver les emplois et maintenir les moyens de subsistance de nos citoyens, 23,5 milliards de roupies ont été déboursées par le biais *du Wage Assistance Scheme et du Self-Employed Assistance Scheme*.
391. Ces programmes ont aidé quelque 450,000 de nos concitoyens.
392. Nous sommes conscients de l'épreuve et des difficultés rencontrées par les personnes travaillant dans le tourisme et les PME, qui sont les secteurs les plus touchés.
393. Ce chemin, nous allons le parcourir ensemble.
394. Nous sommes à vos côtés et nous allons prolonger ces aides exceptionnelles pour le tourisme et les PME.
395. Par ailleurs, pour préserver les emplois, nous continuerons à verser la compensation salariale de 375 roupies par mois pour les PME pour le prochain exercice financier.
396. En outre, nous créons de nouvelles opportunités d'emploi pour quelque 4,450 personnes dans, entre autres, les forces de police, le secteur de l'éducation et celui de la santé.
397. Ce budget pose également les jalons d'un dynamisme renouvelé et d'une confiance restaurée pour que le secteur privé investisse davantage.
398. Cela créera de nouvelles perspectives d'emploi pour nos jeunes dans l'économie de la connaissance, l'industrie pharmaceutique, la biotechnologie, les énergies renouvelables et l'industrie numérique, pour ne citer que ces secteurs.

M. le président,

399. Il existe encore des incertitudes sur la durée de la pandémie.
400. Dès lors, pour bénéficier des futures aides gouvernementales, nous lançons un appel aux travailleurs indépendants pour qu'ils s'enregistrent auprès de la *MRA*.

401. Cela permettra à ces travailleurs indépendants d'obtenir un montant d'aide calculé en fonction de leurs revenus.

Santé

M. le président,

402. La Covid-19 a bouleversé de façon drastique et permanente notre mode de vie.
403. L'adaptation est clé en ces temps difficiles.
404. C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement ne néglige aucune piste pour atteindre l'immunité collective d'ici le mois de septembre de cette année.
405. Le Gouvernement a dépensé environ 550 millions de roupies pour l'acquisition des vaccins jusqu'à présent.
406. Je saisis cette occasion pour remercier tous ceux qui ont fait preuve d'une immense solidarité en contribuant à cet effort.
407. A l'avenir, nous savons que nous devrons continuer à vivre avec la Covid-19.
408. Par conséquent, des campagnes de vaccination devront être mises en place de manière régulière afin de protéger continuellement la santé de nos citoyens.
409. Afin d'en supporter le coût de manière durable, nous introduisons une taxe de 2 roupies par litre sur l'essence et le diesel pour l'achat de vaccins.
410. Ainsi, la vaccination sera gratuite pour tous.
411. En outre, le Gouvernement s'est engagé à ne laisser personne de côté en ce qui concerne l'accès à des soins de santé de qualité.
412. Le seuil d'éligibilité pour l'*Overseas Treatment Scheme* passe ainsi de 50 000 roupies à 100 000 roupies par ménage.
413. De plus, afin de réduire le stress lié aux voyages à l'étranger, nous élaborons un cadre pour permettre aux médecins étrangers de prodiguer des traitements à Maurice.

414. Enfin, un prêt spécial à taux zéro pour les patients pris en charge dans des établissements privés sera introduit.

Niveau de vie et bien-être

M. le président,

415. Sous le leadership du Premier ministre, notre philosophie est d'améliorer sans cesse le niveau de vie de chaque Mauricien.
416. Par le biais de ce Budget, nous faisons encore un pas supplémentaire en avant pour faciliter l'accès à la propriété résidentielle.
417. Le Gouvernement remboursera jusqu'à 500,000 roupies du coût d'acquisition d'une propriété ou d'un terrain résidentiel ainsi que du coût de la construction d'une résidence dans le pays.
418. Par ailleurs, en tant que *Caring Government*, nous sommes fiers de rendre les produits de première nécessité abordables pour tous.
419. Dorénavant, afin de maintenir le prix au détail du pain de 100 grammes (Pain Maison), nous étendons la subvention sur le prix de la farine blanche pour les sacs de 25 kg à 155,00 roupies pour une année supplémentaire.
420. Dans cette lignée et afin de promouvoir un mode de vie plus sain, je prévois une subvention supplémentaire de 19,50 roupies par sac de 25 kg pour aligner le prix de la farine de blé sur celui de la farine blanche.

M. le président,

421. Ce Gouvernement a toujours placé l'Humain au cœur de sa stratégie.
422. Nous veillerons à ce que personne ne soit laissé pour compte et ne soit privé d'opportunités.
423. Pour les enfants issus de familles inscrites au SRM, nous :

- (a) Les exempterons du paiement des frais d'examen du *MITD* pour l'année financière 2021/2022 ;
 - (b) Mettrons gratuitement à la disposition des jeunes filles des grades 6 à 13 des serviettes hygiéniques; et
 - (c) Fournirons sans frais des lunettes de vue pour les enfants âgés jusqu'à 18 ans.
424. Nous allons également mettre à niveau les installations pour quatre principales plages publiques à savoir Mon Choisy, Flic en Flac, Belle Mare et la Prairie, pour les rendre accessibles aux personnes autrement capables.
425. Par ailleurs, je vais :
- (a) Augmenter l'exemption maximale pour un enfant poursuivant des études supérieures à 225,000 roupies, indépendamment du lieu d'étude de l'enfant et du revenu total du ménage ;
 - (b) Augmenter la déduction maximale autorisée pour les primes d'assurance médicale de : -
 - i. 15,000 roupies à 20,000 roupies pour un individu et la première personne à sa charge, et
 - ii. 10,000 roupies à 15,000 roupies pour chaque autre personne à charge.
 - (c) Permettre une exemption pour les dons faits aux ONG caritatives et aux organismes religieux approuvés jusqu'à un montant de 30,000 roupies ; et
 - (d) Permettre une exemption d'un montant allant jusqu'à 30,000 roupies pour un régime de retraite individuel.

M. le président,

426. Nous voulons également donner à nos jeunes le goût de la lecture pour renforcer leur créativité et leur désir d'apprentissage.
427. J'ai le plaisir d'annoncer que le Gouvernement donnera un bon unique de 500 roupies à tous les enfants âgés de 15 à 18 ans pour qu'ils puissent acheter des livres.

Budget Outturn and Prospects

Mr Speaker, Sir,

428. As we steer our way to economic recovery and protecting the lives and livelihoods of the population, we will ensure that our public finances remain sound.
429. With the unprecedented support to businesses and individuals, coupled with a decrease in revenue, the budget deficit for fiscal year 2020/2021 is expected to reach 5.6 per cent.
430. Countries across the world have faced a similar situation.
431. Our public sector debt will be 95 per cent of GDP in June 2021, due to two consecutive GDP contractions.
432. Interest payments to GDP remains at around 2.8 per cent during fiscal year 2020/2021.
433. This is within the target of 3.5 per cent we had set last year.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

434. Measures announced in this Budget will accelerate our economic recovery, boost our GDP growth and place our public sector debt on a downward path.
435. For Fiscal Year 2021/2022, we are expecting a GDP growth of 9 per cent.

436. Total expenditure will represent 32.5 per cent of GDP and total revenue 27.5 per cent of GDP.
437. The Budget deficit will be contained at 5 per cent of GDP.
438. Our public sector debt to GDP ratio will be reduced by around 4 percentage points to 91 per cent.
439. Our objective is to bring it down to less than 80 per cent of GDP by end June 2025 and to 70 per cent by end June 2030.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

440. The preparation of this Budget has required much effort.
441. For the smooth implementation of the measures announced -
- (a) A Project Implementation and Monitoring Agency will be set-up under the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development to monitor, oversee, coordinate and assist in the implementation of budgetary measures, projects, and programmes, including those under the Covid-19 Projects Development Fund;
 - (b) The Agency will report on progress on a monthly basis to a Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister; and
 - (c) The High-Level Committee on private sector investment projects will meet on a monthly basis under the chair of the Honourable Prime Minister.
442. Before concluding, I would like to seize the opportunity to thank the Prime Minister for his continuous and unflinching support for the preparation of this Budget as well as the valuable input of my colleague Ministers.
443. I would also like to thank my team, in particular the Financial Secretary.

444. On behalf of the Government and on my own behalf, I would like to thank the various organisations and citizens of our country who have shared their views and contributed to the preparation of this Budget.

445. We have given due consideration to their suggestions.

CONCLUSION

Mr Speaker Sir,

446. I will now conclude.

447. Budget 2021-2022 is about meeting the challenges of economic recovery and social resilience.

448. It is about supporting the population and businesses during these unprecedented times.

449. It is about promoting inclusiveness so that no one is left behind.

450. It is about leaving a green legacy to our future generation.

451. It is a Budget which follows the philosophy of Sir Anerood Jugnauth.

452. His thinking, his vision, his culture of hard work - of always striving and never letting up - no matter how tough the challenge - and his achievements have left an indelible proud legacy for us and for generations to come.

453. Sir Anerood Jugnauth had a great vision for Mauritius – a vision which he stated in his Budget Speech in 1991 when he expressed wholeheartedly his wish for Mauritius to be “A land of achievers and of achievements.”

454. His vision lives on.

455. Together, we will continue to build on his legacy.

456. Together, we will be better.

457. I now commend the Bill to the House.

458. Thank you.

(Applause)

The Prime Minister seconded.

The debate stood adjourned to the next Sitting of the Assembly, in accordance with S.O. 73(2).

MOTIONS

URGENT BUSINESS UNDER S.O. 17(3)

The Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (Dr. R. Padayachy): Mr Speaker, Sir, in terms of Standing Order 17(3), I move to take the time of the Assembly for urgent business.

The Prime Minister seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF S.O. 29(1)

The Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (Dr. R. Padayachy): Mr Speaker, Sir, having obtained your permission, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order 29(1) in order that I may present a financial resolution without notice.

The Prime Minister seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

FINANCIAL RESOLUTION

The Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (Dr. R. Padayachy):

Mr Speaker, Sir, having obtained your permission, I now present a Financial Resolution.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that this Assembly resolves that, with effect from 12 June 2021, excise duty shall, in respect of the excisable goods falling under their respective H.S. Codes, as specified in the Schedule to this Resolution, be levied at the rate corresponding to those H.S. Codes and excisable goods, as specified in that Schedule, and not at the rate corresponding to those H.S. Codes and excisable goods as specified in Part I of the First Schedule to the Excise Act (**Appendix**).

The Prime Minister seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Monday 14 June 2021 at 11.30 a.m.

The Deputy Prime Minister seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: The House stands adjourned.

At 7.06. p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Monday 14 June 2021 at 11.30 a.m.

APPENDIX

SCHEDULE

Column 1		Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Heading	H.S. Code	Excisable Goods	Statistical Unit	Taxable Base	Rate of Excise Duty
22.03		Beer made from malt:			
		--- Of an alcoholic strength not exceeding 9 degrees:			
	2203.00.11	---- In can	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 43.60 per litre plus Rs 2 per can
	2203.00.19	---- Other	L	Specific duty	Rs 43.60 per litre

Column 1		Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Heading	H.S. Code	Excisable Goods	Statistical Unit	Taxable Base	Rate of Excise Duty
				per litre	
		--- Other:			
	2203.00.91	---- In can	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 60.60 per litre plus Rs 2 per can
	2203.00.99	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 60.60 per litre
22.04		Wine of fresh grapes, including fortified wines; grape must other than that of heading 20.09.			
		- Sparkling wine:			
	2204.10.10	--- Champagne	L	Specific duty per unit	Rs 1,016.40 per litre
	2204.10.90	--- Other	L	Specific duty per unit	Rs 213.40 per litre
		- Other wine; grape must with fermentation prevented or arrested by the addition of alcohol:			
		-- In containers holding 2 L or less:			
		--- Fortified wine:			
	2204.21.11	---- Obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per unit	Rs 253.50 per litre
	2204.21.19	---- Other	L	Specific duty per unit	Rs 253.50 per litre
		--- In cans not exceeding 330 ml:			
	2204.21.21	---- Obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 43.60 per litre plus Rs 2 per can

Column 1		Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Heading	H.S. Code	Excisable Goods	Statistical Unit	Taxable Base	Rate of Excise Duty
		products			
	2204.21.29	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 43.60 per litre plus Rs 2 per can
		--- Other:			
	2204.21.91	---- Obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 213.40 per litre
	2204.21.99	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 213.40 per litre
		-- In containers holding more than 2 L but not more than 10 L:			
	2204.22.10	--- Obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 213.40 per litre
	2204.22.90	--- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 213.40 per litre
		-- Other:			
	2204.29.10	--- In bulk for bottling purposes	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 121.70 per litre
		--- Fortified wine:			
	2204.29.21	---- Obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 253.50 per litre
	2204.29.29	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 253.50 per litre
	2204.29.30	--- Grape must with fermentation prevented or arrested by the addition of alcohol	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 152.20 per litre

Column 1		Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Heading	H.S. Code	Excisable Goods	Statistical Unit	Taxable Base	Rate of Excise Duty
		--- Other:			
	2204.29.91	---- Obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 213.40 per litre
	2204.29.99	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 213.40 per litre
22.05		Vermouth and other wine of fresh grapes flavoured with plants or aromatic substances.			
		- In containers holding 2 L or less:			
	2205.10.90	--- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 213.40 per litre
		- Other:			
	2205.90.10	--- In bulk for bottling purposes	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 121.70 per litre
	2205.90.90	--- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 213.40 per litre
22.06		Other fermented beverages (for example, cider, perry, mead, saké); mixtures of fermented beverages and mixtures of fermented beverages and non-alcoholic beverages, not elsewhere specified or included:			
	2206.00.10	--- Fruit wine	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 35.30 per litre
		--- Fortified fruit wine:			
	2206.00.21	---- Obtained by mixing	L	Specific duty	Rs 75.70 per litre

Column 1		Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Heading	H.S. Code	Excisable Goods	Statistical Unit	Taxable Base	Rate of Excise Duty
		spirits of cane or cane products		per litre	
	2206.00.29	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 75.70 per litre
		--- Shandy:			
	2206.00.31	---- In can	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 35.30 per litre plus Rs 2 per can
	2206.00.39	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 35.30 per litre
		--- Beer:			
	2206.00.41	---- Of an alcoholic strength not exceeding 9 degrees, in can	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 43.60 per litre plus Rs 2 per can
	2206.00.42	---- Other, of an alcoholic strength not exceeding 9 degrees	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 43.60 per litre
	2206.00.43	---- Of an alcoholic strength exceeding 9 degrees, in can	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 60.60 per litre plus Rs 2 per can
	2206.00.49	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 60.60 per litre
		--- Cider, perry and mead:			
	2206.00.51	---- In can	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 48.10 per litre plus Rs 2 per can
	2206.00.59	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 48.10 per litre
		--- Made wine and fortified made wine:			
	2206.00.61	---- Made wine	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 75.70 per litre
	2206.00.62	---- Fortified made wine	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 117.70 per litre
	2206.00.63	---- Fortified made wine obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 117.70 per litre

Column 1		Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Heading	H.S. Code	Excisable Goods	Statistical Unit	Taxable Base	Rate of Excise Duty
		--- Island wine and fortified Island wine:			
	2206.00.71	---- Island wine	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 35.30 per litre
	2206.00.72	---- Fortified Island wine	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 75.70 per litre
	2206.00.73	---- Fortified island wine obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 75.70 per litre
		--- Admixed wine and fortified admixed wine:			
	2206.00.81	---- Admixed wine	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 92.10 per litre
	2206.00.82	---- Fortified admixed wine	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 138.20 per litre
	2206.00.83	---- Fortified admixed wine obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 138.20 per litre
		--- Other:			
	2206.00.91	---- In can	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 152.20 per litre plus Rs 2 per can
	2206.00.99	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 152.20 per litre
22.08		Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80% vol; spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages.			
		- Spirits obtained by distilling grape wine or grape marc:			
		--- Cognac:			
	2208.20.11	---- In bulk for bottling purposes	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,156 per litre absolute alcohol

Column 1		Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Heading	H.S. Code	Excisable Goods	Statistical Unit	Taxable Base	Rate of Excise Duty
	2208.20.19	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol
		--- Brandy:			
	2208.20.21	---- In bulk for bottling purposes	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,156 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.20.22	---- Blended Brandy obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.20.29	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.20.90	--- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol
		- Whiskies:			
	2208.30.10	--- In bulk for bottling purposes	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,156 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.30.90	--- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol
		- Rum and other spirits obtained by distilling fermented sugar-cane products:			
	2208.40.10	--- Agricultural rum	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 598.40 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.40.20	--- Island recipe rum	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 598.40 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.40.30	--- Spirits obtained by redistilling alcohol obtained from molasses, sugar cane or its derivatives and by flavouring, sweetening, or further treating the redistilled alcohol	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 598.40 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.40.40	--- Spirits obtained by compounding or flavouring alcohol obtained from	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 598.40 per litre absolute alcohol

Column 1		Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Heading	H.S. Code	Excisable Goods	Statistical Unit	Taxable Base	Rate of Excise Duty
		molasses, sugar cane or its derivatives			
	2208.40.90	--- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 598.40 per litre absolute alcohol
		- Gin and Geneva:			
		--- Distilled gin:			
	2208.50.11	---- Distilled gin obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 598.40 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.50.19	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 598.40 per litre absolute alcohol
		--- London gin:			
	2208.50.21	---- London gin obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 598.40 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.50.29	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 598.40 per litre absolute alcohol
		--- Other:			
	2208.50.91	---- Obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.50.99	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol
		- Vodka:			
	2208.60.10	--- Vodka produced from alcohol obtained by	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol

Column 1		Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Heading	H.S. Code	Excisable Goods	Statistical Unit	Taxable Base	Rate of Excise Duty
		treating fermented mash of cereals or potato			
	2208.60.20	--- Vodka produced from alcohol obtained from spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 598.40 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.60.30	--- Vodka obtained by mixing vodka of HS 2208.60.10 or 2208.60.90 with spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.60.90	--- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol
		- Liqueurs and cordials:			
		---Liqueurs and cordials obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products:			
	2208.70.11	---- In can	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 406.60 per litre absolute alcohol plus Rs 2 per can
	2208.70.19	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 406.60 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.70.90	--- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 406.60 per litre absolute alcohol
		- Other:			
		--- Eau de vie:			
	2208.90.11	---- In bulk for bottling purposes	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,156 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.90.12	---- Eau de vie obtained from spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.90.19	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol

Column 1		Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Heading	H.S. Code	Excisable Goods	Statistical Unit	Taxable Base	Rate of Excise Duty
		--- Spirit cooler:			
	2208.90.21	---- In can	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 56.90 per litre plus Rs 2 per can
	2208.90.22	---- Spirit cooler obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 56.90 per litre
	2208.90.23	---- Spirit cooler obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products, in can	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 56.90 per litre plus Rs 2 per can
	2208.90.29	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 56.90 per litre
		--- Tequilla:			
	2208.90.31	---- In bulk for bottling purposes	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,156 per litre absolute alcohol
	2208.90.39	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol
		--- Admixed spirits:			
	2208.90.61	---- Obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane products	L	Specific duty per litre	At the rate applicable to the spirits calculated in proportion to the volume of spirits used in the production
	2208.90.69	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	At the rate applicable to the spirits calculated in proportion to the volume of spirits used in the production
		--- Other:			
	2208.90.91	---- Obtained by mixing spirits of cane or cane	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol

Column 1		Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Heading	H.S. Code	Excisable Goods	Statistical Unit	Taxable Base	Rate of Excise Duty
		products			
	2208.90.99	---- Other	L	Specific duty per litre	Rs 1,848 per litre absolute alcohol
24.02		Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes.			
		- Cigars, cheroots and cigarillos, containing tobacco:			
	2402.10.10	--- Cigarillos	Kg	Specific duty per thousand	Rs 11,345 per thousand
	2402.10.90	--- Other	Kg	Specific duty per kg	Rs 19,430 per kg
	2402.20.00	- Cigarettes containing tobacco	Kg	Specific duty per thousand	Rs 5,625 per thousand
		- Other:			
	2402.90.10	--- Cigarillos	Kg	Specific duty per thousand	Rs 11,345 per thousand
	2402.90.90	--- Other	Kg	Specific duty per thousand	Rs 5,625 per thousand