This government believes that each and every one should be given equal chances to express their potentials, said the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, at the launching of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) website, on 31 May 2012 at the Octave Wiehé Auditorium in Réduit.

Dr Ramgoolam highlighted that the EOC will operate in complete independence without any interference whatsoever and that he has full faith that the Commission will help in shaping a modern society. He stressed that he strongly believes and adheres to meritocracy while recalling incidents that he as Prime Minister has personally encountered. According to him, people should get out of their comfort zones, change their mindset so that Mauritius can transform itself into a First world country.

The Prime Minister congratulated the EOC for its efficiency, adding that since its setting up and the appointment of its chairperson and members, some 60 cases have already been deferred. Today, a fully comprehensive and user friendly website is being launched, he added.

Dr Ramgoolam said that he is convinced that the EOC will redynamise the society and he appealed to the youth to seize the opportunity to serve their country. Duty towards one’s country is one of the greatest honours, he pointed out.
The Prime Minister further expressed satisfaction that the EOC is a reality for he has always campaigned against discrimination which, according to him, is a great source of demotivation. He recalled that with this institution, laws have been passed to ensure that everyone has an equal chance of hopes and that certain perceptions will change.

Mr Brian Glover, Chairperson of the EOC underlined that equal opportunity should not just be a concept and that through sensitisation campaign every citizen should know and master their rights. He added that the mission of the Commission is not to sanction but to eliminate discrimination and promote good relations between people.

It will be recalled that the Commission is a corporate body set up under the Equal Opportunity Act 2008. Its chairperson and the members of the EOC were sworn in on 23 April 2012.

Among its main functions are: to work towards the elimination of discrimination, and the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different status; keep under review the working of the Equal Opportunities Act and any relevant law and submit to the Attorney-General proposals for amending them, if required; attempt to reconcile the parties to whom and against whom a complaint relates; and conduct and foster research and educational and other programmes for the purpose of eliminating discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different status, among others.

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**Foire Internationale de Madagascar**

**Increased visibility of Mauritian SMEs in the Malagasy market**

A delegation led by Enterprise Mauritius and comprising 37 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) participated for a second consecutive year in the *Foire Internationale de Madagascar* (FIM) from 31 May to 3 June 2012 in Andranomena, in the suburbs of Antananarivo. The objective was to showcase Mauritius’ manufacturing and services sectors.

During the fair, Mauritian operators exhibited items ranging from garments; agro products such as herbal tea, spices and dry fruits; fancy jewellery; handicraft; solar panels and water heaters; blinds; brake pads and clutches; paints and chemicals; footwear; PVC and UPVC pipes to bus coaches; paper envelopes and furniture.

The fair was an opportunity to enhance and strengthen the presence of Mauritian enterprises on the Malagasy market as outlined in the market consolidation strategy of Enterprise Mauritius. It also increased the awareness of SMEs regarding the exigencies of the Malagasy market visibility in terms of branding, quality, design and price. Furthermore FIM provided market accessibility to SMEs and develop business to business relationships with Malagasy buyers. This event was of particular importance for the country given that Mauritian exports towards Madagascar have been on the increasing trend over the past few years.

According to the Malagasy Community Network Services, Mauritius is ranked 3rd among the main exporting country to Madagascar (11%), behind France (33%) and China (24%). Data from Statistics Mauritius also indicate that export to Madagascar is on the rise. In 2011, domestic exports to Madagascar stood at Rs 2 billion as compared to Rs 1, 87 billion in 2010.
My Government’s vision and achievements in terms of providing all the facilities for the welfare of the elderly represent our commitment to make every effort to ensure that the lives of elderly people are as pleasant as possible, stressed the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, on 23 May 2012.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the laying of foundation stone of the Pointe aux Piments Recreational Centre for the Elderly and the Disabled. He underlined that due recognition should be given to the elders while adding that Government has been implementing several measures for their welfare. Dr Ramgoolam pointed out that not less than 11 per cent of the population is over 60 years and that for the year 2012, some Rs 7.25 billion has been earmarked for pensions.

According to the Prime Minister, people with disabilities also have talents and should not be considered as incapable. Government is taking all the necessary actions to help them become productive members of society, he said.

The Pointe aux Piments Recreational Centre project, to the tune of Rs 155 million, is in line with Government Programme 2012-2015, which pledges for a pleasant and active retirement of the elderly.

The Recreational Centre will comprise of 60 twin-bedrooms to accommodate 120 persons, an administrative block, a kitchen/dining room, an auditorium, an amphitheatre and a swimming pool.

Two Recreational Centres are already operational, one in Pointe aux Sables and the other in Belle Mare. The Pointe aux Piments Centre is expected to be ready in 2013 and will cater for an additional 12 000 residents yearly. This will bring the total capacity of all three Centres to 34 000 residents yearly.

The main objective of the Centre is to provide hotel type recreation facilities for the elderly and give them the opportunity to meet their peers and exchange experiences, as well as engage in leisure activities. Talks, seminars, musicals, dramas and activities on health prevention are the main activities to be organised during their stay for their entertainment and continuous learning.
EU-ESA
Interim Economic Partnership Agreement implemented provisionally

The interim Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA) between the European Union (EU) and the Eastern and Southern African (ESA) countries is being implemented provisionally since 14 May 2012. An EPA Committee will be set up soon to ensure its proper implementation.

The Interim Agreement signed by Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and the EU in 2009, is the first Economic Partnership Agreement to be implemented in Africa. This constitutes a major achievement as far as relations between Africa and the EU are concerned.

The iEPA establishes a stable and predictable trade partnership for the development of EU’s partners in the region. It is open to other ESA countries.

The Agreement consolidates the duty free and quota-free market access which the EU offers to all exports from the four ESA States. The ESA countries involved will gradually open their market over a period of 15 years, to EU exports with some exceptions for products that ESA countries consider sensitive. Limited transitory periods were agreed for sugar up to 2015. The Agreement also contains provisions concerning rules of origin, development cooperation, fisheries, trade defence instruments and dispute settlement.

This iEPA constitutes a stepping stone to a wider and comprehensive deal currently under negotiation between the EU and the Eastern and Southern African region taking into account the development dimension for the ESA signatory countries. The areas potentially covered by the full EPA go beyond trade in goods and will include services and investment and trade related areas such as sustainable development, competition policy, trade facilitation as well as further improvement in trade in goods and rules of origin.

Imports and Exports Statistics

In 2011 total EU imports from the four ESA countries amounted to Rs 84 billion, equivalent to 0.12% of all EU imports, including mainly processed tuna, coffee, cane sugar, textiles, tobacco, cut flowers and ferroalloys. Mauritius imports from the EU stood at Rs 35 billion.

During the same year, EU exports to the four ESA countries comprised mainly machinery, vehicles, pharmaceutical products and chemicals and reached Rs 67.2 billion. Exports from Mauritius to the EU stood at Rs 43 billion. Main exports comprised articles of apparel, accessories, knit or crochet, sugar and sugar confectionaries, seafood products including preserved tuna, articles of leather, amongst others.

Economy
Growth rate of 3.6% projected for 2012

The Mauritian economy is maintaining its economic resilience with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 3.6% projected for 2012, despite the negative impacts of the euro zone crisis affecting the world economy, highlighted the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr Xavier-Luc Duval, at a press conference on 24 May 2012.

According to Mr Duval, the focus for this year will be on investment, increased productivity of businesses and diversifying the markets.

Vice-Prime Minister Duval underlined that Mauritius will be encouraging more foreign direct investment (FDI) from emerging economies such as China and will also tap the African continent to reduce its dependence on the European market given the fact that Sub-Saharan African economies are growing at a fast pace with a forecast growth rate of over 6% in the coming years.

He also pointed out that various sectors of the Mauritian economy, namely tourism, exports, fish production, ICT/BPO, financial services, global business, domestic oriented industry and construction have registered positive growth. Nonetheless, he added that the country should be well prepared to better respond to the new set of challenges looming ahead in the context of uncertainties prevailing in the world economy.
**Transfer of Sentenced Pirates**

**Mauritius signs agreement with Somali Authorities**

An Agreement for the transfer of sentenced pirates from Mauritius to Somalia was signed on 25 May 2012 in Port Louis by the Mauritian Government and the Somali authorities. The Agreement is in line with Government’s effort to counter piracy in the region.

The signatories were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Dr Arvin Boolell, for the Mauritian side, and the Minister of Justice of the Transitional Federal Government of the Republic of Somalia, Mr Ahmed Abdullahi Husein, and the Minister of Maritime Transport, Ports and Counter Piracy of Puntland State of Somalia, Mr Saeed Farah Mohamed.

The transfer of convicted pirates to Somalia is a key element among a set of initiatives to counter piracy efforts. The intention is for convicted pirates to be transferred back to serve their remaining sentence in their homeland after having been prosecuted in Mauritius.

The costs of repatriation of convicted pirates to Somali would be borne by the UNDOC under its Piracy Prisoner Transfer Programme.

Speaking on that occasion, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Dr Arvin Boolell, stated that owing to the support from senior officials, Mauritius has shown the political will and way and the Government is fully committed to wage war on the scourge of piracy which has become acute. According to the Minister, it is important to ensure that the problem is addressed inland, that is, in Somalia. With the support of like-minded friends and dialogue partners, the EU and multilateral organisations such as the UN, tremendous progress has been noted, observed Dr Boolell. It is also essential to live up to the expectations of the people of Somalia, he added.

For their part, both the Minister of Justice of the Transitional Federal Government of the Republic of Somalia, Mr Ahmed Abdullahi Husein, and the Minister of Maritime Transport, Ports and Counter Piracy of Puntland State of Somalia, Mr Saeed Farah Mohamed, expressed their appreciation to the Government of Mauritius and highlighted the importance of the Agreement signed. They expressed their will to collaborate in implementing the Agreement.

It is recalled that in July 2011, an Agreement was signed between Mauritius and the EU for the transfer of suspected pirates to Mauritius for investigation, prosecution, trial and detention in Mauritius. Arrangements are underway to accept one or two batches of suspected pirates as from the beginning of June 2012, pending the construction of a new prison block and a new court room on a plot of land adjoining the Beau Bassin Central Prison, to be financed by the UNDOC and the EU respectively.

Consequently, negotiations were held with the Transitional Federal Government of the Republic of Somalia and the Puntland State of Somalia with a view to finalising an agreement on the transfer of sentenced pirates from Mauritius to Somalia. Mauritius is also pursuing negotiations with the Somaliland in view of finalising a Memorandum of Understanding soon.

**Agreement in line with Government commitment to counter piracy**
Indian Naval Ship completes hydrographic survey requirements for 2011

The Indian Naval Ship, INS Darshak, has completed the hydrographic surveys for regions ranging from Bel Ombre to Blue Bay and from Flic en Flac to Albion. The surveys were undertaken in the Mauritian waters between 27 April and 11 May 2012 under the Indo-Mauritian Hydrographic cooperation programme.

The hydrographic survey data known as fair sheets were remitted on 14 May 2012 to the Minister of Housing and Lands, Dr A. Kasenally, by the High Commissioner of India, Mr T.P. Seetharam, in the presence of Captain Nautiyal from the INS Darshak, at the seat of the Ministry in Ebène. The data is also being used by National Hydrographic Office in Dehradun, India, for verification and for the production of the navigational charts as per the standards of the International Hydrographic Organisation.

The hydrographic surveys followed the seventh Indo-Mauritian Joint Meeting held in Mauritius from 22 to 24 February 2012. During the meeting, various stakeholders namely the Ministry of Fisheries, the National Coast Guard, the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure and the Mauritius Research Council presented their requirements for 2012. Those included the bathymetric survey of the southern coast of Mauritius from Le Morne to Le Chaland and the other off the coast of Le Morne to meet the requirements of the various stakeholders for the placement of fish aggregating devices and the survey of Le Morne.

Cooperation in the field of hydrography between the two nations follows the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Mauritius and India in October 2005. Some 18 hydrographic surveys around Mauritius, Agalega islands, St Brandon shoals and Port Mathurin harbour and its approaches have been completed since the first Joint Indo-Mauritian committee held in Mauritius in 2006.

Moreover, five new navigational charts have been produced and are available for sale under the protocol on the sale of navigational charts signed on 2 April 2009. The MoU between India and Mauritius has also contributed to the success of the claim for the extended continental shelf for Mauritius and provides for capacity building for local officers.

Bilateral Cooperation in Hydrography between Mauritius and India

A half-day workshop aiming to encourage women and girls to opt for a career in ICT was held on 17 May 2012 at Cyber Tower 1, in Ebène. An initiative of the National Computer Board (NCB), the workshop was held in the context of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2012.

The WTISD theme on “Women and Girls in ICT” has as objective to ensure that women and girls are empowered to be equal in the information or smart society for all.

The workshop also served as a platform to raise awareness on the use and role of ICTs in creating opportunities for a better life for women and girls.

Discussions focused on Women Experience in ICT (Women in ICT Strategy and leadership, Software Development, Telecommunications and Engineering, Systems and Database Administration, and Information Security); and Work from Home (Work From Home Model, and ICT–Employment Opportunities for Women to Work from Home).
**Communication Technology**
**Mauritius to migrate from 7-digit Mobile Numbering Plan to 8-digit**

The implementation of the 8-Digit Mobile Numbering Plan for Mobile Networks for Mauritius was the focus of a one-day multi-stakeholder consultative workshop held at the Hennessy Park Hotel, in Ebène.

The workshop addressed the scheduled period for the implementation of the plan by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and the Information and Communication Technologies Authority.

Representatives from the Government, telecoms service providers, the private sector, consumer organisations and civil society participated in this exercise.

**The present numbering set-up**

At present, under the National Numbering Plan for Mobile Networks, mobile telephone numbers in Mauritius are made up of seven digits. The seven digit numbering plan dates from 1989. In view of the revolutionary changes that have taken place in the ICT sector from that time, there is now a need to migrate to an 8-digit numbering plan to cater for the increasing demand for telephone numbers, especially for mobile phones whose sales are booming.

Out of a population of approximately 1.3 million in Mauritius, there are approximately 1,275,000 mobile phone subscribers, of which 1,171,982 are prepaid and 102,238 are post-paid. Mobile operators have reviewed their internal re-use policy in order to cater for the growing demand of mobile numbers in accordance with guidelines set by the ICT Authority.

Numbering, naming and addressing are intrinsic to the design of communications networks because they provide the information that enable users to be connected.

Mobile numbers in Mauritius are currently nearly depleted and numbering is a scarce resource. Amongst the many other reasons being put forward for a review of the Numbering Plan for Mobile Networks in Mauritius is that the current structure is not as coherent as wished for since numbers allocated for mobile services are interspersed with fixed numbers.

**IT Security and Incident Response**
**CERT-MU obtains affiliation as full member of FIRST**

CERT-MU, a division of the National Computer Board, has obtained affiliation as a full member of the Forum for Incident Response and Security Teams, commonly known as FIRST, which is the premier organisation and recognised global leader in incident response.

This was announced by the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Mr Tassarajen Pillay Chedumbrum, on May 31 at the opening of a half-day workshop under the theme Mobile Hacking and Applications Security at Cybertower 1, Ebène. A brochure Tips to Secure your mobile phone was also launched on this occasion and certificates awarded to participants of an ISO 27001 Training.

The Minister commended the CERT-MU team’s achievement which, he said, will undoubtedly motivate them to respond more effectively to security incidents as it will have access to best practices and trusted communication with international CERTs.

The objective of the half-day workshop was to create awareness on the importance of ensuring greater security implementations for mobile phones and applications since organisations, both public and private, rely on these devices for their daily work.

Discussions focused on the following topics: Mobile risks and countermeasures, Design considerations for enterprise mobile security, and Android applications security. Resource persons were from CERT-MU, TNT Express and Knowledge Seven.

**CERT-MU**

The Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius has three main objectives namely: handle security incidents and monitor security problems occurring within public and private sectors; give guidance to providers of critical information infrastructure to adopt best practices in information security; and warn and educate systems administrators and users about latest information security threats and suggest countermeasures by means of information dissemination.
Nurturing new partners
Captains of the business industry explore investment avenues

Some 200 business leaders and policy makers from across Asia and Africa participated in a one-day interactive summit with focus on “Leadership in a Globalised World: Nurturing New Partners”, held on 30 May 2012 at the Grand-Baie International Conference Centre

A joint initiative of the All India Management Association (AIMA) and the Board of Investment, Enterprise Mauritius, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Indian High Commission, the summit was geared towards building through leadership in emerging markets.

In his keynote address, the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr Xavier-Luc Duval, observed that the financial sector of Mauritius, despite its reliance on Europe, should constantly keep re-inventing strategies so as to remain competitive and face forthcoming challenges.

According to him, Mauritius should spare no efforts into maintaining the good reputation of its financial sector as a sound, stable, transparent and internationally recognised by its counterparts. Government, Mr Duval said, in view of the future economic development of Mauritius, is fully committed to position the country as a fully-fledged regional hub and a trading and services platform for Africa beyond the country being just a gateway.

For his part the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection, Mr Cader Sayed-Hossen, highlighted that as Africa emerges as a new frontier for investment and trade, Mauritius, with its special relations with countries as part of regional and continental initiatives under COMESA, SADC and the African Union, can act as a platform for a triangular cooperation that will link India and Africa. This is a new venture which both the private sectors of India and Mauritius together with Africa should explore, he added.

The Indian Minister of State for Communications and IT, Mr Sachin Pilot, pointed out that the summit was a platform for the Indian business community to expose to Mauritian entrepreneurs the vast business opportunities available in India. He added that India can use Mauritius as gateway to diversify its market into Africa, especially in the field of technology. Mauritius and India can further boost bilateral trade by reinforcing collaboration in two key areas namely, the energy sector and value-added services particularly mobile telephony where both countries can harness benefits, he stressed.

Several themes as regards the new competitive challenges, financial and social issues in the current times of uncertainty were on the agenda. Among these: Re-inventing strategies for emerging markets; Building competitive advantage through global partnerships; Igniting innovation, and Skills and Talent Management; and, Investing for Growth.
Taxation and Investment
Mauritius and Kenya sign two agreements

A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) and an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) between Mauritius and Kenya were signed on 7 May 2012 in Port Louis by the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr Xavier-Luc Duval, and the Minister of Finance of Kenya, Mr Robinson Njeru Githae.

The DTAA which will give a further spur to the positive evolution of economic ties between the two countries will provide greater tax certainty for businessmen while making clear the taxing rights of Mauritius and Kenya on income arising from cross-border economic activities. The objective is to bring the competitiveness of Kenyan companies at par with that of other African countries already having tax treaties with Mauritius.

As regards the IPPA, it will give a boost to cross-border investment by protecting investors from direct or indirect double taxation, enhance commercial and economic relations and broaden investment opportunities for the business community. It will also make it easier for them to invest capital and repatriate their investments and profits to their respective countries.

The IPPA will cover the key issues such as scope and definition of investment, admission and establishment, national treatment, most-favoured-nation treatment, fair and equitable treatment, compensation in the event of expropriation or damage to the investment, guarantees of free transfers of funds, and dispute settlement mechanisms, both State to State and investor-State.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Prime Minister Duval, underlined that Mauritius is making tremendous efforts to ensure its contribution to the development of the African continent. According to him, Africa is an emerging market and is growing at a fast pace, registering a growth rate of over 6%. Mr Duval stressed that Mauritius, being an emerging economy and due to its strategic location, has a central role in facilitating trade and investment in the region.

Mauritius is positioning itself as a financial centre of substance in the region in investment and trade sector and investors are encouraged to tap the African market, said the Vice-Prime Minister. Mauritius has opened up to foreign inward investment/business with attractive facilitation measures in a number of areas namely, Seafood Hub, Business Process Outsourcing and Integrated Resort Schemes (IRS).

The Minister of Finance of Kenya, Mr Robinson Njeru Githae, for his part, described the agreements as a significant achievement that demonstrates the commitment of both countries towards promoting cooperation and consolidating efforts in areas of mutual interests. He recalled that negotiations between Mauritius and Kenya started two years back and that both agreements will encourage trade and growth among the African countries. The two agreements will encourage Kenyan companies to invest in Mauritius and seek expertise in the fields of sugar, tourism and yacht and ship building, he said.

Mauritius has so far signed 13 Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements and 5 Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements with several African countries and the country is envisaging to sign in the days to come, a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, with the Republic of Gabon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
A Judicial Training Workshop on the New York Arbitration Convention (NYAC) of 1958, was held on 3 May 2012, at the Trou aux Biches Resort in the presence of the Chief Justice, Mr Y. K. J. Yeung Sik Yuen.

Chiefs Justices and Judges from Malawi, Botswana, Burundi, Seychelles, Zambia, Rwanda, Lesotho, Tanzania, Mozambique, Namibia, Zanzibar, Swaziland and South Africa along with Mauritian Judges participated in the two-day workshop.

The high-level international arbitration workshop was organised by the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) in collaboration with the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). Delegates from the PCA, ICCA, and the International Commission of Jurists also attended.

The focus was on the implementation by national court judges of the 1958 NYAC on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention).

The training programme which was specifically designed for senior judicial officers from Mauritius and other Southern African countries, provided a platform for capacity building amongst Mauritian and African judges with regard to the implementation of the NYAC.

The workshop was the first in a series of high-profile ICCA roadshows, giving Mauritius the opportunity for international exposure and standard-setting to judiciaries the world over. The participation of judges from other African jurisdictions was also an opportunity for knowledge-sharing and regional cooperation as well as showcasing Mauritius as an arbitral venue.

Introductory Seminar on International Arbitration

In the same line, some 50 legal practitioners in Mauritius attended on 2 May 2012 a one-day introductory seminar on International Arbitration organised by the PCA and the Young ICCA. The seminar which was held at the Labourdonnais Hotel, Caudan Waterfront gave a practical overview of international arbitration laws and procedures.

The seminar was a follow-up to the Mauritius International Arbitration conference 2010, organised by the Government of Mauritius in collaboration with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the International Centre for Settlement Centre of Investment Disputes, the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Council for Commercial Arbitration and the London Court of International Arbitration.
The Université des Mascareignes Bill which provides for the establishment of the Université des Mascareignes was passed by the National Assembly on 15 May 2012.

The new University will take over the functions of the Institut Supérieur de Technologie (IST) and the Swami Dayanand Institute of Management (SDIM). It is the fourth in the line after the University of Mauritius, the University of Technology Mauritius and the Open University, which reflects Government’s vision for the emergence of Mauritius as a knowledge hub in the region.

With the merging of the IST and the SDIM, the University will serve as an innovative university model that will leverage on the strength of these two institutions and will provide polytechnic oriented students an option to obtain a university degree with the support of well regarded foreign universities.

The Université des Mascareignes will incorporate a dimension of the French system of education and offer programmes in both English and French. As part of its functions, it will confer programmes and courses of study at the degree, diploma, certificate and other academic distinctions with at a first stage focusing on technology in the disciplines such as engineering, information systems and financial sectors.

The proposed University will comprise initially a Faculty of Sustainable Development and Engineering, a Faculty of Business and Management and a Faculty of Information and Communication Technology.

It will provide multi-level tertiary education including continuing professional education while making provision for the recognition of prior and experiential learning and flexibility for transition between programmes.

According to the Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, Dr R. Jeetah, the new University will have the potential to attract top international talents to study locally in quality technical education at degree level. In due course, he adds, the University envisages to develop into a centre of excellence in the Mauritian higher education landscape and to become a symbol of technology and innovation in the local regional university sector through its international and multi disciplinary approach.

It will be recalled that tertiary education access in Mauritius is about 45% to 46%. The target is to increase the gross tertiary enrolment ratio to over 70% by 2015.
Counter-terrorism
Mauritius hosts 2nd Regional East African Judicial Officers Training Workshop

The Second Regional East African Judicial Officers Training Workshop on Counter-terrorism, Transnational Crimes and International Criminal Justice was held from 15 to 18 May 2012 at Tamassa Resort, Bel Ombre.

Participants comprised mostly of senior judicial officers from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Southern Sudan, the Seychelles and Mauritius.

An initiative of the International Crime in Africa Programme of the Institute for Security Studies, South Africa, the International Commission of Jurists, Kenya, and the Mauritius Judiciary, the workshop aimed at supporting the development of specialised expertise and knowledge of senior judicial officers within the East African region on matters relating to complex transnational, organised and international crimes.

Discussions focused on terrorism in Africa, key criminal justice mechanisms to respond to terrorism, the international Criminal Justice and its relevance to Africa, practical aspects of adjudicating international crimes before the International Criminal Court and domestically, piracy, human trafficking, money laundering and cyber crimes in East Africa.

It will be recalled that terrorism as well as transnational and organised crimes pose a major threat in the African region. These crimes, coupled with the prevalence of a culture of impunity and the lack of effective legal policies and framework on maritime, land and cyberspace in Africa are deemed to have a devastating impact on the development, stability and maintenance of security and peace in the region.

In East African countries, the reality is that many States lack the required laws and specialised agencies as well as capacity to deal efficiently and effectively with those international crimes within their domestic criminal justice systems. In the light of that reality, the first Regional East African Judicial Officers Training Workshop on International Criminal Justice, Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crimes was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in September 2010. The workshop saw the participation of 80 Chief Justices and Judicial Officers. Among the recommendations of the workshop was the holding of the regional annual training.