GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME
2012 - 2015
HIGHLIGHTS
The Second Session of the Fifth National Assembly opened on 16 April 2012 with the reading of the Government Programme 2012-2015 by the Acting President of the Republic of Mauritius, Mrs Monique Ohsan-Bellepeau, at the Sir Harilal Vaghjee Memorial Hall, Government House, Port Louis.

The Government sets out its priorities for three years in the ‘Government Programme 2012-2015: Moving the Nation Forward’. The document summarises Government’s key achievements and main goals for the future - both legislative and non-legislative.

The 2012-2015 Government Programme focuses on the following key areas: Prosperity for All; Enhanced Connectivity; Empowering People; Cohesive Society; Strong Nation; and Sustainability.

With this new Programme, Government aims to direct its national effort to achieve greater prosperity, raise the skills and capacities of the people, harness the power of technology, modernise and streamline institutions, accelerate innovation in existing industries, and encourage diversification and growth in new and more sophisticated sectors.

Government, according to the Programme, will prioritise the Maurice Ile Durable project and maintain its unflinching determination to nurture a more inclusive, plural and cohesive society based on human dignity, equality of treatment, economic efficiency and social justice.
Prosperity for all, key to quality of life

The thrust for prosperity constitutes a key element of the 2012-2015 Programme.

Government will endeavour to revamp existing economic sectors as well as focus on new emerging ones to encourage growth, investment and job creation so as to withstand the difficult current global situation.

The challenge is to prepare the economy and society for the required change and continuous delivery of a strong, stable and inclusive growth and to enable the entire population to thrive and lead a better quality of life.

The focus will be on the following sectors:

**Economy, Public Finances, Investment and Financial Services**

Government remains committed to the principles that have led towards growth improvement in the last seven years through an open and market friendly environment that characterises economic democratisation. With the new challenges facing the domestic economy, Government is envisaging to reduce the economic dependence on Europe as a key market and to tap other markets. The measures include:

- Setting up of a National Strategic Transformation Commission that will make recommendations on optimal use of resources, inclusive growth, sustainable development, urban planning, land zoning as well as promotion of new sectors.
- Ensuring that macroeconomic policies are appropriate and that the country's finances remain sound in the wake of the Euro zone problems.
- Public sector debt as a ratio of GDP will be further brought down from 54% to 51% by 2015
- The Mauritius Revenue Authority will be provided with additional resources and use the “tax gap” analysis to ensure that all those who should be paying taxes meet their obligations to society.
- A major rationalisation of para-statal bodies and State Owned Enterprises will be undertaken to improve cost-effectiveness, quality of services and optimal use of human resources. Following a success in the cane industry, a similar exercise will be initiated for all academic research institutions which will be merged under one institutional umbrella by end 2013.
- To stimulate investment, focus will be maintained on improving the doing business climate and in providing clear and transparent guidelines for investors. The target is to focus FDI promotion efforts to sectors with high wage potential.
- Mauritius has made considerable progress in positioning its International Financial Centre (IFC) as a jurisdiction of sound repute which has adopted international norms and best practices. Government will assist the diversification of the financial industry by upgrading the legal and regulatory framework in addition to encouraging the industry to ensure that it is seen as a value addition IFC.
- Government will encourage domestic service providers to offer innovative financial products and to improve access to financial services for all sections of the population.
- Government will encourage the financial sector to provide fully integrated services and more actively tap opportunities in Africa.
Government has enacted new legislation to facilitate the establishment of an arbitration centre in Mauritius and will actively promote the use of the jurisdiction for international arbitration.

Employment

To address the structural problems faced by workers to find jobs and the scarcity of skilled workers on the market, several projects are in the pipeline among which:

- The implementation of the Decent work Country Programme, training and employment opportunities for the youth under the National Youth Programme, upgrading of the Employment Information Centres and the setting up of a national employment resource centre to offer counseling services.

- Development of a new National Training Strategy to ensure reforms in education and training to cater for the skills needs of the country for 2012-2025.

- Introduction of a Skills Pledge for employers to invest in continuous training and empowerment of employees.

New Sectors and New Markets

Government also envisages tapping the immense potential of the country as an Ocean State, as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Mauritius is one of the largest in the world. This is a key channel through which the country can advance economically to greater prosperity.

Mauritius will be making further submissions to the UN with respect to other parts of our continental shelf, including around the Chagos Archipelago which is an integral part of its territory.

With the expansion of the country’s spatial boundaries, the development of scientific knowledge and business opportunities as well as the country’s rights over the waters and subsoil of the EEZ and Continental Shelf will be explored and Mauritius will have access to potentially vast natural and mineral resources in the coming years. The Mauritius Oceanographic Institute will be called upon to carry out fundamental and applied research on the ocean industry.

SMEs

Government will continue to prioritise the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector as they are the key channel through which new practices, new jobs and innovation occur and important for economic democratisation. Measures include:

- Formulation of an Action Plan for the robust monitoring and evaluation of all SME programmes and Business Development Schemes.

- Review of the legal framework to modernise the cooperative sector and enable cooperatives to adapt to the new economy. The Cooperative model will be further promoted amongst youths and women as an alternative way of doing business.

- Extension of the Fair Trade certification facilities to cooperatives.
Tourism

The main thrust of Government policy for enhanced growth in the tourism sector will be on more visitors from more countries, more spending per tourist, and more tourism products. It will achieve this by acting on three main fronts: attractiveness, visibility and accessibility.

Government proposes to reinforce security and safety measures by hotels, formulate an official rating system for hotels, restructure the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority and adopt an eco-labelling standard for tourism. A new boost to the pristine outer island territories will also be provided by looking for selective and targeted investment opportunities for new high-end eco-tourism.

Manufacturing

As regards the manufacturing sector, emphasis will be on rebalancing exports through market intelligence, focused export promotion campaigns, and improved visibility of Mauritian products to capture new opportunities in existing and emerging markets.

This would be achieved through:

- Promotion of a Cluster Based Approach in the Manufacturing sector.
- Introduction of an Industrial Productivity Enhancement Programme.
- Formulation of an Industrial Technology Development Plan.
- Establishment of dedicated technology parks for the promotion of specialised activities in several fields.
- Development of a new industrial investment strategy.
- Effective implementation of anti-dumping and countervailing legislation to safeguard the interests of domestic industries.

Regional Cooperation

In its endeavour to broaden the economic space, Government is also promoting opportunities for increasing cross-border investment and trade in the region including the setting up of Special Economic Zones and improving air connectivity to Africa and facilitating the movement of business people and tourists.
Connectivity, both in virtual and physical terms, is a critical aspect which a country with high ambitions needs to explore to the fullest to be at par with the rest of the world.

In order to enable Mauritius attain new heights of growth, spending in ICT and infrastructure (port, airport, and road) remains a priority.

**ICT**

To make Mauritius an Intelligent Island, measures include:

- Creation of the right ecosystem to connect each and every household with at least 1 megabyte per second by 2015.

- Full implementation of the WiFi Mauritius Programme for the provision of free Internet access points across Mauritius and Rodrigues.

- Provision of a Braille PC to all visually impaired students over the coming three years.

- Access of internet to all needy students at affordable price and discount for needy SC and HSC students on their broadband internet bill.

- Promotion of innovative technologies including mobile applications to enable citizens to interact with one another and with government through the internet and social networks.

- Setting up of an ICT Academy in a bid to upgrade human capital in the ICT/BPO sector and generate more value-added per worker.

- Amendment of the Data Protection Act to incorporate new international data protection principles and attract further investment in the ICT sector.

**Roads, port and airport**

Investment in infrastructure is necessary to improve the lives of citizens and for long-term growth. Therefore road, port, and airport development is essential.

To maximise ease of transit across the island, a number of road projects will be implemented:

- Increase of the allocation of the road sector to Rs 11 billion in 2014.

- Widening of existing motorways by 2015.

- Creation of a major nationwide Mass Transit System. Work on the first phase of the MTS - the Light Rail Transit - will start by 2013.

- Boosting investment in the road sector for the period 2012-2015 with the introduction of Public Private Partnership (PPP) schemes.

  The first PPP ventures will cover the construction of the Harbour Bridge, the Port Louis Ring Road (phase 2) and the A1-M1 bridge. These projects will involve private investments to a tune of above Rs 20 billion.

Furthermore, to expand and modernise the port and airport with a view to extending their regional span, Government will:

- Accelerate the implementation of the Master Plan for the modernisation and development of the port.

- Complete in 2015 the extension and strengthening of the MCT Quay at Port Louis Harbour.

- Secure a strategic partner for the Cargo Handling Corporation Ltd to increase the volume of container traffic and contribute to the investment in port infrastructure and equipment.

As regards enhanced air access, Air Mauritius will finalise its proposals for a strategic partner to help achieve greater global connectivity and efficiency.
Empowering People

Government undertakes to further invest in the development of its people and puts special emphasis on children, education, youth and sports, women, social integration, the elderly, consumers and workers.

Children

Health is crucial for the well-being of children’s growth and development. In this context, Government pledges to provide a Child Health Passport to the parents of every newborn. This document will be regularly updated for a timely identification of any basic health issue and shift to a more preventive health culture within families.

So that no single child is deprived of the opportunity for self-development during these critical foundation years, “Crèches de Quartier” will be set up across all the districts. Consequently, over the next three years, Government will facilitate the setting up of 25 ‘Crèches de Quartier’ each year. However, priority will be given to the 43 large National Housing Development Company Ltd estates where “Syndics” are being set up as well as in designated villages.

Moreover, Government proposes to formulate and implement a rights-based and comprehensive National Child Protection Strategy to further enhance the rights of children, and to introduce a Consolidated Children’s Bill to address the issues of safety for children as well as cases of abuse of children.

Education

As regards education, Government is laying emphasis on the promotion of universal, compulsory, free and quality basic education. As such, Government proposes the introduction of a new Education Act so as to align the educational sector with international best practices.

Education is a pressing concern for Government and getting all children to attend school is only part of the challenge. Thus, as from January 2013, Pre-Primary education will be made compulsory for the age group 3 to 5 so as to ensure that no single child is denied the opportunity for early self-development. Moreover, a support scheme to empower private pre-primary schools to improve the quality of care and education will be introduced.

As part of its educational reform, Government will review the CPE exams, including the current system of certification and allocation of seats in view of ensuring that all children benefit from overall development and progress throughout all stages of the primary cycle. A new programme for ZEP schools will also be implemented to sustain good practices and replicate support mechanisms for all children with learning difficulties.

The promotion of collaborative learning practices being on Government’s agenda, each Standard IV child attending publicly-funded primary schools will be provided over the next three years with a rugged power efficient children’s laptop.

The legal and institutional framework for the management and operation of private secondary schools will be reviewed and the role and function of the Private Secondary Schools Authority will be re-examined so as to enhance support to private secondary schools.

The National Form III Assessment, formerly introduced on a pilot basis, will be rolled out in all secondary schools to gauge the level of students after the first three years of secondary schooling and remedial measures will be taken for further improvement.

Regarding the Higher School Certificate (HSC) level, Government will extend the Scholarship Scheme on a regional basis so as to provide more opportunities for students who excel in HSC examinations.
In its bid to make Mauritius a knowledge hub, Government will present the Tertiary Education Bill. The Bill will provide a framework for the development and regulation of tertiary education in Mauritius as well as provide the Tertiary Education Commission with enhanced tools to ensure Quality Assurance across the tertiary educational sector.

Furthermore, a Multimedia Centre will be set up with a view to coordinating all technology related projects in education within the framework of the forthcoming Open University of Mauritius.

In order to support the transition of graduates to the workplace, Government will set up a comprehensive National Graduate Internship Scheme.

Youth and Sports

Government acknowledges that investing in the youth is investing in the future. With a view to encouraging youngsters to actively engage in debates on national and international issue, an “Assises de la Jeunesse” – a forum for Youth Clubs will be organised annually.

A national plan for the dissemination of street football and minisoccer across the islands will be prepared in order to support popular interest in football and to promote active youth engagement in their regions.

Giving further impetus to Sports as a discipline for self and collective development is another Government goal. In this context, an Integrated Strategic Plan for Sports in collaboration with the sports federations and the National Olympic Committee will be prepared.

Women

Gender equality, with a focus on women’s economic empowerment is an integral part of Government’s democratisation agenda. Government will therefore come forward with innovative SME schemes to further reinforce support to women entrepreneurs.

As regards reproductive health, Government will present a White Paper on the subject to facilitate the formulation of modern policies that provide women with better information and services in this area.

Domestic violence is considered as one of the worst violations of human rights. In its attempt to end gender-based violence and to promote family welfare, Government will implement a National Action Plan. Furthermore, consultations with all stakeholders will be pursued to finalise a Victim Empowerment and Abuser Rehabilitation Policy.

Social integration

Government is committed to eradicate extreme and chronic poverty in the medium term. Consequently, the support provided under the different programmes of the National Empowerment Foundation will be harmonised and made more effective under the Social Register of Mauritius.

Government’s priority for social development is that every family should have a decent housing and the 2012-2015 Government Programme, focuses on housing projects for the benefit of vulnerable groups. As a result, several types of housing units will be offered by the National Housing Development Company Ltd, the National Empowerment Foundation and Private Property Developers. Moreover, the size of the existing Housing Units for the poor will be increased taking into consideration the family size and affordability.

Families falling under the poverty line who are not in receipt of a housing grant but who wish to upgrade their houses will also benefit from Government’s support. In addition, special consideration will be given to fire victims with a view to providing appropriate accommodation immediately after their dwellings are destroyed.

Education is a catalyst of development and crucial to helping people overcome poverty. With the aim of
helping primary students who are from less privileged background, Government will, introduce a one-off cash transfer where attendance rate is over 90% and the student has successfully completed yearly examinations. Furthermore, the one-off cash transfer will be increased for those who succeed in their Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examinations.

Significant amendments will be brought to the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act and the National Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act with a view to giving a new boost to training and employment of persons with disabilities. Government also proposes to introduce a Disability Bill to provide further protection to persons with disabilities against all forms of discrimination.

In addition, Government will set up a Respite Care Centre with a view to providing specialised rehabilitative services and leisure facilities to persons with disabilities.

**Senior citizens**

Government intends to bring necessary amendments to the National Pensions Act with the aim of strengthening the management structure of the National Pension Fund and the National Savings Fund while upholding the element of good governance.

An Observatory on ageing to carry out action oriented research on the socio-economic aspects of ageing, and a Legal Counseling Programme on property rights for senior citizens to enhance legal and financial protection to the elderly will be set up.

The completion of a third Recreation Centre at Pointe Aux Piments is expected by mid-2013.

Government will further promote IT literacy among the elderly by setting up computer clubs in all the 19 Elderly Day Care Centres by next year.

**Consumers**

The introduction of a legislation to set up a Consumer Ombudsman to address both consumer rights issues and consumers’ complaints as well as a new legislation pertaining to hire purchase and credit sale to strike the right balance between promoting business and protecting consumer rights and interests are on Government’s agenda.

The role of the Price Observatory will also be consolidated by extending its scope to include service sectors, such as banking and finance.

As regards banking institutions, Government will propose legal amendments to improve bank resolution for the benefit of small borrowers to further protect consumers. Moreover, Government will review the whole area of personal loans granted by financial institutions in a bid to make it easier for small borrowers to apply for, receive, service their loans and to create effective dispute resolution mechanisms.

**Workers**

Ensuring better protection of workers’ rights and providing safer and more conducive working conditions, is the intent of Government. In this respect, necessary amendments will be brought to the existing labour legislation.

Government will launch a three year National Youth Employment Programme for those aged between 16 and 25 years to provide them with apprenticeship, training and placement in various sectors of the economy. Besides, a stipend will be offered to the unemployed youth and their training costs will be subsidised by Government.
Society
Moving the Society Forward

Access to efficient public services, secure environment and provision of clean, safe and pleasant neighbourhoods are among the leading principles of the 2012-2015 Government Programme to ensure that the foundation of the society is steady and resolute.

Access to Better Health Services

With regard to health, investment will be made in infrastructure projects such as the setting up of a specialised hospital for women, construction of a Paediatric hospital, increase of bed capacity, and setting up of a mid-way home for the rehabilitation of patients at Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre. Measures will also be taken to decrease the incidence of cancer. These include the setting up of a National Cancer Centre, additional radiotherapy facilities, reinforced screening programme and the preparation of an Action Plan.

Furthermore, to decrease the incidence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD), provision will be made for ‘Agents de Santé Communautaires’ to visit households so as to provide counseling and empower the population to adopt a healthy lifestyle. The NCD Control Programme will also be reinforced. The building of human resource capacity is another component outlined in the Government Programme. As such, diploma courses in specialised fields such as diabetes and cervical cancer will be organised.

Other measures include: implementation of a National Food Safety Action Plan, aggressive campaign to address stigmatisation and discrimination as regards HIV and setting up of Drop-in Centres in each health region.

Housing

In a bid to strengthen social and cultural integration, Government is making provision for social and recreational housing facilities through its mixed housing concept, with the construction of housing units and the provision of ‘site and services’ plots.

Enhancing Law and Order

The Government Programme also underlines that law and order is one of the main priorities of Government. As such, several measures will be put in place to ensure that citizens are better protected through an improved policing and legal system.

The measures include:

- Extension of the CCTV Surveillance System to cover other areas around the country.
- Recruitment of 5,000 Trainee Police Constables by 2015.
- Introduction of a Police Complaints Bill for the setting up of a Police Complaints Division within the National Human Rights Commission.
- Introduction of a Police and Criminal Evidence Bill providing for Codes of Conduct that will regulate the conduct of police.
- Implementation of the provisions of the Bail Act relating to the introduction of the electronic monitoring mechanism.
- Upgrading of the Forensic Science Laboratory to enhance the use of DNA analysis.
- Establishment of a Transnational Organised Crime Unit with a view to combating international and other serious crimes.
- Replacement of the 999 Analogue Emergency Call System with a new digital Emergency Responses Management System.
- Installation of a new security system with latest available technologies at the arrival and departure points at the airport and port.
- Construction of a new Headquarters for the National Coast Guard and acquisition of new aircrafts and boats.
- Introduction of a new legislation to assist and protect victims and witnesses so as to better safeguard the rights and interests of victims.
Judiciary

As regards the judiciary, the Government will introduce legislation to set up the Court of Appeal Section and High Court Section of the Supreme Court as well as to change the composition of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission to include participation of the civil society. Other measures spelt out include: creation of a full-fledged Family Division within the High Court, development of a Special Witness Scheme, update of the Code de Procédure Civile, and review of the Legal Aid Act to broaden the scope of legal assistance.

Modernisation of Civil Service

The modernisation of the Civil Service is another component of the Government Programme. Resources will be provided to sustain the delivery of high quality services with efficiency and dedication. Legislation will also be introduced to set up a Civil Service College in Moka. A Project Management and Delivery Unit under the Prime Minister’s Office will be set up to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the Government Programme and of major projects and supervise the implementation of all public sector projects within agreed deadlines and in accordance with best international practices.

Improving Quality of Life

Emphasis is also being laid on quality of life of Mauritians and as such a Quality of Life Report Card will be introduced with the aim of gathering citizens’ views about what matters to them for a better quality of life. A Safer Communities and Neighbourhood Act will be introduced and will have as objective to support and encourage community-based efforts to improve neighbourhood safety and increase neighbourhood livability.

Furthermore, a National NGO Policy Paper will be formulated; the penalty point system will be implemented by end 2012 and a Driving, Education and Testing Centre will be operational by end 2013; and all public infrastructure such as schools and stadiums will be optimised to provide greater access to public services and facilities to the population.

Leisure and Culture

The Government Programme also highlights the need to promote more leisure-related activities and bring arts and culture in the mainstream of the economy.

Some of the measures which will be put in place are:

- Improvement of Community Leisure facilities to encourage more vibrant communities.
- Introduction of innovative and creative activities for children during weekends and school holidays.
- Setting up of community-based model kitchen gardens and Agricultural Women Clubs.
- Setting up of intergenerational drama and music/dance groups to promote different types of art, music and dance styles.
- Encouraging the licensing of Free to Air Private TV channels.
- Provision of a range of musical instruments to all schools.
- Opening of additional Centres de Formation Artistique.
- Construction of a modern infrastructure at Moka to house archives with works.
- Review of existing Assistance Scheme for Artists in a bid to boost artistic creativity and excellence in arts.
- Introduction of a Copyright Bill.
- Introduction of a Film Commission Bill to give more impetus to the cinema industry.
Building a Strong Nation

In a bid to ensure the advancement of Mauritius, a greater sense of belongingness in the people will be fostered, along with more prosperity and democracy.

Focus will be on constitutional reforms, integrity, diplomacy, nurturing proud and responsible citizens, improved local government services, as well as moving Rodrigues and the Outer Islands forward.

Constitutional Reforms

Constitutional reforms comprise:

- Review of Constitutional regime by ensuring that the country has an electoral system which is more equitable and which promotes nation building and provides for better representation of women.

The constitutional review will also look at the powers and mode of election of the President

- Introduction of new enabling legislation which makes provision for the people to be consulted by way of referendum on major constitutional and other issues.

- Revitalisation of the role of Parliament by inviting the National Assembly to engage in thematic debates.

Sense of Integrity

Measures to nurturing a sense of integrity include:

- Reinforcement of the capacity of public bodies to deter and detect risks of corruption in their respective systems and procedures.

- Training of public officers to act as “Integrity Officers” in order to complement the Anti-Corruption Framework.

- Adoption by public bodies of Corruption Risk Management techniques as a second phase of the implementation of the Public Sector Anti Corruption Framework.

- Intensification of anti-corruption education for the youth as a measure to build a corrupt-free future generation.

- Introduction of amendments to reinforce the existing legal framework, taking into consideration the observations of the Parliamentary Committee on ICAC.

- Training initiatives regarding professionalism and highest ethical conduct in the media.

Appropriate legislative amendments will be introduced to protect the interests of all citizens against invasion of privacy and unfounded attacks on their integrity or character.

Diplomacy

The Government Programme also underlines the need for a restatement of the Mauritian diplomacy at the service of the economy. To that end, several measures are spelt out:

- Enactment of a Foreign Service Act to revitalise the diplomatic service.

- Appropriate training for diplomats and a reinforced framework for Foreign Service.
• Strengthening cooperation with traditional partners, and developing strategic economic partnerships with emerging countries in Africa, Asia, the Gulf and Latin America.

• New Mission Statement for Foreign Service that focuses on promotion of Mauritius as an investment destination and on trade and services agreements.

• Reinforcement of capacity to participate in bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements to promote the interests of Mauritius.

Nurturing Responsible Citizens

Furthermore, in order to nurture responsible citizens who are proud of their national identity, a National Institute for Civic Education will be set up. Its main objective will be to instill character and nurture good citizens.

An initial pilot project will be run during the December 2012 school holidays for some 200 youths.

Improving Local government

Measures for improved local government services comprise:

• Implementation of a new Solid Waste Management Strategy. Consultancy Services for the setting up of an Interim Hazardous Waste Facility at La Chaumière will be awarded this year.

• Introduction of the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service Bill in the National Assembly by August 2012.

• Construction of the new Rose Belle Fire Station by the end of 2012. Two new Fire Stations at Goodlands and Montagne Blanche will be constructed in 2014-2015.

• Introduction of a Land Use Planning Bill to provide for strategic and detailed planning processes to promote investment opportunities and orderly development.

In accordance with the new Local Government Act, arrangements will be made for the splitting of the District Councils to bring services closer to local communities; the development of a new Grant In Aid formula to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of central government grant amongst Local Authorities; and the setting up of the Unified Local Government Service Board to optimise human capital in local authorities.
Rodrigues

Government will strengthen its partnership with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to promote the sustainable development of the island to allow the decentralised system to grow to its full potential and maturity. This will be made possible by:

• Providing support to the modernisation of Rodrigues’ infrastructure and further diversification of economic activities in the fields of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Agriculture and Tourism, including eco-tourism.

• Addressing water problem issues.

• Developing the ICT sector through the laying of a sub-marine fibre cable to link Rodrigues to Mauritius.

• Adopting of new strategies to enhance the collaboration between the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the National Empowerment Foundation to put in place poverty alleviation programmes.

• Strengthening of health-related actions and provision of high quality care and treatment to patients.

• Setting up of a Vaccination Centre for international travel and strengthening of laboratory facilities for infectious diseases.

• Formulating and implementing an Action Plan in line with the recommendations of the survey on teenage pregnancies.

• Developing a master plan for hospital infrastructural projects.

• Setting up of a telemedicine facility and introducing a SAMU service.

• Assisting the Regional Assembly, as part of the MID project, to develop a land use and suitability index for the island.

• Putting in place a Land Administration, Valuation and Information Management System to ensure an optimal management of land.

Outer Islands: Agalega

Development in Agalega will comprise the start of construction works this year of the port as well as a new landing strip. A new Refugee Centre in South Island will be built this year whilst new quarters will be provided for the residents.

A new impetus will be given to coconut production by introduction of modern techniques. The use of renewable sources of energy in Agalega such as coconut oil as a substitute for diesel and solar energy will be tapped.

A Leisure Park will be constructed in Agalega to provide for recreational and sports facilities.
Sustainability
The Maurice Ile Durable (MID) vision remains at the core of the Government’s vision to ensure growth along with a better quality of life while being in harmony with nature and environment.

The MID Project which defines the vision of a modern and sustainable society is being implemented in a participative and democratic manner, reflecting the aspirations of the population and creating a strong sense of belonging to the nation.

**Water**

Water remains one of the most critical resources and needs to be judiciously managed. A new approach to its management is needed so as to sustain economic goals and ensure a reliable and satisfactory water supply for the citizens.

The key objectives of Government are to improve Total Water Management System, provide 24/7 potable water to all users, and reducing non-revenue water to a minimum.

To that end, Government will construct a new dam of 14 million cubic meters capacity at Rivière des Anguilles expected to be operational by December 2015, to cater for current and future demand in the south and south west of the island.

These projects combined with actions already taken in recent years, such as the replacement of 140 kms of pipelines and the drilling of eight additional boreholes, would enable Government to attain its objective of 24/7 supply of clean water for the population.

Furthermore, Government will legislate to ensure that hotels are equipped with their own water desalination plants.

**Energy and Green Living**

Energy is another essential ingredient for a good quality of life and crucial for economic activity. Government action will focus on the SEA Strategy, that is Sustainability, Efficiency and Accessibility.

To encourage the use of renewable energy, the following actions are being taken:

- Finalisation of the Master Plan for Renewable Energy.
- Production of electricity through wind turbines of 30 MW which will be fed into the national grid in 2013.
- Encouraging Small Independent Power Producers to increase the renewable energy mix and so further democratise the energy sector.
- Commissioning a grid connected Solar PV farm of up to 10 MW.
- Commissioning a hydro power plant at Midlands.

Furthermore, in a bid to improve environmental health and in line with the MID vision, Government will:

- Launch a national campaign to promote environmental ethics.
- Set up nine Eco-villages, which will demonstrate new ways of life conducive to environmental protection.
- Further promote the concept of waste segregation, recycling and composting.
- Support the School Endemic Garden Project to enable our younger generations to understand the importance of biodiversity.

**Land**

As regards to land use, a Land Use Planning Bill will be introduced to provide for strategic and detailed planning processes to promote investment opportunities and orderly development.
Government will review the Morcellement Act to streamline procedures to ensure that projects comply with sustainability principles.

A Prime Minister’s High Level CLEWS Panel will be appointed to oversee all policies and measures relating to Climate, Land, Energy and Water Strategies. This will ensure better policy coordination and an overall integrated approach to long term planning for future generations.

**Sustainable Fisheries**

Regarding sustainable fisheries, the Fisheries Technical Division’s role will become one of actively engaging with fishers – providing clear guidelines on entitlements and generally assisting in all forms of conflict resolution within and amongst associations and other coastal project developments.

Legislation to provide for the new fisheries management plan will be introduced within a year. By 2013, it is expected that a broad level regional aggregation of output will be in place. By 2015, all coastal regions will be managed using annual catch entitlements giving each fisher ownership of an entitlement which will be freely transferred and aggregated.

Government will develop a fisheries master plan which will analyse and propose options for a comprehensive sustainable fisheries development and management plan for Mauritius and Rodrigues.

**Agro-Industry**

The Government Programme also outlines several measures aimed at modernising and diversifying the cane industry to ensure that this multi-functional cluster becomes more efficient and sustainable.

To ensure a sustainable agro-industrial sector, the recently established Mauritius Cane Industry Authority will as a matter of priority, address the issue of shrinking acreage under cane cultivation. The possibility of managing, on lease, abandoned small planters’ lands is being considered.

Government will continue to diversify and strengthen the agri-food production sector to make it modern, competitive and sustainable, with greater emphasis on securing food supply stability and safety.

Government is proposing a coherent package of priority actions that cut across the agri-food supply chain and which will be implemented in partnership with all stakeholders. They include:

- Redefinition of the land and agricultural policy leading to a better balance between sugarcane and other agricultural production. A new small scale agricultural policy will enhance the role of small planters.
- Innovative financial schemes that promote increased investments in infrastructure and technologies such as small-scale mechanisation, hydroponics, agro-processing and biotechnologies.
- Offer of risk management schemes to stabilise incomes of small farmers including small animal breeders.
- Construction of a modern slaughter house in accordance with international standards to meet export norms.
- Improvement of access to markets, through a wholesale market and a review of the role of the agricultural marketing board.
- Institutional and human capacity building, including women empowerment, with a focus on vocational training programmes for beginner agro-ecology entrepreneurs.
- Strengthening governance to make our institutions deliver more effectively to benefit the farming community and the consumers.