Yearbook 2009
The Public Sector
Yearbook 2009
FOREWORD

The Government Information Service is pleased to present this second edition of the Yearbook. The purpose is to provide readers an insight into the activities of Government in year 2009. We wish to place on record the valuable contribution of Ministries and Departments in the production of this publication.

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Prime Minister’s Office

Law and Order
National Security
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Residence Permits
Prisons
National Aids Secretariat
Commission for Democratisation of the Economy
Foreign visits of the Prime Minister in 2009-Highlights

Visit to Washington, USA

The Prime Minister participated from 2 to 6 February in the 57th National Prayer Breakfast Meeting and had meetings with senior members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as high officials of the new US administration. The Prime Minister visited the Medical School of the University of Maryland which was established in 1807.

Swaziland

The Prime Minister participated on 30 March in the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held in Mbabane, Swaziland.

Mission to France, the United States and the United Kingdom - 21 to 29 September

France

In Paris, the Prime Minister, who was invited by Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO, attended the presentation of a set of gold, silver and bronze commemorative medals on the occasion of the 109th Birth Anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Father of the Nation.

United States

In the United States, the Prime Minister participated in the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly. The general debate focused on the theme “Effective responses to global crisis: strengthening multilateralism and dialogue among civilizations for international peace, security and development.”
The Prime Minister also attended a Working Luncheon with President Obama and the 5th Annual Meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative which aimed at identifying immediate and pragmatic solutions to address the world’s most pressing problems.

The Prime Minister had a bilateral meeting with the newly elected Prime Minister of Nepal, during which they exchanged views on a number of issues such as climate change, development of tourism, the economic crisis and the peace process in Nepal.

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, the Prime Minister met Professor Derek Yellon, Director of the Hatter Cardiovascular Institute, Professor Malcolm Grant, President and Provost, and Sir John Tooke, Vice-Provost of the University College London and Dr Ian Jacobs, Consultant Gynaecologist, who has just been elected Dean of the University College London and Dr Anthony Silverstone, Consultant Gynaecologist.

Trinidad and Tobago

The Prime Minister attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2009 from 27 to 29 November. He was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. The special theme of CHOGM 2009 was “Partnering for a more Equitable and Sustainable Future.” During his mission, the Prime Minister met, amongst others, Mr. Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the UK, Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, Mrs Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia and Mr Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa.
Citizenship Section

The average processing time for applications under the Mauritius Citizenship Act is now two to three months. This processing time will be kept for the next six months.

However, applications received under Section 5 (Registration of Commonwealth citizens) and Section 9 (Naturalisation) have a longer processing time of four to six months due to fact that apart from having a report from Police, other consultations with different stakeholders, such as Ministries, the Registrar of Companies, the Board of Investment or the Financial Services Commission, among others, have to be carried out.

The number of applications received from July 2008 to May 2009 amounts to 856. The Number of Certificates issued from July 2008 to May 2009 is 1047 (this includes previous applications).

Measures to Improve Service Delivery

• Factsheets were designed to give necessary information to guide applicants on the procedures for registering for the Mauritian citizenship and to facilitate the submission of applications. The factsheets and applications forms are available on the PMO web-site

• Extensive use of emails is made to answer to the queries of the public. This ensures a prompt and inexpensive means of communication

• Uninterrupted service is provided during working hours on weekdays

Border Control and Management

The Prime Minister’s Office is responsible for policy matters on border management and control. The Passport and Immigration Office is the implementing agency which controls the access points at the airport and seaport.

With globalisation, Mauritius faces the challenges to open up to the world while maintaining a proper balance on entry of foreigners on its soil. The control is exercised through a system of visa and permits.

Residence Permits and Visas

For the period January to 30 September 2009 the statistics regarding the number of visas and issued permits were as follows:

The number of residence permits issued to foreign workers and long stay amounted to 16,638. Occupation Permits to Investor, Professional, Self-employed and Retired Non-citizen amounted to 1,361.
VISITS OF PM ABROAD

1. Meeting with US Congressman Jim McDermott
2. Visit at Hatter Cardiovascular Institute in UK
3. Greeted by Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago at the CHOGM 2009
4. Posing with the US Presidential couple in New York
5. Conversing with US Secretary of State, Mrs Hilary Clinton
6. Greeted by UNESCO Director General, Koichiro Matsuura
1. Governor-General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce
2. Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Shashi Tharoor
3. Chinese President Hu Jintao
4. European Commissioner for Trade, Baroness Catherine Ashton
5. President Ian Khama Seretse of Botswana
6. Deputy Speaker of House of Commons, Sir Michael Lord
7. Foreign Affairs Minister of Bangladesh, Dr Dipu Moni
8. Assistant US Trade Representative, Ms Florie Liser
Forty-six residence permits were issued to non-citizens who have acquired property under the IRS.

A total of 2,889 visa was issued to foreigners requiring visa prior to undertaking travelling to Mauritius. The number of visa extended was 2,307.

With regard to incoming passengers, entry permits were granted to 777,541 and 25,858 at the Immigration counters on arrival by air and by sea respectively. The number of passengers controlled at the immigration on departure are as follows: by air 808,276 and by sea 25,410.

The number of arrests effected and repatriation in respect of foreigners overstaying in Mauritius amounted to 278.

One of the major activities of Border management was the issue of Mauritian passports. A total of 35,561 Mauritian passports was issued during the period January to 30 September 2009.

**Improved Immigration Control**

The Passport and Immigration Office has implemented since 1 December 2008 a new Border Control System. This system is designed to make several checks from the Passport and Immigration Office database as well to verify the genuineness of travel documents and their validity.

With this system, a bona fide passenger may be cleared on arrival in an overall 45 to 60 seconds and in 35 to 45 seconds on departure.

**US Trafficking in Person Report**

Mauritius has been ranked in the topmost category, Tier 1, in the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report released on 16 June by the US Department of State.

As a Tier 1 category country, Mauritius is considered to be a country that fully complies with the minimum standards of the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 for the elimination of trafficking in persons.

The upgrading of Mauritius to Tier 1 is a major achievement since Mauritius has been in Tier 2 category since 2004, even falling to Tier 2 Watch List category in 2005.
Law and Order and National Security

• Implementation of Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) street surveillance system at Flic en Flac
• Operationalisation of the Central Firearm Index Database at the Central Firearm Index Office for the storage and retrieval of details of persons holding firearm licences in accordance with the provisions of the Firearms Act 2006
• Implementation of new computer system at Passport and Immigration Office for Border control
• The closure of the Police Mechanical Workshop to allow repairs and maintenance of police vehicles to be carried out by the local agents of the respective vehicles with a view to ensuring that such repairs and servicing are carried out in a most effective and professional manner
• The process of acquisition of a Twin-Engine Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter for the Police Force
• The process of formulation of a National Policing Strategic Framework for the Police Force
• The upgrading of the Forensic Science Laboratory in terms of equipment and capacity building with a view to laying more emphasis on scientific evidence
• The Prevention of Terrorism (International Obligations) Act 2008 to allow adherence to various international counter-terrorism instruments
• Judicial Provisions Act 2008 to make better provision in respect of sentencing
• Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act was enacted with the following main objectives:
  (i) to give effect to the United Nations Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons;
  (ii) to prevent and combat trafficking in persons; and
  (iii) to protect and assist victims of trafficking.
• The DNA Identification Act was passed at the National Assembly. The object of the Act is to enable the police, in certain specific circumstances in connection with serious offences, to make use of DNA samples for the purpose of helping to establish the connection or involvement of a person with an offence.

• Negotiations were held for the acquisition of a helicopter and the coastal surveillance system from the Indian Government and a fast patrol boat from the US Government.

Women and Children Solidarity Programme

The Women and Children’s Solidarity Programme was set up in 2007/2008 under the aegis of the Prime Minister’s Office to help women and children in distress or victims of abuse and violence to successfully reintegrate the society. Since its inception, the programme has entertained 26 projects to the tune of Rs 19.4 million.

With the assistance of the UNDP, a coordinator has been appointed to give more visibility to the Programme, and to assist smaller NGOs in project formulation so that the most vulnerable members of the society derive maximum benefit under the Women and Children’s Solidarity Programme.

Truth and Justice Commission

The Truth and Justice Commission Act was passed at the National Assembly on 19 August 2008, and proclaimed by the President of the Republic on 29 January 2009. According to the Act, the functions of the Commission are as follows:

• to conduct inquiries into slavery and indentured labour during the colonial period in Mauritius
• to determine appropriate measures to be extended to descendants of slaves and indentured labourers
• to enquire into a complaint made by a person aggrieved by a dispossession or prescription of any land in which he claims he had an interest
• to prepare a comprehensive report of its activities and findings based on factual and objective information and evidence

The Commission came into operation following the swearing in of its then Chairperson and members before the President of the Republic on 20 March 2009.

To date, the Commission has had 12 hearing sessions and has initiated two major projects, namely a Oral History and Memory project to collect the testimonies of descendants of slaves and indentured and a Land database for the compilation of land transactions occurring in Mauritius since the 18th century by slaves and indentured labourers and their descendants.

The Commission is expected to complete its work by June 2011.
Human Rights

In November 2008, Mauritius submitted its national report under the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism set up by the UN Human Rights Council since 2007. Under this mechanism, the Human Rights records in each UN Member States are reviewed. Our country was subject of this review at the 4th Session of the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review held in Geneva in February 2009. During that exercise, Mauritius was praised for its firm commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and for progress achieved in various areas.

Mauritius was elected in 2006 as a member of Human Rights Council, for a three year term. For the past three years, the Mauritian Government has constantly worked with the international community in a spirit of openness, transparency and cooperation to promote the universal enjoyment of Human Rights. This outstanding performance at various international fora in the field of Human Rights has resulted in the re-election of the country, in May 2009, as member of the Human Rights Council for another term of three years. This re-election is a testimony of the recognition and trust of the international community in our human rights practices.

In addition, Human Rights Education and Sensitisation are high on the agenda of Government. In this context, an Action Plan on Human Rights is currently being finalised in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General and other stakeholders including NGOs and the civil society. The Action Plan aims at developing a strong culture of human rights in Mauritius and improving the observance of human rights in particular for the most vulnerable groups such as women, children, people with HIV/AIDS and the poor.
Maurice Ile Durable and Land-Based Oceanic Industry Projects

On 4 September, a Steering Committee was set up at the level of the Prime Minister’s Office to coordinate the “Maurice Ile Durable” (MID) and Land Based Oceanic Industry (LBOI) projects from a more holistic perspective.

Several organisations have been co-opted in the Committee in view of their close involvement in sustainable development. They are: Agence française de Développement; Delegation of the European Commission in Mauritius; United Nations Development Programme; Joint Economic Council and Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute.

The objectives of the Steering Committee are as follows:

• Harmonising efforts in the MID endeavour, so as to ensure timely implementation of relevant projects
• Looking into all relevant aspects in respect of sustainability
• Monitoring and communicating progress
• Working closely with International Financial Institutions for funding of MID projects

Activities (MID)

1. The Steering Committee on MID aims at achieving the above objectives by reuniting all the major stakeholders. The Committee meets regularly to discuss on new projects being implemented by both Government and the private sector to ensure that these projects are in line with the sustainable development objectives set by Government. The Committee also facilitates wherever possible all MID endeavours.

2. Promoting the MID concept to local stakeholders by participating in talks and forums locally like those organised by the Board of Investment, Mauritius Research Council, University of Mauritius and the Private Sector.

3. Besides, the various Ministries and organisations involved in sustainable development, the Committee is also working closely with the Agence française de Développement, the Delegation of the European Commission in Mauritius and UNDP for funding of MID projects.

4. Assisting and advising the various Ministries/Implementing Agencies as a result of proposals and suggestions made by the Committee members, regarding the implementation of sustainable infrastructure projects.

5. Follow up with Ministries and stakeholders on measures taken in relation to (4).

6. Analysis of green projects received from promoters and investors, and submitting appropriate recommendations to the relevant Ministries/Departments for follow up.
Activities (LBOI)

1. Monitoring progress on the implementation of the Ecopark within the Land Based Oceanic Industry.

2. Assisting the Mauritius Land Based Oceanic Parks Ltd in the formulation of a “cahier de charges” for eco development in the park.

3. Facilitating the implementation of the Project as and when required.

4. Involvement in decision making at Board Level of the Mauritius Land Based Oceanic Parks Ltd.

Future Plans

• Participation in National Consultations on “Maurice Ile Durable”.

• Assist in the organisation of a World Ecological forum in 2010.

Special Road Safety Unit

In the wake of the serious accident at Montebello, Pailles, the Honourable Prime Minister chaired a high level meeting to discuss on measures to reinforce road safety. One of the measures relate to the setting up of a Special Unit under the Prime Minister’s Office which will have, inter alia, the responsibility to:

1. look into the criteria and procedures for the issue of both Driving School Licence and Instructor’s Licence;

2. ensure that the driving Instructors are adequately trained so that they in turn impart the right skills to the aspiring drivers; and

3. examine the issue of construction and use of vehicles especially with regard to chassis for heavy vehicles.

The Unit has started to work on a plan that covers key areas of road safety, namely the road user, the vehicle and the road environment.
MAURITIUS POLICE FORCE

Reorganisation of Units and Branches

A major reorganisation was carried out in the Mauritius Police Force (MPF) so as to optimise human resources and improve the command and control and accountability of Police Officers of all ranks. Certain units and branches were grouped together with a view to optimising manpower deployment, and for better control and coordination at ground level, especially during Police operations or policing of major incidents, disaster management and other major occurrences.

Strategic Capacity Building

With the help of UNDP/UNODC, the MPF is in the process of formulating a National Policing Strategic Framework with objectives to reorganise resources, processes and systems within the Police organisations. The objective is to improve the quality and level of Police performance generally. The National Policing Strategic Framework aims at giving a new vision and direction to the Police over the next 5-7 years.

In this context, several training sessions were held with members of the UNDP. The core team headed by the Commissioner of Police together with a representative of the Prime Minister’s Office went on a study tour to the UK in relation to the National Policing Strategic Framework. The six pillars of the document are:

- Permanent strategic planning capacity
- Human resource management capability
- Investigation practices and infrastructure
- Intelligence-led policing
- Community policing
- Human Rights compliant organisation

Fight Against Drugs

With a view to improving the strategy in the fight against drug dealers and drug trafficking, the ADSU Intelligence Network has been enhanced. Since January to September, 1 883 major cases of drug were detected by ADSU and during which 1584 persons were arrested and charged.

Since January, 13 ADSU officers received training in countries such as France, USA, Canada, Kenya, Botswana, Egypt and Zambia. Seven ADSU Officers were trained locally.

From January to September, ADSU seized 9283 grams of heroine and 52 101.6 grams of cannabis (gandia) and uprooted 26 310 gandia plants.
Community Engagement and Support to Victims.

The specialised units of the MPF namely the Crime Prevention Unit, the *Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs*, the Police Family Protection Unit were very active in providing support, counselling and lectures to victims of crime, specially women and children.

A National Police Security Week and Exhibitions were held at the Curepipe Municipal Town Hall which aimed at sensitising the public on crime prevention measures, road safety and security issues. Similar activities are scheduled in 2010 at Central Flacq and Mahebourg.

Road Safety

The Traffic Branch was reorganised and restructured with a view to increasing road safety, intervention and evacuation processes during major road accidents.

A new Highway Patrol Scheme was set up to patrol and provide 24-hour cover on the highway. Likewise, Divisional Traffic Police was set up to enhance road safety on the main road in the rural areas and 250cc motorcycles would be acquired.

To improve processes and service delivery at the licensing unit of the Traffic Branch an E-Business Plan was devised. The Plan project is at feasibility study stage. It is expected that by 2011 the system will be fully implemented.

Fight Against Crime

In a bid to win the battle in the fight against crime, the reorganisation of the Central CID and the Divisional CID is in process. Specialised units such as the SOCO, Photograph Section, the Draughtsman have been grouped together for better coordination and effectiveness at attending to scene of crime. On this score, the command and control structure will be revisited for better accountability and compliance to orders and instructions.

Maritime Safety and Surveillance of EEZ

The National Coast Guard (NCG) is the lead agency which provides maritime safety and surveillance of our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Over the recent past, the emphasis on maritime safety for trade related activities has increased considerably. More so, the piracy threat that is prevalent in the Indian Ocean demands rethinking and adjusting the security strategy provided by the NCG. In this context, a commando unit was set up at the NCG to undertake specific mission in maritime environment to deal with, inter alia anti-piracy, terrorism and hostage release situations.
The NCG will, over the next three years acquire an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) from India. The new OPV will increase the operational and surveillance capabilities of the NCG in providing maritime safety and protecting our EEZ. The new OPV will also help Mauritius, which is party to several maritime protocols and instruments, fulfil its obligations in international trade and search and rescue operations.

The Helicopter Unit acquired on 7 September a twin-engine Advanced Light Helicopter from India. It was procured through a line of credit provided by the Government of India. The induction of the Helicopter will significantly increase capacity in terms of search and rescue at sea, maritime surveillance, deployment of commandos in anti piracy, terrorism and hostage situations. It will also help in mass casualty evacuation and in interconnecting the outer islands.

Coastal Radar Surveillance System

To add a new element to the maritime security and safety, the NCG will acquire a coastal Radar Surveillance System from India. The new system which provides for Radar installations at eight locations, five in mainland Mauritius and one each in Rodrigues, St Brandon and Agalega will enhance surveillance capabilities of the Maritime Zones and the EEZ. The system will be acquired through a line of credit provided by the Government of India. The system will cost around Rs 100 million and it is expected to be operational before December 2010.
**Enhancing Efficiency**

With the help of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, a Crime Occurrence Tracking System (COTS) was implemented. The system automates all processes in the Police from the time of recording of complaints or offences to final disposal of such cases in court. It also helps in the storage, management and retrieval of crime and prosecution data and production of reports. The system is linked to other Government agencies such as the Judiciary, Prison, Civil Status Office where the agencies can have access to certain data on crimes and criminal investigations.

**Modern Technology to Fight Crime**

A CCTV Street Surveillance System covering the region of Flic en Flac, its public beaches and main road leading thereto, was set up. Since its official operation on 24 April, criminal offences have decreased by 75% in the area compared to previous years. A few offences have been detected by the CCTV images.

The CCTV system for the region of Port Louis and the tourist resort of Grand Bay is being implemented by the help of the Chinese authorities. The system is expected to become operational by April 2010.

Another CCTV Street Surveillance Project for the region of Quatre Bornes covering the main road from St Jean to Candos is operational. The project was financed by the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications.

**Enhancing Communication Capabilities**

The MPF is in the process of implementing a new digital radio communication system to improve its communication capabilities.

The new system which is based on CDMA Technologies will comprise more than three thousand terminals. The full implementation of the system is expected by May/June 2010.

The project is being implemented with the help of the Chinese authorities to the tune of Rs 340 million through a line of credit negotiated between the Government of Mauritius and China.

**Human Resource**

During the current year, five hundred and fifty new recruits were enlisted in December. It is also planned that another batch of seven hundred more Police officers will be recruited in 2010. This will help the Police to ensure more visible presence on the roads and at commercial areas and other locations to deter crimes.
FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY

- Enactment of the DNA identification Bill 2009
- The construction of a population DNA database for the study of the genetic distribution of Short Tandem repeats (STRs)
- Implementation of an offender database
- Accreditation of the Forensic Science Laboratory (ISO17025)

Events

- Training offered by an expert team from Staffordshire University UK (2008)
- A scoping Study for the Forensic Science Laboratory done by the Forensic Science Service UK (2008)
- A DNA diagnostic Review done by the Forensic Science Service UK (2009)

MAURITIUS METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

January

MS ISO 9001:2000 Certification

The Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS) embarked on and implemented the Performance Management System. Along the same line, it improved its service delivery system and earned the MS ISO 9001:2000 certification from the Mauritius Standards Bureau.

Specialised Training in Tsunami Preparedness

In order to strengthen the resilience of the nation against the impacts of natural disasters, the MMS organised specialised trainings at the Regional Meteorological Training and Research Centre at Meteorological Headquarters of Vacoas. The training ensured the preparedness of the meteorological staff in the use of latest technology available in the monitoring and issuance of Tsunami Warnings. Further, experts from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre – Hawaii and the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System of UNESCO shared their knowledge with the relevant stakeholders. Negotiation between the Meteorological Services and the United States Geological Survey has enabled the receipt of specialised softwares worth more than 50 000 USD.
February

**Preparedness against Impacts of Tsunamis**

The Meteorological Services being a major stakeholder was designated as the reporting organisation by the Prime Minister’s Office with regard to the preparedness against impacts of tsunamis.

The overall objective of this project is to ensure the resilience of the Republic of Mauritius against the impacts of tsunamis. It is financed by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Funds were made available from the Bill Clinton Initiative to improve the level of preparedness in Mauritius and expenses were made in respect of communication equipment, public awareness campaigns and IT materials, amongst others.

**Additional Tide Gauges for Monitoring Tsunami Waves**

Two tide gauges stations were installed and are now fully operational at Blue Bay and Agalega. They would enable a better monitoring of tsunami waves and enhance the network of marine observations vital for the issuance and cancellation of tsunami warnings.

March

**World Meteorological Day 2009**

The World Meteorological Day was celebrated on 23 March and the theme chosen by the World Meteorological Organisation was *Weather, Water and the Air We Breathe*. The aim of this Day is to democratise knowledge, making it accessible to the population, starting with school goers.

April

**Wave Rider Buoy**

Government funded the purchase of a Wave-Rider Buoy at the cost of about Rs 2.4 million. The buoy was launched in August and provides valuable information on waves and swell heights for the protection of life and property at sea. Information are particularly useful for making forecasts for fishermen and other sea goers.
IC3 Training

IC3 Training courses were held at the Meteorological Services in two batches of around twelve participants from different grades of the Services.

May

Regional Training in Specialised Softwares

In order to ensure access to latest technology and ICT developments, specialised training has been provided to the staff.

Formal training in the use of specialised softwares on Geographic Information Services and African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development involving local and regional participants was held at the Regional Meteorological Training and Research Centre.

Upgrading of Training Equipment

Upgrading of training equipment in the Training Centre with the collaboration of the Indian Ocean Commission and Meteo France.
June

Newly appointed Meteorologists

Three Trainee-Meteorologists after completing their overseas training from the India Meteorological Department and local training were appointed Meteorologists.

August – September

Tsunami Preparedness IOWAVE 09

A Table – Top exercise on Tsunami Preparedness (IOWAVE 09) was simultaneously conducted on 14 September in all countries of the Indian Ocean. A false warning was issued to test the local communication system in case of a tsunami.

The Meteorological Services hosted training workshops at the Regional Meteorological Training and Research Centre: 28-29 September - Training on Server Applications (IT): 30 August-02 September - Training on Metadata entry on the Clearing House Mechanism portal. Both workshops were conducted by UNEP experts. A third one aimed at homogenisation of climate data and development of climate change indices was also held.

October

Standard Operating Procedures

A tsunami simulation Exercise (IOWAVE 09) was triggered during non-working hours, early in the morning of 14 October and involved all the stakeholders under the umbrella of the Cyclone and other Natural Disasters Committee. The Meteorological Services was nominated National Coordinator for the exercise. For this purpose, every stakeholder had to test its standard operating procedures.

November – December

The Meteorological Services hosted a workshop from 30 November to 4 December on Public Weather Services and conducted by United Kingdom Meteorological Office personnel.
Prisons Service

January

Launch of a six-month course on Food Production in collaboration with the Hotel School of Mauritius for four Prison staff and seven detainees of New Wing Prison.

A one-year Basic Course in vegetable production organised in collaboration with AREU/IVTB for eight detainees of Richelieu Open Prison.

Launch of a one-year course on Welding and Metal Fabrication (NTC Level III) in collaboration with IVTB for two Officers and four detainees of Petit Verger Prison.

Drill sessions with Police Officers for 31 Officers.

Training sessions on Performance Management for 31 civilians and 50 Prison Officers.

February

Four Prison Officers and 22 Officers from Police Department attended a self defence and kick boxing course (Phase 1) conducted by French coach Mr. R. Gury.

Forty-two Prison Officers followed a course dispensed by the association Art of Living at the Prison Training School.

Re-roofing works carried out at the Administration block at the Beau Bassin Prison.

March

Launch of a one-year Course on Garment Marketing (NTC Level III) in collaboration with the IVTB for two Prison Officers and five detainees at the Women Prison.

Inauguration of the Mother and Child Unit.

Inauguration of the new mosque and Hindu temple of the Women Prison.

Training of 12 Prison Officers to form part of the Dynamic Security Support Unit. The certification ceremony was held on 6 March at the Prison Training School.

Organisation of a national body building competition at the Prison Training School. Out of the five detainees who participated, two of them won prizes.

Passing Out Parade for 29 Temporary Prison Officers.

Inauguration of an Information desk at the New Wing Prison with a view to disseminating information on health issues.
April

Visit of a 6-member delegation from Zanzibar for a study tour with a view to learning from the best practices in the field of management of detainees with HIV/AIDS and who are substance abusers.

May

Launch of a nine-month course on Basketry and Fibre Craft in collaboration with SEHDA for thirteen detainees of Beau Bassin Prison.

Training of Trainers Course in ICT for Officers by the National Computer Board.

Phase II of the course on Self Defence and Kick Boxing launched.

June

One-week Training of Trainers Course organised in collaboration with IVTB for 29 Officers.

A Birds Keeping project launched at Richelieu Open Prison.

Handing over of site for the construction of a watch tower at the Beau Bassin Prison.

Opening of the Tremplin Vocational Training School. Two Officers and five detainees were trained in cooking at New Wing Prison.
A Capsule Course was held for Senior Staff.

Tenders for pre-qualification of contractors for the New Prison at Melrose launched.

The Department continued to upgrade the Prisons infrastructure with a view to improving the living conditions of the detainees, enhancing security in prisons and creating better conditions for the rehabilitation of detainees. The following works were/are being carried out:-

**July**

- General repairs and refurbishment of hospital block and toilets at Beau Bassin Prison
- Replacement of old wooden handrails by metal handrails at the Prison Headquarters
- Partitioning works to the administrative block at Beau Bassin Prison

**August**

- Conversion of Ex-blacksmith and carpenter workshop at the Beau Basin Prison into IVTB class for the training of detainee in skills

**September**

- Setting up of two association yards with segregation and protection units to allow detainees to exercise and move freely inside
- Upgrading of building at the Richelieu Open Prison to provide better structure for providing IVTB training to detainees
- Enlargement of main stores at the Beau Bassin Prison for storage of materials

**October**

- Improvement works to New Wing, Special Protection Unit and Medical Unit
- Setting up of association yards at the New Wing
- Construction of a special prison for women detainees at the Correction Youth Centre started. Twelve cells were modified to accommodate difficult female detainees and a high wall constructed to separate the two units i.e one for high risk women detainees and the other for young offenders, each with different means of access gate ledge and search rooms
- A new bore hole with water pump for irrigation of the cultivation of vegetables
- Provision of a ground water pond at the Beau Bassin Prison and for security purpose, a retaining wall constructed
• Maintenance and modification of the methadone centre at the Beau Bassin Prison for the issue of medication of methadone to drug addicts

• Land preparation and derocking by the Sugar Planter Mechanical Pool Corporation to increase cultivation of agricultural produce for use in prisons. Works were completed at Beau Bassin Prison and are ongoing at Richelieu Open Prison

• Construction of a pond for irrigation purposes at Beau Bassin Prison

• Reroofing works to the Drug Unit (Lotus) Centre at the Beau Bassin Prison have started. The objective is to improve security of the building

**November**

• Installation of 27 CCTV Cameras at the Gate Lodge at the Beau Bassin Prison for better monitoring and movement of detainees and activities in prison

• Construction of a new dormitory at the Ex-Machine Shop, Beau Bassin Prison has started. The new dormitory will accommodate and segregate 80 detainees

**December**

• Construction of a Watch Tower inside Beau Bassin Prison for proper control and visibility of movement of detainees inside prison

• Reroofing of workshop at Beau Bassin Prison

• Renovation of existing toilets and bathrooms at Beau Bassin Prison

• Connecting New Wing kitchen with Beau Bassin Prison through Tower for a quicker distribution of food

• Construction of a gate lodge at Phoenix Prison for better control of movement in and out of prison. The structure is provided with office, visiting room facilities to eliminate access for visitors inside prisons
NATIONAL AIDS SECRETARIAT (NAS)

Capacity Building for the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

- Training of 84 participants in the development of Monitoring and Evaluation tools, conducted by an international consultant
- Development of a National Behaviour Change Communication Strategy for HIV/AIDS. The strategy includes an operational plan and the terms of reference of the multi-sectoral Behaviour Change Communication committee
- Organisation of the National AIDS Spending Assessment
- Participation of the NAS Communication Officer in a workshop on Leadership in Strategic Health Communication at the John Hopkins School of Public Health in USA

Fight Against HIV/AIDS under IDF Grant

The World Bank gave approval for the utilisation of the 50,000 USD savings from the IDF Grant to be used for the following additional activities:

- Strengthening capacity to provide psycho-social support to people living with HIV/AIDS and IDUs on Methadone Substitution Therapy
- Strengthening capacity of multi-sectoral response staff for resource allocation and expenditures tracking
- Drafting of an Operational Manual for the National AIDS Secretariat
Global Fund

The NAS and the Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association (MFPWA) are the two principal recipients of the grant from the Global Fund to implement the country proposal to fight HIV/AIDS for a total EU 7,890,632 to be spread over 5 years. Initially, the Global Fund will disburse an amount of EU 2,365,979 to the NAS and EU 1,283,190 to the MFPWA for the implementation of the first phase of the country proposal, which will be for a period of two years.

The Grant Agreement for the first phase with the Global Fund was signed on 22 October. This will help Mauritius achieve the Millennium Development Goal 6 that is, to halt and reverse the HIV and AIDS epidemic by 2015.

Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM)

The NAS facilitated the capacity building of the CCM to enable it to fulfill its grant oversight role and in the preparation of the Governance Manual, the Conflict of Interest Policy, the Oversight Plan, the revised constitution of the CCM, amongst others.

The NAS mobilised funds from the UNDP for the running of the CCM Secretariat. An amount of $17,873 has been committed for the financial year 2010.

Prisons

The NAS participated in the preparation, and signed the *Southern and Eastern Africa Declaration of Commitment for HIV and AIDS Prevention Care, Treatment and Support in Prisons in Africa*. The declaration was adopted on 18 November in Johannesburg, South Africa. This is a commitment to promote and protect the rights of detainees and to provide quality HIV prevention, support and care in prison settings.

SADC

The NAS collaborated with the SADC in relation to the following activities:

- SADC Minimum Standards for Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission and HIV Testing and Counselling. Fourteen countries, including Mauritius participated in a working group to develop Minimum Standards that countries must adopt for Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission and HIV Testing and Counselling
- Endorsement of SADC HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework for 2009-2015
- Evaluation Report of the 2 year Short Term Support to the implementation of the SADC Business Plan
- SADC Epidemic Report
- Review and validation of SADC HIV and AIDS, TB, Malaria Surveillance Framework
• Study on the impact of HIV on Tourism
• Study tours of delegations from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi and Zanzibar to Mauritius to learn about harm reduction measures in a country with a concentrated epidemic, the HIV Act and the response in the prison

Indian Ocean Commission

The NAS collaborated with the Indian Ocean Commission to set up the Observatory to monitor the HIV epidemic in Member States.
Mission

To fulfill our commitment to the nation, by ensuring:-

the provision of high quality, safe and adequate electricity

and water supplies and wastewater disposal services to the public for sustainable development at affordable prices;

the development of adequate water resources for sustainable development;

excellence in the provision of electrical services and electrical safety in government buildings; and

promotion of peaceful use of nuclear technology for the benefit of the nation in line with international radiation safety practices.
Water Resources Unit

Bagatelle Dam Project

The Bagatelle Dam Project is being implemented with the objective to meet the present and future water needs of Port Louis district and the lower parts of the Plaines Wilhems district up to the year 2050. The contract for the Consultancy Services for the Detailed Design and Construction Supervision was awarded in January. The detailed design is expected to be completed by March 2010 and the bidding documents ready by April 2010.

Consultancy Services for Diversion of Water Into Mare Aux Vacoas Reservoir

This project aims at mobilizing additional water resources into Mare aux Vacoas reservoir by diverting flows from Rivière du Poste and Pradier Canal. The contract for the feasibility study was awarded in August.

South Mauritius Water Supply Project

The South Mauritius Water Supply Project involves the construction of a dam in Rivière des Anguilles to meet present and future demands for both potable and irrigation purposes in the Southern districts. The Construction works are expected to start in mid 2010 and the dam would be operational in 2014.

Development of Water Resources

A Master Plan for the Development of Water Resources is being prepared with a view to satisfying the water demand in various sectors of the economy and rationalize the management of water resources and rights. The consultancy services are expected to start in early 2010 and the plan completed by end 2011.

Water Resources Legislation

A Water Resources legislation is being considered for the setting up of a Water Resources Authority as a statutory body.
**Energy Services Division**

During the year, the Energy Services Division (ESD) undertook the following:

- design and supervision of the Electrical and Electromechanical systems of 149 Government construction and maintenance projects implemented by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping
- execution of nearly 180 projects following some 18 000 requests for interventions, repairs and renovation by ministries and departments
- design and supervision of New Melrose Prison and the replacement of the existing central air conditioning system of Emmanuel Anquetil Building

**Service Delivery**

To improve on service delivery, ESD is extending to the rest of the Division, certification to ISO 9001:2008.

**Low Consumption Fluorescent**

The use of low consumption T5 fluorescent lighting fittings was introduced in order to reduce CO$_2$ emissions with the implementation of a pilot project at the SSRN Hospital.

**Radiation Protection Authority (RPA)**

**New Radiation Protection Bill**

A new Bill was drafted to consolidate the Radiation Protection Act of 2003 and address all the shortcomings and weaknesses in the Act.

**Registration of Radiation Sources and Facilities**

Under the Radiation Protection Act 2003, a set of regulations was prepared for the registration of all radiation sources and facilities. The aim is to enable the Radiation Protection Authority to maintain an updated registry of all radiation sources and facilities in the country.
Thermo Luminescence Dosimetry Service

The RPA has started providing Thermo Luminescence Dosimetry (TLD) Service for the monitoring of radiation workers from exposure to ionizing radiation. The TLD Service has been provided to 40 radiation workers of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life on a trial basis.

Radioactive Waste Management

The RPA is planning the construction of a centralized radiation waste storage facility. This facility will mainly be used for the processing and storage of long-lived disused radioactive sources.
Central Electricity Board (CEB)

Tender for Diesel Generator for Rodrigues at Pointe Monnier Power Station

The tender for a diesel generator at Pointe Monnier Power Station is under preparation by South African Constructions with revised specifications. The aim is to meet the demand in Rodrigues and replace the old engines operating on diesel oil.

Diesel Generators at Fort Victoria Power Station

Construction works for the installation of 2 x 15 MW diesel generators at Fort Victoria Power Station are in progress and the new plant is expected to be commissioned by October 2010.

Mini hydro Plant at La Nicolière

The installation of one mini hydro turbine at La Nicolière is in progress. It is expected to be commissioned by March 2010.

Mini hydro Plant of 350 KW at Midlands Dam

The project for the installation of one mini hydro plant of 350 KW at Midlands Dam fits into the overall plan of the Government to exploit renewable energy. The tender for the design, supply, installation and commissioning of the plant was launched in March. The tender evaluation has been completed. A request for funding through the MID Fund was made in August.

Independent Power Producers

The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with CT Power (100 MW) was signed in December 2008. The preparation of the Energy Supply and Purchase Agreement (ESPA) between the CEB and Gamma-Covanta (20 MW) has reached the final stage. Negotiations are underway with Sotravic/Bilfinger Berger for the setting up of a Landfill Gas to Energy Project at Mare Chicose.

Wind Farm in Rodrigues

Two wind generators each of a capacity of 275 KW were commissioned in June at the Grenade Wind Farm in Rodrigues. A tender for extending the wind farm by installing two additional units of same capacity was launched in May. The two new wind generators are expected to be commissioned in February 2010.
Wind Park at Bigara

CRISIL Risk and Infrastructure Solutions Ltd, Transaction, adviser for the Wind Park project at Bigara, has submitted an inception and interim report. As the land available at the Bigara site is inadequate for setting up a 25-40 MW wind farm, a new site has been proposed, the Curepipe Point site.

Review and Modernisation of the Existing Tariff Structure

Consultant Levin Mercados from Argentina was appointed to review the tariff structure and rates. The consultant has submitted a final report which is under review by the CEB.

Grid Code

To enable small power producers to integrate the power system, a consultant was appointed for the drafting of the Grid Code. The final report has been submitted and approval from relevant authorities is awaited. The Grid Code defines the rights, responsibilities and conduct of various parties which are planning to access the low voltage network by producing electricity on renewable Small Scale Distributed Generators up to 50 KW.

Small Scale Distributed Generators

A pilot project will be launched for the purchase of two photovoltaic panels and one wind turbine, each of 2 KW capacity for training in installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance and/or repairs.
Compact Fluorescent Lamp

The sale of CFLs at a subsidized rate of Rs 40 for three lamps ended in April. The volume of CFLs sold as at the closing date amounts to nearly one million. Advertisements along with talks in colleges and private institutions were carried out with a view to sensitising the public on the benefits of using the CFLs and at the same time on the necessity to save energy.

Summertime

The Summertime Project was launched on a pilot basis. It lasted from 26 Oct 2008 to 29 March 2009. CEB recorded a reduction in average peak demand by 15 to 18 MW during peak hours, leading to savings of about Rs 42 million.

System Application Processes

A Value Engineering exercise was carried out in March-April to assess the current use being made of SAP and how it can be optimised.

IT Applications and Infrastructure

Tendering exercises were initiated for reviewing and upgrading the Head-Office Local Area Network, for installation of new servers as domain controller/email server/file server.

The IT security of the CEB installation is also being addressed and different IT Security elements incorporated in the various tenders that have been initiated.
Transmission and Distribution Network

Overhead network was extended by 266 km, bringing the total overhead lines to 7,771 km (inclusive of 12 km of 66 kV transmission lines). The underground network was extended by 34 km to take the total route length to 477 km (inclusive of 0.9 km of 66 kV underground cables).

Erection of 66kV line Combo-Case Noyale-Henrietta

The erection of the 66kV line fits in the project to strengthen the transmission network and improve the reliability of supply in Black River and Le Morne areas where major developments in respect of IRS projects are in the pipeline. Its construction, over a line route of about 60 km, was planned to be completed by July, but was delayed due to the need to undertake underground cabling at the Le Morne Heritage Site.

Construction of Anahita substation

The construction of Anahita substation was intended mainly for meeting load requirement for Anahita Hotel and the associated IRS project at Beau Champ as well as coping with the increasing load in the eastern part of the island. The 66kV busbar was completed in July.

JINFEI Project

In view of the extensive energy requirements of the Jinfei project at Riche Terre and owing to the significant load requested, a new substation and additional networks was to be built. Erection of the 66kV line that would supply the 66/22kV substation started in March. The commissioning of the substation is scheduled for September 2011.

66/22 kV substation at La Tour Koenig

The construction of La Tour Koenig substation building is expected to be completed by early 2010. The installation of the substation equipment and the commissioning of the substation are scheduled for end 2010. This substation will provide power to the Industrial zone of La Tour Koenig while relieving existing 22 kV feeders.

Union Vale – Wooton

A new 66kV line from Union Vale to Wooton will be constructed. In conformity with the policy of ensuring the security interim of the transmission Grid, this new line will relieve load on the Champagne - Wooton line and ensure continuity in the evacuation of power in case the Champagne – Wooton line fails. The project, presently at the survey and design stage, has a route length of about 24 km from Union Vale substation to Wooton. The survey and design of the line are expected to be completed by 2011.
Central Water Authority

The feasibility study as well as the design and bid documents of the Ebène-Réduit-Highlands Water Supply Project have been completed. The Project is estimated to cost Rs. 640 million. The Exim Bank of China has been approached for financing.

The Ebène – Réduit - Highlands Water Supply Project involves the development of new boreholes, transfer of water from La Marie Treatment Plant, construction of main pipelines, reservoir and distribution network to supply around 30 000 m³/day of potable water for the implementation of the project for the setting up of a modern and attractive city in the Ebène – Réduit - Highlands Triangle.

Meldrum reservoir and Associated pipelines

Works at Meldrum reservoir and associate pipelines were completed in October 2009. This project, involving disbursement of the order of Rs. 66.6 million, aims at enhancing the level of water supply service and meeting present unsatisfied demand and projected demand up to year 2025 in the areas of western Beau Bassin and Coromandel.

The components of the works are: Construction of a new 2,500 m³ capacity service reservoir, construction of two new pumping mains of 250 mm and 300 mm nominal diameter from the Boreholes to the service reservoir and construction of some 1.5 Km of distribution mains.

Turnkey Project for a Water Treatment Plant at Bois Cheri

The project aims at ensuring security of supply and enhancing the quality of drinkable water to the inhabitants of Bois Cheri and neighbouring villages relying on the Bois Cheri Pressure filter for their daily need of potable water.

The Contract Value for this turnkey project of the order of Rs. 31.8 million is financed by the CWA.

Water Supply for Development of La Tour Koenig Industrial Park

The objective of this project, funded by the Government, is to sustain developments and expansion at La Tour Koenig Industrial Park. The works, estimated at Rs 103 million, are underway and involve mobilisation of some 4 000 m³/day of additional water resources through the development of new boreholes and ground water pumping stations and storage reservoir. Works are scheduled to be completed by mid 2010.
Micro Projects to enhance levels of service

The CWA has implemented micro projects to the tune of Rs. 30 million in all of its six distribution systems to replace old, inefficient pipelines or clusters of communication pipelines and enhance service levels and to reduce level of non revenue water.

Wastewater Management Authority

Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Project (PWSP)

The PWSP LOT 1B consists in the construction of 41 km of reticulation sewer networks, to enable some 4 000 households in the region of West Rose Hill, Roches Brunes, Plaisance, to be connected to the public sewerage system and the replacement of 10 km of CWA pipes. The preliminary works started in December 2008 and excavation and pipe laying started on 15 June 2009.

PWSP – Lot 2

The PWSP LOT 2 consists in the construction of 87 km of reticulation sewer networks, concerning some 12 596 house connections in the region of Central Quatre Bornes and Sodmac, and 50 km of CWA pipes. The preliminary works started in January 2008 and excavation and pipe laying in August 2008. The progress of work as at July 2009 was 15%.

Baie du Tombeau – Northern – House connections

The project comprises the construction of 26 km sewer networks, three pumping stations, 1 250 house connections in the region of Baie du Tombeau, Riche Terre, and 13 km of CWA pipes. Works were expected to be completed by December.

House Connections - Northern

The works for house connections are being carried out in the region of Port Louis, Baie du Tombeau, Grand Baie and Plaine Wilhems. The project is expected to end by January 2010.

House connections – Southern

House Connections Unit will perform 800 house connections in the region of Plaines Wilhems. The project is expected to be completed by October 2010.
Roche Bois – Desbouchers

The project consists in around 125 house connections at DesBouchers – Roche Bois with an expected duration of one year. The notice to commence the project was obtained on 1st June. Around 53 house connections were expected to be completed by the end of December 2009.

Plaines Wilhems – Lot 1A

The PWSP LOT 1A consists in the construction of 103 km of reticulation sewer networks, consisting of 12 175 house connections in the region of West Rose Hill, SW and Central Quatre Bornes. The works will extend over four years.

CHA Phase IV

The CHA Phase IV project consists of 1 200 houses to be connected on 27 sites of Low Cost Estates around the island. The expected award date is December 2010.

Pailles Guibies – Project

The project consists in 5 km of trunk sewer, reticulation networks and 1 600 house connections in the region of Pailles, Soreze and Guibies. Works are expected to start by mid 2010.
**Baie du Tombeau – Jinfei Offsite works**

The project consists in 3 km of rising mains, one pumping station, and connection of the Jinfei Development to the existing wastewater treatment plant at Baie du Tombeau. Works are expected to start in January 2010 and be completed by end of 2011.

**Baie du Tombeau  Phase 3 – Terre Rouge & Le Hochet**

The Baie du Tombeau Sewerage Phase 3 will connect 7 800 houses to the sewerage network and laying of 20 km of street sewers. Works are expected to start in June 2011.

**Grand Baie Phase 1B – Pereybère, Cap Malheureux**

The Grand Baie Sewerage Project Phase 1B will connect 5 000 houses to the existing wastewater treatment plant at Grand Baie, in the area of Pereybere, Cap Malheureux, Petit Raffray, Pointe aux Cannoniers. The contract is expected to be awarded in July 2011.

**Grand Baie Phase 2 – Triolet, Pte aux Piments, Morc. St. André**

The project will connect 10 000 houses to a new wastewater treatment plant with a capacity of 9 500 m3/day. Four pumping stations will be built in the region of Pointe aux Piments, Triolet, Morc. St André, Solitude. The expected contract award date is December 2010.

**West Coast – Bambous, Tamarin & Flic en Flac**

The West Coast Sewerage Project, expected to start by the end of year 2010, consists in 15 000 house connections, construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and pumping stations in the region of Bambous, Flic en Flac, Tamarin and Grande Rivière Noire.

**Morcellement La Vallée**

The Morcellement La Vallée Sewerage Project will connect 150 houses to the WMA network. The works were expected to start by September 2009.

**Parisot/Riverside**

The Parisot/Riverside Sewerage Project consists in 100 houses to be connected in the area of Parisot/Riverside is expected to start in January 2010.
Mission

To develop and champion tourism activities so as to build the sector into a key engine of growth and to make of Mauritius the best island destination in the world.

To champion and promote leisure, entertainment and recreational activities to enhance the quality of life of the citizens and tourists and foster peaceful co-existence.

To respond effectively and professionally to the growing needs and aspirations of our customers, in particular, the stakeholders of the port and the air transportation industry in terms of enhanced safety and security, establishment of a solid regulatory framework and provision of quality services that meet international standards.
Tourism, Leisure and External Communication

**Tourist Arrivals**

Tourist arrivals up to December reached 871,356. This represented a decrease of 6.4% over the figure of 930,456 registered for the corresponding period in 2008.

**Gross Tourism Receipts**

Gross tourism receipts up to September were estimated by the Bank of Mauritius at Rs 25,685 million, representing a decrease of 16.6%, compared to Rs 30,801 million for the same period of 2008.

**Employment**

According to the Survey of Employment and Earnings, direct employment in hotels, restaurants and travel and tourism establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 26,922 at the end of March showing a decrease of 6.4% over the figure of 28,764 for March. Of this number, 76.3% or 20,531 were engaged in hotels.

**Tourism Strategy**

The Tourism Sector Strategy 2008-2015 is being finalised. The Strategy will lay much emphasis on eco-friendly measures such as energy saving devices and installation of desalination plant, recycling plant as well as other similar services/amenities to upgrade the facilities provided at hotels.

**Sustainable Tourism Industry**

The first half of year 2009 was marked by the opening of three new hotels namely: *Intercontinentale* with 210 rooms in Balaclava, *Sheraton Four Points* at Ebene with 108 rooms and *Curepipe* hotel with 60 rooms.

**Tourism Signage Programme**

The installation of signage along the Port Louis to Grand Baie corridor and on the Grand Baie to Poste de Flacq corridor was completed. Directional signs have also been implemented along the coastal roads, with the most recent one being at the Poste de Flacq to Mahebourg...
(Route 5) segment. The Vacoas to Black River National Park is in the next segment of the ongoing project.

Cultural and Historical Attraction

The Citadel Fort is being rehabilitated and restored to its original historical cachet with a view to tapping fully its authentic historical appeal and high tourism potential. The project is in line with the policy of the government to diversify the tourism product portfolio and enhance the visitors’ experience. Furthermore, the Ministry is also upgrading and embellishing the surrounding of the Fort to provide a better and more beautiful environment for visitors.

Renovation of Old Prison

The renovation of the Old Prison in Port Louis for its conversion into a Centre d’Exhibitions has also started.

Construction of Coastal Walkways

The Ministry has embarked on the construction of major coastal walkways in the regions of Grand Baie and Trou D’Eau Douce that will be complemented with the provision of amenities and facilities which will contribute to exploit their touristic potential. Phase I of the construction of a Coastal Walkway for Grand Baie has been completed and a consultant has been appointed for Trou D’Eau Douce.

Upgrading/Rehabilitation of Albion Beach

The upgrading and rehabilitation of Albion Public Beach constitute the first phase of the Community Development of Albion. The objective is to provide the village of Albion with a beach equipped with all necessary amenities while improving its aesthetic aspect. The new layout and rehabilitated beach will enable a better management plan of the beach and ensure its sustainable use.

Placement of Marker Buoys

The installation and fixing of marker buoys in the swimming zone of Grand Baie have been completed. Three ski lanes have been created at Trou aux Biches, Mont Choisy and Casuarina. In addition, the Ministry has financed the purchase of marker buoys for implementation of another ski lane at Bel Ombre. Two snorkelling zones have been demarcated at Mont Choisy and Trou aux Biches. The existing five knot speed limit zone at Trou d’Eau Douce has also been amended to ten knot zone through the promulgation of necessary regulations.
Tourism TV Channel

A Tourism TV Channel is in the process of being set up. The tourism channel will be available in all hotel rooms and will be a major marketing tool for tourism activities.

Reinforcing the Legislative Framework

The legislative framework has been reinforced and the Tourism Authority empowered to have a better and more rigorous control with regard to tourism and tourism related activities. Regulations are being finalised for the control of speed limit for activities at sea as well as for the control of tourism and tourism related activities such as Whale and Dolphin Watching.

Regulation and Control of Tourism Related Activities

Stricter norms have been applied for the issue of licences for Tourism Enterprises and Pleasure Crafts by the Tourism Authority. Moreover, the Authority has streamlined a number of its procedures to facilitate the issue of licences. Control and inspection have been reinforced, with the setting up of a monitoring and enforcement team.

Safety and Security of Tourists

Measures were taken to enhance the safety and security of tourists as follows:

- Regular Patrols by Police du Tourisme in touristic areas
- Setting up of a Security Committee to look into matters relating to security and safety of tourists
- Distribution of leaflets in hotels and tourist residences
- Installation of cameras and security alarm in tourist residences as well as hotels, as a condition for granting licences
- Financing the setting up of CCTV in Flic-en-Flac
- 24-hour policing in northern and western divisions by Police du Tourisme
- Regular meetings with Association des Hoteliers et Restaurateurs Ile Maurice (AHRIM) and security staff of hotels islandwide
- Continuous monitoring by Police du Tourisme and personnel of Tourism Authority
- Facilitation of the signature of a code of conduct to govern the relationship between hotels and beach hawkers
New Computerised System at the Tourism Authority

A new computerised system and a new user-friendly website have been designed at the Tourism Authority. The website caters for online application for tourist enterprise licences. In addition, procedures for the issue of licences are also spelt on the website. Members of the public can also register complaints as regards the tourist enterprises, pleasure crafts, etc.

Country Promotion

- At the very onset of the economic downturn, Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) implemented stabilising measures to stimulate demand while simultaneously enhancing long-term potential growth. By adopting the five-point programme *Maurice Sans Passport* partnership with Virgin Atlantic, targeting new emerging markets, exploring niche segments and introducing competitive pricing, the extent of the crisis on the tourism sector was minimised

- The MTPA held promotional campaigns in source, niche and emerging markets. These included advertising campaigns, fairs, workshops, exhibitions, roadshows conducted in target countries such as France, UK, Germany, Italy, India, Russia, China, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Middle East, China and Reunion

- Mauritius obtained international recognition worldwide as a destination offering high levels of tourist products and services. The MTPA obtained various recognitions such as:
  - Best Tourism Authority Award for Africa, Middle East & Indian Ocean islands at Emirates Holidays World Awards held in Dubai
• Platinum Award for best stand at Indaba for SADC
• The “Dream prize”-3rd award for best promotional film at ITB Berlin

**Improved Website**

The MTPA has designed an improved and more user-friendly central informational tourism website which is in seven languages, including Arabic. A mandarin version is in the process of being finalised.

**Country Branding**

The strategy is to position the country as an attractive tourism, business and leisure destination to increase its visibility as an internationally recognised unique national brand. A new Brand Strategy which cuts across the various sectors in Mauritius among which, the tourism sector, has been developed by Acanchi Ltd. A new Brand Identity *Mauritius – C’est un plaisir* was launched on 8 October at La Citadelle.

![Mauritius - C’est un plaisir](image)

**Maurice Ile Durable Campaign**

A series of measures were taken by the Ministry in the context of the *Maurice Ile Durable* campaign, to promote the country as a clean, environment-friendly and upscale touristic destination. These include:-

• Control of illegal fly-posting through sensitisation campaigns and the installation of poster panels
• Cleaning of touristic and other sites
• Urban regeneration to induce tourists to discover the local culture in urban localities
• Upgrading/Rehabilitation of major touristic sites
• Embellishment of the environment through the planting of decorative plants, trees along motorways
• Cleaning, refurbishing and painting of bus stops in different colours: green in villages, red in town and blue along the coastal regions
• Control of stray animals/pests/ravens
• Spraying and fogging of bushy areas
• Placement of bins around the island

Democratisation of the Tourism Sector

Several measures have been taken to democratise the tourism sector as follows:
• Contracting out of boating activities to small operators by hotels has been encouraged
• Priority is being given to small operators in the issue of licences in respect of certain types of activities, such as boathouse, and tour operators
• Organisation on a regular basis of “Foire Touristiques” in order to facilitate direct encounter of small operators and tourists and to provide an opportunity to small operators to promote and market their services directly with tourists
• Small operators of pleasure crafts are given priority for delivery of licence
• Hotel establishments are encouraged to operate only their core activities such that peripheral activities are performed by individual operators, thus facilitating small entrepreneurs to establish their business in the tourism sector

Promotion of Leisure

The Ministry regularly organises leisure activities such as hiking, mountaineering, island tours and visits. This provides an opportunity to the public in general to spend its leisure outdoor among friends and family.

National Events

The concept of “La Foire”, namely “La Foire de l’indépendance” and “La Grande Foire de l’Ouest” has been introduced with the aim of providing some leisure moments to the Mauritian as well as to tourists.

These events have given local women entrepreneurs the opportunity to exploit their talents in the fields of handicrafts and food products.
**Festival International Kréol**

The Festival International Kréol, held from 28 November to 5 December 2009, is one of the most ambitious and popular events organised by the Ministry, providing not only attractions/entertainments to the local people but also to international visitors and press people. This event is an open screen to the whole world which broadcasts the authenticity of the culture, beauty and prosperity of Mauritius.

The Event comprised activities such as “Conferens”, *All Night Concert*, “Sware Kreol”, “Légende du Séga”, “Sware Crossbreed”, and “Sware Menwar”. These activities bring to the limelight the value and beauty of the Kreol culture, language, people, cuisine, arts and music.

**Tourism Employees Welfare Fund**

**Training courses - ‘Accueil et Relation Client’**

An intensive training programme including a course *Accueil et Relations Client* was held in collaboration with major stakeholders. The training programme was meant for employees of the tourism industry who have direct contacts with tourists. It caters for the training of around 2 500 employees of the tourism sector.

**Souvenir Magazine**

With a view to enhancing its image and giving a new dynamism to its activities, the Tourism Employees Welfare Fund (TEWF) produced a Souvenir Magazine 2009. It gives a glimpse of all the activities of TEWF such as the loan/grant schemes.

**Improved Web Site**

The web site of the TEWF was re-designed and upgraded to include all the schemes and activities as well as application forms.

**Outdoor Leisure Activities**

Outdoor leisure activities such as hiking, island tours, mountaineering and visits were organised on a monthly basis to cater for the leisure needs of all the members of TEWF and their families.
CARGO HANDLING CORPORATION LIMITED

In the course of 2009, CHCL acquired the following cargo handling equipment: four new rubber tyred gantry cranes, fourteen new tractors and fourteen trailers and four new reachstackers amounting to Rs 370m.

The acquisition of the yard equipment was necessary to match the extra capacity of 200 000 containers generated with the acquisition of two new ships to shore cranes in 2008.

The CHCL is geared to offer an efficient service for the additional sugar containers expected as from September 2009 with the ceasing of operations of the Bulk Sugar Terminal.

Computerisation

The Cargo Community System (CCS) became operational on 24 August. The CHCL is one of the key players in the system providing live information in respect of discharge, loading, receipt and delivery of goods. CHCL has invested Rs 7.5 M in the CCS.

MAURITIUS PORTS AUTHORITY

To cater for increased trade whilst ensuring that port services and facilities are provided in a reliable, competitive and efficient manner, action was taken as follows:

- One big tug and two small tugs were added to the existing fleet of floating craft with a view to improving tug and pilotage service in the port, at a total investment of Rs 360 million
- Strengthening of rock revetment at the Mauritius Container Terminal to the tune of Rs 8 million was completed in July
- Publication in September of the Port Master Plan which formulates land use and development plans for Port Louis Harbour up to 2030
- With a view to controlling the ingress of water at the Mauritius Container Terminal, a flood wall is being constructed behind the quay. The project is estimated at Rs 83.0 million
- Construction of a dedicated berthing facility for cruise vessels at Les Salines at a total cost of Rs 505 million in view of promoting Mauritius as a cruise destination and enhancing the level of service to cruise passengers
- Desiltation works at Port Mathurin, projected to cost Rs 23.2 million, were expected to be completed in December
- Removal of deposited materials at Port Louis Harbour at a total cost of Rs 17.7 million
- Completion of corrosion works at Port Louis Harbour and Port Mathurin at the cost of Rs 212 million
March

The Aerodrome Licence of Airport of Rodrigues Ltd was renewed for a period of one year, up to March 2010.

April

Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunications Network (AFTN) Switch

The supply, installation, and commissioning of a new AFTN switch to replace the existing one was completed in April. The AFTN is a dedicated network for the exchange of aeronautical messages.

May

Air Traffic Management Contingency Plan

The Mauritius Air Traffic Management Contingency Plan was endorsed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation and became effective on 7 May. The Contingency Plan is activated in the event that air traffic and support services normally undertaken by the Mauritius Area Control Centre become unavailable.
Contingency Plans ensure that international flights continue to transit safely in the Mauritius Flight Information Region (FIR) in the event of a complete failure of services such as air/ground communication.

June

Meteorological Services for Air Navigation

On 18 June, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Department and the Meteorological Services for the provision of meteorological services for air navigation.

Replacement of Batteries for Solar Panel System (Agalega and St Brandon)

The replacement of the batteries at the repeater stations in Agalega and St Brandon for air/ground communication within the Mauritius FIR was completed in June.

This was a major undertaking considering the limited resources and infrastructure on both islands. Special handling tools had to be built to unload 75 batteries of 85 kg each in St Brandon from ship to shore.

July

Aeronautical Study – Obstacle Limitation Surfaces

An expert from the International Civil Aviation Organisation carried out an aeronautical study in order to determine the maximum permissible height of buildings/structures in the vicinity of the SSR International Airport.
Recruitment of Staff

Five aviation security personnel were recruited for the discharge of obligations with respect to security and security oversight at the airport.

August/September

Electronic Access Control System

The Department, in collaboration with the airport operator, embarked on a project for the implementation of an Electronic Access Control System for selected security subzones at the airport. The system became operational on 3 August.

Replacement of Chiller Plant at Area Control Centre

Replacement works in connection with the chiller plant of the Area Control Centre were completed in September. The contract for a total value of Rs5.5M was awarded to Florecold Ltd.

October

Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP)

In view of the implementation of the Global Aviation Safety Plan, the International Civil Aviation Organisation conducted a Gap Analysis for the SADC region, under the Africa and Indian Ocean (AFI) Comprehensive Implementation Programme. The objective of the Gap Analysis is to compare “What the situation is today” with “Where the organisation would like to be”. The Gap Analysis for Mauritius was carried out from 12 to 16 October.

November

VHF Omni Directional Radio Range and Distance Measuring Equipment

The new Doppler VHF Omni Directional Radio Range and Distance Measuring Equipment (DVOR/DME) at Grand Bay was commissioned in November and commissioning for the one at the airport is scheduled in May 2010. The contract was awarded to Mopiens Inc. of South Korea for the sum of Rs 31M.

This equipment provides bearing and distance information to aircraft approaching Mauritius and landing at the airport.
Instrument Landing System (ILS)

The replacement of the Instrument Landing System was completed in November. The ILS guides aircraft with direction radio waves so that they can follow the landing course and land at the airport even at night time or when visibility is bad. It provides the necessary information for the safe approach and landing of aircraft at the airport. The contract was awarded to Systems Interface Ltd for Rs 30.4M.
Mission
To ensure sustainable and equitable socio-economic development.

To ensure fiscal sustainability.

To ensure efficient and effective use of economic resources.

To create an environment to make Mauritius more globally competitive.
January

Steering Committee on Additional Stimulus Package

The Steering Committee set up under the joint chairmanship of Mr Suresh Seebaluck, Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, representing the Public Sector, and Mr Raj Makoond, representing the Private Sector, held its first meeting on 8 January to oversee the implementation of the measures contained in the Additional Stimulus Package to shore up the economy.

Public Lecture by Professor Jeffrey Frankel

Professor Jeffrey Frankel, of Harvard University, gave a public lecture on 13 January at the University of Mauritius on the theme: *How Can Mauritius Sail out of the Present Global Crisis.* Prof Frankel was on visit in Mauritius in the context of a research project he was undertaking for the National Bureau of Economic Research on Africa with focus on Mauritius as a success.

Training in Public Procurement Practices

A training programme in public procurement started on 27 January and will run over a period of three years for officers of the public sector. The aim is to ensure that the officers concerned have the necessary competencies and skills to carry out their functions effectively and competitively.

February

National Empowerment Foundation

A presentation of an overview of the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) was made by the Chairman on 3 February in Port Louis, where it was reported that a total of 11 792 persons both from Mauritius and Rodrigues had so far benefitted from training facilities, placement and financial assistance under the different programmes initiated by the NEF since it was set up in July 2006.
Loan Agreement with the World Bank

Signature of a loan agreement of around Rs 580 million with the World Bank on 16 February. The five-year technical assistance loan is to finance the Mauritius Economic Transition Technical Assistance Project (METTAP) aimed at enhancing the performance of selected public enterprises and services that contribute to an improved investment climate.

Overview of the Economic Situation in Mauritius

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment presented an overview of the economic situation in Mauritius on 26 February outlining the main priorities such as safeguarding jobs and at the same time helping enterprises affected by the current economic situation.

According to an IMF Statement issued on 20 February, Mauritius was showing remarkable resilience to the global financial crisis. Mauritius had also responded to the threats by providing an Additional Stimulus Package to shore up economic performance to the tune of Rs 10.4 billion, equivalent to about 3.8% of GDP over a period of two years with an expected extra 1% to 1.5% growth annually.

March

IFAD Grants Rs 190 Million for MARS Programme

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) granted a financing loan on 5 March to the tune of about Rs 190 million for the Marine and Agricultural Resources Support (MARS) programme in Mauritius. The MARS programme is focused on combating poverty in more than 14 000 vulnerable families in rural areas both in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

Mission to France, Belgium and Luxemburg

During a mission to France, Belgium and Luxemburg from 8 to 16 March, the Vice-Prime Minister, carried out sensitisation campaigns on the financial services sector, tax information mechanism and measures in place to combat money laundering. He had meetings with the Dr Jeffrey P. Owens, Director, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and Mr Laszlo Kovacs, EU Commissioner for Taxation and Customs.

Launching of Junior PEL Saver

The Junior PEL Saver scheme was launched on 18 March at the headquarters of Mauritius Housing Company in Port Louis. To mark this event, all those born on the 12 March were gifted a Junior PEL Saver account of Rs 5 000.
Accompanying Measures for Sugar Protocol Countries

A loan agreement of Rs 1.4 billion representing allocation Mauritius received under the Accompanying Measures for Sugar Protocol countries for 2008 was signed by Mauritius and the European Commission (EC) on 19 March. It also represented the second phase of the EC’s general budget support programme called Improved Competitiveness for Equitable Development II, funded from the EC Accompanying Measures for the Sugar Protocol countries budget. The amount was disbursed as general budget support for the financial year 2008-2009 to finance the country’s reform programme into a fixed tranche of €12.923 million and a variable tranche of €19.4 million.

Confederation of Indian Industry Fifth India-Africa Conclave

During a visit to India, from 22 to 29 March, the Vice-Prime Minister participated in the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Fifth India-Africa Conclave. An investment promotion mission was carried out in Mumbai to market the financial services sector. The organisation of the Conclave was in line with India’s initiatives to forge a partnership with Africa.

Revised DTAA between Germany and Mauritius

The first round of discussions on a revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and Mauritius was held on 24 March at the headquarters of the Mauritius Revenue Authority in Port Louis. Both parties agreed on some of the provisions of the new treaty until further discussions to be pursued at a second round before finalising the treaty which would be beneficial in terms of boosting economic transactions as well as encouraging cross-border transactions between both countries.

Development Policy Loan of $100 Million

World Bank approved on 31 March an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Policy Loan of approximately $100 million, equivalent to about Rs 3.3 billion, to stimulate trade and competitiveness in Mauritius. This is the third general budget support operation to support reforms undertaken by Mauritius in response to the challenges of the ‘triple trade shock’ of trade preference erosion and high oil prices and that of transitioning from sugar and apparel exporter to innovative, knowledge and skill based service economy.

April
MoU between Mauritius and China-Africa Development Fund

Mauritius and China-Africa Development Fund signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 6 April for cooperation in Financial Advisory for Infrastructure Development and Investment. The MoU aimed at providing possibilities of joint ventures and joint initiatives between Mauritian and Chinese enterprises and leverage Chinese experience in Mauritius in areas of infrastructure with regard to planning, building, financing and operation.
Additional Stimulus Package (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Additional Stimulus Package (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill was voted in the National Assembly on 15 April to enable Government to implement measures to encourage construction, residential as well as industrial, improve efficiency, global competitiveness, protect and support SMEs in industries and in tourism, boost private investment in particular FDI and facilitate investment so that Government can meet the overarching objective of saving employment and creating jobs.

Completion of Phase I of the Model Village Project at Bambous

Phase I of the model village project at La Valette, Bambous, comprising 71 housing units, was completed and the contract leases and house keys handed over to a first batch of beneficiaries on 16 April. The model village, a Rs 204 million social housing project, was initiated under the Integrated Social Development Programme of the National Empowerment Foundation. It is the first project designed according to an integrated concept where land has been earmarked for SME units, craft markets, cooperative shop, children’s play area and basket/volleyball pitches.

Mutual Aid Building Phase 11

With a view to improving service delivery to the public, the Mutual Aid Association launched the second phase of the construction of its Building. The foundation stone was laid by Vice-Prime Minister on 17 April. The eleven-storeyed building is expected to be completed by February 2010.

Mauritius Network Services Ltd Building inaugurated

The Vice-Prime Minister inaugurated on 23 April the Mauritius Network Services (MNS) Ltd Building at Ebene. The MNS is a pioneer in implementing Electronic Data Interchange in Mauritius. It has as mission to provide quality value-added network services to link the business community and public organisations.

May

World Bank 3rd Development Policy Loan

The World Bank and the Government of Mauritius signed a third Development Policy Loan on 11 May to the tune of USD 100 million, equivalent to about Rs 3.3 billion. The loan aims at stimulating trade and competitiveness in Mauritius. The main thrust of the loan was to support the country move towards an innovative, knowledge-intensive, skill-based, service-oriented economy capable of boosting economic growth, creating jobs, enhancing opportunities for young people and improving the overall quality of life of the citizens.
Presentation of July-December Budget

The budget for the period July-December was presented on 22 May. It was geared towards putting the country on a fivefold path to steer the economy on the road to prosperity. The main priorities were to save jobs, protect people and prepare for the recovery.

19th World Economic Forum

The Vice-Prime Minister participated from 10 to 17 June in the 19th World Economic Forum on Africa under the theme “Implications of the Global Economic Crisis for Africa” held in Cape Town. He also took part in an investment promotion exercise organised by the Board of Investment targeting potential investors in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg.

July

Mission in Paris and London

During his mission in Paris and London from 3 to 9 July, the Vice-Prime Minister addressed the Governing Board of the Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on how Mauritius was coping with the challenges of the global economic recession. In London, the Vice-Prime Minister participated in the G8 Africa Business Forum 2009 on the theme Global Financial Crisis: The Challenge for Africa and had meetings with the representatives of Moody’s and Barclays Bank to explain the current economic climate of Mauritius.

Air Fare to Rodrigues

On 15 July, the Vice-Prime Minister announced a reduction of 33 percent in air fares from Mauritius to Rodrigues which represents a decrease of nearly Rs 2 670 on every air ticket for Mauritian citizens or residents willing to travel to Rodrigues and spend their vacation in hotels/guest houses.

National Schedule of Rates and Construction Price Indices

A half-day project launch workshop in relation to the development of the National Schedule of Rates and Construction Price Indices for non-residential buildings and civil engineering works was held on 24 July. The objective was to ensure adequate consultation with stakeholders involved in the procurement and delivery of building and civil engineering works in Mauritius.

Workshop on Insolvency Act

A one-day workshop on the Insolvency Act 2009, with the participation of regulators, bankers, accountancy professionals and law practitioners, was held on 29 July. The workshop served as a platform where participants exchanged views on the new legislation which came into effect on 1st June 2009.
August

**ESA-EC Business Forum**

Opening of a two-day Eastern and Southern Africa-European Community business forum on 27 August in the context of the ESA-EC interim Economic Partnership Agreement signed on August 29. The forum regrouped policy makers, investors, investment and trade agencies as well as experts of the COMESA region, the European Union and Mauritius to discuss and promote a two-way trade and investment strategy serving as an effective start to harnessing the benefits of the interim EPA.

**Permit Review Committee**

Government agreed to the recommendations of the Permit Review Committee, set up under the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008, aimed at reducing the number of import and export permits, streamlining procedures and reducing process time with a view to improving the business climate and enhancing ease of doing business in Mauritius.

September

**Mauritius Ranked 17th in Overall Ease of Doing Business 2010**

Mauritius Jinfei Economic Trade and Cooperation Zone Project

The Prime Minister proceeded on 16 September to the laying of foundation stone of the Mauritius Jinfei Economic Trade and Cooperation Zone at Riche Terre. Three shareholders are incorporated in the company implementing the project namely, the Taiyuan Iron and Steel Co. Ltd, the Shanxi Coking Coal and the Tianli Group with the China Africa Development Fund as equity partner. The Mauritius Jinfei Economic Trade and Cooperation Zone Project, of a total investment of Rs 25 billion, will be implemented in two phases over a period of five years.

Conference on Private Equity Mauritius

A two-day conference on Private Equity Mauritius 2009 organised at the initiative of the Board of Investment was held on 28 and 29 September at the Intercontinental Mauritius Resort at Balaclava. The objective was to adopt a flexible approach to thrash out issues and facilitate the setting up of private equity funds in Mauritius and give a dynamic start to the private equity business.

China International Fair for Investment and Trade

The Vice-Prime Minister participated in the International Investment Forum of the 2009 China International Fair for Investment and Trade, from 8 to 14 September and intervened on the theme Promoting International Investment to Accelerate Economic Recovery. He also attended the World Economic Forum Third Annual Meeting of the New Champions and spoke on the theme The New Champions of Competitiveness; and the eighth session of the Sino-Mauritian Joint Commission.

Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting

The Vice-Prime Minister attended from 30 September to 2 October the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting held in Cyprus which discussed the economic and financial crisis, the role of the International Financial Centres and the review of the Bretton Woods institutions. Mauritius was commended for its achievements while keeping the fiscal deficit and the debt to GDP ratio at sustainable level.

October

IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings

The Vice-Prime Minister attended the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings held on 6 and 7 October in Turkey, which discussed mainly the road to economic recovery.
Mauritius Tops the 2009 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance

The Mo Ibrahim 2009 Index of African Governance launched on 5 October ranked Mauritius first out of the 53 African countries. Mauritius with 82.8 points topped the list of Africa’s best-governed nations for the third year in a row.

Corporate Social Responsibility Programme

Funds under the Corporate Social Responsibility Programme, launched on 9 October, reached Rs 800 million collected in form of 2% of the book profit of profitable companies. The funds would be used to finance eligible CSR activities geared towards the social and environmental development of the country. Guidelines for CSR programmes to be implemented by private companies and NGOs were released. Areas of intervention for CSR activities comprise socio-economic development including gender and human rights, health, education and training, leisure and sports, environment and natural disasters.

Inauguration of New Access Road to La Tour Koenig Industrial Park

The main access road to the New Industrial Park at La Tour Koenig, in Pointe Aux Sables, built to the tune of Rs 151M, was inaugurated on 14 October. Developed by the Government of Mauritius through the State Land Development Co. Ltd (SLDC), the main access road with all ancillary infrastructure is seen as an essential element of the Industrial Park Project. Starting at the junction at Avenue La Concorde and ending near the residential morcellement at Petit Verger in Pointe Aux Sables, the main road is of a length of 2.4 km and a width of 7.5 m with a road reserve of 3.5 m on both sides.

Customs Meeting for ESA Countries

The Customs Department hosted from 19 to 23 October the 8th National Contact Point (NCP) Administrative meeting for Eastern and Southern Africa, organised by the World Customs Organisation-Regional Intelligence Liaison Office.

Commonwealth Workshop for Senior Tax Officials

A four-week Commonwealth Management Development Programme (CMDP) workshop for senior tax officials from Commonwealth countries was launched on 19 October at the Mauritius Revenue Authority. The objective of the CMDP was to enhance the leadership capability of participants so that they could more effectively manage people, processes and systems within their tax administration.
November

National Empowerment Foundation Programmes

The Chairman of the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) announced that over 15,500 persons both in Mauritius and Rodrigues have benefited NEF assistance through its different programmes with regard to creating more job opportunities, namely training, reskilling, placement programmes, circular migration, assistance to unemployed women and financial and technical assistance for micro-enterprises. NEF, set up in July 2008, as an institutional framework to strengthen the role of the Empowerment Programme, now re-groups under one roof different agencies involved in empowerment and in the fight against poverty.

AFD Grants Mauritius Two Loans Amounting to Rs. 4.5 Billion

Signature of two loan agreements amounting around Rs. 4.5 billion on 12 November with the Agence française de Développement, one for the funding of the Grand Baie Sewerage Project Phase 2 and the other to finance the construction of a new road linking the village of Terre Rouge to Verdun.

Purchase of Gold by BoM

The Bank of Mauritius, as part of its foreign exchange reserves management operations, purchased on November 13 two metric tonnes of gold from the International Monetary Fund. With the purchase, the holdings of gold, as a percentage of the Bank’s total foreign exchange reserves, increased to 5.69 per cent.

Presentation of the Budget 2010

Shaping recovery, consolidating social progress and sustaining green Mauritius, were the three leading guidelines of the 2010 Budget presented in the National Assembly on 18 November by the Vice-Prime Minister.
MRA Staff Sensitised on Organisational Integrity

A two-day workshop on Enhancing Organisational Integrity at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) opened on 26 November. The workshop aimed at sensitising the participants on integrity which is a major component of the MRA’s strategy to develop an effective and efficient modern revenue administration.

December

Mutual Aid Association Ltd Scholarships to Needy Students

The Mutual Aid Association Ltd awarded educational scholarships ranging from Rs 10 000 to Rs 40 000 as well as laptops to a first batch of 15 students on 2 December, in line with the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme of the association to promote tertiary education within the community among students from modest income families both in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The scheme applies to students coming from families with a monthly income not exceeding Rs 15 000.

Two loans amounting to USD 100 m signed with World Bank

Signing of two Loan Agreements on 3 December with the World Bank amounting to USD 100 million roughly an envelope of Rs 3.3 billion. One loan to the tune of USD 50 million as the fourth Development Policy Loan (DPL4) for general budget support for the transition period from July to December 2009, and the second a project loan of USD 50 million for financing infrastructure projects.

African Development Bank Grants US $ 700 million

Government and the ADB signed a loan of USD 700 million to support the reform programme for the period 2009 to 2011. The resources will be applied as general budget support and will be drawn down in three tranches.

Workshop to Facilitate Adoption of COMESA Monetary Union

A two-day workshop on Building Effective Multilateral Fiscal Surveillance Framework for the COMESA Monetary Union opened on 16 December. The workshop served as a platform regrouping leading experts to discuss, share and draw experiences from other regions and promote partnership within the different organisations as well as reinforce peer-to-peer networking for closer collaboration for the adoption of the COMESA Monetary Union in 2018.
Mauritius Benefitted from Rs 470 Million under EU’s V-FLEX Mechanism

Mauritius benefitted from an Additional grant of 10.9 million Euros, approximately Rs 470 million, from the European Union (EU), under the EU’s Vulnerability FLEX (V-FLEX) mechanism of the 10th EDF Country Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme, in recognition of the efforts made by the government to face the international financial and economic crisis. The agreement was signed on 17 December.

Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between Bangladesh and Mauritius

Mauritius and Bangladesh signed on 21 December a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) to give a further spur to the positive evolution of economic ties between the two countries. The agreement aims at providing greater tax certainty for businessmen while making clear the taxing rights of Mauritius and Bangladesh on all forms of income arising from cross-border economic activities between the two countries.
Central Statistics Office

Memorandum of Understanding

A MoU was signed between the Central Statistics Office and the Bank of Mauritius on 3 March with a view to strengthening collaboration between the two institutions, promoting quality statistics and avoiding overlapping and duplication in the collection and production of statistical information.

Statistics on Crime, Justice and Security

The Central Statistics Office published an Economic and Social Indicator (ESI) on crime, justice and security in April following a technical assistance mission by a World Bank Consultant in January/February. The ESI covers statistics on victimisation collected by the CSO through the Continuous Multi Purpose Household Survey as well as statistics from the Mauritius Police Force, the Judiciary and the Mauritius Prison Services.

2007 Census of Economic Activities

The Central Statistics Office published in June a report providing detailed analysis of the results and the methodology used in the conduct of phase I of the 2007 Census of Economic Activities. The census collected data on the operating characteristics and structure of all types of economic activities in Mauritius, except Agriculture. Phase 1 covered non agricultural production units engaging less than 10 persons.

Advocacy for statistics

A brochure on advocacy for statistics for Mauritius, entitled “Why does Mauritius need good statistics”, was prepared by the Central Statistics Office in collaboration with Partnership in Statistics for 21st Century (PARIS21) and disseminated in June.

2009 African Statistics Day

In the context of, the celebration of the 2009 African Statistics Day, the CSO organised on 26 November, a half-day workshop on Strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in support of National Development and Millennium Development Goals.
Mission

To fulfil the needs of the nation in the design, construction, maintenance and repair of roads, bridges and government buildings by ensuring the provision of functional, aesthetic and environment-friendly structures conforming to high construction standards.

To formulate and implement policies for safe, efficient and environmentally sustainable services in the land transport sector.

To foster a safe, secure and environmentally sound maritime transportation system based on internationally agreed standards.
Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping

Public Infrastructure Division

Upgrading of Quartier Militaire Road (B6)-Phase 1

The main objective of the project is to provide the most economical solution to cater for a two-lane traffic and an appropriate strengthening of the existing structure. Works relating to the project started on 27 January.

Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Act

The CIDB Act came into force on 1 February and provides the authority to recruit additional staff and set up the structures for future activities.

Accreditation of the Materials Testing Laboratory

A Consultant was appointed in February to assist, advise, plan, design, prepare documents and implement the setting up of a quality system at the Materials Testing Laboratory of the Ministry as per MS ISO/IEC 17025:2005 (E) Standard requirements.
Completion of Upgrading Works of Motorway M2

Upgrading works of Motorway M2 were completed on 22 February. The project cost was Rs 102M.

The works consisted of the upgrading of the Motorway M2 from Terre Rouge roundabout to Pamplemousses Roundabout over about 6.0 km, upgrading of roundabouts, islands etc, cleaning of existing drains, supply and installation of traffic signs, road marking and other road furniture and repairs of expansion joints and road furniture to the Latanier, Tombeau and Citron Bridges found on the Motorway M2.

Upgrading of Camp Thorel Link Road

The project consists of the upgrading of an existing track (2.6 km) from the village of Camp Thorel linking Camp Thorel Road B53 which used to be a dead end with l’Espérance Branch Road B99. The contract was awarded to Gamma Civic Ltd on 3 February.

Harbour Bridge and Ring Road Project (Phase II)

Transaction advisory services for the Harbour Bridge and Ring Road Project (Phase II) were awarded to SPP Project Solutions (Pty) Limited on 30 March.

Construction of Mare D’Albert – Gros Bois Road

The project consists in the construction of 1.4 km of link road between Motorway M1 and Road A10 and will provide an alternative route to traffic going from and to Rose Belle, La Rosa, Mare D’Albert via the Motorway. This link is expected to reduce significantly the traffic congestion problem encountered in the region. The contract was awarded to COLAS (Maurice) Ltée on 6 May.

Construction of Goodlands Bypass Road

The project consists in the construction of a new single carriageway to bypass the village of Goodlands. It fits into the Government’s objective to tackle congestion in major agglomerations. The contract was awarded to Gamma Civic Ltd on 26 May. Works started on 30 June and will last for 12 months.

Construction of Triolet Bypass

The works consist in the construction of a new link road from Solitude at the southern end of Triolet Village to Fond Du Sac Branch Road. The carriageway width proposed is 7.35m with 1.5m wide footpaths or shoulders on both sides. The project also includes the upgrading of part of Fond du Sac Branch Road over 1.0 km. Five major roundabouts will be constructed. The contract was awarded to AJMC on 29 May. Works started on August and will last 12 months.
Opening of Bridge at Macondé

Works for the construction of Macondé Bridge were completed on 20 June. The purpose of the project to construct a new bridge over Baie du Cap River at Macondé was to provide a safe link between the southern and western areas of the island across the mouth of the river. The contract was awarded to General Construction Co Ltd on 25 February 2008.

Construction of a Bus Lane Along Motorway M1

The project comprises the widening of the motorway over 3.5 km from Grewals, Pailles to Reserve Street, Cassis and from Old Moka Road to Grewals over 1.7 km. It further includes the resurfacing of the motorway over its total width from Caudan to Grewals over about 7 km. Two bridges will also be widened. The CPB has awarded the contract to COLAS (Maurice) Ltée on 11 June 2009.

Partial Opening of a New Access Road to Réduit Triangle

The main objective of the project is to provide vehicular access and provision of utilities to the different activities and development on the 65 Acres of the Réduit triangle which will also serve as an access to the future development on the 150 Acres of Land of the State Land Development Company (SLDC).

The contract was awarded to COLAS (Maurice) Ltée on 10 September 2008. Works started on 29 September 2008 and are expected to be completed by 31 March 2010.

Phase I of the project which comprised the construction of an access road to Apollo Hospital was completed on 26 June.
Phoenix-Beaux Songes Link Road

The project consists in the construction of a new single carriageway to bypass the regions of Quatre Borne and Palma. Works comprise the construction of a new link road from “Jumbo” Roundabout at Pont Fer, Phoenix to Pierrefonds Roundabout at Palma over approximately 6 km. Three major roundabouts will be constructed. The CPB awarded the contract to COLAS (Maurice) Ltée on 11 June. Works are due to start shortly.

Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit (TMRSU)

The TMRSU was involved in the following activities and projects:

- Two Wheelers Campaign (March 2009)
- Construction of bus stand at Réduit (Rs14.7m)
- Construction of two Bus Lay-bys at La Gaulette
- Black spots treatment at Tamarin
- Speed Review

Seafarers’ Welfare Fund

The Seafarer’s Welfare Fund, established under the Seafarer’s Welfare Fund Act 2009, extended financial assistance amounting Rs 482 522 to both active and retired seafarers.

Shipping Division

The Merchant Shipping Act and Regulations

The Merchant Shipping Bill was proclaimed and is effective as from 1 June. Regulations are being finalised to implement and give full and complete effect to the Act.

Strategic Plan for the Shipping Sector 2009 – 2015

Fisher Associate was appointed to prepare a strategic plan for the Mauritian Shipping sector. The purpose of this strategy is to strengthen the National Maritime Administration and to effectively respond to future challenges.
Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships Service (LRIT)

Fulcrum Maritime was awarded the contract to provide the LRIT services. This will enable the Mauritius Maritime Administration to receive identification position and time reports from flag ships and foreign ships with a view to enhance maritime security and respond to any kind of emergencies and constantly monitor movements of ships flying Mauritian Flag. The service is mandatory as Mauritius is a party to the SOLAS Convention as amended.

Mauritius Maritime Training Academy (MMTA)

The MMTA organised from January to 30 June the following courses: Basic Safety, Crowd & Crisis Management, Skipper for Pleasure Craft for Tourism Authority, Skipper Course and Engine Operator Course for Fishing Vessels of ≤ 24 metres and Ad hoc Course on Safety and Ship Board Familiarization. Some 92 candidates have been trained to take employment at sea.

ISO Certification

The Shipping Division has been ISO Certified 9001: 2008. Training is being imparted to officers of the Shipping Division so as to better implement the Quality Management System and to ensure total effectiveness and conformity with current policies and activities in the Shipping Division.
Surveys/Inspections

The Shipping Division has carried out 170 surveys and Inspections on board flag and foreign vessels.

National Transport Authority

As from the beginning of the year, a new format of registration book is being issued for all vehicles registered for the first time as well as for vehicles being transferred from one owner to another. This new process has brought a significant improvement in customer service as processing time for registration of vehicles has been reduced from two days to one hour.

Legislation governing the licensing of public service vehicles and goods vehicles has been completely reviewed. The drafts are in the final stage of vetting.

Along with the Construction and Use of Vehicles Regulations, the Road Traffic (Examination of Vehicles) Regulations have been drafted. This legislation will provide for the grant of licences to private operators for the examination of motor vehicles and for enabling these private entities to issue certificates of fitness.

In the context of the use of improved communication technology for availing of services, the SMS Gateway for booking appointments for vehicle examination is under a testing phase. This service will soon be a feature of e-services provided to the public.
Mission

To safeguard and promote the national interests of the Republic of Mauritius; and

To contribute towards the building of a secure, equitable, democratic and peaceful international community.
January

Chagos Archipelago

Mauritius and the United Kingdom held the first rounds of talks on 14 January in London on the Chagos Archipelago at Officials’ level, without prejudice to the sovereignty claim of Mauritius over the Archipelago.

Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights in Mauritius

A workshop on Intellectual Property Rights was organised from 12-14 January at Balaclava in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat under the Hub and Spokes Project. It was attended by members of the public and private sectors. The aim was to sensitize stakeholders on the importance of Intellectual Property.

Public-Private Sector Meeting on International Trade in Mauritius

The 2nd Public-Private Sector Meeting on International Trade held on 15 January in Port-Louis agreed that a number of working groups be established to identify actions that need to be taken regarding the negotiations and implementation of trade agreements. The working groups on food, non-food agricultural products, sugar, fisheries, textiles and clothing, non-textiles exports and services looked into addressing the bottlenecks being faced by Mauritian exporters, as well as identifying potential markets.

ESA Ministerial Sub-Committee on the Economic Partnership Agreement in Lusaka, Zambia

The Minister attended the Eastern and Southern African (ESA) Ministerial Sub-Committee meeting held on 19-20 January in Lusaka, Zambia. The ESA Ministers decided that the Chairs of the various negotiating groups should formulate informed negotiating positions on specific issues contained in the Interim Agreement to serve as a basis for discussion with the EC at ministerial level.
Seminar on Trade Issues in Mauritius

A half-day seminar on Trade issues organised in collaboration with COMESA on 23 January focused on the launch of the COMESA Customs Union and the opportunities it will present to Mauritian exporters.

ACP-EU High Level Political Meeting on EPAs in London

The Commonwealth Secretariat organised a high level political meeting on Economic Partnership Agreement in London on 27 January, chaired by Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, Secretary General of the Commonwealth. Twelve representative Ministers from the two ACP regions (Africa and Pacific) still negotiating full EPAs including Mauritius as well as the EU Trade Commissioner, Baroness Catherine Ashton, participated in the meeting. Key issues addressed at the meeting include Development and Trade, Market Access, including Rules of Origin and Agriculture, Trade-related issues and Trade in Services, Regional Integration, and Contentious Clauses in the Interim EPA.

February

Visit of the President of the People’s Republic of China

The Chinese President, Mr. Hu Jintao, was on a State visit to Mauritius on 16 and 17 February 2009, as part of an African tour which took him to Saudi Arabia, Mali, Senegal, and Tanzania. He led a 130-member delegation including three Vice-Prime Ministers, six Ministers and several Heads of Ministries.

The highlight of the visit was the signature of the following Agreements:

- Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation for an interest free loan of RMB Yuan 40M
- Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation for a grant of RMB Yuan 30M
- Preferential Credit Loan Agreement for the SSR International Airport Terminal Expansion Project

Purchase of an Advance Light Helicopter (ALH)

A Memorandum of Understanding for the provision of the grant of US $ 9.75 million for the supply of a new helicopter was signed between Mauritius and India on Friday 27 February. Alongside the MoU, an agreement between the Government of Mauritius and the Hindustan Aeronautics LTD (HAL) was finalised.
MoU on Economic Cooperation with South Africa

The Minister and Mr. Mpahlwa, former South African Minister of Trade and Industry signed, in Cape Town on 5 February, the Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Cooperation between Mauritius and South Africa.

Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement

Mauritius and Yemen successfully finalised the first round of negotiations from 3 to 6 February.

Rules of Origin and Implications for Regional Integration

The national workshop on Rules of Origin and Implications for Regional Integration was organised with the collaboration of the World Trade Organisation from 3 to 5 February at Balaclava. It focused on enhancing the understanding of the complex issue of rules of origin particularly under the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA), South African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union.

Eastern and Southern African (ESA) Council Meeting in Lusaka

The Eastern and Southern African (ESA) Council Meeting was held on 9 February in Lusaka, Zambia. The Council discussed the negotiating positions on specific issues contained in the Interim Agreement relating to the Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations such as export taxes and quantitative restrictions, the definition of substantially all trade and the standstill clause. Mauritius was chosen to host the signing of the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement between the ESA countries and the EU.

COMESA Trade Point Forum Workshop

The COMESA Trade Point Forum Workshop was held from 16-19 February in Balaclava. The workshop covered technical details about the functioning of a Trade Point System which is an e-market place where buyers and sellers can undertake transactions.

Workshop on Trade in Services

A workshop on Trade in Services was organised by COMESA and the EU/ACP Trade Com Facility from 24 to 26 February at Balaclava. The objective was to build capacity in order to prepare for negotiations in services and specifically in preparing their schedules of commitments in the context of the EPA negotiations. Topics covered included General Agreement on Trade in Services, the process of offers and request as well as the criteria and techniques to identify potential services sectors that can be committed to the EU side.
Following the workshop, Mauritius drafted a schedule of commitment to the EU which contains several services sectors.

**SADC Council of Ministers in Cape Town**

Mauritius participated in the SADC Council of Ministers in Cape Town, South Africa from 26 to 27 February. The Council adopted the budget of the Secretariat for fiscal year April 2009 - March 2010.

**Bilateral Fisheries Agreement between the European Community and Mauritius**

On 16 February, following negotiations between Mauritius and the European Commission, it was agreed that, pending the conclusion of a Bilateral Fisheries Agreement between the European Community and Mauritius, EU flagged vessels would apply for private licences to fish in the Mauritian territorial waters. Private licences were to be issued by Mauritius to EU vessels as from June.

**March**

**Accreditation of New Ambassadors**

Dr Otto Ditz, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria with residence in Pretoria, presented his credentials to the President of the Republic on 3 March.

Mr Budi Bowoleksono, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia with residence in Nairobi, presented his credentials to the President of the Republic on 19 March.

Mr Pablo Benavides, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain with residence in Pretoria, presented his credentials to the President of the Republic on 24 March.

Mrs Tove Bruvik Westberg Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway with residence in Maputo, presented her credentials to the President of the Republic on 25 March.

**Departure of Chinese Ambassador**

Mr Gao Yuchen, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, left Mauritius at the end of his tour of duty on 29 March.

**SADC Extraordinary Summit in Swaziland**

The SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Swaziland on 30 March condemned the unconstitutional action that led to the illegal ousting of the democratically elected Government of Madagascar and called for an immediate restoration of constitutional order in the country. The Extraordinary Summit suspended Madagascar from all SADC institutions and organs until the return of the country to constitutional normalcy.
Implications of Joining a Customs Union for Mauritius

A half-day session, organised with the collaboration of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was held on 2 March in Port-Louis and conducted by Mr Matthew Stern. Various implications of joining a customs union, especially in the context of the SADC Customs Union, were discussed.

AU Trade Ministers Meeting in Addis Ababa

The African Union Trade Ministers Meeting was held from 16 to 20 March in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Issues considered at the meeting included WTO Negotiations, state of play of EPA negotiations, AU participation in the 8th AGOA forum and the impact of the international financial crises on trade and economic development.

TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting in Gaborone

Mauritius participated in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial Follow-up Meeting held in Gaborone, Botswana, on 21 and 22 March, to examine and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Yokohama Plan of Action (adopted in May 2008).

UN Dispute Tribunal

Judge Vinod Boolell was elected on 2 March by the UN General Assembly to serve as a full-time Judge of the UN Dispute Tribunal in Nairobi for a seven-year period starting on 1\textsuperscript{st} July 2009.
April

Presentation of Credentials

Mr. Lee Han-Gon, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea with residence in Nairobi, presented his letter of credentials to the President of the Republic on 7 April.

Mr. Hans Dannenberg Castellanos, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic with residence in New Delhi, presented his letter of credentials to the President of the Republic on 28 April.

Signature of the Protocol on the Sale of Navigational Charts

A Protocol on the sale of Navigational Charts between Mauritius and India was signed on 2 April in Mauritius. The protocol was signed by the Indian High Commissioner and the Minister of Housing and Lands.

IOC Meeting of Council of Ministers

Mauritius participated in the IOC Meeting of Council of Ministers which was held in Comoros on 4 April. The Council resolved to extend all possible assistance to Madagascar in collaboration with multilateral organisations and institutions with a view to facilitating its reintegration in the international community. It was also agreed to develop a new programme to combat HIV/AIDS in the region.

Joint EC-EPA Ministerial Meeting on EPA in Lusaka

The Joint EC-EPA Ministerial meeting on EPA was held on 6 April. The purpose of the meeting was to address specific issues in the Interim EPA, namely the definition of substantially all trade, the Most Favoured Nation clause, export taxes, standstill clause, agricultural safeguard, cumulating of Rules of Origin, quantitative restrictions and development benchmark.

3rd TIFA Council Meeting in Mauritius

The 3rd TIFA Council meeting was held in Mauritius on 21 April. The meeting reviewed the work in progress, identified challenges and charted the way forward for future work under the TIFA. The meeting included a dedicated session on the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT). The BIT will create more confidence in US investors and thus, attract more US investments in Mauritius.
Online Non-Tariff Barrier Reporting, Monitoring and Eliminating Mechanism

The workshop on COMESA-EAC-SADC Online Non-Tariff Barrier Reporting, Monitoring and Eliminating mechanism, jointly organised with the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry was held on 23 April at Ebène. COMESA, EAC and SADC are implementing an online Non-Tariff Barrier Reporting, Monitoring and Eliminating Mechanism. The workshop provided an overview of the online system, and how it can be used by private operators.

Intellectual Property Development Plan Multi-stakeholder Meeting

The Intellectual Property Development Plan, Multi-stakeholder Meeting was held on 27 April in Port-Louis. The purpose of the meeting was to enable the consultants hired by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to present their findings, and discuss with public and private stakeholders, towards the formulation of a country specific Intellectual Property Development Plan (IPDP) for Mauritius. The aims of the IPDP are to implement policy and legal reform, modernising administration, strengthening enforcement and regulation and research and innovation in the field of intellectual property.

Lecture on the Extended Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau Region

A lecture entitled The Extended Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau Region: Joint Submission by Mauritius and the Seychelles was held on 20 April at Sir Harilal Vaghjee Memorial Hall. The panelists provided the participants with an in-depth exposé of the joint submission made by Mauritius and Seychelles to the United Nations to jointly manage the resources in the sea-bed and subsoil of the Indian Ocean in an area of 387 000 sq kms, beyond their respective Exclusive Economic Zones.

April-May

Courses on Writing and Reporting Skills

Two half-day courses were held back to back on Writing and Reporting Skills from 27 April to 7 May for 33 officers of the ministry. The course content included topics pertaining to communication with multilateral agencies, multilateral diplomatic practices and reporting in the multilateral context. Lectures were delivered by Ambassador Bhaskar Balakrishnan from the Foreign Service Institute of India.

Presentation of credentials of the Chinese Ambassador

Mrs Bian Yanhua presented her credentials as the new Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the President of the Republic on Thursday 7 May.
Appointment of Honorary Consuls

Mr Nirode Ravel Rai Bramdaw was appointed Honorary Consul of Mauritius in Durban on 21 May.

Mr Mukhtar G. Joonas was appointed Honorary Consul of Mauritius in Cape Town on 21 May.

Second Meeting of the Executive Board of the World Hindi Secretariat

The second meeting of the Executive Board of the World Hindi Secretariat was held on 14 and 15 May in New Delhi, to discuss matters pertaining to the implementation of decisions taken by the Governing Council and to consider issues to render the organisation fully operational.

Donation from the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia gifted 50 tons of dates to Mauritius. The dates were distributed to the population through private and public institutions. Following the arrival of an official representative of the Saudi Government, a handing-over ceremony was held on 14 May.

UN Human Rights Commission

On 12 May, Mauritius was re-elected to the HRC for another three-year term (2009-2012). The elections for the African Group were highly contested as there were six candidates running for five seats. Mauritius was elected in second position behind Senegal within the African Group, with 162 out of 191 votes.

ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee in Belgium

An ACP Ministerial Trade Committee was held from 4 to 7 May 2009 in Brussels, Belgium. During the meeting views were exchanged on the Economic Partnership Agreement in the various regions. The Committee also considered the impact of various EU regulations on ACP countries, took stock of progress at the WTO and also took note of the impact of global recession on trade.

Regional and National Workshop on TBT/SPS

The Regional and National Workshop on Technical Barriers to Trade /SPS was held from 12 to 15 May in Port-Louis jointly with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and targeted national standard setting bodies. In the margins of the workshop, the WTO resource persons conducted visits to the Mauritius Standards Bureau and the National Plant Protection Office to discuss notifications to the WTO.
ACP & ACP-EC Council of Ministers Meetings in Brussels

Mauritius participated in the 89th session of the ACP Council of Ministers and the 34th session of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers which were held from 25 to 29 May in Brussels.

June

Presentation of Credentials

Mrs Matlotliso Khechane-Ntoane presented her credentials as the new High Commissioner of the Kingdom of Lesotho, with residence in Pretoria, to the President of the Republic on 9 June.

Mr Geoffrey John Randal presented his credentials as the new High Commissioner of New Zealand to Mauritius, with residence in Pretoria, to the President of the Republic on 18 June.

Mr Ladislav Straka presented his credentials as the new Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, with residence in Pretoria, on 23 June.

Twinning Project between Doha and the Municipality of Port-Louis

During an official visit to Mauritius in June, the Ambassador of Qatar informed the Minister that Qatar had approved the twinning project between Doha and the Municipality of Port-Louis.

A high level Business delegation from LAICO visited Mauritius from 24 – 26 June and held fruitful talks on investment opportunities with public and private stakeholders.

COMESA Summit of Heads of State and Government in Zimbabwe

Mauritius participated in the COMESA Summit of Heads of State and Government which was held in Victoria Falls Town, Zimbabwe on 7 and 8 June. During the Summit, the COMESA Customs Union was launched.

SADC Extraordinary Summit in South Africa

The SADC Extraordinary Summit held on 20 June in South Africa endorsed the recommendations of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics and Defence that a SADC mediation team be set up to examine, in consultation with the International Community, the ways and means of restoring constitutional order in Madagascar.
IOR-ARC Council of Ministers in Yemen

Mauritius participated in the IOR-ARC Council of Ministers which was held on 25 June in Yemen. Discussions at the meeting focused on:

- Fisheries Support Unit (FSU)
- Maritime Transport Council (MTC)
- Regional Centre for Science and Transfer of Technology (RCSTT)
- IOR-ARC Special Fund
- Charter of IOR-ARC
- Combatting Piracy in the Gulf of Aden (Yemen)

High Level Meeting between Mauritius and Turkey

A High Level Meeting between Mauritius and Turkey was held on 3 and 4 June in Port-Louis. The first round of discussions focused on the guiding principles towards negotiating and concluding a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries. The initial process would cover trade in goods, and include a built-in agenda for trade in services, investment and intellectual property rights.

23rd COMESA Council Meeting in Zimbabwe

The 23rd COMESA Council Meeting held on 4 June at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe had as main outcome the launch of the COMESA Customs Union. An issue of particular importance to Mauritius, was allowing Member States to maintain agreements with third parties which are outside of the Customs Union, as well as preserving the market access currently being enjoyed under the Free Trade Area. The regulation on Trade in Services which paves the way for services liberalisation amongst countries in the region was also adopted.

Joint Declaration on Cooperation between EFTA Member States and Mauritius

The Joint Declaration on Cooperation between EFTA (European Free Trade Association), comprising Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein), and Mauritius which was issued in Switzerland on 9 June, aims to enhance bilateral economic relations to facilitate trade in goods and services, and cooperation in investment and intellectual property rights. This is a stepping stone towards a free trade agreement between EFTA and Mauritius.

SADC Trade Ministers Meeting in Cape Town

The SADC Trade Ministers meeting was held on 19 June in Cape Town, South Africa. The Trade Ministers reviewed the status of implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol. It was noted that Mauritius had undertaken a significant part of its commitments towards the
SADC Free Trade Area. The draft SADC Protocol for trade in services, rules of origin and non-tariff barriers were also discussed.

**Universal Periodic Review**

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism was adopted by the Human Rights Council (HRC) on 18 June 2007 at its 5th Session. All Member States of the HRC are reviewed during their term of membership.

The UPR of Mauritius was held successfully during the 4th session of the UPR Working Group in February 2009 in Geneva. Mauritius was praised for its firm commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and for progress achieved in various areas.

**Meeting of ACP Ministers of Fisheries in Brussels**

Mauritius participated in the 1st Meeting of ACP Ministers of Fisheries held on 4 and 5 June in Brussels. The meeting agreed on the setting up of a Fisheries Mechanism for ACP Ministerial Coordination and Cooperation on Fisheries for the ACP Group with the objective to canvass political support, both within the group and from its external partners, for new approaches to fisheries governance and cooperation in fisheries, in order to ensure that the fisheries sector also contributes in social and economic development of ACP Member States.

**2nd Introductory Course on Diplomacy and Foreign Trade in Mauritius**

The 2nd Introductory Course on Diplomacy and Foreign Trade was run from 18 June to 24 July for newly-recruited Second Secretaries and technical and administrative staff of the Ministry. It provided over fifty hours of lecture on Mauritius Foreign Policy, Bilateral and Multilateral Relations, the History and Practice of Diplomacy, the Mauritian Public Administration System, International and Regional Organisations, Mauritius Trade and Economics, Consular and Administrative procedures and major Global Issues.

**July**

**Presentation of credentials of the Tunisian Ambassador**

Dr Ahmed Mahjoub presented his credentials as the new Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia, with residence in Pretoria, on 14 July.

**Departures of Head of Delegation of European Delegation/Ambassador**

Mrs Claudia Wiedey-Nippold, Head of Delegation and Ambassador of the European Delegation, left Mauritius at the end of her tour of duty on 1 July.
Mr Torres Espinosa, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Mauritius, with residence in Harare, left Mauritius on 18 July at the end of his tour of service.

**Lecture on International Trade and Economic Development**

A lecture on *International Trade and Economic Development against the Backdrop of Global Recession: The Way Forward* was held on 6 July at the Lunch Room of the National Assembly. It was attended by about 100 officials from both the public and private sectors.

**Chagos Archipelago**

On 21 July, Mauritius and the United Kingdom held the second round of talk in Mauritius on the Chagos Archipelago at Officials’ level, without prejudice to the sovereignty claim of Mauritius over the Archipelago.

**MoU on Economic Cooperation between Mauritius and South Africa**

The first meeting on the implementation of the MoU on Economic Cooperation between Mauritius and the Republic of South Africa was held on 2 and 3 July 2009 in Port Louis.

**Thematic Areas of Cooperation – Food Security and Knowledge Hub**

Apart from programmes and projects of regional dimension, Mauritius used its diplomatic weight to acquire prime land of 10 000 hectares in the district of Marracuene, some 70 kilometres from the city of Maputo, Mozambique for pilot rice cultivation. The same principle of outward looking policy characterised the promotion of educational services.

**Regional Peace and Security**

Along with the decision to expand the economic space and diversify the export market, Mauritius continued to play a constructive role in promoting regional peace and security, particularly in Madagascar.

**August**

**Training Course on Protocol and Ceremonials**

A Training Course on *Protocol and Ceremonials* was held from 3 to 7 August for 23 Officers of the Ministry. Lectures, delivered by Ambassador Siddharth Singh from India, focused on the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, hosting of banquets, Official/State visits and application of table of precedence amongst other topics.
EPA between the European Community and ESA countries

The signature ceremony of the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Eastern and Southern African (ESA) countries was held at the Grand Baie International Conference Centre on 29 August. Four ESA countries, namely Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, and Zimbabwe, and the EC signed the Interim Agreement, which provides for reciprocal trade relationship between the EU and the ACP as opposed to the traditional preferential trade regimes under previous Agreements. Baroness Ashton, EU Trade Commissioner, was present for the signing ceremony.

September

Training Course on Anti-Dumping

A training course on Anti-Dumping was held from 7 to 11 September for 20 Officers of the public and private sectors, in particular the members sitting on the Anti-Dumping Committee. Lectures were delivered on Anti-Dumping Investigation Practices and Procedures by Mr. Satish Kumar Sharma, Adviser, Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties, Department of Commerce, India.

Second Africa-South America Summit in Venezuela

Mauritius participated in the Second Africa-South America Summit which was held in Venezuela from 22 to 27 September. The Summit adopted a Declaration outlining the various areas of cooperation between the African and Latin American countries. The Declaration also contains a paragraph reaffirming the sovereignty of the Republic of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago including Diego Garcia, and Tromelin.
Signature of the Hague Securities Convention in Netherlands

Mauritius submitted the instrument of ratification in respect of the Convention on the Law Applicable to Certain Rights in Respect of Securities Held with an Intermediary, also known as the Hague Securities Convention. The Convention was signed by Mauritius on 28 April in the Hague, the Netherlands.

October

Joint Working Group Meeting between Mauritius and Pakistan

The 8th Joint Working Group Meeting between Mauritius and Pakistan was held in Port Louis from 5 to 7 October. The Joint Working Group, which is a formal mechanism for structured dialogue between the officials of the two countries, meets alternately in Mauritius and Pakistan. The main objective of the Joint Working Group is to dynamise trade and economic relations between the two countries.

November

Second round of talks between Mauritius and Turkey

The second round of negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Mauritius and Turkey was held in Ankara on 2 and 3 November.

The Mauritian delegation was led by Mr A. Bhuglah, Director, Trade Policy Unit, International Trade Division. The Turkish delegation was headed by Mr Cemalettin Damlaci, Deputy, Undersecretary of the Prime Ministry for Foreign Trade.
The relevance for negotiating a Free Trade Agreement with Turkey emanates from the trade regime currently in place with the European Commission (EC). The Turkish side on one hand has a customs union with the EC and consequently is under the obligation to harmonise their trade regime with the EC, including concessions which have been granted by the EC to the ACP countries. Mauritius on the other hand has signed an Interim Economic Partnership agreement (IEPA) with the EC which provides duty free access to Mauritian exports.

A first round of discussions was held in June 2009, whereby members agreed on the framework of the agreement. During the second round of discussions, both parties agreed on a draft joint text laying down the provisions for an FTA.

**December**

**Visit of Bangladeshi Foreign Affairs Minister**

Dr. Dipu Moni, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, led a six-member delegation to Mauritius on 21 December.

The objective was to discuss cooperation in the fields of trade, commerce and industry, tourism and hospitality, shrimp culture and education.

During her visit, it was agreed to consider a MoU in the field of manpower.
Mission

To enhance the global competitiveness of the industrial sector.

To foster development of integrated, high-tech and innovative industries.

To sustain quality through recognised standards.

To promote science and research for wealth generation, job creation and sustainable development.
January

Training Course on ISO/IEC 17021:2006

MAURITAS organised on 19 January a course to train a pool of assessors and the personnel of the three certification bodies operating in Mauritius on the international standard ISO/IEC 17021:2006 which is one of the standards used in the conformity assessment sector. It consists of the requirements that certification bodies need to comply with to achieve accreditation.

MoU between IVTB and Freight Academy

The IVTB and Freight Academy signed on 21 January a Memorandum of Understanding aiming at giving additional impetus to meet the shortage of professionals skills in the logistics field.

South Africa Square Kilometer Array Radio Telescope

The project director of South Africa Square Kilometer Array (SKA) Radio Telescope, Dr. B. Fanaroff, paid a courtesy call on the Minister on 30 January and briefed him on the project of the largest and most sensitive telescope in the world.

In the eventuality that South Africa would be selected to host the SKA facility, outer stations would be set up throughout other African States, including Mauritius.

SKA is an international project which aims to meet the future needs of radio astronomers and find out about certain scientific fundamentals of astronomy.

Business Excellence Award

The Business Excellence Award 2009 was launched on 31 January. The aim was to promote best business practices among enterprises and to provide recognition to businesses that are making continuous efforts to improve management and operational practices. It also provided a platform to promote the use of economic and productivity assessment tools among participants.
February

‘Convention de Financement’ with AFD

The Minister signed on 18 February a Convention de Financement with Agence Française de Développement for a sum of Euro 1.5 million as grant for the implementation of projects to upgrade the production and export capability of enterprises, particularly the manufacturing sector.

March

Gemology Laboratory

With the setting up on 5 March of the Gemology Laboratory, the Assay Office is now able to provide the jewellery sector and the public with an independent objective opinion regarding the authenticity and quality of precious and semiprecious stones.

April

AGOA Week

Opportunities to export to the US market under AGOA was the theme of an AGOA Week which was organised on 6 April for the benefit of those companies which have the willingness and the capacity to export to the US market. The AGOA export manual containing information relating to basic procedures for exporting to US was released. It contains contact details of local and US authorities and permits and clearances required.
Launching of National Science Portal

The first National Science Portal with the domain name science.gov.mu was launched on 10 April. The portal, an internet platform, consists of the following four broad components to provide policy makers, researchers and the public with up-to-date information on science and research: Research in Science and Technology; Science for socio-economic development; Science education; and Science popularisation.

May

Technical Barriers to Trade

A workshop on Technical Barriers to Trade which was held at Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel on 12 May was another important event for knowledge dissemination and experience sharing for building capacity in Africa on WTO issues. African economies, as part of developing and least developed countries, need to have their voice heard during negotiations at the WTO and our level of preparedness is fundamental.

Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation Programme

A Validation Workshop on Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation Programme for Mauritius was held on 7 May in collaboration with SADC and UNIDO. The objectives of the Programme are to support the process of modernisation, growth and competitiveness of industries and related services, facilitate access to national, regional and international markets, as well as help strengthen management capacities and marketing skills.

June

Legal Aspects of Human DNA Use

The workshop on the legal aspects of Human DNA use was held at the University of Mauritius on 8 June to examine various facets of the use of human DNA and to better understand the interdependent nature of efforts, especially concerning the legal, ethical and regulatory aspects, that are now necessary for innovative science and technology.

Mauritian Film Festival

To give a boost to the film sector, a film festival was launched at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre on 12 June. The film/entertainment industry constitutes an important component of the cultural industry capable of generating revenue and employment and promoting Mauritian talent.
July

Junior Science Adventure

The finals of the Second edition of the Junior Science Adventure (JSA) 2009 was held at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre on 9 July, which is yet another laudable initiative from the RGSC to promote science and technology among the student community in Mauritius.

National Environmental Laboratory

The ceremony for the award of the Accreditation Certificate to the National Environmental Laboratory was held at the University of Mauritius on 10 July.

Bioinformatics Workshop

A workshop was held on 27 July at the Mauritius Research Council on Bioinformatics. The use of bioinformatics spans across a wide range of potential applications, including those related to health, agriculture and biodiversity.

September

Fashion and Design Institute

The Fashion and Design Institute was launched on 15 September at the Freeport of Mauritius Exhibition Centre, Mer Rouge. The Institute has been entrusted with the responsibility to promote excellence in fashion and design technology, develop a multi-disciplinary approach in carrying out research and training and provide consultancy.

Promoting excellence in fashion and design technology
October

SADC SET week

The first SADC SET week was held from 22 to 25 October at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre at Pailles, under the theme *Harnessing Science, Engineering and Technology for Socio-economic Development*. The SET Week was organised at the initiative of the Ministry to raise society awareness on the everyday use of Science and Technology towards the improvement of quality of life.

November

National Science Challenge 2009

The National Science Challenge (NSC) was held on 9 November at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre Auditorium. NSC demonstrates that the teaching of science through extra curricular activities is an excellent strategy to ignite the minds of the youth to develop a new interest in the sciences. The questions addressed ranged from scientific curriculum-based subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology to Life Sciences.

Mauritius Business Excellence Award 2009

The Mauritius Business Excellence Award 2009 Ceremony was held on 27 November at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Pailles. The object of the Award is to promote and encourage small entrepreneurs in their work.
December

Consultative Meeting for a Sustainable Film Industry

A consultative meeting on developing a framework for a sustainable film industry was held on 14 December at La Petite Canelle, Domaine Les Pailles.
To prepare a National Development Strategy (NDS), for the long term growth and physical development of the country, its city, towns and rural areas, areas of significant environment conservation or restriction including coastal/lagoon areas and other significant land use opportunity and constraint areas.

To provide a framework for local authorities i.e. Outline Schemes, to guide and control development in their area.

To manage and control development on State Lands.

To devise and implement housing and land policies and programmes to meet the needs of the people here, in particular the vulnerable groups of our society.
February

Adhesion of Mauritius to NIOHC

During the 9th North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC) meeting held in Seychelles on 25 and 26 February, Mauritius signed the statutes and became a member of the NIOHC.

Housing Project in Port Louis

The Mauritius Housing Company Ltd launched a housing project at Military Road and Penang Street, Port Louis, which comprises the construction of 116 apartments of three bedrooms for middle income group.

March

Hydrographic Surveys of Mauritian Waters

The Indian naval ship Nirdeshak was deployed to Mauritius from 10 March to 16 April to conduct additional hydrographic surveys around the country and in St Brandon. The surveys of Mauritian waters were subsequent to the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between Mauritius and India during the visit of the Prime Minister to India in 2005. Arrangements were also made for the setting up of a Hydrographic Survey Unit.

Junior-PEL Saver

In a bid to foster a savings culture among the young, the Mauritius Housing Corporation launched on 18 March a New Savings Product-Junior-PEL Saver.

LAVIMS

Launching on 20 March of tender for the proposal for recruitment of a Project Coordinator and Quality Assurance Officer for the Land Administration, Valuation and Information Management System (LAVIMS) project. The project aims at setting up, managing and maintaining the digital Cadastral System, promoting, developing and contributing to the development of an integrated spatial reference database on land tenure, land transactions and land ownership. This in line with Government policy for land management reform that
ascribes value to land and provides an essential mechanism for making rational decisions about liabilities, risks and state interventions on land use and planning.

**Ex-CHA Housing Units**

As at 20 March, 9 364 applications were processed with regard to the purchase of plots of State land on which stand ex-CHA Housing Units. 8 483 applications were approved for sale, 8 291 letters of intent issued and 3 560 title deeds signed.

**April**

**Hydrographic Charts**

On 2 April, the High Commissioner of India to Mauritius handed over hydrographic charts for St Brandon, Black River Bay and Rivière des Galets to the Minister. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by India and Mauritius for the sale of hydrographic charts.

**Housing for Middle Income Group**

In line with its policy to provide a roof for all, Government approved on 3 April the construction by NHDC of 468 apartments for the middle income group at Mon Rocher (Pamplemousses), Cap Malheureux, Cascavelle, La Gaulette and Moka.

**Hydrographic surveys**

Data of hydrographic surveys of Rivière Noire and Tamarin and of bathymetrical surveys at Rivière des Galets were handed over to the Minister on 15 April by the High Commissioner of India to Mauritius.

**June**

**Promulgation of Regulations under the State Lands Act**

Regulations were promulgated under the State Lands Act to demarcate the boundary limits of the Port Louis City Centre with a view to enabling State land lessees within the Centre to opt for a new sixty-year lease. The object is to allow the State to obtain a fair return on its prime land assets and to align the industrial site lease policy with those of the new campement site lease policy so as to better reflect the market value of the land.

**Rehabilitation of NHDC Housing Estates**

Works to clean up the NHDC housing estates and rehabilitate the water, electricity and wastewater infrastructures began in June. The July-December budget earmarked Rs 100
million from the MID Fund to co-finance with the CEB, CWA and WWMA the Rs 280 million renovations and rehabilitation programme.

**Ex-CHA Housing Units**

As at 26 June, 10 662 applications were processed with regard to the purchase of plots of State land on which stand ex-CHA Housing Units. 9 562 applications were approved for sale, 9 299 letters of intent issued and 4 747 title deeds signed.

**July**

**Planning and Development Act 2004**

Section 19 of Part III of the Planning and Development Act 2004 regarding the preparation of action area plans and subject plans came into operation on 1 July.

**Hydrographic Chart for Grand Baie region**

The High Commissioner of India to Mauritius handed over the hydrographic chart of Grand Baie to the Minister. The hydrographic surveys were undertaken by *INS Nirdeshak*. 

Ensuring a decent house for every family
NHDC Social Housing Programme in Henrietta

Some 70 people received the keys of their NHDC houses in Henrietta. The project was part of the NHDC low-cost housing programme.

September

LAVIMS

The Project Coordinator and Quality Assurance Officer for the Land Administration, Valuation and Information Management System (LAVIMS) project was recruited.

October

World Habitat Day 2009

World Habitat Day 2009 was celebrated on 5 October on the theme “Planning Our Urban Future”.
Housing for Lower Middle Income Group

On 16 October Cabinet approved the construction by the NHDC of 44 housing units at Military Road, Port Louis for the lower middle income group. The project was advertised and marketed by the Mauritius Housing Company Ltd.

December

Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Bill

The Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Bill was introduced on 1st December at the National Assembly. It provides for the yearly increase in the rental of business premises to be 10% instead of 15% of the difference between the market rent and the actual rent being paid and for the moratorium which aims at deregulating the letting of business premises after 2012 to be extended to 31 December 2017.
Mission

To protect, promote and enhance Social Welfare and National Solidarity.

Social welfare centres to further health, advance education, provide facilities for mental and physical training and generally for recreation and for social, moral and intellectual development.
Social Security

January

Inauguration of Social Welfare Centre

The Nouvelle Découverte Social Welfare Centre cum Day Care Centre for the Elderly was inaugurated on 23 January. On the same occasion a community – based agricultural project was launched.

Mission to Mumbai

The Minister was on mission to Mumbai, India where she received, on behalf of the Prime Minister, the award of the Honorary Doctorate of Science conferred by the Padmashree Dr. D.Y. Patil University. Following a request made, Dr D.Y. Patil, Chancellor of the University, agreed to put a branch of the University for the Indian Ocean in Mauritius and has offered 16 seats, free of charge in various fields to economically vulnerable Mauritian students.

February

Leadership in Programme Development

Around 60 participants comprising committee members, community support officers and welfare officers took part in a one-day workshop on Leadership in Programme Development. The objective was to equip participants with the proper skills required for programme formulation, implementation and monitoring, to help in enhancing work efficiency and output and to prepare a plan of activities for Social Welfare Centres for 2009.

Micro Project/Community Development Project

The NGO Trust Fund provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs 2.3 million for some 52 projects elaborated by NGOs under the Micro Project /Community Development Project for the period 2008-2009. The scheme aims at extending support to NGOs in their initiatives to improve the quality of service delivery and upgrade their environment and encouraging them to enlist the participation of the community in addressing the needs of vulnerable groups.
March

**The Anti-Influenza Vaccination Campaign**

The Anti-Influenza Vaccination Campaign 2009 for Elderly was launched on 10 March. Elderly persons are vaccinated each year in order to prevent complications due to influenza and to improve their quality of life.

**Training in Office Skills and IT for Persons with Disabilities**

Certificates were handed over to some 20 trainees who followed a training programme in Office & IT Skills mounted by the Mauritius Employers Federation (MEF). The training programme is a partnership between the Ministry, the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board and MEF to promote the employability of persons with disabilities.

**Computerisation of the Payment for Social Aid in Rodrigues**

Official launch at Camp du Roi, Rodrigues of the programme for computerisation of the payment for social aid. The system aims at providing a quality service as outlined in the government’s vision of introducing new technologies in the delivery of services.

**Senior Citizens Council**

A 12-member delegation of the Senior Citizens Council visited India from 15 to 29 March at the invitation of Respect Age and the Senior Citizens Council of Delhi.

In the context of the celebration of the National Day, some 3 000 senior citizens gathered at Belle Mare Public beach on 9 March for a composite cultural programme, sketches and an intergeneration show.

A three-day residential seminar on Ageing Issues was held from 27 to 29 May at the Pointe aux Sables Recreation Centre.

April

**Community Service Order Bill**

The Community Service Order (Amendment) Bill was introduced in the National Assembly on 28 April. The object of this Bill was to amend the Community Service Order Act in order to deal more efficiently with convicted persons.
May

Community Service

The Community Service Order (Amendment) Act 2009 was adopted by the National Assembly on 12 May.

Probation of Offenders (Amendment) Bill

Presentation of the Probation of Offenders (Amendment) Bill at the National Assembly on 12 May. The object of this Bill was to amend the Probation of Offenders Act in order to allow the Court to deal more efficiently with probationers.

Second Chance Programme

A Second Chance Programme organised jointly by IVTB and Caritas was introduced in May at the Rehabilitation Youth Centre (RYC). All RYC inmates attending the courses are paid a monthly stipend of Rs 1500. Courses include Communication Skills (English/French/Maths), gardening, tailoring, bicycle and auto cycle mechanic, basic electricity, plumbing and pipe fitting. At the end of the courses, they are issued a certificate and admitted to IVTB (Ebène) if they are successful.

June

Increase in Social Aid

The Minister announced on 10 June the implementation of the budgetary measures 2009 concerning social aids from the month of July. Old Age Pension, Basic Widows Pension, Basic Invalidity Pension, Basic Retirement Pension for severely handicapped, Basic Orphans Pension and Child Allowance, amongst others, increased by 5.1%.

Non-State Actors Unit

A Non-State Actors Unit has been set up with the support of the UNDP. The aim is to build the capacity of NGOs, provide adequate financial/technical and human resources to support NGOs in programme implementation, set up a professional corps of volunteers for NGOs to tap into and provide an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system for programmes.

Workshop on accessibility for persons with disabilities

A workshop was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping and the Mauritian Association of Architects on 17 June at Imperial China Hotel to sensitise stakeholders on the important issue of accessibility. It was attended by some 75 architects and engineers from both the public and private sectors.
Wheelchair Project

A Wheelchair Project was launched by the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board on 25 June at the Rose Belle Sub-Centre. The objective is to provide repair facilities for wheelchairs used for enhancing the mobility of persons with disabilities.

Rehabilitation Youth Centre

An in-service training course was held for newly recruited officers of the Rehabilitation Youth Centre from January to June 2009.

Respite Care Programmes

Under the Respite Care programmes leisure activities for some 700 children with disabilities were organised at Casela Nature Park and Calodyne - sur- Mer. Leonard Cheshire International delegated a consultant to carry out a feasibility study on the project of setting up of a Respite Care Centre for children with severe disabilities.

Employability of Persons with Disabilities

A training in Office and IT skills for some 25 persons with disabilities was held in collaboration with the Mauritius Employers Federation. After completion of the course, half of trainees found employment in the BPO sector.

Database on Disability

With the assistance of UNDP, the services of an Indian consultant were enlisted to advise the Ministry on the setting up of a database on disability. The consultant has made the necessary recommendations regarding the infrastructural, performance and human requirements of the database.

Training for Specialised Pre-Primary School for Visually Impaired Children

Miss Daisy Minatchy from Reunion Island was in Mauritius from 29 June to 3 July to train the teachers of the Specialised Pre-Primary School for Visually Impaired Children. She conducted training sessions on how to support visually impaired children with adapted pedagogical materials and pre-requisites for Braille.
July

**Respite Care Programme**

The Ministry organised a Respite Care Programme for children with disabilities and parents on 18 July at Calodyne-Sur-Mer.

**Award of Certificates**

Award on 8 July of Certificates to 23 officers of the Rehabilitation Youth Centre having completed a course in Communication.

**Training Course on Psycho-geriatrics**

Opening on 27 July of a training course on psycho-geriatric patients for doctors, the paramedical body and carers. The course was conducted by Dr Gérard Moutou from Reunion Island.

August

**National Youth Empowerment Programme**

In the context of the National Youth Empowerment Programme, certificates were handed over on 3 August over to 20 youths for having completed a training course on Leadership at Pointe aux Sables. The Course was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Youth Network in Mauritius.

**Visit of Delegation of Senior Citizens Council of Delhi**

Visit of a 32-member delegation of the Senior Citizens Council of Delhi, India from 2 to 8 August. The visit was within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Senior Citizens Council of Mauritius and the Senior Citizens Council of Delhi. The main objective of the exchange programme was to provide opportunities for senior citizens of both countries to interact, exchange views and share experience in the field of ageing and intergeneration programmes.

**Directory of Social Actors**

Launching on 14 August of a *Directory of Social Actors*, prepared by the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS).
September

Financial Help to Parents of Victims of Montebello Accident

Handing over of cheques of Rs 25,000 to the four families whose members lost their life in the road accident at Montebello, Pailles.

MoU with Southern Africa Trust

Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and Southern Africa Trust. This Memorandum provides for areas of cooperation namely for training programme, policy research, exchange of information on poverty and the establishment of a regional civil society learning Leadership Centre.

October

UN International Day of the Elderly

Celebration on October 1 of the UN International Day of the Elderly. The theme this year was Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Older Persons: Towards a Society for All Ages.
Visit to Leonard Cheshire Disability

The Minister was on a visit to United Kingdom on 5 and 6 October in the context of the collaboration with the Leonard Cheshire Disability and the Ministry. The Minister had discussions with authorities / experts on the management of day-care services for disabled persons and the operation of Respite Care Services. Leonard Cheshire Disability agreed to support Mauritius in the designing of a Respite Care Centre at La Marie, Vacoas, the conduct of training programmes for carers and the implementation of the database project for the disability sector.

Journée Internationale de la Canne Blanche

Celebration on 15 October of the Journée Internationale de la Canne blanche. On that occasion, the Nadia Pyndia Specialised Pre-primary School for the Visually Impaired of the Lois Lagesse Trust Fund inaugurated a playground.

Protection and Prevention against Child Abuse and Neglect

Signature on 19 October of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and the African Network for the Protection and Prevention against Child Abuse and Neglect (Mauritian Branch) on the social reinsertion of young delinquents under the Halfway Home Project.

Community Based Sports Development Programme

Launching on 29 October of the Community Based Sports Development Programme at Glen Park. This Programme was organised by the Mauritius Sports Council with a view to promoting sports and Keep Fit activities.

November

Exchange Programme

Visit on 4 and 5 November of the Minister to Reunion Island in the context of an exchange programme in the disability sector. The Minister visited institutions as well as educational and cultural centres using specialised equipment in the provision of services to disabled persons. She also held discussions with institutions providing socio-medical care to disabled persons and training to personnel operating in the disability sector.

Training Programme

A Training Programme on Essential of NGO Management and Accounting and Finance for NGOs was organised on 9 November at the Knowledge Based Training Centre in Port Louis. These courses were organised jointly by the NGO Trust Fund and the Decentralised
Cooperation Programme. The objective was to provide the participants with core knowledge, practical skills and tools to manage and effectively lead an NGO.

Visit of Mrs. Jiang Li

Visit from 11 to 14 November of Ms Jiang Li, Deputy Minister of Civil Affairs of the People’s Republic of China. During the visit, she signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at developing the legal and policy frameworks in the fields of ageing and social development, sharing information on experiences and techniques as well as welfare facilities and services provided to the elderly people.

December

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated on 3 December. The activities comprised the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Leonard Cheshire Disability (UK) and the Leonard Cheshire (Mauritius) and the laying of the foundation stone of a Respite Care Centre at La Marie, Vacoas.
International Volunteer Day

Commemoration of the International Volunteer Day on 5 December. The activities organised to mark that occasion comprised the official launching of the Non-State Actors Unit aiming at building up a strong NGO community through the training and creation of a pool of volunteers to support the social development objectives of Government and an award of Certificates to 161 NGO volunteers having received training in Project Management, Fund Raising, Strategic Management, Counselling Skills and Communication Skills. A social programme on the theme Volunteering for our Planet was also organised by the MACOSS at the State House, Le Reduit.

SSR Recreation Centre for Senior Citizens

Inauguration on 6 December of the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Recreation Centre for Senior Citizens at Belle Mare by the Prime Minister.
NGO TRUST FUND

Every year, the NGO Trust Fund invites eligible NGOs to submit project proposals. The objective is to assist NGOs in upgrading their services towards vulnerable people and encouraging community participation in the identification of needs and implementation of programmes.

The NGO Trust Fund funded for an amount of Rs 2 346 950 52 the implementation of 52 micro-projects and community development projects. In this context, a ceremony was organised at the IVTB House, Phoenix in February to hand over cheques to beneficiaries.

A delegation also visited Rodrigues in February and an amount of Rs 492 710 was disbursed for the implementation of seven NGO projects.

Training Programmes

In pursuance of its objective of enhancing the capacity of NGOs, the NGO Trust Fund introduced the following training programmes in 2009: Project Management; Strategic Management; Fund Raising; Counselling Skills; and Communication Skills.

In addition, six NGO volunteers were offered scholarships for the Diploma/BSc (Hons) Social Work at the University of Mauritius during the year.

A ceremony was held in June to officially launch the Training Programmes targeting 150 NGO volunteers and to award Scholarships.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY LABOUR WELFARE FUND (SILWF)

Social Welfare

Since February all Social Welfare Centres started holding monthly handicraft fairs with a view to encouraging trainees who attend various courses to put their products on sale and generate revenue. More than 3 500 participants have taken part in this monthly activity.

Thirty Social Welfare Centres have been equipped with mini Parcours de Santé and stretch facilities as well as physical fitness equipment.

Eighteen Health Clubs have been set up in Community Centres and Social Welfare Centres and one at the Municipality of Quatre Bornes. Services provided include tests for blood sugar; blood pressure checks; monitoring of weight; and talks on health problems and preventive health.
Under the Scholarships Scheme, Rs 1 363 850 were disbursed in favour of 517 students undergoing secondary education, vocational training and tertiary education at University of Mauritius and University of Technology of Mauritius.

**Housing Loan Scheme**

Under the Housing Loan Scheme, the SILWF provides Housing Loan facilities to sugar workers up to a maximum of Rs 200 000 at 5% interest per annum refundable over a maximum period of 20 years. The Housing Loan is disbursed for the purpose of construction/repairs/completion of houses.

The Fund disbursed the sum of Rs 958 672.00 under the Housing Loan Scheme.

**Staffing with the PMS and PBB concept**

All staff working at the Community Centres have benefitted from a training programme for the implementation of the Performance Management System and the Performance Based Budget concepts.

**Community Development and Amenities Schemes**

Under the Community Development and Amenities Scheme, the SILWF disbursed the sum of Rs 1 750 000 for capital projects at the Community Centres and for the purchase of indoor games and equipment used at the community centres.
Mission

To design and implement policies and programmes geared towards promoting gender equality and equity, protecting the rights of children and enhancing their overall development and promoting the welfare of families.
January

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

The Chairperson of the National Children’s Council was elected on 9 January as member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child for an initial period of four years.

Pont Lardier Empowerment Centre

Official opening on 15 January of the Pont Lardier Empowerment Centre by the Minister. The Centre has been operational since April 2008 and the following courses are conducted: curtain making, fabric painting, home economics, floral arrangement, yoga, aerobics and adult literacy.

Second Ministerial Meeting of NAM

The Minister participated from 21 to 24 January in the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on the Advancement of Women, in the Republic of Guatemala.

The theme was Advancement of Women towards the Millennium Development Goals. The aim of the meeting was to provide an opportunity to Member Countries to delve into the realities and challenges facing the advancement of women in essential areas, such as education, health and employment.

February

Meeting of the National Domestic Violence Committee

The National Domestic Violence Committee met on 9 February under the chairmanship of the Minister.

The National Domestic Violence Committee has as objective to ensure coordination at central level, advise on policy matters relating to domestic violence, and assess and monitor the effectiveness of the Area Domestic Violence Committees which have been set up in the six Family Support Bureaux.
Fight Against Domestic Violence

The Ministry, in collaboration with the Council of Religions, conducted two workshops with some 52 religious leaders to engage them in the fight against domestic violence. Discussions and round table pertaining to the involvement of religious leaders in the fight against domestic violence and the legal aspects of domestic violence against women were held on 26 February at St Georges Hotel in Port Louis.

March

International Women’s Day 2009

The International Women’s Day 2009 was celebrated on 8 March at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Pailles. The Prime Minister was the Chief Guest on that occasion. The leading theme this year was Opportunities for Women’s Empowerment.

In the same context, an open day pertaining to Opportunities for Women’s Empowerment was organised at the National Women Development Centre in Phoenix on 9 and 10 March. An “Atelier de Savoir” in collaboration with the Human Resource Development Council was also held during the open day. The objective was to inform women on the various facilities, services and training programmes available.

Triplet Women Empowerment Centre

The Prime Minister inaugurated on 21 March the Women Empowerment Centre in Triplet. A Business Incubator Centre, a Training Centre and a Business and Facilitation Unit form
part of the Women Empowerment Centre which aims to help women achieve economic empowerment.

April

National Workshop to Combat Domestic Violence

A national workshop on strategic planning and capacity building to combat domestic violence was held on 2 April. Following the programme, a calendar of activities spanning up to November 2009 was prepared by the stakeholders to sensitise people at community level on issues related to domestic violence and family welfare.

MoU with the All China Women Federation

An MoU aimed at strengthening friendly ties between two sister organisations, the National Women's Council of Mauritius and the All China Women Federation, was signed on 16 April in Beijing during the visit of the Minister to the People's Republic of China. The MoU provides for mutual cooperation, enhanced exchanges and promotion of women's cooperation in economic and trade fields between women entrepreneurs of both countries.

May

Consultative Session on Abortion

A consultative session on the issue of abortion with stakeholders was held in May in Port Louis.

Interactive Forum

An Interactive Forum was held on 14 May at R. Burrenchobay Lecture Theatre at the University of Mauritius, in the context of the celebration of International Day of Families 2009.

The Forum provided a unique opportunity for youths, academicians, NGOs, socio-cultural groups and religious bodies to interact with experienced personalities and share their thoughts on the theme. It also enabled them to come up with innovative ideas to strengthen family ties in Mauritius.

Family Fun Day

In the context of the celebration of International Day of Families 2009, a Family Fun Day was held at the State House, Le Réduit on 17 May. The Family Fun Day enabled families to participate collectively in a series of activities aimed at strengthening family ties.
**Men as Partners Project**

The “Men as Partners” project was launched at Case Noyale on 23 May in the context of the celebration of International Day of Families 2009. The programme aims at creating a platform to allow men to discuss freely gender sensitive issues and increase their knowledge on all matters related to family welfare and women empowerment. It focuses on creating opportunities to overcome gender stereotypes, address specific male issues and make men become supportive partners so as to constructively share responsibility with women at home, at worksite and in the community.

**June**

**16 Days 16 Rights Campaign on the Rights of the Child**

A series of activities marked the launch of the 16 Days 16 Rights Campaign on the Rights of the Child. These included: visits to pre-primary, primary and secondary institutions to sensitize children and young people on their rights and responsibilities; an elocution contest and the organisation of four workshops in four education zones aimed at enhancing capacity-building of teachers/educators so as to address effectively child protection issues.

In the same context a book fair was held at the Octave Wiehe Auditorium in Réduit.

**Handing over of cheques**

Cheques of Rs 2 000 were handed over to 1 050 women’s associations affiliated to the National Women’s Council.

Focus on child protection and welfare
ICT Initiation Programme

An ICT initiation programme designed by the National Computer Board for women entrepreneurs was launched on 25 June. The programme aims at raising awareness among potential entrepreneurs on the advantages of using ICT for the management of a business. It also promotes and encourages ICT literacy among women in a bid to enhance their employability and enable them to be part of the Information Society.

July

Support to Women and Children in Distress

Implementation of the Special Collaborative Programme for Support to Women and Children in Distress. The programme aims at providing support to women and children in distress by enhancing their livelihood and integrating them in the mainstream of development. An amount of Rs 120m for the period July 2009 to December 2011 has been earmarked for the project.

Promotion of Family Welfare and Protection from Domestic Violence

A workshop was organised on 30 July with 68 Family Support Officers, Office Field Assistants, Community Leaders and representatives of Regional Committees. The objective was to strengthen the involvement of the National Women’s Council and Women’s associations in the promotion of family welfare and the protection from domestic violence at community and
grassroot levels. Following the workshop, talks were held and 1 500 persons were sensitised at community level.

August

Open Days in Women Centres

Open days in Women Centres were organised across the country during the month of August to sensitise the public, particularly women, on the services and facilities offered at the level of the centres. The objective was to encourage the enrolment of a larger number of women in activities and training courses, in associations and clubs of the Ministry with a view to promoting empowerment of women.

September

Awareness Campaign on Food Security

An awareness campaign on food security for sustainable development was held on 29 September at the Octave Wiehe Auditorium in Réduit in the context of the World Food Day. The campaign aimed at encouraging women to contribute to the food security of the country by engaging in agricultural and food production activities.

October

Joint CSR Projects

Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Women’s Council and the British American Investment Group of Companies to implement joint Corporate Social Responsibility projects mainly linked to gender. The National Women’s Council has benefited for an amount of Rs 150 000 to implement various activities namely, designing of training programmes tailored towards strengthening the capacity of senior officers.

Inter-Generation Relationship Programme

The Inter-Generation Relationship Programme was launched on 9 October at St Pierre. The aim was to build a strong relationship between children, parents and grandparents through communication and sharing, enhancing a sense of family belonging and security, promoting high value for family and traditions, and supporting and encouraging members of the family to abstain from substance abuse and violence.

China-Africa Cooperation - Women’s Forum

The Minister participated on 13 and 14 October in Egypt in the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation - Women’s Forum. The theme was *China-Africa Women in Partnership for Facing*
Challenges and Striving for Common Development. The Forum aimed at consolidating and enhancing friendly relations between women of China and those of Africa and strengthening cooperation in gender equality and women’s advancement. The Forum concluded with the adoption of a “Declaration of Women’s Forum of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation”.

November

Strengthening Marriage Relationship for Stronger Families

In the wake of the increase in the rate of divorce and weakening of marriage relationships, an interactive forum with some 50 couples was held on 15 November during which emphasis was laid on pro-family values that contribute in creating a family-friendly environment.

Area Domestic Violence Committee

The Minister launched the Area Domestic Violence Committee (ADVC) at le St Georges Hotel on 16 November.

The roles of the ADVC are to:

• Develop local policies and procedures on inter-agency work for the protection of victims
• Ensure better collaboration between various agencies and professional groups to reduce the incidence of domestic violence
• Promote discussion on specific cases of domestic violence and make relevant recommendations
• Help in organising information education and communication campaigns in the community at large
• Act as facilitator between the National and Area Domestic Violence Committees

National Action Plan on the Family

In the context of the International Day against Violence, a National Action Plan on the Family was launched on 25 November. The plan seeks to operationalise the strategies of the National Policy Paper on the Family which was launched by the Ministry in 2006. It paves the way for the enhancement of the status of the families. It recognises that child development, a balance of work and family life, strong couple relationships and respect for and equality of all family members are all interrelated aspects of family life that need to be addressed as a whole.
**Report on Auditing Services and Existing Shelters**

A report on the Auditing of the Ministry’s services and existing shelters was launched on 25 November. Its recommendations were:

- Development of a Victim and Abuser Empowerment Policy
- Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and NGOs to set up emergency centres at regional level
- Development of transitional/permanent housing typology for victims of domestic violence
- Development of a quality assurance tool with indicators to ensure effective delivery of services by shelters
- Training and employment opportunities for victims of domestic violence
- Sustained sensitisation campaign in schools and at the work place
- Working sessions with Managers of Shelters to encourage them to develop job seeking skills, provide job placement and support group in services offered
- Capacity building programmes for staff servicing the shelters

**“Men as Partners” Project**

‘Men as Partners’ project was extended to Midlands in November.

**Workshop in collaboration with the Police Department**

An awareness session on the Protocol of Assistance to victims of sexual assault was held on 26 November at the Line Barracks, Port Louis. The aim was to sensitise Police Officers posted in police stations on reported cases of sexual assault and to enable them to provide prompt and timely assistance to victims of sexual assault and thus minimise trauma undergone by victims.

**Launching of a Zero Tolerance Club at Grand Gaube**

The Zero Tolerance Club at Grand Gaube was launched on 28 November. It is a community-based organisation, which aims at combating domestic violence at community level and acts as a watchdog to ensure violence-free localities.
Mission

To develop a culture of achievement and excellence by promoting an efficient and effective World Class education and training system that is inclusive and integrated, comprehensive and holistic.

To foster innovation and to generate new knowledge for the socio-economic and sustainable development of the nation.

To ensure learning opportunities accessible to all, provide learners with values and skills to further their personal growth, enhance their critical and exploratory thinking, and encourage them to innovate and adapt to changes in an increasingly globalised environment.

To foster a balanced and harmonious Mauritian Society through consolidation of existing pluralism, promotion of creativity and the celebration of cultural values.
January

Green School Project to Raise Awareness on Environmental Issues

The Green School Project (GSP), an environmental education programme which promotes and acknowledges long-term school initiatives towards environmental protection through increased awareness and understanding of environmental issues was launched at Sir Abdool Raman Osman State College, Phoenix.

In this context, a two-day workshop was organised during which 101 Educators were trained as Green School facilitators.

April

Awareness Campaign on Intellectual Property Rights

A Public Outreach Campaign on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) organised by the United States Embassy in collaboration with the Mauritius Society of Authors (MASA) and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources, kicked off with the aim is to sensitise the business community and the public on the need to protect and enforce IPR and at the same time to raise awareness with regard to the dangers of counterfeited products.

July

Model United Nations

The 13th edition of the annual conference of simulation on Model United Nations in Mauritius was launched on 27 July at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka. A total of 604 delegates coming from 100 schools of Mauritius and Rodrigues representing 151 UN Member States participated in this educational programme.
**August**

**World Bhojpuri Conference**

The World Bhojpuri Conference was held on 29 and 30 August at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture. The conference was organised by the Vishwa Bhojpuri Sammelan, in collaboration with the Ministry, the Indian Diaspora Centre and the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture. The main themes were: Bhojpuri immigration and language, Bhojpuri trade and business, Bhojpuri food, culture and health care; and bringing together the worldwide Bhojpuri intelligentsia. About 200 delegates from India, UK, Belgium, the Netherlands, Trinidad, Suriname, France, USA and South Africa participated in the conference.

**September**

**Pan African Innovative Teachers Forum**

The Second Pan African Innovative Teachers Forum was organised from September 1-3 in collaboration with Microsoft Ltd at Le Méridien Hotel, Pointe-aux-Piments. Some 70 delegates from South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Namibia, Mozambique and Madagascar, amongst others participated in the Forum.

**Teaching of Philosophy in Africa**

A two-day conference on the Teaching of Philosophy in Africa was organised on 7 and 8 September at Domaine Les Pailles in which representatives of English-speaking African countries took part. The meeting focused on the teaching of Philosophy at national and regional levels.

**Educational Webcasting Project**

The Educational Webcasting Project (*Edu-Web*) was launched on 15 September in collaboration with Mauritius Telecom, the National Computer Board, the Government Online Centre and the Mauritius College of the Air. The Educational Webcasting enables interaction with all partners in the education sector through a live web broadcast system.

**New Primary School**

A new primary school at Belle Mare was inaugurated on 23 September. The Chinese government made a donation of Rs 22 million for the construction of the school. The school is expected to be operational as from 1st term 2010.
Second Chance Programme

The Second Chance Programme was launched on 24 September at the Gymnasium IVTB Ebène Campus, Ebène. The aim was to provide basic numeracy and literacy skills and life skills management to young people within the age bracket of 16 and 21 who have dropped out of the school system and are neither in full time education nor full time employment.

October

Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality

The Minister attended from 4 to 10 October in France the 7th Session of the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ), a key driver of educational policy reforms and the 35th General Assembly of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation. During his mission, the Minister met the Mayor of St. Malo, in connection with the Commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Naval Battle of Grand Port in 2010 and had a working session at the University of Bordeaux to explore further collaboration in the field of higher education, especially medical studies.

Sport Etudes Concept

Launching of the SPORT-ÉTUDES CONCEPT at the Lycée Labourdonnais on 15 October. This concept gives another perspective to sports and allows students practising sports to benefit from a conducive environment reconciling sports with studies.

Hydroponic Greenhouse

Inauguration on 29 October of a Hydroponic Greenhouse at the Medco Cassis Secondary School at the initiative of the Pre-vocational Department of the school with the sponsorship of the Mauritius Commercial Bank.

SADC Secondary Schools Essay Competition

The Prize giving ceremony of the SADC Secondary Schools Essay Competition 2009 was held on 13 November the presence of the Minister. A total of 588 students from 55 schools participated in the competition. Prizes were awarded for best three entries, namely D.A.V College, Mahatma Gandhi Institute and Le Chou College, Rodrigues.

Training of Cultural Entrepreneurs

A training programme for cultural entrepreneurs for the management of projects and enterprises in the field of music for the Indian Ocean was held from 9 to 14 November at the Merville Beach Hotel, Grand Baie, at the initiative of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.
Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE)

January

Diploma in Educational Management

The Institute recruited 2,044 aspiring head teachers in Mauritius and Rodrigues for this training programme. The course is hosted on the mieonline platform and trainees access their learning materials and work autonomously.

February

In-House Workshop on Teaching Practice

An in-house workshop on Developing an Institutional Innovative Leap Through a New Policy for Teaching Practice was organised on 11 February. The aim was to develop a collective stance on a key issue of teacher training and to revisit institutional guidelines which facilitate monitoring and maximise the benefits of classroom experience.

Using the Language of the Environment in Pre-Schools

The Early Childhood Education Unit organised a workshop on the Use of the Language of the Environment in the Pre Primary Schools for the benefit of teachers following the Certificate of Proficiency in Early Childhood Education Programme (Cohort 2007-2009). The purpose was to apprise teachers, through hands-on experience, on the use of the language of the environment within the Child’s Rights perspective.

Capacity Building in ZEP for Literacy Team

In the context of the project entitled Capacity – Building in the Zones d’Education Prioritaires (ZEP), the MIE implemented new strategies in the teaching of literacy in primary schools through the training of teachers and through the distribution of worksheets to Standards I to IV pupils of ZEP schools. The facilitators were trained by International Reading Association facilitators through a series of workshops.

April

Micro-science Chemistry Workshop

A workshop was organised from 7 to 9 April to train Chemistry educators on the use of Microchemistry equipment to carry out selected experiments based on Chemistry concepts at secondary level. The objective was to familiarise participating Chemistry educators with the philosophy and rationale underpinning Microscience and Microchemistry as well as the use of Microchemistry equipment in performing chemistry experiments.
Microscience Biology Workshop
A three-day workshop was held on 7, 9 and 10 April to launch the research project entitled: *Promoting Conceptual Development in Lower Secondary Biology Using Microscience Experiment Kits*. Nineteen secondary schools teachers participated in the workshop.

International Conference
The 2nd international conference on education was held from 15 to 18 April in collaboration with the University of Brighton and the Association of Researchers in Education and Training. The theme selected this year aimed at encouraging educators and researchers to reflect on Education for democracy, citizenship and sustainability.

May
**Educator’s Licence Online Course**
The Educator’s online Course was launched on May 4 in partnership with the Human Resource Development Council and the University of Mauritius. About 227 teachers from private secondary schools registered for the course, which aimed at equipping them with the foundational knowledge and skills in twelve different subject disciplines.

On line learning
Three workshops were organised by the Open and Distance Learning Centre of the MIE for capacity building of staff to design and run Online programmes.
Fun Day

The MIE organised a Fun Day on 13 May in connection with the Teacher’s Diploma Primary electives-Project-Based Learning. The aim was to model a milieu where teaching and learning are fun.

July

English Communicative Competency Project

The Mauritius Institute of Education launched on 15 July the project: A Better Beginning Building the Foundation for English Communicative Competency in the Beginning Year of Schooling. The project was implemented in collaboration with the Australian government for a fruitful exchange of ideas leading to the dissemination of better pedagogical practice.

National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC)

February

Model Company Project

An evaluation mission from the Japan Productivity Centre visited Mauritius on 24 and 25 February to assess the final results of the Model Company Project which aimed at improving productivity in five local companies. This project was initiated by the Government of Japan through a Technical Co-operation Project on productivity improvement to African Nations in collaboration with the Pan African Productivity Association (PAPA). Four countries, namely Botswana, Kenya, South Africa and Mauritius are implementing the project.

Training of Facilitators for the Civic Action Teams Project

Training of facilitators for the Civic Action Teams (CATs) Project was conducted in February in all educational zones. The training focused on inculcating quality awareness, problem solving using quality tools and presentation techniques.

March

Setting up of Participatory Advisory Committees (PACs)

The NPCC played a key role in setting up and providing consultancy services for the Participatory Advisory Committees. The PACs Action Plan was launched on 8 March. The objective is to empower women to initiate activities or projects at community level by tapping resources from different institutions.
Team Building Exercises

The NPCC undertook in March a team building exercise. More than 70 students participated in the activity which comprised both theory and practical sessions designed to enable students to understand the essence of working in teams.

May

InnovEd 2009

InnovEd 2009 exhibition was held from the 19 to 21 May at the Mahatma Gandhi Auditorium. Some 332 projects were showcased for the National exhibition. InnovEd stands for Innovation for the education sector and fosters innovation and creativity among students of the pre-primary, primary and secondary sectors.

Labour Management Relations: Establishing a new partnership model

The NPCC organised in May two workshops, one with the representatives of employers and the second with representatives of employees/trade unions. The workshops:

- allowed both parties to take cognizance of issues emerging from the national survey on trade unionism, re-negotiate their respective roles and state their expectations regarding to each other

Small and Micro Enterprise Cluster/Network

The NPCC started in May the facilitation of a series of workshops aiming at the setting up of a cluster/network that will enhance the growth of the small and micro businesses in the tourism related sector. The purpose is to bring about economies of scale for such business activities in villages and encourage tourists to buy and use local services that would eventually create jobs and as well as bring in income to various stakeholders of the community.

June

Regional CATs Convention

The Regional CATs Convention was held from 9-12 June. Some 91 schools participated in the project. The students were called upon to select a problem at the level of their schools, work in teams and apply quality tools to solve the problem.
July

ELIT Course

Handing over on 30 July of certificates for the English Literacy using IT (ELIT) course and an award ceremony for participants of a speech contest.

October

English Literacy Using IT

Fifty-eight women who successfully completed the course on English Literacy Using IT (ELIT) organised by the NPCC received their certificates from the Minister of Women’s Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare. The participants comprised housewives, micro-entrepreneurs and planters.

Industrial And Vocational Training Board (IVTB)

January

Training of Trainers Programme

The training of Trainers Programme was launched in January. This programme has been developed following the signature of a MoU between IVTB and BAI on 19 November 2008, whereby it was agreed to empower around 2 000 students for the NTC Foundation course. Under this MoU, the BAI sponsored a training programme for 26 Communication Trainers, including two from Rodrigues.
Donation of learning materials to IVTB trainees

A donation of learning materials to IVTB trainees of the southern region of the island attending the NTC Foundation Course 2009 was held following the signature of MoU between the IVTB and the BAI Co. (Mtius).

Memorandum of Understanding between IVTB and Freight Academy

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the IVTB and the Freight Academy whereby the latter offered courses in Certificate in Customs Clearance and Certificate in Shipping and Freight Forwarding in its fully equipped training institution.

February

Memorandum of Understanding IVTB/SIAST/Monash

A delegation from the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST)/Monash Corporation of Canada visited the IVTB in February to introduce Canadian courses and education based on Canadian standard. The visit culminated with the signature of an MoU with IVTB SIAST/Monash for launching of the SIAST Diploma Programme to be held at the Knowledge Based Training Centre, in Port-Louis.

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of IVTB

In the context of the 20th anniversary (1989 - 2009) of the IVTB, a half-day conference on the Challenges of TVET was organised. An award evening was held and a souvenir magazine was launched. Shields were remitted to long service employees and past Chairmen of the IVTB. On the same occasion, the Alumni Club of the IVTB was officially launched.

Signature of MoU between IVTB, TFES and UoM

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in February between the Trust Fund for Excellence in Sports, the University of Mauritius and the Industrial and Vocational Training Board. The purpose was to provide training athletes of the TFES with some flexibility, thus allowing them to attend to their scheduled sports training and competitions.

March

Visit of BOTA Delegation

A delegation of Botswana Training Authority was on a benchmarking visit in March at the IVTB. The objective was to gather and share information on a number of subjects, among which the area of workplace training, use of unit standards by training institutions and capacity building.
IVTB Open Days

The annual IVTB Open Days were held on 5, 6 and 7 March at Ebène. The main objective was to inform students enrolling for March, April and July 2009 about the courses offered at the respective centres, namely School of Design, Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaëtan Duval, School of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication, Knowledge Based Training Centre and Sir Rajcoomar Neerunjun Technical Centre.

Visit of Canadian High Commissioner

The Canadian High Commissioner, Ms. Ruth Archibald, visited the Knowledge Based Training Centre in March in the context of the introduction in Mauritius of the Diploma in Business Administration by the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

Conference on Renewable Energy

A conference on the theme- Les Economies d’Energies et les Energies Renouvelables was jointly held in March by the IVTB- Apave Indian Ocean. The conference was conducted by Mr. Michel Mellet, consultant in biotechnology and expert in renewable energy. Following the conference, a tailor-made course on renewable energy was launched.

Award of Certificates in Road Safety

About 30 persons were awarded in March their ‘Road Safety’ Certificates during a ceremony which was held at the Professional Drivers Training Centre. Among the recipients there were 15 Driving School Instructors, 10 Police Officers (Traffic Unit) and 5 IVTB Training Officers.

Career Fair by the Rotary Club of Grand Baie

IVTB participated in a Career Fair held from 21 to 23 May to showcase to students its high level courses (i.e Diplomas) starting in September.

Visit of Director of International Partnership Education

Ms. Sarah Marazzi-Platt, Director of International Education, Monash Corp, visited Mauritius from 23 May to 6 June to disseminate information on the SIAST Business Administration Diploma. Talks and One-to-One sessions were organised for potential students, colleges and the public in general from 27 to 30 May.
June

Basic Jewellery Design Course

The IVTB launched a course in Basic Jewellery Design using Computer aided software (Jewel CAD 5.1) on 16 June at the IVTB School of Design, Ebène. The rationale of this course was to uplift the design and originality of the jewellery processes by jewellers in Mauritius.

Launching of Training Programmes

Two Training Programmes in Screen Printing and Systèmes d’Injection Electronique - Essence et Diesel were launched at IVTB Mahebourg Training Centre.

September

Award of Certificates

A batch of 115 trainees received the Higher National Diploma and Diploma in diverse trades at a function held on 16 September. Another batch of 588 students was awarded the National Trade Certificate Level 3 in various courses.

Knowledge Based Training Centre

The Knowledge Based Training Centre was inaugurated on 5 November. This Centre is a modern training institution which provides courses in various fields such as Engineering, Hotel Trades and Business Administration, amongst others. Other innovative courses such as Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy are also offered at Certificate and Diploma levels.

Training for Construction Technicians

A three-day training programme for construction was launched on 9 November at the Sir Kher Jagatsingh Training Centre of the Industrial and Vocational Training Board at Beau Bassin. The aim was to enhance the knowledge and upgrading the skills of practicing construction technicians and relevant professionals with regard to scaffolding, temporary works and formwork.

Functional Literacy Programme

Award certificate for the Alpha 2000 – Training of Trainers for Functional Literacy Programme organised by the IVTB on 23 November. Twenty four trainers from different IVTB training centres received their certificates. The aim was to provide communication skills and special training in Functional Literacy to instructors in order to help new readers acquire new skills in everyday life.
**Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA)**

**Transnational Qualifications Framework**

At the meeting of Commonwealth of Learning (COL) in Singapore, the Director of MQA was elected as Chairman of the Management Committee for the setting up of a Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) for the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC).

Thirty-two Commonwealth Small States participated in the VUSSC initiative to put in place the TQF with a view to enabling accreditation of courses that would be recognised by participating countries.

**Recognition of Prior Learning**

The Mauritius Qualifications Authority launched the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) at the National Level in the following four sectors: tourism, construction, printing and plumbing.

**Human Resource Development Council (HRDC)**

**January**

**24/7 Mauritian Economy**

The National Sensitisation Campaign aimed at changing work attitudes so as to allow Mauritius to become a 24/7 economy was launched on 30 January.

**February**

**Caravane scolaire**

During the period February to June, ‘Caravane Scolaire’ was organised in over 70% of secondary schools coupled with ‘Family Nites’ in various regions of the country.

**July**

**24/7 in Port Louis**

Economic activities blended with leisure and entertainment enabled Mauritians islandwide to participate and live up to the 24/7 way of life during a three-day mega event held in the capital, in collaboration with the Municipality of Port Louis from 31 July to 2 August.
**Re-skilling of SME Cadres and Floor Level Workers**

The HRDC launched on 19 February at Clos St Louis, Domaine Les Pailles, a project aimed at re-skilling SME cadres and floor level workers under the European Union Decentralised Cooperation Programme. The aim was to reduce unemployment through various strategies.

**Generic Design of Training Programmes**

Training in generic design under the EU-DCP were held from 20 February to 06 March. Some 25 persons benefited from the training which was designed by Mr Stig Klitmoeller from Denmark.

**Opportunities for Women’s Empowerment**

A two-day workshop on Opportunities for Women’s Empowerment was organised at the National Women Development Centre at Phoenix on 9 and 10 March.

**Job Fairs organized by BPML**

The HRDC participated in a job fair organised by the Business Parks of Mauritius Ltd (BPML) at Ebène Cybertower on 7 March. Counselling services and information on HRDC activities were provided to job seekers and the public.

**Training Needs Analysis**

The HRDC, in collaboration with the European Union, conducted a study at the level of the SMEs operating in the different sectors with a view to finding out the main reasons for lack of interest in training on the part of small enterprises. The objective was to revisit the incentive schemes provided to SMEs.

**Training Opportunities for SMES**

A training in *Training Needs Analysis for SMEs and the public* was launched in May and is ongoing in 10 different locations across the country. The aim of this training programme was to enhance capacity to conduct TNAs in SMEs.

**Mentoring for SMES**

As at June, some 150 entrepreneurs benefited from support under the mentoring for the SMEs project launched in May 2006 by the HRDC, in collaboration with the Mauritius Employers’ Federation. The programme is expected to continue up to 2010.

**National Human Resource Development Plan**

The National Human Resource Development Plan which aims at making the manpower projections for the coming five years in the different sectors of the economy, including the
existing and the newly emerging ones was reviewed. An addendum was made to include findings of the assessment carried out to measure the impact of the world financial crisis.

**Joint IVTB/HRDC Project for Road Safety**
Certificates were awarded on 9 July to participants who followed training on road safety, transport and hauling of dangerous goods and maneuvering of lifting and material handling equipment.

**Project for Review of Courses and Organisation of Top Up Programmes**
The Mauritius Employers’ Federation in collaboration with the HRDC organised two programmes aimed at developing the employability skills of unemployed SC/HSC school leavers namely in Accounting and Financing and Human Resource Management.

**Ornamental Fish Breeding**
A total of 63 persons benefited the Ornamental Fish Breeding Scheme launched in collaboration with SEHDA, Entreprise Mauritius and the Ministry of Fisheries and Agro Industry.

**Culture**

**February**

**174th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery**
The 174th anniversary of the abolition of slavery was celebrated at Le Morne Cultural Landscape on 1 February. Activities organised comprised: the official ceremony, inauguration of Slave Route Monument and a cultural show.

**March**

**National Day Celebration**
The official ceremony of the 41st anniversary of the Independence of Mauritius was held on 12 March at Champ de Mars. The Chief Guest was Lieutenant-General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana.

**Journée de la Francophonie**
A Cultural programme was organised with the participation of all “Centres de Lecture et d’Animation Culturelle” on 19 March at Serge Constantin Theatre, Vacoas.

**Heritage Week**
The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund (AGTF) in April organised a Heritage Week comprising activities such as Chasse aux Trésors, exhibition at Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre,
educational activities for children, story telling and initiation to archaeological excavation and the AGTF Vagrants Database Project was launched on 30 April.

**May**

**Dragon Boat Festival**

A Dragon Boat Festival was organised on 24 May at Caudan Waterfront where about 300 participants took part in the Boat Race Competition. Prior to the Boat Race, a défilé comprising dragons and lions left Port Louis Waterfront and proceeded to Caudan Waterfront.

**World Theatre Day**

World Theatre Day 2009 was celebrated at the Serge Constantin Theatre on 25 March and in other regions in March, April and June. In this context, a workshop on Experimental Theatre was conducted by Dr Motawe, expert from Egypt, from 4 to 15 May.

**June**

**NOMA Award for Publishing in Africa**

The ceremony for NOMA Award for Publishing in Africa was held on 20 June at Grand Baie Conference Centre. The Award, which is under the auspices of UNESCO since 2005, is offered to an African writer or scholar whose work is published in Africa. The winner of the 2008 NOMA Award was Mr Zachariah Rapolo from the Republic of South Africa for his book *Beginnings of a Dream.*
Centre de Formation Artistique

Inauguration of a third “Centre de Formation Artistique” at Pointe Canon, Mahebourg. The courses offered the centre include: - guitar, dramatic arts, painting, pyrography, sculpture (clay), tabla, sculpture (wood), modern dance, ravanne/djembe.

September

109 Birth Anniversary of SSR

Several activities were organised to mark the 109th birth anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, KCMG, GCMG. A wreath laying ceremony was held on 18 September in front of the statue of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam at Prof. Basdeo Bissoondoyal Square in Port Louis. Other activities included a wreath laying ceremony at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Memorial Park in Kewal Nagar, messages and talks by eminent personalities on the life and mission of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, essay, drawing, paint and poem recital competitions in primary and secondary schools.

UNESCO Commemorative Medals

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation issued a set of three medals which will be used to commemorate in 2010 the 110th Birth Anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. The medals were presented on 21 September in Paris to the Prime Minister by the Director-General.

October

Films Act 2002

The Films Act 2002 was proclaimed on 1st October. The Act which replaces the Cinematograph Act 1941 extends the classification system, i.e. visa U, PG, 15, 18 or 18R of cinema films to video films, thus enabling parents to have a better control on the type of films being viewed by their children.

Stele of Lady Sushil Ramgoolam

Unveiling on 2 October of a stele at St Aubin by the Prime Minister in the context of the 88th anniversary of Lady Sushil Ramgoolam.

Cultural Exchange and Cooperation

Signature on 27 October of Executive Programme of Cultural Exchange and Cooperation for the years 2010-2012 with the People's Republic of China under the Cultural Agreement. The Executive Programme covers: Arts and Culture, Libraries, Museums and Archives, Cultural Heritage and Cinema.
Journée Internationale Créole

The activities organised by the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture in collaboration with the exhibition of photographs from 28 to 31 October on the theme: “Kontribution komite kreol dan constricksion nous pei” and a cultural show with the participation of local artistes at Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis.

Divali Celebrations

Divali was celebrated at national level at Esplanade Sir Gaëtan Duval, Mahebourg on 16 October. On that occasion a popular show with the participation of Krishna Kumar Kunnath was held and an expert team from Lyon, France provided special light effects.

Statue of Sir Gaëtan Duval unveiled

The Prime Minister unveiled on 7 October the statue of Sir Gaëtan Duval, GCSK, QC in the yard of the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill. The statue has been erected in memory of Sir Gaëtan Duval’s contribution to the economic and political development of the country.

November

175 anniversary of Arrival of Indentured Labourers

The celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the arrival of the Indentured Labourers in Mauritius was marked by the presence of Dr Sashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs, India, who was the chief guest.

Cooperation in Education and Training

Two agreements, a Convention-Cadre de Coopération Educative and an Avenant 2010-2011, providing for exchange programmes and the technical modalities for the implementation of different programmes pertaining to education and training were signed on 14 December with France.

December

UNEVOC Validation Workshop

The IVTB hosted the UNEVOC Validation Workshop on 14 and 15 December at Phoenix. The aim was to facilitate the completion of the case studies by providing on the spot advice, guidance, support, feedback and other forms of assistance.
Award Ceremony

An Award Ceremony was held on 29 December at Manisa Hotel in honour of artists who won the gold medal in the creative dance discipline of the 6th Edition of the Jeux de la Francophonie.

Inauguration of Carreau Esnouf Educational Centre

The Carreau Esnouf Educational Centre was inaugurated at Union Vale. The Educational Centre offers different training programmes for people with no or limited education background and make them employable and/or develop the culture of entrepreneurship.

Islamic Cultural Centre

- Naat Recital by Syed Yasin Ahmed Habibur Rahman on 3 March
- Public Lecture by Dr Bilal Philips on strengthening relations between Muslims and non-Muslims
- Spot Essay Writing Competition on Life of the Prophet
- Iqbal Day celebrated in collaboration with the Urdu Speaking Union and the Muslim Ladies Council on 25 April
- Exhibition on Calligraphy held on 26 & 27 September in the context of Eid-Ul-Fitr celebration

Mauritius Museums Council

- Exhibition on ‘Mauritius Railways (1864-1964)’ 18 to 30 May at the Mauritius Museums Council
- A Junior Philatelic Youth Club and a booklet on philately launched on 18 May

National Archives

- Mission to Rodrigues in January in connection with the setting up of a branch. A workshop on Records Management was also conducted for Public Officers
- A Certificate Course in Archival Science launched in April at the Mauritius College of the Air
- Open Days for Secondary Schools students organised in May
- Signature of the contract Agreement between the National Archives and DCDM Consulting Ltd for the implementation of an Electronic Archives System at the National Archives on 26 June
National Heritage Fund

- Launching of an exhibition on Ile de la Passe, distribution of pamphlets and pocket guide in February
- Exhibition on ‘Heritage’ in the context of the International Day for Monuments and Sites on 18 April at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre

Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture

- Donation of books and school kits to pupils of Le Morne Government School on 3 February
- Africa Day celebration and presentation of shields to laureates of HSC Examinations 2008 on 25 May at the Municipality of Quatre Bornes
- Exhibition of photography from 28 to 31 October on the theme Kontribition Kominoté Kréol dan constricksion nous pe and a cultural show

National Library

- Celebration of the World Book Day at the Port Louis Waterfront on 25 April; Municipality of Curepipe 9 May, Mahebourg Waterfront on 30 May, Municipality of Vacoas/Phoenix 27 June and Rodrigues on 2, 3 and 4 July
**Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund**

- Inauguration of the Slave Route Monument on the occasion of the commemoration of the 174th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery on 1st February at Le Morne
- Exhibition and a workshop organised in the context of the celebration of the International Day for Monuments and Sites on 17 and 18 April
- *Swaré Tipik* at Le Morne on the occasion of Festival International Créole on 4 December
- Donation of equipment and school materials on 17 December to preprimary and primary pupils of the Le Morne Government School

**Mauritius Society of Authors**

An Awareness Campaign on Intellectual Property was launched on 22 April in the Lunch Room of the National Assembly. The Awareness Campaign was funded by the US Embassy.
Mission

To provide, without fear or favour, hatred or ill-will, to the Government sound and independent legal advice, and representation as well as to contribute in the development of a fair and just legal system and the promotion of the rule of law, in the interest of the State and the People.
Autonomy of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

As from 1st July, the Office of the DPP is autonomous, that is independent from the Attorney-General’s Office. Such autonomy was recommended by the Mackay Report in September 2006.

Law Reform Commission

The Law Reform Commission of Mauritius is an independent statutory body set-up by Parliament under Act No. 26 of 2005 to review in a systematic way the law of Mauritius, to make proposals for its reform and development and to ensure that the law is understandable and accessible.

During the current year, the Law Reform Commission produced the following Papers and Reports:

• LRC 2009 Report on Strategic Budgeting, Accounts and Corporate Governance
• Report on Legislative Proposals for a New Legal and Regulatory Framework for NGOs
• Report on Disclosure in Criminal Proceedings
• Report about Law on Divorce
• Issue Paper on the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions and Constitutional requirement for its operational Autonomy
• Discussion Paper on Forensic use of DNA
• Report on Bail

Major Achievements

As at 15 September, the major achievements of the Attorney General’s office were:

• 60 Bills published, the main enactments being:
  • Employment Rights Act
  • Equal Opportunity Act
  • Competition Act
  • Truth and Justice Commission Act
• 425 Government Notices (subsidiary legislations) published
• 6,073 requests for legal advice/legal opinions dealt with

**Registration of Local and Foreign Law Firms, Foreign Lawyers and Joint Law Ventures**

Following Government’s decision to attract professionals of the legal section to Mauritius, the Law Practitioners’ Act was amended by Act No. 8 of 2008 which came into operation on 15th December 2008. Regulations were subsequently made pursuant to section 22(1)(a) of the Law Practitioners Act by way of Government Notice No. 268 of 2008.

The first applications were received on 19 December 2008 and as at 15 September 2009 a total of twenty-one applications were processed and certificates of registration issued accordingly.

Pursuant to the Law Practitioners Act, as amended, a list of registered law firms, foreign law firms, joint law ventures and foreign lawyers was published in the Government Gazette No. 57 of 27 June 2009.

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*Human Rights education and sensitizing high on Government agenda*
Mission

Towards further development of agriculture and the promotion of agro industry focusing on safety, supply, quality, innovation and new technology through our service providing institutions and with stakeholders of the region.

To provide an enabling environment for the promotion of sustainable development of the fisheries sector and to ensure continued economic growth and social development within the framework of good governance.
February

Launching of Sensitisation Campaign

Launching on 12 February of a sensitisation campaign for a sustainable, competitive and inclusive agriculture by the Minister, in line with the Food Security fund. The launching was held at the Farmers Service Centre, St Pierre.

National Invasive Alien Species Action Plan

Opening of a two-day workshop on the development of a national invasive alien species action plan by the Minister at Gold Crest Hotel, Quatre Bornes on 26 February.

March

MoU for Hybrid Rice Production Unit

Signature on 3 March of a Memorandum of Understanding involving VITA Grain PTE Ltd, a Singapore based company, AREU and MSIRI for the setting up of a hybrid seed rice production unit in Mauritius. Through this Agreement, 500 hectares of land were released by Rose Belle Sugar Estate for the development of a hybrid rice seed industry in Mauritius.
**Food Security Programme**

Under the Food Security Programme, land was leased and letters of intent handed over by the Minister at Britannia on 16 March.

**Genetically Modified Organism**

Opening on 19 March at Imperial China, Trianon of a two-day workshop on handling of applications for genetically modified organism. The workshop was in line with the UNEP-GEF project for the implementation of a national biosafety framework.

**MoU signed between VITA Grain PTE Ltd and RBSE**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 24 March between VITA Grain PTE Ltd and RBSE for the production of hybrid rice seed in Mauritius. The agreement involves VITA Grain Pte Ltd, the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI) and the Agricultural Research Extension Unit (AREU). This project, to the tune of $30 million, aims at introducing parental lines for the production of around 15 hybrid rice varieties, while taking on board small planters and small holders with a view to diversifying crop production.

**July**

**Farmer Training School**

Launching on 27th July of the Farmer Training School at Wooton.

**August**

**Food Security**

On 1st August, the Minister announced important measures to be implemented to reduce food insecurity as per the Strategic Plan on Food Security 2008-2011. The Roadmap indicates the way forward to increase food production both locally and within the region.

**October**

**MoU on Plant Health Cooperation**

A Memorandum of Understanding on Plant Health Cooperation between Mauritius and India in the presence of the Minister and the High Commissioner of India was signed on 13 October.
World Food Day

A series of activities was organised on 15 October at the Agricultural Services in Réduit in the context of World Food Day 2009.

FISHERIES DIVISION

January

Blue Bay Marine Park Declared Ramsar Site

In January, the Blue Bay Marine Park was declared a Ramsar site. With a view to supporting and extending the network of Marine Protected Areas at the regional level to conserve marine biodiversity and maintain marine ecosystems for sustained productivity, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) has funded the first phase of the demarcation of the Balaclava Marine Park for a sum of around € 29 900.

April

Renewal of Fisheries Agreement

The agreement between the Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperatives Association and the Republic of Mauritius was renewed to cover the period 2009 to 2011 allowing the licensing of 50 Japanese vessels to fish in Mauritius waters.
Bilateral Agreement with Norway

Under the bilateral agreement with the Kingdom of Norway, the Fisheries Division benefited from various technical assistance, mainly in capacity building of the officers of the Fisheries Division. The training session was centered around themes such as Fish Stock Assessment using existing data, capacity building on aquaculture feeds and the feed law and training in Vessel Monitoring & Surveillance (VMS).

October

MOU signed with Pakistan

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two countries in the margins of the 8th Mauritius-Pakistan Joint Working Group to promote the development of cooperation in the field of fisheries and fish trade between the two countries.

December

Launching of Fishing Boat by MEXA

The Mauritius Export Association (MEXA), in collaboration with the Fishermen Investment Trust, launched a fully equipped nine-metre fishing boat with EU sanitary norms for off-lagoon fishing and around FADs, thus empowering the fishers and implementing the Government agenda for poverty alleviation.
Mission

To enhance the health status of the population.

To improve the quality of health care delivery with a view to increasing patients’ satisfaction.

To enhance social equity through the provision of a wider range of health services to the whole population.

To ensure that the health sector is consolidated and that the health services remain accessible to every citizen.
January

National E-Health Strategic Plan for Mauritius

In January, Government agreed to the implementation of a National E-Health Strategic Plan for Mauritius. The objective of the Plan was to define an appropriate ICT strategy to improve the work processes of the ministry, its departments as well as relevant health agencies with emphasis on improving quality and service delivery. A Coordinating Committee was set up to look into the timely implementation of this plan.

Health Services Management

A workshop to strengthen health services management was conducted by consultants from the Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève for regional health directors, medical superintendents, nursing supervisors and hospital administrative staff at the Mauritius Institute of Health (MIH) in Pamplemousses.

Speech and Hearing Assistants

The MIH launched in January a one-year training course for Speech and Hearing Assistants.

February

HIV and AIDS Testing

HIV testing and counselling were decentralised as from February and extended to all Area Health Centres and peripheral hospitals. Screening services in the Mobile Clinic include a component of HIV and AIDS. These have brought testing facilities to the community.

Medical Imaging Technology

Three candidates successfully completed Part 1 Examination for Medical Imaging Technologist.
New Legislation on Tobacco & Alcohol: Empowerment Programme

Empowerment programmes were organised from February to March to sensitise the population on the new legislations on tobacco and alcohol. In-house empowerment sessions were held for the health personnel.

March

Regulations to Ban Smoking and Drinking

Smoking and drinking have been banned in public places since 1st March. The Public Health (Prohibition on Advertisement, Sponsorship and Restriction on Sale and Consumption in Public Places, of Alcoholic Drinks) Regulations and the Public Health (Restrictions on Tobacco Products) Regulations were promulgated on 19 December 2008 and 28 November 2008 respectively.

Symposium on Research and Health

A Symposium on Research for Health was organised from 5 to 7 March. The objectives were to regroup various stakeholders involved in health research, sensitise them on the new concept of “Research for Health”, review the situation as regards types of health research carried out in Mauritius, pave the way to start conducting clinical trials and set up a National Health Research System.

Regional Course on Disease Surveillance

A regional course on disease surveillance was organised from 23 March to 9 April by the Mauritius Institute of Health. Around 31 participants from Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar, Reunion and Seychelles attended the workshop. The aim was to support technical assistance and training, hence fostering human resource development in surveillance systems.

April

Training Programme for Receptionists and Telephonists

A Training Programme on Communication and Customer Care was launched on 6 April for receptionists and telephonists at the School of Nursing, Pamplemousses. The aim was to help around 6 300 employees develop the right mindset and positive attitude towards patients. It would also enhance their knowledge and equip them with necessary interpersonal and communication skills in the provision of quality services and attainment of organisational goals.
World Health Day 2009

A one-day workshop was organised on 7 April at La Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles to mark World Health Day. The theme was “Health Facilities in Emergencies” with the slogan “Save Lives: Make Hospitals Safe in Emergencies”. The objective was to review and update the existing arrangements as regards the running of hospitals during cyclonic periods, torrential rains, tsunamis and other natural disasters. An Emergency Preparedness Plan would also be prepared by the Ministry of Health.

Induction Course for Health Care Assistants

An Induction course for Health Care Assistants was organised on 8 April at the New OPD of Victoria Hospital.

New Medi Clinic at Plaine Verte

A Medi Clinic is being constructed to cope with the increasing demand for health care facilities in the region of Plaine Verte. The contract was awarded on 6 March. Works started on 24 April and are expected to be completed in 2010.

ISO 9001: 2008 in Health Services

The ISO 9001: 2008 in health services was officially launched on 27 April at La Grande Canelle, Domaine Les Pailles. The aim of the project is to improve service delivery, enhance customer satisfaction, provide quality health care services, lead to cost reduction, quality improvement and productivity improvement, enhance job satisfaction and develop medical tourism.

The project covers:

- 5 Regional Hospitals
- 7 different local and specialised hospitals
- 26 Area Health Centres
- 116 Community Health Centres
- Head quarters of the Ministry
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital including 3 Area Health Centres and 14 Community Health Centres in Rodrigues.

Induction Programme

Opening of an Induction Programme on 29 April for newly recruited Hospital Servants, General Workers and Insecticide Sprayermen at Victoria Hospital and J. Nehru Hospital.
May

Launching of Mobile Clinic

The NCD Mobile Clinic was launched on 7 May at the Dr Emile Duvivier Municipal Centre, Plaisance, Rose Hill. The inhabitants of the locality were screened for NCDs, Oral health and HIV/AIDS.

National Cancer Control Programme and Action Plan (2009-2012)

More than 1 400 new cases of cancer are registered each year in Mauritius. About 12% of all deaths in 2008 were due to this disease. To address this issue, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has developed a National Cancer Control Programme and Action Plan 2009-2012. A one-day workshop was organised on 11 May at the Gold Crest Hotel to consider and validate the National Cancer Control Programme and Action Plan 2009-2012.

World No Tobacco Day 2009

World No Tobacco Day 2009 was celebrated on 31 May around the theme Tobacco Health Warnings. Tobacco health warnings printed on packages of cigarettes were seen to be among the strongest defences against the global epidemic of tobacco.

June


The National Plan of Action for Nutrition 2009-2010 was approved by Cabinet in June. The Plan takes an integrated approach to nutrition and replaces the fragmented and mainly food-based approach. It is a comprehensive document on nutrition, with emphasis on the prevention of Non-Communicable diseases in Mauritius.

Regulations for the control of sale of food items and drinks in educational institutions, that is primary and secondary schools, were passed in June. These regulations ban the sale of unhealthy snacks.

Dengue Fever Fight

In the context of the fight against Dengue Fever, a series of measures were taken as from June. These include fogging activities, the ongoing larviciding exercise throughout the country, entomological surveys which are routinely carried out by the Vector Biology Department and a National Cleaning Exercise.
Pharmacy Dispensers

Thirty-two participants completed in June a two-year training course for Pharmacy Dispensers. This was the fifth batch trained at the Mauritius Institute of Health.

Construction of a Block C at Flacq Hospital

With a view to developing Flacq Hospital into a full-fledged Regional Hospital, three additional Blocks C, D and E will be added to allow for the provision of additional service facilities. Construction works for Block C started on 28 July.

World Blood Donor Day 2009

To mark World Blood Donor Day 2009 on 14 June, various activities were organised to secure the involvement of youngsters in particular, and to encourage them to become voluntary blood donors.

Epidemiological surveillance and intervention

In March-April, an Inter-country Training Course on Epidemiological Surveillance and Intervention was held for Health Professionals from Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, Reunion and Mauritius. This Programme was held in collaboration with WHO Lyon and the Indian Ocean Commission.

July

National Certificate for the Care of the Elderly

In July, 27 participants completed a one-year training programme leading to a National Certificate for the Care of the Elderly. This programme was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Security and the National Empowerment Foundation.

Health Warnings on Tobacco Use

The Ministry implemented measures to ensure that each unit packet and package of tobacco products, as well as any outside packaging and labeling of these products carry health warnings describing the harmful effects of tobacco use.

Setting up of a Laboratory for Pharmaceutical Products

During the period January to June the Government Analyst Division received and commissioned high-tech equipment for the setting up of the Pharmaceutical Quality Control Laboratory which was inaugurated on 6 July.
Setting up of Counselling Unit

A counseling unit was set up on 22 July at the Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre in collaboration with ‘Friends in Hope’. The aim is to offer support to patients and their families, to contribute to the rehabilitation of patients to enable them to reach their maximum level of autonomy and to raise public awareness and understanding of psychiatric disorders.

Visit of Professor Wajid Ali Khan

Dr Wajid Ali Khan, Professor of Ophtalmology and his team from the Al Shifa Trust Eye Hospital in Pakistan were in Mauritius from 25 July to 1 August. The team assessed 300 patients and carried out 49 complex surgeries, including 5 corneal grafts and 16 cases of vitrectomy.

August

Sentinel Surveillance for Most at Risk Populations

A National Plan and Protocols for the sentinel surveillance for the Most at Risk Populations (MARPs) have been prepared.

Baby Friendly Hospital at Flacq

The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative was launched on 6 August at Flacq Hospital in the context of the International Breastfeeding Week. The initiative is part of a global effort to improve the role of maternity services to enable mothers to breastfeed babies for the best
start in life. The aim is to improve the care of pregnant women, mothers and newborns at health facilities that provide maternity services for protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding.

**Training for Trainers**

A “Training for Trainers” workshop was organised on 18 August at the Sir Harilal Vaghjee Memorial Hall for officers working in the community, at work sites and in educational institutions in the context of the influenza A (H1N1) pandemic.

**Visit of Professor Atul Bhaskar**

Professor Atul Bhaskar, Paediatric Orthopaedic and Spine Surgeon, and his team from India operated from 17 to 23 August upon scoliosis patients.

**Tamiflu Dispensing Management System**

A Tamiflu Dispensing Management System was launched on 20 August. The software is operational in 10 Regional and District Hospitals and 33 Area Health Centres and Community Health Centres. It assists the Ministry to better monitor the spread of the A (H1N1) virus through meaningful data and provides a follow-up of infected people.

**Family Diabetes Study**

Dr Jeremy Jowett, Head of Genomics and Systems Biology at Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute in Australia, made a presentation on 21 August on Family Diabetes study. The aim of the study was to include genetic analysis as a means to understand more about the mechanism of the disease process.

**September**

**Workshop on Greenstone Digital Library**

A training workshop on the Greenstone Digital Library was organised by UNESCO from 7 to 11 September at the Mauritius Institute of Health at Pamplemousses. About 15 participants from Mauritius, Madagascar and Comoros received training to build their own digital libraries. Greenstone is an open-source, multilingual software for building and distributing digital library collections.
School Health Programme and Awareness Campaign

The Secondary School Health Programme and Awareness Campaign on vector-borne diseases (chikungunya and dengue fever) was launched on 17 September at Sir Droopnath Ramphul State College, Calebasses.

Training on HIV/AIDS

The Mauritius Institute of Health organised from 7 to 18 September a training programme on ‘Prise en charge des personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA associé au domaine de l’addictologie et des hépatites’. Around 43 doctors, nurses, social workers and NGO representatives from Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros and Madagascar participated in the workshop.

Methadone Day Care Centre at Mahebourg

Opening of a Methadone Day Care Clinic at Mahebourg in the context of scaling up of methadone substitution therapy to decentralize services in the South region.

Donation from UNFPA

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) donated on 24 September Rs 7.5 million of reproductive health supplies to the Ministry. The supplies include contraceptives and condoms, pills, implants, HIV and syphilis tests.

World Heart Day

In the context of the World Heart Day, a series of activities namely screening, cooking demonstration and exhibition was held on 28 September at the Swami Dayanand Institute of Management, Pamplemousses.

Preventing Overweight and Obesity

A prize-giving ceremony was held at the Ministry on 29 September in the context of School Health Club project competition on healthy eating habits to prevent overweight and obesity. The aim of the project was to create awareness in school children about adopting a healthy lifestyle and indulging in physical activity to prevent obesity and overweight.

Intravenous Training Course

Launching on 30 September of Intravenous Training Course at the School of Nursing, Candos.
October


A Task Force comprising several stakeholders from the public and private sectors was set up on 1st October to implement the National Plan of Action on Nutrition 2009-2010. The role of the Task Force is to implement the food-based guidelines in a rapid time frame, monitor and evaluate regularly the measures put in place and bring about corrective changes as and when deemed necessary.

Rehabilitation Works at Dr Jeetoo Hospital

Construction works at Dr A.G Jeetoo Hospital started in October. The project consists of the construction of new hospital buildings and the refurbishing of some existing buildings. The new hospital will comprise a total of 550 beds, an Accident and Emergency Unit, comprehensive Outpatient Departments, a 7-Theatre Operating Suite, Intensive Care Units, Labour Ward with full support and back up services which include, amongst others, a 4 x-ray room suite, MRI and CT scan and SAMU Unit.

World Mental Health Day

Several activities were organised on 8 October at the Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre in the context of the World Mental Health Day commemorated on 10 October. The theme for 2009 was Mental Health in Primary Care: Enhancing Treatment and Promoting Mental Health.
Dental Council (Medical Institutions) (Amendment) Regulations

The Ministry approved the Dental Council promulgating the Dental Council (Medical Institutions) (Amendment) Regulations to include the Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India and the Mauras College of Dentistry, Mauritius, on the list of recognised medical institutions.

Collaboration between Mauritius and Botswana

Collaboration in the field of cardiology and other areas of interest in the medical field was established with the Ministry of Health of Botswana. In this context, a medical team from the Trust Fund for Specialised Medical Care visited Botswana to carry out diagnostic/echo procedures. Cardiac patients from Botswana would also be referred to Mauritius for surgery. The Trust Fund would further arrange for hands-on training for medical staff from Botswana.

Training to Medical Officers in Ophthalmology

With the support of the University of Bordeaux II, the MIH launched in October a four-year training programme to train six medical specialists in Ophthalmology.

November

International Conference on Diabetes

The International Conference on Diabetes and Associated Diseases was held from 12 to 14 November at La Plantation Hotel. It provided participants the opportunity to understand diabetes and associated diseases and future challenges.
In this context, a Non-Communicable Diseases Survey for Rodrigues to determine the prevalence of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases in the island was carried out.

**Visit of Dr Mervyn Druian**

Dr Mervyn Druian, a well-known dentist in the UK, visited Mauritius from 21-27 November and gave lectures and conducted workshops. Hands-on training in tooth whitening for the benefit of dental surgeons and dental assistants from the public and private sectors was also organised. Mrs Shelly, a dental hygienist from the UK also gave lectures at the Mauritius Institute of Health on skills of dental hygiene.

**Procurement of Noise Meters**

Measures were taken by the ministry in collaboration with the ministry of Environment and National Development Unit to control noise pollution. These included the procurement of five meters to effect noise monitoring exercises and the mounting of sensitisation campaigns on noise pollution, amongst others.

**December**

**World Aids Day**

World Aids Day was observed on 1st December around the theme *Universal Access and Human Rights*. In this context, a National Day Care Centre for the Immunosuppressed was inaugurated at Victoria Hospital and Volcy Pougnet Community Health Centre, a Methadone Day Care Centre opened at Mahebourg.

**Evaluation of Methadone Substitution Therapy**

A half-day workshop was organised on 3 December at the School of Nursing, Pamplemousses to evaluate the Methadone Substitution Therapy introduced in November 2008.

**Training Courses on Gender-Based Violence**

Intensive training courses were organised from 7 to 11 December by the Mauritius Institute of Health and the United Nations Population Fund on the *Coordination of Multi-Sectoral Response to Gender-based Violence in Humanitarian Settings*. The objective was to improve knowledge, understanding and communication skills to effectively prevent and respond to gender-based violence and build capacity to coordinate muti-sectoral responses to gender-based violence in humanitarian settings.
**Customer Care Services in Hospitals**

A new Customer Care Service was introduced on 7 December at Dr Jeetoo Hospital in a bid to ensure improved and timely service to patients. Customer Care Points in Regional Hospitals have increased and the staffing reinforced and directional signs and boards have been installed at strategic places.

**WHO Technical Workshop on Epidemiological Response**

A technical workshop was organised from 15 to 17 December at the Mauritius Institute of Health at Pamplemousses by the World Health Organisation in collaboration with the Ministry. The aim was to identify training needs and opportunities for the development of a road map to strengthen human resources capacity for surveillance and response in the South West Indian Ocean region.

**Mega Blood Donation**

A Mega blood Donation was organised on 17 December at the Esplanade of Emmanuel Anquetil Building in Port Louis.

**Collaboration with DYP Worldwide Ltd**

Signing ceremony on 23 December between the Ministry and DYP Worldwide Ltd at Jawaharlall Nehru Hospital, Rose Belle. The objective is to bring quality medical education of international standards to students in Mauritius through the setting up of post graduate medical colleges in Mauritius.

**Prevention and Control of Chikungunya and Dengue**

An Operational Plan for the Prevention and Control of Chikungunya and Dengue has been developed to enhance surveillance, detection and control of the two diseases. The Plan sets out national protocols and standard operating procedures and defines the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders during the inter-epidemic and overt epidemic periods.
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Model Primary Health Care

With a view to decongesting hospitals, 12 Area/Community Health Centres have been renovated/ upgraded to encourage patients to attend these health service points for basic health services.

Mental Health

Psychiatric services are being decentralised and Community Physicians and other doctors trained in psychiatry for early diagnosis and treatment at the grassroot level. The Mental Health Care Regulations have been finalised to allow for the setting up of private mental health care institutions.

Reproductive and Sexual Health

The Ministry in collaboration with various stakeholders is implementing the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy and Plan of Action 2009-2015 to meet the challenges in improving the sexual and reproductive health status of men, women and young people living in Mauritius and to improve the survival of newborn babies and the health status of all children.

Achievements at hospital level:

- Renovation of Cancer Unit for children at Victoria Hospital
- Setting up of Counseling Unit at Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre for both patients and relatives
- Over the period January to October, 256 patients were sent overseas for treatment, mainly in the field of ophthalmology, cardiology and neurosurgery
- Eight foreign medical teams visited Mauritius from January to October and effected 392 complex surgeries in the different specialities, namely ophthalmology, cardiology, pediatric cardiology, plastic surgery and orthopedics
- 1,477 angiographies, 137 angioplasty, 539 angiography plus angioplasty and 487 cardiac surgeries were performed from January to October
- 4,077 cataract surgeries were performed at the Subramaniam Bharati Eye Hospital from January to October
- More than 900 patients received Dialysis treatment
- A total of 120 dialysis machines are available at the five Regional Hospitals
- An Ayurvedic Clinic has been set up at the Victoria Hospital since 21 January
• A new dental speciality ‘Root Canal Treatment’ (Endodontic Clinic) is operational at the SSRNH Dental Clinic

• A new endoscopy unit has been set up at the SSRN Hospital

**Non-Communicable Diseases**

• Diabetic clinics for nutritionists in all Area Health Centres, Community Health Centres, Mediclinics and hospitals

• Glycosylated Haemoglobin (HbAIC) testing for the monitoring of blood glucose levels in diabetes were done at Primary Health Care Centres

• Foot-care clinics combined with diabetic clinics at Primary Health Care and referral of patients at risk to Podiatrist weekly on a specific day

• Screening by retinal camera for detection of early eye complications in patients with diabetes was performed at Flacq Hospital and Victoria Hospital

**Fight against Diabetes**

• National prevention campaigns on diabetes and other NCDs were carried out regularly to sensitishe the population on the importance of a healthy lifestyle

• Screening for diabetes and other NCDs was done at the level of all Area Health Centres for early detection and to reduce complications related to diabetes

• At September, some 50,000 persons were screened for NCD through Mobile Clinics in 103 sites and another 6,465 persons at Health Promotion Shops
• Screening of youth is done at secondary school level through Mobile Clinics. Over 21,000 students were screened from January to September

Communicable Diseases

In order to prevent the resurgence of communicable diseases such as dengue and chikungunya, and also to prevent the introduction of novel pandemics viruses, surveillance activities were reinforced. In this respect, all passengers coming from countries where the diseases are endemic, are screened and followed up. This provides for early detection and treatment of cases. Disease surveillance has also been scaled up within the country to detect any signal suggestive of an outbreak.

INFLUENZA A (H1N1)

Medical Surveillance reinforced

To keep the country free from Influenza A (H1N1), the Ministry, guided by the World Health Organisation (WHO), promptly took various measures which included: enhanced surveillance at ports of entry i.e. Harbour and Airport, both in Mauritius and Rodrigues; follow-up of all incoming passengers from countries at risk by Health Inspectorate for a period of 10 days; briefing of all staff working at airport and sea port; setting up of Isolation wards in all Regional Hospitals as well as Mahebourg and Souillac Hospitals; setting up of Flu Clinics in Hospitals, Area Health Centres and Social/Community Welfare Centres, stockpiling of antivirals, and launching of Wash Your Hands Campaign.
Mission

To ensure that there is smooth exchange of goods and services at national and international levels, regular supply of essential commodities, fair trading, competition and protection of consumers on the local market.

To promote, consolidate and modernise the SME sector for tapping market opportunities at local, regional and international levels.

To facilitate and assist the development of co-operatives through the creation and provision of favourable and conducive legal and institutional environment together with adequate support and incentives.
Competition Commission

The Executive Director of the Competition Commission took office on 27 January. The Competition Act was passed in November 2007. The Commissioners were appointed in June.

The Competition Commission of Mauritius (CCM) is a statutory body established in 2009 to enforce the Competition Act 2007. Under the competition regime established by the Act, the CCM can investigate possible anticompetitive practices by businesses.

The CCM can, in its investigations, compel businesses and others involved to prove information. If it decides that a business’s conduct is anticompetitive, it has the powers to intervene and correct the situation. The CCM can impose fines where businesses have been found to be deliberately agreeing to fix prices or share markets.

Business Facilitation

Several measures were taken to make the business environment hassle-free. With a view to facilitating local traders, the Import Division is providing a 24/7 electronic service under the Trade Net Phase 5 System using the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Technology. The procedures for the submission of applications for import permit under the Trade Net Phase 5 System have been simplified to provide a prompt service to the trading community. The applications for import permit are processed and authorisations to clear controlled goods from the Customs are granted within 24 hours.

SME Sector

The SMEDA Bill 2009 passed in the National Assembly on 10 November aims at repealing the SEHDA Act 2005. It sets the legal framework to take over the activities of the SEHDA, provide a more responsive institutional framework to cater for the needs of the SME sector and provide business facilitation services.
Transitional Support Schemes for SMEs facing Financial difficulties due to the Global Economic Crisis

- SMEs with a turnover of less than Rs 5m

Loans up to 75% to a maximum of Rs 1 m or 20% of turnover representing 75% of funds for restructuring are being provided at repo rate by DBM Ltd whilst SMEs make an injection of 25%. SEHDA assists SMEs in the preparation of restructuring plans free of charge.

- SMEs with a turnover between Rs 5 m to Rs 50 m

Loans representing 75% of funds for restructuring are being provided at repo rate by commercial banks whilst SMEs make an injection of 25%. Enterprise Mauritius is assisting SMEs in the preparation of restructuring plans through free services of consultants.

Leasing Equipment Modernisation Scheme (LEMS)

Run by leasing companies, the LEMS covers all economic sectors. SMEs with a turnover of less than Rs 50 m can benefit up to a maximum lease amount of Rs 5 m at a lending rate of 8.5% p.a. An initial down payment of 10% of the lease amount should be effected.

Mentoring Services

Mentoring services are being provided by SEHDA and National Women Entrepreneur Council on a 90:10 cost sharing basis.
Scheme for Small Hotels, Restaurants, Guest Houses and Tourist Residences

Services of interior decorators/designers are provided on a 90:10 cost sharing basis for refurbishment/renovation to enhance quality of service and competitiveness.

Scheme for Re-schedulement of Loans for SMEs

SMEs facing financial difficulties to service their loans at DBM Ltd due to the global economic meltdown have their debts rescheduled.

New Micro-Financing Scheme for Women

Under this scheme, the Mauritius Post and Cooperative Bank Ltd provides a loan of Rs 40 000 (maximum Rs 400 000 for women grouped in associations) to both new and existing women entrepreneurs.

Existing Support Programmes for SMEs

A number of collateral-free schemes were introduced to facilitate easy and quick access to credit at preferential interest rates:

- Booster Loan – An amount of up to Rs 100 000 is available without any personal guarantee
- Quasi-Equity Financing Scheme – Funding up to a maximum of Rs 500 000 representing 75% of equity capital is provided whilst the promoter contributes 25% of the Equity capital
- SME Partnership Fund – Funding ranging between Rs 300 000 to Rs 10m available on 49:51 capital sharing ratio basis whereby SME Partnership Fund injects 49% of the Equity Capital
- Working Capital Loan of Rs 50 000 available since April 2008
- Special Loan Schemes of Rs 40 000 for laid off women

Marketing Support

In order to help both new and existing entrepreneurs increase their sales and develop export markets, effective marketing and promotional tools such as subsidised participation in both local and foreign fairs, buyers-sellers meetings, market research, surveys and local fairs are regularly resorted to.

SME & Technology Fair 2009

The SME and Technology Fair, a flagship event of SEHDA, was held from 1 to 4 October at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre in Pailles. The Fair exhibited
products and services offered by a wide range of SMEs, selected from across the country and the region, as well as technologies proposed by about 40 suppliers of technology from India, Pakistan, China and Reunion. The SME & Technology Fair 2009 featured 180 booths.

Other activities for SMEs:

- **Assises des PMEs**
- **Caravane de l’Entrepreneuriat** at Chemin Grenier, Bambous and Lallmatie
- Textile painting exhibition and award ceremony at Case Noyale
- Sensitisation Programmes in Quatre Bornes, Rose Belle, Rivière du Rempart, Flacq and in Rodrigues

LEGAL METROLOGY SERVICES

Training on Control of Prepackages

Twenty participants from the Legal Metrology Services of SADC Member countries, namely from Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Seychelles attended from 4 to 8 May a Regional Training Course on the SADC requirements for the packaging and sale of goods according to the requirements of SADCMEL.

The course enabled the participants to familiarise themselves with the labeling requirements and checking of the net content of prepackages.
Verification of Weighing and Measuring Instruments

12 970 weighing and measuring instruments were verified/calibrated for the period January to June.

Enforcement of the Legal Metrology Act

143 contraventions were established against traders and packers for non compliance with the Legal Metrology Act for the period January to June.

COOPERATIVES

During the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, a total of 103 cooperative societies were registered in the following categories: Women Entrepreneurs, Livestock, Credit Unions, Multi-purpose, Mixed Farming, Agro Mechanical, Small Enterprises, Agro-Business and Bus Owners.

Fair Price Shops

A new Fair Price Shop was launched at Le Ravin, Rivière du Rempart, on 22 July.

Consolidation of Societies

In line with the strategy to consolidate the base of low performing cooperative societies and following research undertaken to determine the causes of failure of cooperative societies, ten cooperative societies were consolidated after inquiry.

Arbitration

With regard to dispute among or between stakeholders relating to the rules, management, business or liquidation of a cooperative society, 29 cases of arbitration were dealt with during the year.

Furthermore, inquiries into the affairs of ten cooperative societies were carried out and completed.

Charges and Release

As cooperative societies may be exempted from paying, inter-alia, stamp duty, registration dues, as per conditions attached for fiscal exemptions under the Cooperatives Act 2005, some 96 charges were inscribed during the year.
On the other hand, 135 charges were channelled for processing and submission to the Mortgage Office for release.

**STATE TRADING CORPORATION (STC)**

**Setting up of Packing Unit**

STC embarked in the packing of commodities such as ration rice and wheat flour in order to help acquire basic foodstuffs at a competitive price.

A Packing Unit was set up at Shed A, Mer Rouge. The daily production capacity is 2 000 packets for ration rice and 1 600 packets for wheat flour.

**Acquisition of plastic pallets**

Wooden pallets are being gradually phased out. Some 3 000 plastic pallets which have a longer lifespan and require no maintenance have been acquired. Plastic pallets are recommended by the Food Act for hygienic reasons.

**STC Headquarters**

STC has been allocated four arpents of land at Le Réduit Triangle for building its headquarters. An amount of Rs 11 307 720 has been paid in connection with infrastructural works.
Mission

To provide the right environment for the harnessing of Information and Communication Technologies to generate employment, increase national wealth, improve quality of life and create new opportunities for sustainable socio-economic development of Mauritius.
January

Data Protection Act

All sections of the Data Protection Act were proclaimed with effect from 30 January. Regulations for the operationalisation of the Office of Data Protection, and the prescription of fees for registration as data controller and renewal thereof were also promulgated.

February

Safer Internet Day

The National Computer Board in collaboration with the IT Security Unit of the ministry and the ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources organised several activities to mark the Safer Internet Day commemorated on 10 February worldwide.

Mission to Mumbai

The Minister participated from 11 to 13 February in the National Association for Software and Service Companies Leadership Forum held in Mumbai, India. The Forum provided a platform in the global ITES/BPO industry to discuss about the future of outsourcing business and network and strategic alliances.

MoU between ICTA and CCA

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 11 February between the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) and the Controller of Certifying Authorities, Department of Information Technology of the Government of India, to foster cooperation in the setting up of the Mauritian Public Key Infrastructure (PKI).

Inauguration of the First Phase of the Pan-African e-Network Project

The first phase of the Pan-African e-Network Project was inaugurated on 26 February by Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs of India, at the TCIL Bhawan in New Delhi, in the presence of High Commissioners and Ambassadors of African countries. Eleven countries including Mauritius have been covered in the first phase.
The Pan African e-Network Project is an initiative of Dr A. P. J. Kalam, former President of India, to connect the 53 nations of the African Union by satellite and fibre optic network to provide effective tele-education, tele-medicine, Internet, video conferencing and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services, as well as support to e-Governance, e-Commerce, infotainment, resource mapping and meteorological services.

March

Internet Tariffs Reduced

Mauritius Telecom reduced as from 1st March the Internet tariffs within a range of 45% and 15.6% for ADSL home services and 14-22% in ADSL Business offers. As for Rodrigues, a reduction of 42% in ADSL Home 128kbps and 14% in ADSL Home 256 kbps was applied.

Forum on ‘Effective use of ICT for Disaster Management’

The ICTA, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organisation, organised from 3 to 5 March a forum on the theme ‘Effective use of ICT for Disaster Management’. The Forum focussed on the way ICTs can be used to meet the challenges faced by small island States in the Indian Ocean region and aimed at increasing and improving the use of ICT at the various stages of disaster management.

Forum for African Policy Makers and Regulators on Internet Governance

The Forum for African Policy Makers and Regulators on Internet Governance, organised by the African Telecommunications Union, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers and the ICTA was held from 17 to 19 March at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre in Pailles. The main objectives of the workshop were to disseminate information and materials on Internet for governance issues and to foster the evolvement of appropriate policies and regulations relating to the development of internet in the African region.

New Corporate Identity for SIL

State Informatics Limited (SIL) launched on 26 March its new Corporate Identity at Domaine Les Pailles. This branding exercise aimed at realigning and strengthening SIL to meet various challenges.

Digital Recording System at the National Assembly

The Digital Recording System, implemented at the National Assembly, became operational on 31 March. This forms part of the e-Government programme under the name e-Parliament. The e-Government programme comprises the computerisation of various governmental agencies.
Participation in SECA + IT 2009

Mauritius participated in the Salon des Solutions, Conseils et Technologies pour L'Entreprise Innovante (SECA + IT 2009), which was held in Paris from 31 March to 2 April. Thirteen operators were housed under the Mauritian Pavilion.

April

Data Collection on ICT Development

The NCB revised the methods of data collection on Information and Communication Technology development to ensure that the economic indicators better capture all Government efforts in the ICT sector, streamline data collection activities to avoid duplication of work and arrive at a clear and unambiguous definition of roles and responsibilities in the sphere of ICT data collection and analysis between the multiple organisations involved.

ICT Business Pre-Incubator

The ICT Business Pre-Incubator, a joint initiative of the University of Technology Mauritius (UTM) and the National Computer Board, was launched on 16 April at the University of Technology, La Tour Koenig. The aim is to support potential entrepreneurs among students and faculty members of the UTM with new and innovative ideas in the field of ICT.

Networking Cocktail

SIL and Sun Microsystems held a Networking Cocktail at Domaine Les Pailles on 21 April to discuss Sun solutions as well as to meet and network with other users of Sun technologies. SIL is a direct sales partner and an accredited Sun Service Partner for Sun products in Mauritius and the region.

MoU on .mu Signed

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 22 April by the Minister of Information and Communication Technology and the trustee of the .mu TLD and Manager of Internet Direct Ltd so that the administration of the country code Top Level Domain of Mauritius (.mu ccTLD) passes under the supervision of the Government.

Measures to curtail Theft of mobile phones

Cabinet was informed on 24 April of measures taken to curtail theft of mobile phones such as Telecommunication Directive released by ICTA to enforce more rigorous obligations on licensed dealers. The measures aim at protecting consumer interests with regard to the purchase of radio communication/telecommunication equipment, setting up of Equipment Identity Register by mobile operators and sharing of information on blacklisted International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) among themselves subject to the subscribers’ consent.
May

Annual Conference of Southern Africa Telecommunications Association

The 29th annual conference of the Southern Africa Telecommunications Association (SATA) was held from 6 to 8 May in Mauritius. The theme was “The Wired and Wireless Synergy Challenges” and “Digital Divide”. The three-day Conference brought together Chief Executive Officers and Senior Executives/Managers from Telecom Operators of member countries, representatives of international and regional telecommunications organisations as well as cooperating partners of SATA.

Enterprise Performance Management event

SIL and Oracle held on 8 May an Enterprise Performance Management event at Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel in Port Louis. The focus was on Management Excellence.

Inter Island Connectivity Network (SEGANET PROJECT)

The consultative forum for multi-stakeholders on the Inter Island Connectivity network (SEGANET PROJECT) was held on 11 May at La Plantation Resort, Balaclava. Issues focussed on the awareness of ICT as an enabler of National and Regional development, the strengthening of approaches in making use of ICT to enable economic ventures among the island states of the Indian Ocean.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

In the context of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day celebrated on 17 May, the NCB, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies and the Ministry of Women’s Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare organised a Round Table at the Swami Vivekananda Conference Centre to finalise the legal measures recommended in the Child Safety Online Action Plan.

Other activities included an Open Day at the Municipality of Port Louis, awareness sessions on “the Dangers of Internet for Children” and distribution of brochures on “Child Safety Online”.

MoU between ICTA and the Controller Certification, India

ICTA organised a workshop to raise awareness on public key infrastructure (PKI) on 29 May at Le Sirius, Labourdonnais Hotel. A delegation from India was in Mauritius and organised several information sessions prior to the workshop.
June

ISO 27001 Information Security Standard workshop

On 1st June, an ISO 27001 Information Security Standard workshop was held at La Canelle, Domaine Les Pailles by CERT-MU in collaboration with Standardization Testing and Quality Certification, Directorate of India. It discussed various Information Security related issues including identification of information assets, threats, vulnerabilities, risk assessment and management and control as well as the international Best practices - based on ISO 27001. The audience comprised Senior Executives and IT Professionals from the public and private sectors.

July

Mauritius Post recruits female postmen for the first time

The Mauritius Post recruited four female postmen. They are the first female postmen ever recruited in Mauritius.

New developments for Pan-African e-Network Project

Mauritius was selected to host the Super Speciality Regional Hospital, in addition to the existing tele-medicine centre already set up at the Cardiac Centre. The project provides for Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital to be equipped with state-of-the-art technology and facilities for expert services to the other hospitals connected in the region.

Google African Cache Servers

Cabinet announced on 3 July that Google, recognised as one of the world’s best search engines, would implement its second African Cache Servers in Mauritius. Located at the Mauritius Internet Exchange Point at Ebène, the Cache Servers would be the vector between users and the Internet for a faster access to information being searched.

Google.mu accessible in Creole

Pages written in the Mauritian language, Creole, have been indexed and can be searched through Google.mu.

Review of Postal Tariffs

Mauritius Post Limited reviewed its postal tariffs as from 8 July for both inland and foreign mail. In that connection, letter mails between Mauritius and Rodrigues are now considered as local mail, not as airmail.
Alternate Dispute Resolution in the ICT sector

ICTA hosted a three-day workshop on *Alternate Dispute Resolution in the ICT sector* at Le Sirius, Labourdonnais Hotel from July 14-17. The workshop was organised to create awareness on the mode of resolving dispute between the various stakeholders, to bring an effective empowerment of customers and foster stronger collaboration among ICT stakeholders in a bid to ensure that any dispute is addressed in a timely manner for the benefit of both customers and the sector.

Implementation of Digital Certificates at Enterprise Level

A workshop on “*Implementation of Digital Certificates at Enterprise Level*” for Senior Executives and IT Professionals in public and private sectors was organised by CERT-MU in collaboration with Microsoft on 16 July at the Swami Vivekananda International Conference Centre in Pailles. The objective was to explain the concept of Digital Certificates and ensure that organisations understand the growing importance of this technology.

Electronic Transactions (Amendment) Act 2009

The Electronic Transactions (Amendment) Act 2009 came into effect on 15 July with a view to providing the legal basis for Mauritius to put up its Public Key Infrastructure to enable secured and trusted e-transactions.

National Infocomm Innovation and Industry Vision

An agreement was signed with Infocomm Development Authority International of Singapore to provide for the conduct of an ICT strategic review to define and develop an ICT programme that would help create a National Infocomm Innovation and Industry Vision.

August

Lower Indian Ocean Network Cable

Mauritius was linked up to the LION (Lower Indian Ocean Network) cable that connects Mauritius, Reunion and Madagascar. The cable was laid in Baie du Tombeau on September 16 and provides a second cable landing point in Mauritius, hence additional redundancy and route diversity.

Tariffs for International Long Distance calls reduced

ICTA approved the reduced tariffs presented by Mauritius Telecom (MT), with effect as from August 11.
Internet Everywhere

MT launched Internet Everywhere Orange Service which enables mobile broadband internet connection anytime and anywhere in Mauritius from a laptop.

MoU on e-Government Procurement Solution

Signature on 13 August of a MoU with the Department of Information Technology & Communications, Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP), India to foster co-operation for the e-procurement solution developed and implemented by the GoAP with Mauritius for its public procurement and for the setting up of communication channels for the exchange of information in the field of e-procurement.

Working Forum on Digital Broadcasting Migrations

The SADC Broadcasting Forum was hosted by the ICTA on 17 August at Four Points Sheraton in Ebène. The Communication Regulators’ Association of Southern Africa was mandated by the SADC to convene the forum aimed at contributing to provide a platform for information sharing and strategizing among policymakers, regulators, broadcasters and other major stakeholders, with a view to assisting stakeholders in the region on their initiatives for migration from Analogue to Digital broadcasting over the next three years.
Directory of ICT Companies in Mauritius 2008 – 2009

The NCB published the second edition of its Directory of ICT Companies in Mauritius, in line with its objective to e-power businesses. The Directory provides a communication and marketing tool for the Mauritian ICT industry, future entrepreneurs and potential investors through the listing of local ICT companies with information on their products and services and their contact details.

Workshop on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection

The Mauritius Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-MU) organised a workshop on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection on 31 August. The outcome of the workshop was the elaboration of a roadmap for the implementation of critical information infrastructure protection in Mauritius with key goals and actions and key owners with responsibilities identified. The workshop targeted the operators of critical information infrastructure in Mauritius.

September

National Cybercrime Prevention and Protection Committee

A National Cybercrime Prevention and Protection Committee was set up under the aegis of ICTA with a view to enhancing the national approach for combating cybercrimes. The object of the Committee is to provide advice for and support the promotion of a national culture of cybersecurity to minimize cybercrimes, facilitate the establishment of international cooperation on cybercrimes, streamline roles, responsibilities, linkages, procedures and cooperative arrangements necessary for an enhanced national approach for combating cybercrimes in collaboration with the law enforcement communities and strengthen Government-Industry partnerships to effectively combat cybercrimes.

Pan-African e-Network Project

Under the Pan African e-Network Project, the Very Very Important Person (VVIP) node came into operation in Mauritius to facilitate communication through videoconferencing among Heads of State of the African Union.

Internet Data Centre Conference

A two-day conference was held from 30 September to 1st October at Four Points by Sheraton, Cybercity intended for enterprise CEUs, IT Directors and Data Centre owners and investors from overseas. The aim was to promote the country as an emerging data hosting and business continuity destination with competitive advantages as regards location for secure data centre disaster recovery and for outsourcing, investing and building green data centre facilities. The conference also presented the Mauritius Eco-Park project which encourages the use of sustainable and environmentally friendly processes through new sea water cooling techniques in data centres.
October

International Outsourcing Forum

Mauritius hosted the International Outsourcing Forum 2009 from 2 to 3 October at the Hilton Mauritius Resort & Spa. The aim was to showcase Mauritius as an off-shoring/outsourcing destination to international companies through business meetings with the Board of Investment to evaluate the prospects of setting up new captives, development centres and disaster management centres as well as with local ITES/BPO providers to discuss the possibility of outsourcing business to them.

World Post Day 2009

To commemorate the World Post Day celebrated each year on 9 October, the Mauritius Post Ltd launched the first day cover on the theme ‘Brand Mauritius’ at the Mauritius Postal Museum. Other activities included a philatelic exhibition with stamps depicting the fauna and flora of Namibia, free entrance for Mauritians at the Postal Museum on 9 and 10 October, talks on philately to students and schoolchildren and an ICT awareness campaign at different Post Offices in collaboration with the National Computer Board.

International Telecommunication Union Telecom World 2009 Event

The Minister participated in the International Telecommunication Union Telecom World 2009 Event held from 5 to 9 October in Geneva, Switzerland. Discussions focused on the reach and role of telecommunications and ICT in areas of societal change, such as the digital divide, climate change and disaster relief.
Standing Commission on Afro-Arab Cooperation

The Minister participated in the 13th Ministerial Meeting of the Standing Commission on Afro-Arab Cooperation held on 10 October in Tripoli, Libya, which looked into ways and means to boost the Afro-Arab work ‘démarche’ and new cooperation frameworks facing the Afro-Arab world in the cultural, economic and political fields.

International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber-Threats

Mauritius adhered to the International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber-Threats, the world’s first comprehensive partnership against cyber-threats. Mauritius would benefit from real time aggregated early warning system for cyber-threats and critical guidance on measures to be taken; an access to policy research on cyber-threat-related issues, including cybercrime, cyber-law and child online protection; advisory services on policy and regulatory matters relating to cyber-security; assistance for training and skills development in cyber-security; and assistance to conduct independent ICT security audits on government agencies and critical infrastructure companies.

November

Sap University Alliances User Group Meeting

The University Alliances in Africa organised the first sap university alliances User Group Meeting (UGM) on 5 and 6 November at La Canelle, Domaine Les Pailles under the auspices of the University Alliances on the African Continent and with a focus on the Indian Ocean Islands.

Infotech 2009

The 16th edition of Infotech was held from 19 to 22 November at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Pailles. It aimed at providing information on developments and achievements in the ICT sector in Mauritius and the region and creating awareness on energizing technologies. It also offered a unique platform to companies operating in the ICT sector to showcase their products, services and emerging technologies. Over 70 000 people visited Infotech 2009.

Computer Security Day 2009

To mark Computer Security Day on 30 November, a series of activities were organised by the Ministry. Activities comprised a workshop on Data Protection and Business Continuity Management for business executives, senior management and Information security professionals, a workshop on ISO 270001 Information Security Standard designed for Chief Information Officers, Business Continuity Managers and IT security Auditors of public and private organisations, a campaign on information security awareness targeting public officers.
December

Campaign to Curtail mobile phone theft

A campaign ‘curtailing of mobile phone theft’ was launched on 14 December. It aimed at protecting both the operators and the public and sensitising the public on the precautionary measures to protect their mobile phone.
Mission

To create an environment that promotes good and accurate information flows between suppliers and consumers so that consumers can transact with confidence.

To empower citizens by promoting transparency, accountability and responsiveness in public administration services and consolidate the trust that should exist between a service provider and its users.
Flying Squad

Since January, a Flying Squad has been set up to better protect consumers, handle complaints more effectively and to track down offenders in the shortest delay.

World Consumer Rights Day

World Consumer Rights Day was celebrated on 16 March at École Hotelière at Ebène. On that occasion the following activities were held:

- A week-long campaign on healthy eating habits among primary school children
- Lectures on healthy eating habits and dangers of junk food in 15 primary schools
- Open day on the theme healthy eating habits and dangers of junk food which was attended by 500 primary school children

Decentralisation of the Consumer Protection Unit

The Consumer Protection Unit has been decentralised from 30 April so as to provide a gamut of services to the public. The Unit now offers decentralised services in four zones of the country, namely Zone 1 Pamplemousses / Rivière du Rempart districts; Zone 2 Plaine Wilhems and Black River districts; Zone 3 Moka / Flacq districts and Zone 4 Grand Port/ Savanne districts. These services are being offered in CAB offices.

Restructuring Exercise at Consumer Protection Unit

A new work structure is in place as from 1 June. Four work teams have been set up on a regional basis to ensure a better follow-up and monitoring of all consumer matters. These regions are: Pamplemousses/Rivière Du Rempart districts and Port Louis (North), Plaine Wilhems / Black River districts and Port Louis (South), Moka / Flacq districts and Grand Port / Savanne districts.

Review of Legislations

A complete review of the legislations in the field of consumer protection is being envisaged with a view to meeting the challenges of a rapidly changing business environment and also to sensitising the population to consumer legislation. The Law Reform Commission has, in principle, agreed to undertake the project.
Workshop on a Consolidated Citizen's Charter

The elaboration of a Consolidated Citizen's Charter for the entire public service was at the centre of discussions at a workshop organised at the Grand Bay International Conference Centre on 10 August. The Consolidated Citizen's Charter will comprise provisions of specific charters already in force in distinct areas of the public sector.

Consumer Education and Information Strategy

A workshop aimed at formulating a consumer education and information strategy was held on 12 August at the Aanari Hotel & Spa at Flic-en-Flac as an offshoot of the Additional Stimulus Package Sub-Committee on the Protection of Purchasing Power.

Consumer Magazine

A consumer magazine ‘Savoir Choisir’ was launched to give impetus to consumer education. The magazine will be a regular feature of the Ministry’s activities.

Citizen’s Charter

In order to enlarge the scope of consumer protection, the concept of a Citizens Charter is being reviewed and revitalised with a shift from the traditional service-provider approach to a service-user driven approach.

Computerisation of the Consumer Protection Unit

The Consumer Protection Unit has been computerised, so that all relevant data can be easily retrieved. Phase one of the project, namely acquisition of hardware, has been completed. The second phase which concerns development of an appropriate software is underway.
Mission

To promote industrial peace and harmony and to protect the fundamental rights and dignity of workers.

To enhance productivity and the general well-being of the workforce through improvement in standards of safety and health and prevention of occupational diseases and injuries at the workplace.

To facilitate the employment of jobseekers, provide assistance and guidance with regard to employment prospects and regulate the employment of migrant workers.

To regulate the functioning of associations and trade unions.

To regulate the operation of agents for the recruitment of Mauritians for employment locally and/or overseas.

To promote decent work.
Major legislations enacted during the year:

• **Employment Relations Act**

  The Employment Relations Act 2008, replacing the Industrial Relations Act 1973, was proclaimed with effect from 2 February. The main objective of the Act is to consolidate the law relating to trade unions, fundamental rights of workers and employers, collective bargaining, labour disputes and related matters so as to underpin collective bargaining and strengthen social dialogue.

• **Employment Rights Act**

  The Employment Rights Act 2008, replacing the Labour Act 1975, was proclaimed with effect from 2 February. The main objective is to consolidate the law relating to employment, contract of employment or service, minimum age for employment, hours of work, payment of remuneration and other basic terms and conditions of employment with a view to ensuring appropriate protection of workers.

• **Occupational Safety and Health (Amendment) Act**

  The Occupational Safety and Health (Amendment) Act 2009 was proclaimed on 15 July with the objective of allowing a full-time employee or full time Safety and Health Officer to practise as part-time Safety and Health Officer for an employer other than his full-time employer.

New Regulations which have been promulgated in the context of the new laws are as follows:

• Employment Relations (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations 2009
• Employment Relations (Trade Unions) Regulations 2009
• Employment Rights (Registration of Employers and Permits of Job Contractors) Regulations 2009
• Employment Rights (Workfare Programme) Regulations 2009
• Occupational Safety and Health (Electricity at Work) Regulations 2009
• Occupational Safety and Health (Transitional Provisions) Amendment Regulations 2009
Travel Agents and Tour Operators Workers Remuneration Regulations

The Travel Agents and Tour Operators Workers Remuneration Regulations 2009 were promulgated, fixing minimum wages, normal working hours and payment of extra work in the Travel Agents and Tour Operators Sector.

Registration of Associations Bill

A full scale review of the Registration of Associations Act 1978 was undertaken and the vetted draft bill is awaited from the State Law Office.

Workfare Programme

An innovative feature in the Employment Rights Act 2008 is the setting up of a ‘flexicurity’ scheme, namely the Workfare Programme which aims at providing immediate assistance to Laid-off Workers (LOWs). Such assistance involves the worker being either placed in another job through the Employment Service of the Ministry or trained/re-skilled for greater employability through the National Empowerment Foundation or assisted to start a small business by Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority. A total of 1 903 people were registered at the Work Programme Unit.

Moreover, the LOWs were also entitled to the payment of a Transition Unemployment Benefit of at least Rs 3 000 for a maximum period of one year. The programme is fully operational.

Enforcement of Labour Laws

The Labour and Industrial Relations Division (LIRD) and the Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate (OSHI) carried out around 1 316 and 1 901 inspections respectively. The Registration of Associations (ROA) effected around 1 991 inspections.

Complaints and Prosecutions

The number of complaints registered and disposed of by the LIRD were around 8 337 and 7 998 respectively. The number of complaints dealt with and disposed of by the OSHI was around 133. Out of the 158 complaints received at the ROA, 130 were disposed of.

A total of 696 and 105 prosecutions were lodged by LIRD and OSHI respectively. The ROA lodged 22 cases in courts and 4 cases in the Employment Relations Tribunal.
Permits, Certificates and Licences

Permits, Certificates and Licences were issued as follows:

22,720 Work Permits; 2,814 Job Contractors Permits and; 485 new Job Contractors Permits were issued. Around 4,102 factories were registered and 671 Certificates of Registration in respect of Associations, Trade Unions and Superannuation Funds have been issued. Besides, 28 Recruitment Licences were issued to Recruitment Agencies for recruitment of Mauritian workers for employment locally and abroad.

Rights and Obligations of Employees and Employers

LIRD and OSHI carried out around 187 and 144 sensitisation sessions, touching some 5,414 and 3,694 participants respectively.

With regard to Occupational safety and health, seven training programmes were organised to train employees from the construction and agricultural sectors.

Jobseekers and Laid-Off Workers

A total of 1,220 jobseekers were placed in employment during the year while a total of 336 laid-off workers were placed in new employment.
Circular Migration

Under the Circular Migration initiative, the employment of 311 workers in six companies in Canada was facilitated. Employment opportunities abroad were tapped and a major circular migration initiative with Canada started in 2007.

Cité des Métiers/Espace des Métiers

The *Cité des Métiers* (CDM) initiated in 2009 was renamed *Espace des Métiers* (EDM) and inaugurated on 13 October. EDM which is a resource centre and a one stop shop provides jobseekers, students and the public with information and counseling on employment, training and enterprise development, is operated by NEF.

National OSH Profile

With the collaboration of the ILO, a tripartite workshop on the national profile on Occupational Safety and Health was held on 7 and 8 April. The aim was to help in the elaboration and validation of a comprehensive national programme on OSH for Mauritius.

Decent Work Country Programme

The Ministry organised on 7 and 8 May a tripartite consultative workshop on ‘Decent Work Country Programme for Mauritius.’ The workshop aimed at finalising the draft Decent Work Country Programme for Mauritius. Decent Work Country Programme which was launched in November 2008, is a goal connecting people with their hopes to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity security and human dignity.
Choisir ou travay

Under *Choisir ou travay* some 123 television programmes were broadcast and an average of 15,000 vacancies publicised.

**World Day for Safety and Health at Work**

To mark the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, a two-day exhibition was held on April 28 and 29 at Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre in Bell Village. The theme chosen this year by the International Labour Organisation was: *Health and Life at Work: A basic human right.* Posters were distributed to stakeholders with a view to sensitising them and their employees on occupational safety and health.

**Joint Union-Management Negotiating Skills**

A workshop on “Joint Union-Management Negotiating Skills” was held from 13 to 16 April so as to provide participants with a thorough understanding of modern techniques of negotiating skills with a view to strengthening their knowledge for the purpose of conducting collective bargaining.

**Promoting Social Dialogue**

Another workshop on *Promoting Social Dialogue* was organised from 20 to 23 April. The objective was to create a culture and momentum of dialogue among employers, workers and government. Participants were exposed to a wide spectrum of experiences of social dialogue, with particular focus on social dialogue at national level.

** Discrimination and Stigmatisation of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS**

A Tripartite Steering Committee was set up under the chairmanship of the Director, Occupational Safety and Health and comprising two representatives of Government, Employers and Employees each to guide and to ensure follow-up on the activities pertaining to the process against the workplace discrimination and stigmatisation of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

**Survey on Safety of Goods and Passenger lifts**

An island-wide survey on safety of goods and passenger lifts installed at workplaces and buildings was carried out. Some 105 lifts were surveyed, and wherever discrepancies noted, owners were requested to take appropriate remedial actions to ensure the safety of lift users.
**Road Haulage Industry (Remuneration Order) Regulations**

Following the recommendations of the National Remuneration Board, the minimum wages and other conditions of employment in the Road Haulage Industry were reviewed. The Minister made new Road Haulage Industry Remuneration Regulations with effect from 1st November.

These regulations concern workers in continuous employment (that is where the interval between working agreements does not exceed 28 days). The road haulage industry includes workers involved in the transport by van, lorry or trailer of equipment, building materials, personnel goods and other materials, by private owners, commercial/other firms and factories in connection with their trade or business.

**UNDP Human Development Report**

Launch on 5 November of the UNDP Human Development Report 2009. The theme of the report which refers to data for the year 2007 is: *Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development*. The report places Mauritius with a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.804, at the rank of 81 among 182 countries.
Mission

To enable our Republic to attain the highest level of environmental quality as a means to enhance the quality of life of our citizens, preserve our natural environment and advance our competitiveness. This will be achieved through continued innovation and vibrant partnerships with all stakeholders.

To bring the benefits of socio-economic development at the doorstep of people and protect the population from flood damages.
National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation


The NEL was also certified MS ISO 9001:2000 in 2003 and this certification has now been upgraded to MS ISO 9001:2008.

The core activities of the NEL are to carry out non-routine physicochemical and microbiological analyses on environmental media.

World Environment Day

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5 June and marks the worldwide flagship environmental event. In the context of World Environment Day 2009, an “Activity Book” designed for pre-primary and lower primary students was launched.
The Activity Book aims at inculcating good attitudes and behaviours in the young child in order to mainstream the concept of sustainable development in his daily life.

**YouthxChange Programme**

The YouthxChange Training programme was launched in the context of “Education and Communication for Sustainable lifestyle” for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).

In that context, the Ministry organised a training of trainers’ workshop for youth leaders from different spheres of society based on the YouthxChange (YXC) toolkit developed by UNEP/UNESCO.

Six half-day workshops were held on 7 and 8 April and from 14 to 16 April with a view to raising awareness of the youth on SCP and secure their participation for more responsible consumption and lifestyles.

**Post EIA/PER Monitoring Committee**

On average, 50 projects for which an EIA licence or a PER Approval have been granted are monitored monthly. An Inter-ministerial Monitoring Committee was set up in September 2008 within the Ministry to follow up on progress after the grant of an EIA Licence or a PER Approval and to conduct such monitoring exercises as may be necessary to ensure that the conditions of an EIA License/PER Approval are complied with.

**Industrial Waste Audit**

The Ministry promulgated the Industrial Waste Audit (IWA) Regulations 2008 which came into force on 1 April.

The main objective is to encourage industries to prepare and implement an Environment Management Plan to ensure that the management of waste generated is in compliance with environmental standards.

**Protocol on Environmental Complaints**

A Protocol on Complaints relating to environmental issues was devised to better inform the public on the expected quality of services delivered by the Ministry upon receipt of an environmental complaint.

**Consolidated Strategy 2009-2015**

In the context of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and the Programme Based Budgeting, a consolidated strategy for the period 2009-2015 was elaborated. The consolidated strategy comprises a PBB for the period 2009-2011 and a corresponding organisational structure.
Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The Ministry has commissioned a study on Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The goal is to protect and conserve the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

In this context, the following reports were prepared:

• Survey report of Grand Baie Wetlands
• Location Map of all wetlands
• Wetlands Property ownership Maps(coastal and upland)
• Final Technical Reports on Freshwater Wetlands
• Final ESAs Strategic Management Plan

Integrated Coastal Zone Management Framework

The Ministry commissioned the project: ‘Consultancy Services for the ‘Development of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Framework (ICZM) for the Republic of Mauritius’.

In this context the following reports were prepared:

• ICZM strategy
• ICZM policy and legislative frameworks
• Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Plan
• Financial Strategies for ICZM Implementation including potential sources of funding

Implementation of Lagoonal Water Quality Index

Technical Assistance was sought from the European Commission for a study on the implementation of Lagoonal Water Quality Index in Mauritius. The objectives of the study are to design a comprehensive monitoring programme for Mauritius; develop a Lagoonal Water Quality Index; and streamline institutional arrangements through Memoranda of Understanding.

Oil Spill Pocket Book

The launching of the book, along with a mini CD on 7 June at Blue Bay Marine Park, coincided with the celebration of the World Environment Day 2009. The pocket book summarizes all necessary operational information from the National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plans for decision makers and combat personnel on site, in the event of an oil spill.
The pocket book includes an amended list of persons to be contacted by the Police Information and Operation Room in case of an oil spill, and a copy of the Pollution Report System (POLREP) in English version.

**Climate Change and its Impacts on the Coastal Zone**

A Pamphlet entitled *Climate Change and its Impacts on the Coastal Zone of Mauritius* was published in collaboration with IOC/EU Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zone of the Indian Ocean Countries (ReCoMaP) in the context of the World Environment Day 2009.

The objective is to disseminate information and create awareness among the public on the impacts of Climate change and sea-level rise with particular focus on the coastal zone. It depicts the changes that have been observed in Mauritius over the years and the likely impacts that Climate Change and Sea Level Rise would cause on the natural environment and the communities residing in the coastal zone.

The Pamphlet also provides some tips to readers on simple and basic actions that they can perform in their daily routine to help in combating Climate Change.

**Improving Municipal Wastewater Management**

The Ministry in collaboration with the UNEP/GPA Office, Nairobi Convention Secretariat and the WIOLaB Project organised a training programme from 20-24 April on the theme *Improving Municipal Wastewater Management*. Some 30 representatives from local authorities, Wastewater Management Authority and other public bodies participated in the training course. The course was conducted by an international expert from UNESCO.

**UNEP/GEF WIOLaB Demonstration Project**

Under the UNEP/GEF WIOLaB Demonstration Project ‘Solid Waste Management in the Ports Area’, eight metallic grids were installed in four main streams entering the harbour, namely La Paix stream, Labourdonnais stream, Butte à Tonniers and Le Pouce stream. The aim is to prevent pollution of the marine environment from waste from land-based sources/activities.

**Training of Stakeholders**

A training workshop was held from 23 to 26 March at Domaines Les Pailles, under the Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zone of the countries of the Indian Ocean. Some forty-eight participants from government authorities, organizations and associations and NGOs were trained to better understand Integrated Coastal Zone Management.
National ICZM Committee Workshop

The development of an Action Plan for the ICZM Committee was the focus of a one-day workshop on 2 July at Domaines Les Pailles. The main objectives were to:

- Identify the tasks for the ICZM Committee
- Identify communication needs between the ICZM committee and ICZM Framework and how ReCoMaP can support the ICZM Committee
- Distribute responsibilities for the preparation of the first drafts of national ICZM plan

Economic Valuation of Coastal Resources

Within the framework of the pilot study on the Economic Valuation of Coastal Resources at Flic-en-Flac, a consultant was on mission from 11 to 22 April in Mauritius for stocktaking and consultation with the different stakeholders of the ICZM Subcommittee.

Lagoonal Monitoring of Water Quality

The Lagoonal Water Quality Monitoring Report for the area Pointe aux Sables to Baie du Tombeau for the period June – December 2008, revealed that the water quality in the lagoon of Baie du Tombeau, Sable Noir and Pointe aux Sables showed signs of improvement whereas water quality at Bain des Dames did not comply with the coastal water quality guidelines. On the basis of the report, the Cabinet recommended that the recommendations to improve the water quality be maintained.

Coastal Rehabilitation Works

Coastal rehabilitation works at Bain des Dames popular beach were carried out over an additional 50 m coastal stretch. Works consisted of permeable sloping rock revetment and placement of 100 m wooden parapet on the edge of the revetment work. Phase 2 of the rehabilitation works started on 13 April and was completed in June.

National Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production

A National Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) for Mauritius was developed in collaboration with UNEP and implementation is presently underway. The SCP programme encompasses 44 projects to be implemented by 14 leading agencies within a period of 5 years as from 2008.

The main goals of the national programme are to:

- Increase the efficiency and consumption patterns of natural resources, namely energy and water, involving both technological shifts and behavioural change
- Promote green buildings and sustainable construction in the island
• Reduce wastes generation and to promote recycling
• Increase the demand and supply of sustainable products and services in the market and
• Promote / adopt more sustainable lifestyles and consumption choices.

**Student Environment Charter**

The Ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources, developed a Student Environment Charter targeting students of primary and secondary schools. The main objective is to make them feel committed, responsible and accountable towards the environment. The Charter comprises an array of pledges based on a series of guiding principles in areas such as energy and water conservation, pollution prevention, waste minimization, biodiversity conservation and personal values.

**Environmentally Sound Management of Coal Ash**

In collaboration with all stakeholders, the Ministry produced a report on various issues related to the use of coal, ranging from air emissions during coal combustion and the final utilisation of coal ash. The recommendations in the report pertain to the protection of water resources, prevention of soil contamination, potential uses of coal ash in the local context, guidelines for their safe handling and use, institutional set up for proper monitoring of coal quality and use of coal ash as well as health-related issues associated with combustion and use of coal ash.

**New Fixed Penalty for Littering**

With a view to differentiating between individual offenders and those from the industrial, commercial, business, service or trade sectors, the 9th Schedule to the EPA was amended. It now makes provision for higher fines to polluters committing more serious offences. The new quantum for the littering fixed penalty fines now ranges from Rs 2 000 to Rs 10 000, depending on the category of the offenders and the places or environmental media where the offences have been committed. The regulations came into operation on 22 August.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism a sensitisation campaign To G-T, To Ta-C was launched to raise awareness on the fixed penalty provisions under the EPA.

**Industrial Waste Audit**

Regulations which provide for pollution control by means of an Industrial Waste Audit (IWA) came into force on 1 April.

Since its promulgation, the Ministry has sensitised more than one thousand industries in various ways through seminars, press communiqués, website and discussions with the private Associations of industries such as MEXA and FAIL Group.
Furthermore, twenty officers of the Ministry of Environment and of other concerned Ministries and organisations received training at the University of Mauritius so as to be better equipped with the necessary tools, know-how and skills to effectively enforce these challenging regulations.

**Environmental Assessment Division**

From January to June, the Environmental Assessment Division received 11 new EIA applications. The applications pertained mainly to the construction of new hotels, extension and renovation of existing hotels, expansion of the airport and construction of bypass and link roads. The Ministry issued 11 EIA licences during this period.

With regard to Preliminary Environment Report (PER) applications, seven PER approvals were issued to undertakings involved in the rearing of birds (above 5 000 heads), food processing, rearing of livestock and hatchery. Guidance Notes for the rearing of pig were also prepared for prospective pig breeders in connection with the re-structuring of the pig breeding activities.

**World Climate Conference**

The Minister participated from 31 August to 4 September in Geneva, Switzerland, in the World Climate Conference 3, convened by the World Meteorological Organisation. The objective was to establish a global framework linking scientific advances in climate predictions to the needs of users for decision-making from a seasonal to multi-decadal timescale to better cope with changing conditions.

**International Ozone Day**

A one-day workshop was organised in September at La Plantation, Balaclava, in the context of the International Ozone Day. Around 100 stakeholders from the public and private sectors were targeted. The aim was to sensitise the participants as regards the use of alternative ozone products which are widely available on the market, namely air conditioning, refrigeration, chillers, aerosols, solvents and foam. Participants were also involved in a brainstorming session where they were invited to voice out their views and opinions on the elaboration of the Hydro Chlorofluorocarbon Phase out Management Plan which is under preparation.

**Clean Up the World**

Launching of the Clean Up the World campaign in collaboration with several ministries, the private sector and the community under the theme *Communities Uniting to Combat Climate Change*. The aim was to highlight important environmental issues, inform, inspire and enable people to improve and sustain the quality of life through the protection of the environment, and to prevent resurgence of diseases such as Chikungunya and dengue.
School Endemic Garden Initiative

Implementation in October of the School Endemic Garden Initiative in line with the Green school Project with a view to instructing children on ways to prevent the degradation of biological diversity and developing horticultural skills.

Environment Outlook Report

The Mauritius Environment Outlook Report was the focus of a three-day workshop from 19 to 21 October. The report critically analyses and evaluates the state of the environment, shows cause-effect linkages of human and natural action on the environment, and provides a basis for assessing sustainable use of the environment.

Delhi High-Level Conference on Climate change

The Minister participated on 22 and 23 October in the Delhi High-Level Conference on Climate Change Technology Development and Transfer. The Delhi Statement on Global Cooperation on Climate Change highlighted the necessity for rapid transfer of technology for addressing climate change, global cooperation mechanisms to enhance adaptation and development of technology, technology network centres to promote collaboration amongst governments, industries and research communities, as well as the importance of periodic assessment of the diversity of technologies.
Workshop on Sustainable Lifestyles

A Workshop on Capacity Building of NGOs and Environment Partners on Sustainable Lifestyles was held on 9 December at Clos St Louis, Domaine Les Pailles. The aim was to solicit the involvement of NGOs and environment partners to drive projects and activities to educate and mobilise communities in living sustainable livelihoods. The workshop was in line with the National Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production which had been developed in 2008. The Programme encompasses 44 projects to be implemented within five years by 14 agencies, ministries and parastatal bodies. The overall goal is to curb current unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.

National Development Unit

Road Construction Works

Since January, road construction works awarded amount to around Rs 132M whilst for road resurfacing works the amount is Rs 178M. Major new road projects completed include:

Citadel Road, Bacoys Road-Terre Rouge, Jhansi Road-Poudre D’Or, Verger Mangues, Railway Road-Circonstance, Shivala Road-Bel Air, Mont Fertile-New Grove, Dubarry Lane, L’Escalier, Pandit Ramsahye Road-La Flora and Access Road to APEIM-Trianon.

Resurfacing Works

As regards resurfacing works, major projects already completed since January are:

Militaire Road-St Francois, Baptiste Lane, Terre Rouge, Village Road-Terre Rouge, Access to Aryanvedic Hospital (SSRN), Cremation Road, La Maury, Cité La Chaux-Mahebourg, Independence Road-Vacoas, Cremation Ground Road-L’Escalier, Railway Road-Rivière des Anguilles, La Villa Road-Marketing Board, School Road-Dagotière, La Colombe-Medine and Kulpoo Road.

Social Amenities

Works awarded in respect of social amenities are to the tune of Rs 35.4M since January. Projects completed include outstanding work at Cité Joachim, Social Hall-Ebene, resurfacing of volleyball pitch at Cité La Chaux and Cremation Ground-Pailles.

Land Drainage Programme

The National Development Unit through its Land Drainage Programme endeavours to alleviate the problems of flooding through structural solutions. Since January around 53 drain projects with a total project value of Rs 154M including three bridges have been awarded. The bridge along Nyon Street, Port Louis is completed. Drains are being constructed in Triolet, Plaine des Roches, Circonstance, St. Pierre, Valetta, Plaine des Gersigny, Boulet Rouge in Central Flacq.
With the assistance of the respective Municipal Councils, drain networks are being put up in Vacoas and Curepipe. Further, towards the south, drain projects are underway in Grand Bois, Camp Diable and L’Escalier.

Pailles and Chamouny experienced severe flooding during the flash flood of 26 March 2008. Contracts have been awarded for the construction of Topaze Bridge in Pailles and Damur Bridge in Chamouny to alleviate the problems of flooding.
Mission

To be a driver, catalyst and facilitator for the development of effective and efficient human resources in the Civil Service.

To spearhead administrative reforms so as to enable the delivery of timely and quality services to the public.

To provide training to Public Officers.

To create an enabling environment and act as catalyst and facilitator for the promotion and development of youth and sports at regional, national and international levels.
Award Courses for Officers of the General Services Cadre

Award Courses for Officers of the General Services Cadre were organised as from 31 August. Initially launched at the University of Technology, Mauritius in May 2004, these courses aimed at acquainting officers of the General Services Cadre with the new concepts and latest trends in Public Sector Management. Officers mainly from the grades of Higher Executive Officer, Executive Officer and Confidential Secretary are trained in modules related to Communication, Management, Public Sector Policy and Computer Fundamentals. So far, 739 officers have followed the course.

Training in MTEF/PBB

166 Officers of the middle and top management levels followed the Training Programme in Medium Term Expenditure Framework /Programme Based Budgeting (MTEF/PBB) in 6 batches. This programme, which was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment, aimed at training officers who would be directly involved in the implementation of MTEF/PBB and to enhance their knowledge and skills for the effective implementation of this modern budgetary system.

Customer Care and Quality Management

A total of 166 officers of different grades from Ministries/Departments received certificates after having successfully completed training in Customer Care and Quality Management through the Open Distance Learning mode. Some 233 officers including 53 participants from MCA have followed the training.

Refresher Course on ICT

Twenty-five batches with a total of 322 officers from the grades of Confidential Secretary and Word Processing Operator followed a refresher Course on Information and Communication Technology during the period January to August. The training aimed at upgrading the participants’ competencies, skills and techniques required to operate the Microsoft Office 2007, E-mail, Internet and providing them with basic knowledge on PC Troubleshooting.

Training in Negotiation Skills

Training in Negotiation Skills was resumed for an additional 216 officers. The training programme was dispensed in 7 batches to officers of mid-management level who are required
to carry out negotiations in the course of their duties. The objective is to enhance the knowledge and skills of those officers for effective negotiation and to better understand and apply the techniques of negotiation and facilitation.

**Training in Prosecution Matters**

Fifty-nine officers of the top and middle management level followed a Training Programme in Prosecution Matters in April. The programme aimed at acquainting participants with the legal and judicial systems of Mauritius, enhancing their knowledge about criminal procedures and providing practice to enhance their skills in performing prosecution duties. The course was presented by a team from the Attorney-General’s Office and consisted also of mock trial practical sessions.

**Training Programme on Leadership and Supervision**

A Training Programme was officially launched on 1 April by the Minister. The objective is to enhance the leadership and supervisory skills of public officers at mid-management level and above, who have the responsibility of leading and supervising the work of teams of officers. A total of 179 officers from Ministries/Departments completed the training.

**Training in Electronic Attendance System**

A Refresher training programme was launched on 16 and 17 April and it aimed at familiarising participants with the Biometric system of the electronic attendance Record Management System.

**Training Programme for Telephonists/Receptionists**

The Ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, organised from 6 to 30 April, a two-half day training programme in Communication and Customer Care for telephonists/receptionists for some 71 officers.

The objective was to sensitise hospital telephonists and receptionists on the concept of “Putting People First” as enunciated in the Government Programme 2005-2010. The training also aims at enhancing the knowledge of the participants and equipping them with the necessary interpersonal communication skills.

**Training in Effective Communication Skills**

A Training in Effective Communication Skills for some 182 officers was carried out in six batches from 12 May to 18 June. The objectives were to equip the participants with essential skills and techniques of effective writing; provide them with appropriate guidelines and acquaint them with the major forms of correspondence and written communication. The training targeted officers of the General Services from the level of Executive Officers/Senior Officers and above as well as officers of the Administrative and Technical Cadres.
Induction Course for newly appointed Receptionists/Telephone Operators

A two-day Induction Course was held on 15 June for some 26 receptionists/telephone operators and aimed at sensitising them on their roles, responsibilities and functions, enhance their knowledge and equip them with the necessary interpersonal communication skills.

Training course for Public Officers (who have opted for appointment as Officer)

The training programme, designed in line with the recommendations of the Pay Research Bureau Report 2008 started on 7 September. The objectives are to render officers multi-skilled and polyvalent and equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to perform their duties more efficiently. So far 350 officers have followed the course. This training was meant for all public officers who are qualified to be appointed officers.

Training in Public Relations and Customer Care

A Training course in Public Relations and Customer Care was organised for Office Care Personnel. The training was launched on 16 July and a total of 600 participants grouped in 18 batches followed the course from July to December. The training aimed at promoting good housekeeping habits among the participants by helping them understand housekeeping responsibilities and at the importance of proper hygiene at the workplace.

Introductory Course for Diplomacy and Foreign Trade

A 50-hour Introductory Course on Diplomacy and Foreign Trade was organised jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and the Ministry for some 33 Officers of the public and private sectors. The programme was launched by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms on 18 June at the Lunch Room of the National Assembly.

Universal ICT Education Programme

In line with government’s policy to have a computer-literate workforce, the programme for the provision of IC3 Course to officers is ongoing. As at date, some 1 616 officers of the General Services and Human Resource Cadres have completed the Course.

Training on Excel and PowerPoint for Word Processing Operators

A total of 190 officers from the grade of Word Processing Operator were trained in Excel and PowerPoint from October to December.
Training courses abroad

During the year, the Human Resource Department Division processed 26 offers for nominations for training programmes/workshops/seminars from foreign countries / international organisations. Out of the 26 nominations, 10 officers at top/middle management level proceeded abroad to attend the training.

ISO Certification of Ministries/Departments

- A total of 28 organisations were certified to operate as per ISO standards including critical public service delivery. Organisations such as the Passport and Immigration Office, the Companies Division and the Entomology Division of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Production and Security, achieved certification according to the MS ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System standards.

- In August, 60 public officers from 13 hospitals/units of the Ministry of Health and Quality of life and from 16 other public service organisations received training in Preparing for MS ISO 9001:2008 Assessment and Internal Auditing Techniques at the Mauritius Standards Bureau.

Improvement of Counter/Customer Services Scheme

In 2009, 18 projects aimed at upgrading and modernising counter/customer services were implemented. Projects included a reorganisation of the Application & Delivery sections of the Civil Status Division at the Emmanuel Anquetil Building, Port Louis for a better channeling of customers, improved waiting area and streamlined processes. Several similar projects were implemented at the ENT and Flacq hospitals.
Mystery Shopping.

The Mystery Shopping exercises aimed at improving service delivery were conducted within 11 organisations namely at the Registrar General’s Department, Social Security Office at Rose Hill and ENT Hospital. Besides, ten e-government services provided by Ministries/Departments were also evaluated.

Public Service Excellence Award

The Public Service Excellence Award Ceremony was held on 29 July at the Sir Harilal Vaghjee Memorial Hall. The objective was to encourage innovation and excellence in the delivery of public services and to give recognition to ministries and departments that adopted innovative approaches in management. The Grand Winner was the Civil Aviation Department.

Implementation of Performance Management system

The Performance Management System (PMS) is a strategic reform initiative which aims at improving the overall management of public organisations, in particular Human Resource Management for an improvement delivery of public services.

As at December, 82% of public officers that is around 41 000 persons were trained in PMS. Around 19 515 officers that is, 40% of a total of about 49 000 officers had signed the Performance Appraisal form.

Training of 34 Facilitators was held in September in Rodrigues and rolling out of PMS to the 2 775 officers is underway.
The PMS ensures that each Ministry/Department has a well defined stated vision and mission as well as objectives that are clearly cascaded down to officers at various levels of the organisation so that there is a common purpose and set of goals to achieve.

The target set by the Government for 40% of the total number of public officers to sign their Performance Appraisal form by end of December has been reached. The remaining 60% is expected to sign the Performance Appraisal form by December 2010.

**Public Officers’ Welfare Council**

Activities organised:

- Swimming courses;
- Public Speaking Competition;
- Workshop on POWC Action Plan 2010- 2011;
- Football tournament;
- Excursion Crocodile Park, Riambel Public Beach & Mont Blanc;
- Volley Ball Tournament;
- Culinary Exhibition; and
- Civil Service Kermesse 2009.
Youth and Sports

Mission

To create an enabling environment and act as catalyst and facilitator for the promotion and development of youth and sports at regional, national and international levels.
 Developed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, this document highlights various initiatives and achievements in the year 2023, focusing on the progress and developments in different aspects of youth and sports. The document is structured into different sections, each covering specific activities and events in the field of youth and sports.

**January**

**Chinese Sports Delegation**

The Minister had on 13 January a meeting with a six-member Chinese sports delegation led by Mr. Xiao Tian, vice-ministre de l'Administration générale d'Etat pour le Sport de Chine et vice-président du Comité Olympique de Chine.

Discussions centered on exchange programmes in different individual sports fields such as table tennis and badminton. Chinese expertise was also sought for the training of athletes in volleyball and weightlifting. The possibility to send Mauritian athletes to benefit from high-level training in sports centres in Beijing was also raised during the meeting.

**Ship for the World Youth Programme**

A group of 12 Mauritians participated from 14 January to 3 March in the 21st edition of the Ship for the World Youth Programme at the invitation of the Government of Japan. Mauritian nationals participated in this Programme for the fourth time.

**National Football Training Centre**

The Minister on 19 January met the new Directeur technique national of football, Mr. Marc Collat. It was decided that the Centre National de Formation de Football would be re-opened.

**African Cycling Championship**

The Minister presented on 23 January a cheque of Rs 40 000 to Aurélie Halbwachs, double medal winner at the African championship competition of Cycling.

**Athletics**

The Centre National de Formation d'Athlétisme was renamed on 24 January the Centre National d'Entraînement (CNEA). The CNEA will serve as a platform for young athletes so as to help them integrate the Pôle d'Espoir.
Jeux de l’Avenir

In the context of the re-launching of the *Jeux de l’Avenir*, the Minister had a series of meetings on 27, 28 and 29 January with students and teachers in different colleges around the country.

Youth Expo Fair

Opening on 29 January of a two-day Youth Expo Fair at *l’Esplanade Emmanuel Anquetil Building*, organised by the Ministry and the CONFEJES. Around 25 youth aged between 16 and 29 years participated in the Fair. The aim was to encourage young people to develop their entrepreneurial skills, to share their experiences with other young entrepreneurs and to market their products.

February

National Youth Council Multipurpose Hall

Opening on 7 February of the National Youth Council Multipurpose Hall at Plaine Verte. The Hall is meant to be used by young people residing in the Port Louis region as well as by the nine Regional Youth Councils for activities and meetings.

Memorandum of Understanding

Signature on 12 February at Phoenix of a MoU between the Trust Fund for Excellence in Sports, the University of Mauritius and the IVTB in Phoenix which will allow young athletes to benefit from a flexible timetable and facilitate their entry in the University of Mauritius and the IVTB.

Jeux de la Francophonie

The first working session between the Minister and members of the committee of follow-up on the preparation of athletes in view of the 6th *Jeux de la Francophonie* scheduled in September in Lebanon was held on 16 February.

ICT Programme

Launching on 19 February of an ICT programme for Reform Institutions (Boys and Girls), Probation Homes and Probation Hostels. The course was organised by the Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare and Reform Institutions. The objectives were to promote ICT knowledge among young inmates of Reform Institutions; democratise access and use of ICT tools; and increase the ICT literacy level of young people.
Dubai-Mauritius Award Exchange

Fourteen young Mauritian participants in Dubai from 23 February to 2 March in the Dubai-Mauritius Award Exchange 2009.

Cross-country Championship for Eastern Africa

The cross-country championship for Eastern Africa was held on 28 February at the Gymkhana grounds in Vacoas. This championship regrouped representatives from Mauritius, South Africa, Malawi, Botswana, Angola, Seychelles, Mozambique, Reunion and Lesotho.

March

Youth Rally

In the context of the National Day Celebrations, the Ministry organised on 11 March a Youth Rally and a Live Concert. Around 4,000 young people participated in both events.

Community-Based Programme

The Community-Based Programme was launched by the Mauritius Sports Council. Sports schools were opened in different regions of Mauritius to encourage people to practise sports activities with the right equipment. Activities include: football, athletics, table tennis, badminton, wushu, yoga and aerobics.

April

Inauguration of St-François Stadium

The inauguration of the turf of the St-François Stadium in Port Louis was held in the presence of the President of UEFA, Mr. Michel Platini.

Residential Training Workshop

The Ministry in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund organised on 7 and 8 April, a two-day Residential Training Workshop on the theme Youth Sexuality at the Anse La Raie Youth Training Centre.

Re-opening of CNFF

Official re-opening on 9 April of the Centre National de Formation de Football by the President of the Republic.
Police Service Course

A group of 75 young people aged between 14 to 25 years followed as from 13 April a five-day Police Service Course organised by the National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Secretariat in collaboration with the Police Department. Participants were given an insight of the duties and responsibilities that devolve upon members of the Mauritian Police Force.

Jeux de L’Avenir

*Les Jeux de l’Avenir* were held on 15 and 16 April after an interruption of nine years.

Marine Navigation Course

Launching on 20 April of a five-day Marine Navigation Course at the Marine Training Establishment, National Coast Guard, at La Cambuse for Silver and Gold Award participants. Participants were exposed to rescue drills and safety at sea exercise and were introduced to basic navigation skills, compass reading, boat handling and first aid.

May

Visit of Delegation from Slovenia

A delegation of 23 young people from Slovenia visited Mauritius from 23 April to 4 May in the context of an International Award Exchange Programme of the National Youth Achievement Award.

30th African Judo Championship

The 30th African Championship of Judo was held in Mauritius from 30 April to 3 May. Mauritius obtained two medals: one silver and one bronze, in the competition and ranked seventh, in front of South Africa and 15 other countries.

FIFA Grassroots Project

The FIFA Grassroots Project was launched by Vikash Dhorasoo on 5 May at the Germain Commarmond Stadium in Bambous. Mauritius is the first country to have been chosen for this vast project which aims to promote football among children as well as to discover new talents and hence ensure a future for this sports discipline. Around 3 500 pupils from 300 primary schools from Mauritius including Rodrigues participated in the project.
July

16th African Boxing Championship

Mauritius hosted, from 20 to 26 July, in Vacoas, the 16th edition of African Boxing Championship.

Training on Climate Change

Some 50 young people and community leaders aged between 14 and 35 coming from Mon Goût, Pamplemousses participated in weekly training sessions on the theme ‘Climate Change’.

9th African Junior Championships

Mauritius hosted the 9th African Junior Championships from 30 July to 2nd August at the Germain Commarmond Stadium in Bambous.

August

Basic Fire Service Course

Fifty young people enrolled in the National Youth Achievement Award Programme participated in a five-day Basic Fire Service Course from 3 to 7 August organised by the National Youth Achievement Award Unit of the Ministry. The main components of the course included principles of extinguishing fire, triangle of combustion, fire prevention and safety measures.

Striker Competition

The finals of the first national Striker Competition were held on 8 August in the context of Special Vacances August 2008 at Caudan, Port Louis. A Carrom for Fun Day was also organised.

Workshop on Leadership Dynamics

A residential training workshop on Leadership Dynamics was organised at Anse La Raie Youth Training Centre on 8 and 9 August bringing together some 90 executive members of the nine Young Girls Club from the nine districts.

National Youth Policy

Launching of the National Youth Policy 2010-2014 on 12 August at the Grand Baie International Conference Centre. The document is an important tool to address the needs of
young people through the identification of existing gaps and channel the youth in the right direction whilst ensuring that they are given equal opportunities to develop their potential in the overall social, economic and cultural development of the country.

**Youth Excellence Award**

The Youth Excellence Award was launched to give young people between the age of 14 to 29 years, the opportunity to develop their ideas in social, economic, cultural, artistic and other youth-related fields in a project type. The project is expected to demonstrate a sense of initiative and a search for excellence by the young people.

**September**

**8th Indian Ocean Islands Games**

The Minister met on 7 September representatives of the 12 Sports Federations whose disciplines have been retained for the Indian Ocean Islands Games which will be held in Seychelles from 5 to 14 August 2011.

**Financial Assistance to Football Teams and Regional Committee**

With a view to boosting up the level of football and as an incentive to accelerate and support the preparatory process of each team, cheques were presented to 12 First Division and to 11 Second Division Football teams and to 12 regional Committees on 11 September at the Mauritius Football House, Trianon in the context of the Sports Regionalisation Grant.
Jeunes Entreprises

Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding on 14 September between the Ministry and the IVTB for the implementation of a pedagogical project ‘Jeunes Entreprises’. The project aims at fostering a culture of entrepreneurship among the youth through the setting up in all IVTB centres of the country of genuine business enterprises on a mini-scale to expose students to all business aspects.

Sketch Competition and Youth forum

Prize-giving ceremony on 30 September for national anti-corruption sketch competition organised by the Ministry in collaboration with the National Youth Council and the ICAC.

6th Francophonie Games

Mauritius team ranked 6th with 8 medals (3 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze) at the sixth Francophonie Games, which were held in Beirut, Liban from 27 September to 6 October.

October

Certificates in Life skills, Leadership and Peer Education

Presentation of Certificates in Life skills, Leadership and Peer education at the Municipal Council of Port Louis on October 12.
Certificate in Life Skills

Presentation of Certificates in Life Skills at Ecole de Fatima on 20 October.

8th Junior African Swimming Championships

Mauritius hosted the 8th Junior Africa Swimming Championships from 22 to 25 October at the Serge Alfred Swimming Stadium in Beau Bassin.

Gold Award Certificates and Badges

Forty Gold Award participants received on 24 October Gold Award Certificates and Badges while 15 young Award volunteers who successfully followed an Award Leadership Course obtained their International Red Badges and Certificate at State House Réduit.

World Bodybuilding Championship Qatar 2009

The Minister on 29 October handed over air tickets to athletes participating in the World Bodybuilding Championship 2009 held in Qatar from 1 to 5 November.

Inter University Games

The Inter University Games 2009 were launched on 29 October.

November

Youth Excellence Award 2009

Winners of the Youth Excellence Award were proclaimed and rewarded during a ceremony held on 7 November at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture.

Leadership Training Course

An Orientation and Introduction to the Leadership Training Course designed for some 50 participants was organised on 7 November at the Municipality of Vacoas-Phoenix.

Symposium on Jeunes Entreprises

A symposium on ‘Jeunes Entreprises’ was organised at the Octave Wiehe Auditorium on 19 November. Certificates were presented to some 400 IVTB students who completed the ‘Jeunes Entreprises’ project.
Chasse aux Connaissances – Chasse au Trésor

A *Chasse aux Connaissances – Chasse au Trésor* was organised by the National Youth Council in collaboration with the Municipality of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill on 21 November in Rose-Hill.

Climate Change and Response to Disaster

Some 35 youth leaders and workers who completed the training course on Climate Change and Response to Disaster were awarded their certificates on 23 November at the Meteorological Services.

Youth Community Award for National Unity

Presentation of the Youth Community Award for National Unity by the Committee for the Promotion of National Unity at the State House in Réduit on 24 November.

Jeux de l’Espoir – Volet Jeunesse

In the context of the *Jeux de l’Espoir – Volet Jeunesse 2009*, a Youth Forum in the form of an inter-region power point competition was held at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre at Bell Village on 24 November.

Jeux de l’Espoir

Some 3 000 youths participated in 13 sports events and other activities pertaining to youth development in the context of the *Jeux de l’Espoir 2009* held on 25 and 26 November. Athletes from Reunion and Seychelles also participated in the games.
Workshop on Ethical Leadership

Some 60 youth leaders participated on 27 November in a one-day workshop on Ethical Leadership at the Floreal Youth Centre. Themes discussed at the workshop included leadership – meaning, styles, skills and values in Leadership, followed by practical sessions.

December

Leadership and Peer Education

Certificates in Leadership and Peer Education were presented to 60 participants at the Triolet Youth Centre on 1st December.

2010 World Cup Football Competition

The Minister attended from 3 to 6 December in Cape Town, South Africa the drawing of lots for the 2010 World Cup Football Competition. He carried a lobbying campaign to attract foreign qualified football teams for pre-competition training camps in Mauritius.

International Volunteers Day

In the context of the International Volunteers Day, National Youth Achievement Award participants were in various localities on 5 December to do voluntary work such as cleaning of homes, caring for old age, working in the national parks and upgrading children’s playgrounds, as well as for youth exchange in Rehabilitation Youth Centres.

Life Skills and Leadership

About 127 participants of the Life Skills and Leadership course received their certificates on 5 December at the Bois Chéri Youth Centre.

National Sports Award 2009

The 24th edition of the National Sports Award aimed at rewarding the best sportsmen and sportswomen of 2009 was held on 6 December at the Grand Bay International Conference Centre.

National Youth Achievement Award 2009

An Award Ceremony was held on 8 December to acknowledge the efforts of the 1st batch of Award participants of Northfields International College.
Mission

Local Government
To ensure that Local Authorities adhere to the principles of
good governance
To empower and provide appropriate support to Local Authorities so as
to enable them to manage the affairs of the local communities effectively
and efficiently.
To engage all stakeholders in local community affairs
To protect the environment and human health through an effective and
sustainable management of solid waste.

Rodrigues and Outer Islands
To ensure coordination between the Prime Minister's Office, various
Ministries/departments and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the
Outer Islands Development Corporation respectively.
To promote the interests of Rodriguans and Agaleans at the national
level and on the socio-economic front.
To facilitate implementation of Government policies both
in Rodrigues and the Outer Islands.
Financial Management Manual

Preparation of a Financial Management Manual along the same lines as those obtainable in the Financial Management Manual of central Government. The objectives are to provide the appropriate tool to officers of local authorities to efficiently manage the finances of their respective Councils and to enable them to implement policies and programmes economically and effectively by preventing errors, waste and overspending.

Workshop of solid Waste Management

A one-week Training Workshop on Solid Waste Management was organised by the University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM) and the Ministry from 10 to 16 June. The training focused on strengthening Solid Waste Management capacity, identifying solid waste strategies, choosing appropriate technologies and developing know-how of participants on legal requirements.

Roche Bois Transfer Station

The existing transfer station at Roche Bois, constructed in 1991, was undersized and could no longer cater for the present daily influx of waste in an efficient and environmentally sound manner and needed to be extended and upgraded. The objective was to reduce the waiting time of lorries in view to increase the effectiveness of the collection services. The contract for the Upgrading of Roche Bois Transfer Station was awarded in March. Works are expected to be completed by end of July 2010.

La Brasserie Transfer Station

Upgrading works at La Brasserie Transfer station have been completed and the upgrading station is operational since August. The costs for the upgrading works amounted to Rs 72M.

Second Africa-South America Summit

Mission of the Minister to Margarita Island, Venezuela where he participated from 22 to 27 September in the Second Africa-South America Summit, which focused on the roadmap to strengthen the deep-rooted historical and political ties of the two continents.
Commonwealth Local Government Forum

The 5th Policy and Resources Committee Meeting of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) was organised at La Pirogue Hotel, Flic-en-Flac. Delegates from member countries of the CLGF comprising Mayors and Chairpersons of District Councils attended the Meeting which was held from 27 to 29 October.

La Chaumière Transfer Station

With the existing transfer station at St. Martin scheduled to be closed by end 2009, a new transfer station is being constructed at La Chaumière to ensure that there is no disruption in the reception of waste collected from local authorities to service the catchment area of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, part of Quatre Bornes and the Black River District Council. The construction works which started since 1 June 2009 were expected to last till December 2009.

The Local Infrastructure Fund

The following key major local infrastructural projects have been implemented under the local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) set up in June 2008, Rose Belle Market Fair (reaching completion); Tartan Track at Sir Gaetan Duval Stadium; Sports Complex at Paillotte; Re-roofing of Vacoas Fair (completed); Development over Pont de Paris at Port Louis; and Football Ground at Ebene (completed). Other major projects to be launched soon are: Central Flacq Market Fair; Crematorium buildings equipped with incinerators at Bois Marchand, Beau Bois-Lallmatie, Montagne Saint Pierre-Bambous, Chebel, and Rivière du Poste; Sports Complex at Edgar Hugues-Curepipe; Rivière des Anguilles Market Fair; and Vacoas Multipurpose complex.
Beach Authority

Various projects were undertaken by the Beach Authority. Among them are the:

- Extension of footbridge at Le Goulet Public Beach, construction of 4 tuckshops at Pereybère Public Beach, upgrading works at the Trou aux Biches Public Beach (near Fish Landing Station), Roches Noires Public Beach, La Cuvette Public Beach, and at Tamarin Public Beach

Municipal Councils

Beau Bassin/Rose Hill

Projects undertaken include:

- Residential Seminar at Pointe aux Sables from 25 to 27 February 2009 for 60 senior citizens, renovation of Plaza roof, renovation of Beau Bassin Market, construction of Barkly Market, upgrading and uplifting of Balfour Garden, construction of a Mini Library at Mare Gravier

Curepipe

Projects undertaken include:

- Implementation of a project for the segregation of wastes. Four types of metal bins of different colours to separate collection of these different types of wastes are in use. The bins have been fixed on eight different sites within the town
- Works were carried out for the upgrading of lighting of SSR Botanical Garden. 21 lighting poles with luminaries have been fixed in the garden
Hotline

In collaboration with the Call Services of the Mauritius Telecom, a hotline was launched on 7 August at the Municipality of Curepipe.

Port Louis

Projects undertaken include:

• Reconstruction of Abercrombie Market/Fair, construction of Pont de Paris (to accommodate hawkers), resurfacing of roads and construction of new drains, installation of additional bins at Ruisseau du Pouce Market/Fair and Central Market (Foodcourt)

Quatre Bornes

• Projects undertaken include the construction at Mr Navin Soonarane gymnasium at Ebene, Quatre Bornes

Vacoas/Phoenix

Projects undertaken include:

• Construction of Multi purpose complex at Cinq Arpents, Petit Camp and La Caverne, Renovation of Municipal Library, setting up of petanque court at Solférino Complex

District Councils

Black River

Projects undertaken include:

• Road works and drain works, upgrading of Cemeteries and Cremation Grounds, construction of libraries at Flic en Flac and Pailles, lighting of Football Grounds at Petite Rivière Noire, Cascavelle and Petite Rivière, and construction of Market Fair at Pailles

• Construction of new roads, drains and resurfacing of existing roads, lighting of football grounds, construction of Library Buildings at Flic en Flac and Pailles, construction of Market Fair at Pailles, Blood Donation organised on May 28 and a two-day workshop organised on August 25 and 26 on Gender Based Violence at the seat of the Black River District Council in collaboration with Gender Links

Grand Port/Savanne

Projects undertaken include:

• Supply of 2 scavenging tipper trucks
• Construction of new roads
• Construction of absorption drain of Plaine Magnien and Chemin Grenier
• Extension of covered drain near Mon Clair house near Bethlehem
• Rose Belle Market / Fair

Moka/Flacq

Projects undertaken include:

• The construction of an Administrative Block for the Moka Flacq District Council, construction of ‘Gradin’ at Dagotière and Providence Football Grounds, renovation of Quartier Militaire Market, and Twinning with Anse Royal District of Seychelles

Pamplemousses/Rivière du Rempart

Projects undertaken include:

Fixing of 37 Village name plates, renovation of village halls/Addition of first floor at Grand Baie Village Council, construction of drain at Grand Bay and Grand Gaube, resurfacing works in various villages, and renewal of Twinning Agreement with Seychelles (Beau Vallon).
Outer Islands Development Corporation

Acquisition of a new coconut crushing plant to replace the existing one dating more than 75 years for the production of coconut oil. With this equipment, production of coconut oil at Agalega is expected to increase from 20,000 litres to 60,000 litres annually. A new building of an area of 790 sq ft to house this equipment has also been constructed.

A refugee centre of 45 sq ft is under construction, which will be used during cyclone and other natural calamities. A special characteristic of this building is that it is being constructed on a height of five metres above sea level.

The Corporation is constructing a duplex for its staff of Agalega.

UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources is funding community projects around the two Primary schools of Agalega including:

- Agriculture
- Poultry
- Music classes and sports

Coconut fields are being cleaned for easy access for the collection of coconuts.
Rodrigues

Tourism

With a view to promoting Rodrigues as a tourist destination, officers of the Rodrigues Tourism Office participated in several international tourism fairs. The Rodrigues Tourism Office also organised 18 press trips and one educational tour for nine German Travel Agents from 30 March to 1 April with the collaboration of hotels and tour operators. In addition, a four-week TV campaign through a short three-minute film was broadcast on Antenne Réunion.

A promotional campaign abroad was organised from 22 to 28 February in 5 cities targeting travel agencies, hiking clubs, golden age clubs, “Comités d’entreprise” and Journalists.

In collaboration with the MTPA, a web site www.visit-rodrigues.com was created to publish special promotional packages of Rodrigues Tourism Operators as from February. A Road show was organised from 17 January to 7 February during week-ends at big shopping centres such as Super U, Jumbo and Game.

Entrepreneurship

A major Entrepreneurship Development Programme was approved by the Decentralised Cooperation Programme and the Human Resource Development Council whereby a customised entrepreneurial programme starting August was developed and some 300 entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs are targeted to be given the necessary training and skills.

Water Resources

Sustained efforts have been made to extend the water distribution network so as to provide water supply to each household. Most of the galvanised pipelines have been upgraded to HDPE pipes which are more appropriate to suit local conditions. In addition, the maintenance works continued on the existing water distribution network.

Major projects undertaken by the Commission for Water Resources include:

- Construction of 1000 m³ Circular reservoir at Rivière Coco and Mte Patate
- Upgrading of Grand Bay and Fond la Digue water systems
- Construction of pump house at Songe for desalination plants
- Supply, installation and commissioning of submersible pump with control panels
- Supply of 4 units electro fusion machines and 4 units mobile generators
- Desilting of dam at Cascade Pigeon and associated works
• Supply, installation and commissioning of flow meters in service reservoirs
• Installation of household flow meters and meter chamber boxes

Education

Much emphasis was laid on the improvement of school infrastructure with a view to promoting an environment conducive for teaching and learning.

The following measures were taken at the level of primary education:

• Pupils of both pre primary and primary schools have been benefiting from milk and bread as well as cheese, butter and fruits under the Supplementary School Feeding Project whereas a daily balanced diet lunch has also been provided to pupils of Ste Thérèse de l’Enfant Jesus RCA School under the Zone d’Education Prioritaire (ZEP) project. An amount of Rs 9 673 000 was disbursed in that connection

• Newspapers were distributed in all 13 primary schools on a daily basis in order to encourage reading habits among primary schools

• A special additional grant of Rs 50 000 was allocated to the Parent Teacher’s Association of each primary school for minor repairs at school levels and the acquisition of pedagogical materials
• The eight government primary schools were equipped with photocopying machine. Furthermore, pedagogical support such as laptops, projectors, white boards, VCDs and cassette recorders were provided to RCA Schools

• A Baseline Profiling with STD I pupils was conducted at the beginning of the school year with the view to identifying the competencies of pupils at this stage and planning for a smooth transition from Pre School to Std I as well as a Diagnostic Assessment at the level of Std III

• A half day training program on vision screening in primary schools was held with Head Masters, Deputy Head Masters, School Clerks and Health and Physical Instructors to equip them with necessary tools and skills to easily detect pupils having vision problems and to refer these cases to the optometrist in Rodrigues

• A per capita grant of Rs. 200 was made available on a monthly basis to three Special Education Needs (SENS) Schools

• The grant provided to the Roman Catholic Education Authority to carry out renovation projects was increased from 1 million to 1.7 million. The funds were used to rehabilitate and renovate Don Bosco RCA School and undertake minor renovation in other RCA Schools

Measures for the Secondary

• The Rodrigues Regional Assembly continued to provide books to the tune of Rs 3 325 000 to all secondary school students in Rodrigues, under the Free Book Loan Scheme that was set up in 2007. All REDCO colleges and the Rodrigues College started the process of standardization of textbooks in view of having common examinations for students

• A contract to the tune of R 7.4 million was awarded in April for the construction of six additional classrooms at Mt. Lubin College. Necessary action was initiated for the construction of a new secondary school at Terre Rouge

• Twenty computers to the tune of Rs 600 000 were purchased to equip Le Chou and Grande Montagne Colleges with a view to making Rodriguan students more IT literate and at the same time enable educators to use ICT in their teaching methodologies

• Arrangements were made for educators to attend training run by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate in close collaboration with Cambridge International Examinations so as to ensure their professional development

• A pilot project for the introduction of 21st century science in secondary schools started at Marechal College in January
Training

Various training programmes were held in collaboration with various local and national institutions to upgrade skills and knowledge of all segments of the population:

- A Top up BSc Management Studies Programme is being run since January by the University of Mauritius
- An induction course for newly recruited Secondary Education teachers was run on 21 March
- A Diploma in Educational Management (DEM) was conducted as from April by the MIE
- Financial assistance to SEHDA to enable the organization of a training in garment making
- Five trainers have benefitted from training attachment under the National Empowerment Foundation
- Some 675 trainees benefitted from the Universal ICT Education Programme
- About 750 persons from the vulnerable groups benefitted from the Literacy & Numeracy project financed by the Decentralised Cooperation Programme

Additional Scholarships

12 Scholarships were awarded for studies through Distance Learning. The objective is to encourage distance and lifelong learning among the Rodriguan population. The scholarships cater for registration, tuition and exams fees payable to the training institutions for an amount not exceeding Rs 50,000 per annum for a maximum period of three years.

Culture

The following activities were held:

- Drama Workshop by the Mauritius Drama League
- 174th Anniversary for the Abolition of Slavery
- National Day Celebrations 2009
- World Poetry Day
- World Theatre Day
- Jazz and Blues Music Exchange Programme with Eric Triton and his band
- World Dance Day
• Photography and Photographer’s Rights Workshop
• International Museum Day
• Music Day Celebrations 2009
• Rodrigues Drama Festival

Arts projects under the Human Resources Knowledge and Development Fund were extended to Rodrigues. New projects namely Inter-Colleges and inter-schools drama competition, Young Promising Artist Award 2009 and Promotion of Theatre 2009 were introduced. Besides, financial and technical assistance were provided to cultural and artistic groups.

A delegation of the National Archives was on mission in Rodrigues on 23 and 24 January to provide assistance to the Commission in the context of setting up a branch of the National Archives in Rodrigues.

### Social Security, Women Affairs, Family Welfare and Child Development

Main activities:

• Training in Basic Management for some 130 beneficiaries under the Empowerment of Teenage Mothers programme in April and June. At June, some 120 persons benefitted from a grant of Rs 3 000 under the programme. The objective is to encourage teenage mothers to start their micro-enterprise and also to consolidate existing ones

• With the collaboration of Association Lutte et Espoir, about 25 young mothers were sensitised on 18 and 19 June on better parenting

• Free counselling services and continued support were provided to victims of abuse

• The finals of the annual Women’s Athletic Day were held in September

• Training courses were provided to women at grass root level to enable them to start small income generating activities for greater economic independence

• In addition, to the total annual grant of Rs 100 000 from the Commission for Women’s Affairs, women’s associations affiliated to the Rodrigues Regional Committee for Women each benefitted from a grant of Rs 2 000

• The International Women’s Day was celebrated on 8 March 2009 and the official ceremony took place at the Leisure and Cultural Centre at Malabar. Five women were rewarded for their contribution in Health, Training, Education, Women Development and Fishing
Road Infrastructure Development and Maintenance

Major Projects to improve and upgrade road infrastructure and road safety included:

- Construction of the Winston Churchill bridge in order to reduce traffic congestion in Port Mathurin
- Access road Baie du Nord-Anse Nicolas (800m)
- Access road at Hauteur Accacia Morcellement
- Extension to existing (D.B.S.T.) road at Graviers
- Upgrading of water bound road at Graviers, Hauteur Accacia
- Resurfacing of access road and parking area at La Ferme
- Reparation and installation of traffic signs
- Installation of concrete slabs at Baie Lascars
- Remarking of the road network
- Construction of Parking at Anse aux Anglais
- Reparation of retaining wall at Crève Coeur
- Construction of retaining wall at Malartic
- Construction of track roads to address accessibility problems in remote and scattered villages

Environment

The policy is to achieve a sustainable development of Rodrigues by safeguarding a right balance between the development of the island and the preservation of the island while improving the quality of life.

Major projects undertaken:

- Education and Awareness campaigns
- Landscaping and Embellishment works
- Setting up of Nursery for the production of endemic and decorative plants
- Upgrading of Public Beaches
• School competitions, cleaning and embellishment campaigns and donation of 8 000 plants in the context of World Environment Day

**Renewable Energy**

A domestic wind turbine was procured and commissioned on a pilot based project.

**Housing Development Programme**

In view to providing a shelter to every Rodriguan, building materials for the construction of Low Cost Houses were provided under the self help project. Besides, financial assistance was extended to elderly and low income groups for the construction of a house and for the casting of slab.

**Marine Protected Areas**

The South East Marine Protected Areas based at Port Sud Est was set up under the Marine Protected Areas project “Partnership for Marine Protected Areas in Mauritius and Rodrigues” funded by the UNDP, GEF and RRA so as to address the underlying problems and ecosystem degradation and loss of biodiversity within the southern lagoon as a result of destructive fishing practice and natural impacts. The main objective is to alleviate the human pressure (number of fishers) on the lagoon while attempting to safeguard and improve the socio economic conditions of the area. A SEMPA Management Plan has been worked out.

**Sports Activities**

The Commission sponsored the activities of the various Regional Sport Committees – including sport competitions for athletes and training sessions for coaches.

6 wrestlers participated in the Wrestling competition held in Algeria in June.

Several Judokas took part in the African games held in April in Mauritius. One Judoka, Christiane Legentil, won the bronze medal.

Athletes participated in the semi Marathon International in June and one athlete won the Bronze Medal.

A delegation of 88 athletes and officials proceeded to Mauritius on 12 April in the context of the Jeux de L’Avenir. The Rodriguan athletes demonstrated excellent performance and won 31 gold, 9 silver and 7 bronze medals.
Youth Related Activities

Much emphasis is being laid on providing healthy recreational and leisure activities to youth in Rodrigues which at the same time contribute to their overall development.

In the context of the National Youth Achievement Award, a workshop was organised on 19 and 20 February at the Restaurant Le Bois D'Olive. The objectives of the workshop were to promote and strengthen the National Youth Award Programme in Rodrigues and to inform the participants of Rodrigues of the new changes in the programme and about the international mode of operation set recently.

A delegation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports visited Rodrigues from 20 to 23 May in the context of the review of the National Youth Policy. Four consultative workshops with key stakeholders were held in May.

With a view to enabling youth clubs in Rodrigues to provide healthy leisure activities to the youth, indoor games equipments were donated to 63 youth clubs. A Government Quarter at Marechal was renovated to house a Youth Advisory Bureau.

Seven trainers were recruited to deliver training sessions in Youth Centres and Youth Counselling Centre in the fields of information, technology, hairdressing, aerobic, music, modern and traditional dances.

Mr. Christophe Gentil, member of the Youth Citizen Youth Club of Citronelle, participated in the 21st edition of the “Ship for the World Youth Programme” held in Japan from 14 January to 3 March.

A training course in youth entrepreneurship was organised for 30 young potential entrepreneurs in the Malabar Gymnasium from 4 to 6 June in the context of the CONFEJES (Fonds d’insertion des Jeunes). Following the training, six youth from Rodrigues were able to write and submit their projects for consideration by the CONFEJES.

The Youth Counselling Centre organised a six-day workshop on Life Skills Management for 300 youth club leaders of the six local regions from 6 June to 18 July.

Health Services

- Major developments:
- A new Maternity Ward to the tune of Rs 41.2M now provides all services in the fields of Pre-natal, Post natal, Gynaecology, Surgical and Maternity
- Gynaecologists are posted to Rodrigues on a long term assignment
- With a view to ensuring the provision of better services to the public, several specialized equipment such as ECG machine, X-ray machine (fixed and portable), Echography Machine, Multiparameter Monitor, Sciallytic Lamp, Defibrillator and colorimeter were purchased. Tables, Cots, Blankets and Bathroom Scales were also procured
• Extension works carried out at Mont Lubin Area Health Centre were completed and necessary furniture and equipment purchased to render the eight additional rooms operational

• The Orthopaedic services were improved with the acquisition of specialised equipment

• Construction of a new surgical ward

• Renovation of the 14 Community Health Centres

• One surgical technologist posted for a period of one year in Rodrigues to oversee the repair and maintenance of all surgical equipment

• 33 posts of Charge Nurse were filled

• Two Nursing staff attended a training leading to a “Diplome Universitaire VIH/SIDA” at the Mauritius Institute of Health which was run by medical experts from Bordeaux Hospital. These officers also benefitted from a “Stage d’Immersion” for practical training in Reunion Island

• A Medical Officer was sent to Paris for training in the context of the Work Plan to ensure that the Aids Unit is fully functional and equipped for both curative and preventive aspects of HIV/AIDS and STI’s Management

Public Health

Apart from routine operations and inspections relating to general sanitation, emphasis was laid on intensive preventive measures against communicable diseases namely A (H1N1), dengue fever and cholera.

One Additional Health Inspector has been recruited to strengthen Public Health Unit.
Cooperatives Services

Four representatives from Rodrigues participated in a seminar on Modern Management of Credit Union in Mauritius to promote the further development of Credit Unions in Rodrigues.

One Co-operative Officer attended a two-month course in India on “Empowerment of Women through Enterprises”.

A Co-operative Fair Price Shop was opened at St Gabriel to provide the consumers with goods at fair and competitive prices.

Six regional meetings were held throughout the Island in the context of the International Cooperative Day to sensitise the population of the benefits of co-operatives and how to form such societies.

Fire Services

The Fire Services were strengthened with the posting of three Rodriguan Firemen who were on the Mauritius Establishment. A new lorry truck of four tons capacity was purchased to the tune of Rs 1.3 million as well as fourteen different types of special fire fighting equipment were purchased.

Prisons Services

The Prisons Services were upgraded with the construction of a toilet block for visitors and the construction of a Tower Point above the existing building to help into the monitoring of prisoners. Moreover, an enclosure was built to give safe access to the first floor of the Prison building.

Agriculture

To encourage planters to cultivate their land through various meetings in different crop growing areas, facilities such as free land preparation, free pest control service, seed subsidy scheme for key crops such as onion and potato were made available and training courses for capacity building of farmers were held.

Under the Food Security Fund, twenty-one (21) projects for Rodrigues have been approved for an amount of Rs 187 million.

Collaboration has been reinforced with partners of the agricultural sector in Mauritius, namely AREU, Ministry of Agro-industry and the MSIRI, through visits of officers for training and support services. Links have also been established with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The FAO Representative for the Indian Ocean region visited Rodrigues from 22 to 24 January.
The Technical Cooperation Programme Facility (TCPF) of the FAO for the strengthening of the agricultural sector in Rodrigues conducted a workshop on 21 May at Cotton Bay Hotel to validate the diagnosis report and to prioritize areas where FAO could provide technical assistance.

Under the Decentralised Cooperation Programme of the European Union, fifty officers were trained locally in the following topics: Agricultural Extension, Irrigation, Geographic Positioning System and Geographic Information System, Animal Husbandry and Crop Production. Thereafter, training was extended to farmers on various aspects of crop and livestock production. Moreover, the Decentralised Cooperation Programme (DCP) provided materials and expertise for the repair of two greenhouses and the refurbishment of the experimental station at Oyster Bay.

Two officers benefitted from training abroad in agro-processing and animal health control.

As regards livestock, the breeding stock of the Agricultural Services increased following a reviewed breeding programme.

Following the import of dairy cattle last year, all cows have entered the milk production phase during the present financial year. Besides, St. Gabriel Livestock Production Unit became functional and an improved pasture set up. Other developments relate to goat and pig breeding, local poultry, improved veterinary services, production of viable seeds and seedlings reproduction of native crops and beekeeping.

Beekeeping extension works have been favoured through training and visit at individual beekeepers’ apiary. The number of beekeepers visited has increased by three times. Honey production has also increased from 25 to 60 tons in this financial year.

To ensure judicious use of agricultural land, new Agricultural Permits are now being issued and agricultural leases renewed.

Five new irrigation projects were initiated.
Mission

Easing access to the Judiciary
Reform of the Courts system
Speedy delivery of justice
Adhesion to the Union Internationale du Notariat Latin

In the context of the request for adhesion of the Notariat de l’Ile Maurice to the Union Internationale du Notariat Latin, Mr. Jean Paul Decorps, President of the Union Internationale du Notariat Latin (U.I.N.L), of the Commission de Coopération Notariale Internationale (CCNI), Consul Supérieur du Notariat français and Mr. Jean Pierre Krantz, President of the Commission de Surveillance Financière, Secretary of the CCNI visited Mauritius on 20 January.

Alternative Dispute Resolution and Management

Dr. John Fletcher, partner of Alternative Dispute Resolution Group Limited based in UK, visited Mauritius on 16 July, in the context of a three day training session on Alternative Dispute Resolution and Management.

African Peer Review Mechanism

A delegation of the African Peer Review Mechanism was in Mauritius on 22 July. The delegation, composed of 17 eminent African personalities led by Professor Seghir Babès, had a working session on human rights, best practices to promote corporate governance and democracy as well as the necessity of having an independent judiciary.

Judicial Conference

A Judicial Conference on the theme Enhancing the Justice System under the Rule of Law was held from 22 to 25 September at the Grand Baie International Conference Centre. The conference was organised in collaboration with the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute and was attended by members of the Judiciary from Canada, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles and Mauritius.

Drugs and Crime

Visit on 16 October of a team composed of Jennifer Landslide, Alan Cole and Katherine Shepherd from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
E-Judiciary

The Project Development Manager of the Investment Climate Facility for Africa, Mrs. Valerie Cheong Took, was in Mauritius on 28 October in the context of the Introduction of E-Judiciary in Mauritius.

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Mauritius Branch)

Mr John Campbell, Q.C. President of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators [CI Arb], United Kingdom, and Mr Michael Forbes Smith, Director General of CI Arb were on a visit to Mauritius on 23 November in the context of the launching of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Mauritius Branch).
Mission

To ensure that the Republic of Mauritius has a professional and efficient civil service geared towards excellence.
Customer Service

With a view to improving the delivery of service, improvements have been brought to the existing Customer Care Area and a vertical transparent screen has been erected, thus providing a sheltered and comfortable space to the public for reading advertisements and collecting application forms.

Suggestion Box

A suggestion box has been placed at the gate post to enable the public to provide feedback on the level of service so that improvements can be made where relevant.

Renovation works

Renovation works are under way in one of the buildings which dates back to 1923 so as to provide officers with a more conducive working environment.

Performance Management System

With a view to improving individual, departmental and organisation performance, the Public and Disciplined Forces Service Commissions have embarked on the Performance Management System. Almost 90% of the staff had already signed the Performance Management System form as at March.

Association of the African Public Services Commissions

The Secretary of the Public and Disciplined Forces Service Commissions attended the launching and first General Assembly of the Association of African Public Services Commissions (AAPSComs) which was held in Cape Town from 16 to 18 February.

The main theme of the first meeting of the General Assembly of AAPSComs was Promoting Good Governance through Public Services Commissions in Africa.
Major legislations
THE ADDITIONAL STIMULUS PACKAGE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

Introduced on 31 March, passed on 15 April, proclaimed on 22 May

Object of the Bill: Provide for the implementation of measures contained in the Additional Stimulus Package document issued on 20 December 2008 and for matters related thereto; provide for amendments to the Data Protection Act to, amongst others, consolidate the independence of the Data Protection Commissioner in the discharge of his functions and the exercise of his powers as well as make provision for the production of a warrant before the entry into, or search of, any premises; provide for the financial management of municipal councils, district councils and statutory bodies and for numerous amendments to the pension legislation made in the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008 in connection with the implementation of PRB Report 2008.

THE CENTRE DE LECTURE PUBLIQUE ET D’ANIMATION CULTURELLE BILL

Introduced on 31 March, passed on 21 April, proclaimed on 1st July

Object of the Bill: Provide for the setting up of the Centre de Lecture Publique et d’Animation Culturelle, to be known as CELPAC, in order to encourage and promote reading through artistic, cultural and educational activities. The CELPAC, amongst others, makes reading material easily accessible to the public and encourages participation in educational games and organises lectures, seminars and conferences in the artistic, cultural and educational fields.

THE COMBATING OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS BILL

Introduced on 14 April, passed on 21 April, proclaimed on 30 July

Object of the Bill: give effect to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons so as to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and provide for the protection and assistance to victims of trafficking.
THE HINDI PRACHARINI SABHA (AMENDMENT) BILL

Introduced on 21 April, passed on 28 April, proclaimed on 15 July

Object of the Bill: Amend the Hindi Pracharini Sabha Act in order to provide for elected members of the Sabha to hold office for a period of three years instead of one year.

THE ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Introduced on 21 April, passed on 28 April, proclaimed on 15 July

Object of the Bill: Amend the Electronic Transactions Act in order to enable the Information and Communication Technologies Authority to discharge the functions and exercise the powers of the Controller of Certification Authorities.

THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL

Introduced on 21 April, passed on 28 April, proclaimed on 15 July

Object of the Bill: Amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act in order to authorise employees or Safety and Health Officers who are employed on a full-time basis to be employed as Safety and Health Officers on a part-time basis in respect of one other employer.

THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL

Introduced on 28 April, passed on 12 May, proclaimed on 1st August

Object of the Bill: Amend the Community Service Order Act in order to deal more efficiently with convicted persons; provide for a Court to make a community service order in specific cases and for the duration of community service to be performed by a convicted person be predetermined.

THE PROBATION OF OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Introduced on 12 May, passed on 16 June

Object of the Bill: Amend the Probation of Offenders Act in order to allow a Court to deal more efficiently with probationers, namely by imposing an attendance centre requirement, a curfew requirement, a drug or alcohol treatment requirement and a residence requirement.
THE APPROPRIATION (2009) BILL

Introduced on 22 May, came into force on 18 June

Object of the Bill: Provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure of Mauritius for the period of 6 months ending on 31 December 2009 and for the appropriation of those sums by programmes.

THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT BILL

Introduced 26 May, passed 16 June, proclaimed on 16 November

Object of the Bill: Make provision for the establishment of the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development through the integration of the Industrial and Vocational Training Board and the Technical School Management Trust Fund to provide for the development and promotion of technical and vocational education and training, amongst others.

THE DNA IDENTIFICATION BILL

Introduced on 16 June, passed on 21 July

Object of the Bill: Empower the police, in certain specific circumstances in connection with serious offences, take and make use of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) samples for the purpose of determining the connection with or involvement of a person in an offence, provide for the establishment of DNA Data Records, a DNA Population Statistical Database and a database for unidentified and missing persons as well as for the taking, storage, preservation and destruction of DNA samples, amongst others.

THE MAURITIUS LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY BILL

Introduced on 22 June, passed on 27 October

Object of the Bill: Provide for the establishment of the Mauritius Land Transport Authority through the integration of the National Transport Authority, the Road Development Authority and the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit. The Authority is mainly responsible for the construction, care, maintenance and improvement of motorways and main roads; for the effective management and regulation of land transport; and for the development and implementation of policies, strategies and schemes in relation to road traffic, road safety and road, amongst others.
THE NOTARIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Introduced on 22 June, passed on 21 July

Object of the Bill: Amend the Notaries Act 2008 in order to bring it in line with the principles and norms set by the International Union of Notaries as well as provide for the levying of fees and charges in regulations made under the Act.

THE ADDITIONAL REMUNERATION BILL

Introduced on 30 June, came into force on 1st July

Object of the Bill: Provide for the payment of additional remuneration to employees of the private sector, drawing a monthly basic wage or salary of 12,000 rupees or less.

THE FINANCE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

Introduced on 14 July, passed on 21 July

Object of the Bill: Provide for the implementation of measures announced in the Budget Speech and for the strengthening and streamlining of certain provisions relating to revenue, public finance and financial services, amongst others. Accordingly, the following acts are amended: Employment Relations Act, Employment Rights Act, National Savings Fund Act, Reform Institutions Act, Business Registration Act, Code Civil Mauricien, Companies Act, Local Government Act 2003, Public Procurement Act, Tourism Authority Act and the Tourism Employees Welfare Fund Act, the Bail Act, Certificate of Morality Act and the Law Reform Commission Act.

THE SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL

Introduced on 20 October, passed on 10 November

Object of the Bill: Provide for the establishment of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority, for the purpose of fostering the sustainable development of small and medium enterprises. The Authority takes over the activities of the Small Enterprises and Handicraft Development Authority (SEHDA) and, amongst others, offers a more responsive institutional framework to cater for the needs of small and medium enterprises and business facilitation services to small and medium enterprises. It also promotes and develops entrepreneurship.
THE TRADE (ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES) BILL

Introduced on 27 October, passed on 10 November

Object of the Bill: Provide for the procedure for the initiation and conduct of anti-dumping investigations and the determination of the link between dumping and material injury to the domestic industry as well as provide the procedure for investigating into subsidisation of products, determination of link between subsidisation and material injury to the domestic industry.

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS BILL

Introduced on 10 November

Object of the Bill: Provide for the establishment of the Open University of Mauritius which will replace the Mauritius College of the Air and enhance the provision of open and distance learning and multimedia-based education, amongst others.

THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL

Introduced on 10 November

Object of the Bill: Amend the Food and Agricultural Research Council Act to provide for the setting up of agricultural youth clubs and agricultural entrepreneur clubs so as to promote and encourage agricultural and agribusiness development as well as to repeal the National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs Act.

THE APPROPRIATION (2010) BILL

Introduced on 18 November, passed on 21 November

Object of the Bill: Provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure of Mauritius for the financial year 2010 and for the appropriation of those sums by programmes.
THE MAURITIUS BLOOD SERVICE BILL

Introduced on 24 November

Object of the Bill: Provide for the establishment of the Mauritius Blood Service to, amongst others, establish and operate an effective and sustainable national blood service; promote blood donation and recruit and retain blood donors, collect, test and process blood and blood products as well as ensure a safe and adequate supply of blood and blood products and promote research and training in the field of transfusion medicine.

THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Introduced on 01 December

Object of the Bill: Amend the Landlord and Tenant Act to make fresh and more reasonable provision for increases in the rent payable for business premises let on or before 1 July 2005; and provide that the Act shall no longer apply to any such business premises after 31 December 2017.