December 10 General Elections
Sir Anerood Jugnauth leads Alliance Lepep to victory

A new 25-member Cabinet is in office following the December 10 General Elections which saw Sir Anerood Jugnauth lead the Alliance Lepep, consisting of the Mouvement Socialiste Militant, the Parti Mauricien Social Démocrate and the Mouvement Libérateur, to an overwhelming victory.

The swearing-in ceremony for the Prime Minister and members of his Cabinet was held on 17 December 2014 at State House, Le Réduit.

Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth holds the portfolio of Defence, Home Affairs, Rodrigues, and National Development Unit. Mr. Charles Gaétan Xavier-Luc Duval, has been appointed Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications. The two Vice-Prime Ministers are Mr Showkutally Soodhun, who is Minister of Housing and Lands, and Mr Ivan Leslie Collendavelloo who holds the portfolio of Energy and Public Utilities. Mr Seetanah Lutchmenaraidoo is the Minister of Finance and Economic Development.

Two new Ministries have been created and other Ministries restyled so as to better reflect the commitments of Government.

The two new Ministries are the Ministry of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms and the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands.

Ten Parliamentary Private Secretaries, including one for Rodrigues, were also appointed on 23 December 2014 by the President of the Republic, Mr Rajkeswur Purryag, in terms of section 74 of the Constitution.
Election Results

The Alliance Lepep secured 47 seats out of the 60 seats in contest in Mauritius, while the Alliance de l’Unité et de la Modernité, consisting of the Labour Party and the Mouvement Militant Mauricien, and led by outgoing Prime Minister Dr Navinchantra Ramgoolam, obtained 13 seats. The latter was not elected.

The two seats for Rodrigues have gone to the Organisation du Peuple Rodriguais.

The total number of voters for the 21 constituencies of the Republic of Mauritius was 936,975. Overall participation rate at the elections was at around 74.11%.

The polls were followed on 12 December by the designation, by the Electoral Supervisory Commission, of additional members to sit at the National Assembly under the Best Loser System (BLS), as provided for by the Constitution. Seven unreturned candidates (four from the Alliance Lepep and three from the Alliance de l’Unité et de la Modernité) were designated.

The Best Loser System is a complex mechanism which provides for the allocation of additional seats so as to ensure the appropriate representation of under-represented communities at the National Assembly, based on community and party factors, while at the same time not causing any imbalance to the verdict of the electorate. The Constitution provides for a maximum of eight members to be nominated under the BLS.

For the December 2014 elections, the eighth seat was not allocated, as the third most successful party - the Organisation du Peuple Rodriguais - had no unreturned candidate. The new National Assembly thus comprises 69 elected members (62 on the first-past-the-post basis, and seven under the Best Loser System).

It is to be noted that following an amendment to the Constitution in June 2014, it was not mandatory for a candidate at the 2014 general elections to declare his/her community. If the candidate did not choose to do so, he/she was not eligible for a seat under the Best Loser System.
The sixth National Assembly, issued out of the 10 December elections, held its first sitting on 22 December 2014. On the proposal of the Prime Minister, Mrs Santi Bai Hanoomanjee has been elected Speaker and Mr Adrien Charles Duval as Deputy Speaker.

Mrs Hanoomanjee, who was not elected at the December 2014 elections, is the first woman Speaker of the National Assembly. In her acceptance speech, she dedicated her election as Speaker to all the women of Mauritius and pledged to uphold the ‘dignity, serenity and decorum’ of the House, while stressing that impartiality and understanding will be her guiding principles in the conduct of the business of the House.

The leader of the Opposition is Mr Paul Raymond Bérenger.

The Chief Whip is Mr Mahen Jhugroo. The Deputy Chairman of Committees is Mr Mahendranuth Sharma Hurreeram. The Whip of the Opposition is Mr Rajesh Bhagwan.

A salary compensation of Rs 600 is being granted to all employees of both the public and private sectors. This exercise is estimated to cost an amount of Rs 4.2 billion for both sectors, that is, Rs 1.3 billion for the public sector and, around Rs 2.9 billion for the private sector. The decision was announced on 18 December 2014 in Port Louis, by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr Seetanah Lutchmeenaraidoo.

Employees of the public sector will receive the outstanding amount of Rs 150 under the 2013 Pay Research Bureau report in addition to the 2015 salary compensation, which adds up to a total of Rs 750.

For part-time employees, 6 per cent will be allocated to those drawing a basic salary up to Rs 10 000 monthly and Rs 600 to those drawing above Rs 10 000 monthly.

Additional Remuneration (2015) Bill voted

In order to give legal force to this measure, the Additional Remuneration (2015) Bill providing for the payment of the additional remuneration to employees of the private sector was passed by the National Assembly on 22 December 2014 during its first sitting.

The Basic Retirement Pension rate for those aged 60-89 years have increased by Rs1,377, that is, from Rs3,623 to Rs5,000, while for centenarians and above, the rates have increased by Rs7,700, that is from Rs12,300 to Rs20,000. The rates for other basic pensions such as Basic Widow’s Pension and Basic Invalidity Pension have also increased.

A total of 240,000 beneficiaries are eligible for pensions and payment will be effected before the end of December 2014. Around Rs 4.7 billion will be disbursed by Government for this exercise.

The new rates were announced on 16 December 2014 during a press conference in Port Louis by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr Seetanah Lutchmeenaraidoo. The Minister, while commenting on putting the economy on the right track, called for more transparency in Government institutions.

The new rates for old age and other basic pensions
(Effective as from December 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pension Type</th>
<th>Current Rates (Rs)</th>
<th>New Rates (Rs)</th>
<th>Increase (Rs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Retirement Pension</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-89 years</td>
<td>3,623</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>1,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-99 years</td>
<td>10,789</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>4,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 years &amp; above</td>
<td>12,300</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>7,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Widow’s Pension</td>
<td>3,267</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>1,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Invalidity Pension</td>
<td>3,267</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>1,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Orphan’s Pension</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orphans under 15 years and not in full time education</td>
<td>1,810</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orphans between 3 and 20 years in full time education</td>
<td>3,330</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child’s Allowance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Under 10 years</td>
<td>1,059</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) 10 years and above</td>
<td>1,133</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Basic Pensions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Basic Retirement Pensioners drawing invalidity Pension ( Severely Handicapped)</td>
<td>2,286</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Guardians Allowance</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Carer’s Allowance</td>
<td>1,978</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Inmate’s Allowance</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enhanced maritime surveillance
Contract to purchase new Dornier aircraft signed between
Mauritius and India

An agreement to the tune of 16 million USD for the acquisition of a new Dornier aircraft for the Mauritius Police Force was signed on 27 November 2014 in Port Louis by the Mauritian Government and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), India.

The objective is to enhance the surveillance capacity of the Mauritius Police Force, particularly that of the National Coast Guard. The aircraft is capable of undertaking long range maritime surveillance up to 700 km from the coastline during day and night.

Equipped with advanced systems by means of high operational flexibility and low operating cost, the new Dornier aircraft will be used for several purposes including the following: EEZ/coastal monitoring; maritime surveillance against illegal activities; search and rescue operations; antipiracy missions in armed configuration; pollution monitoring and control; and island support particularly to Agaléga and Rodrigues comprising casualty evacuation.

The aircraft will be equipped with a state-of-the-art maritime surveillance radar system which can track up to 2000 vessels, ships or objects within a range of 400 km. Its latest electro optic and sensor has a system for recording during day and night. It will also be fitted with a host of advanced avionics and radio equipment including Traffic Collision Avoidance System, Satellite Communication, Automatic Identification System, weather radar with a multifunctional colour display and advanced communication system.

The Mauritian Coast Guard is expected to become one of the leading Coast Guards in the region. At present the National Coast Guard has a fleet of two Dornier aircrafts and one Defender aircraft. In view of security threats including piracy and for the effective development of the ocean economy, there is a need to further reinforce the fleet of aircrafts to ensure the surveillance of Mauritius' vast continental shelf of around 2.3 million km².

It is to be recalled that following the State visit of the then Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, to India in February 2012, the Government of India agreed to offer an economic package, including a line of credit of 250 million USD, under which a sum of 64 million USD was earmarked for defence purposes.
The President of the Republic, Mr Rajkeswar Purryag, reiterated the importance of education in the socio-economic development of the country in his end of year address to the Nation on 25 December 2014.

He stated that there is no doubt that the future of the country rests on the quality of education that is transmitted to the children be it in school or what is being taught outside school.

On this score, he also referred to the report of the World Bank entitled: ‘World Bank Group Education Strategy 2020 - Learning for All: Investing in People’s Knowledge and Skills to Promote Development’.

The President underlined the various challenges that as a developing country we have to face namely, education; climate change; unemployment; and eradication of poverty, which according to him, cannot be achieved without the contribution and collaboration of each and every citizen.

Furthermore, he emphasised that the country has reached this level of development owing to the hard work and dedicated effort of the whole population. With a view to maintain this pace of development, he appealed to the youths who are the future of the country to contribute in an efficient manner and act responsibly to sustain this ongoing development.

Regarding the recent general elections, the President said that everything had been held in a smooth and fair manner with discipline and that Mauritius has been acclaimed by international observers for the good running of this democratic exercise.

National Inclusive Business Award
Avipro Co. Ltd winner of first edition

The winner of the first edition winner of the National Inclusive Business Award (NIBA) is Avipro Co. Ltd. The award ceremony was held on 12 December 2014 at Intercontinental Hotel in Balaclava.

Avipro has been awarded a cash prize of Rs 100,000, as well as project assistance to the tune of Rs 500,000 under the Mauritius Business Growth Scheme (MBGS).

Forty-one large and medium enterprises had enlisted their participation in the NIBA which has as main objectives to promote SME growth; enhance competitiveness of Mauritian enterprises; and integrate micro and small business into the value chain. The Award was open to Mauritian businesses having a turnover of Rs 10 million and above.

A Special Jury Award of Rs 50,000 each, sponsored by Winners group, was awarded during the 2014 award ceremony to Chemlog Ltd and Plaspak Ltd for the second place, while the second runner up, J & B Mechanical Engineering Ltd, received a shield.

It is recalled that the NIBA, an initiative of the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives was launched on 11 September 2014. The aim is to recognise and reward Mauritian enterprises which have already or started to embrace inclusive business efforts in the Mauritian economy. This will help to sensitise the business community on the benefits of adopting an inclusive business (IB) model so that, in the long run, the objectives of Government in terms of inclusive growth are attained.

More than 90% of all establishments in Mauritius are microenterprises and can be considered at the base of the pyramid where they have limited economic power and limited opportunities to participate in the socio-economic development of the country. The IB model is one way through which these categories of people can be included into business processes along the company’s value chain.
THE CABINET

1. Sir Anerood JUGNAUTH, GCSK, KCMG, QC,
   Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home
   Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National
   Development Unit
2. Mr Charles Gaëtan Xavier-Luc DUVAL, GCSK
   Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism
   and External Communications
3. Mr Showkutally SOODHUN
   Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and
   Lands
4. Mr Ivan Leslie COLLENDAVELLOO
   Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and
   Public Utilities
5. Mr Seetanah LUTCHMEENARAIIDO
   Minister of Finance and Economic Development
6. Mr Pravind Kumar JUGNAUTH
   Minister of Technology, Communication and
   Innovation
7. Mr Yogida SAWMYNADEN
   Minister of Youth and Sports
8. Mr Nandcoomar BODHA
   Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land
   Transport
9. Mrs Leela Devi DOOKUN-LUCHOOMUN
   Minister of Education and Human Resources,
   Tertiary Education and Scientific Research
10. Mr Anil Kumarsingh GAYAN
    Minister of Health and Quality of Life
11. Dr Mohammad Anwar HUSNOO
    Minister of Local Government
12. Mr Prithvirajsing ROOPUN
    Minister of Social Integration and Economic
    Empowerment
13. Mr Marie Joseph Noël Etienne Ghislain
    SINATAMBOU
    Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional
    Integration and International Trade
14. Mr Ravi YERRIGADOO
    Attorney General
15. Mr Mahen Kumar SEERUTTUN
    Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security
16. Mr Santaram BABOO
    Minister of Arts and Culture
17. Mr Ashit Kumar GUNGAH
    Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer
    Protection
18. Mrs Marie-Aurore Marie-Joyce PERRAUD
    Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development
    and Family Welfare
19. Mr Sudarshan BHADAIN
    Minister of Financial Services, Good
    Governance and Institutional Reforms
20. Mr Soomilduth BHOLAH
    Minister of Business, Enterprise and
    Cooperatives
21. Mrs Fazila DAUREEAWOO
    Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity
    and Reform Institutions
22. Mr Premdut KOONJOO
    Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources,
    Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands
23. Mr Jayeshwur Raj DAYAL, CSK, PDSM, QPM
    Minister of Environment, Sustainable
    Development and Disaster and Beach
    Management
24. Mr Marie Roland Alain WONG YEN CHEONG, MSK
    Minister of Civil Service and Administrative
    Reforms
25. Mr Soodesh Satkam CALLICHURN
    Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations,
    Employment and Training
The CPE 2014 results were released on 5 December 2014 by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate (MES). A total of 20 717 candidates were examined in the Republic of Mauritius. The initial pass rate before the resit examination stood at 69.37%.

Out of the 17 681 school candidates, that is 8 922 boys and 8 759 girls, examined for the first time, the pass percentage was 71.21%. The number of candidates who repeated the CPE Examinations was 3 036 and the pass rate was 23.62%.

The pass rate for the 1 332 candidates from the Zones d’Éducation Prioritaires (ZEP) schools was 46.8%. The number of school candidates examined in Rodrigues stood at 942 and the pass rate was 64.64%.

In January 2015, 149 schools will admit students in Form I. The 149 schools comprise the following: 68 state-owned secondary schools, of which 15 admit students on a national basis and 53 admit students on a regional basis; and 81 private-aided secondary schools.

Some 1 209 unsuccessful candidates, who failed in one subject, took part in the resit examination held on 22 December 2014. Of these 856 have been successful, which brings the global pass rate for the CPE 2014 to 70.8%.

Infotech 2014

The 21st edition of Infotech, a major and annual event on the ICT calendar, opened on 26 November 2014, at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, in Pailles.

Organised by the National Computer Board, the four-day event brought together 32 exhibitors who showcased their technology and ICT products and services.

Infotech 2014 is estimated to have attracted more than 100 000 visitors.

Export Oriented Enterprises
3rd Quarter 2014 - Exports amount to R 7,427 million

Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE) exports for the 3rd Quarter of 2014 amounted to R 12,136 million, 3.0% lower compared to the second quarter of 2014 but 0.5% higher compared to the third quarter of 2013, according to the latest figures released by Statistics Mauritius.

EOE consist of enterprises previously operating with an EPZ certificate as well as those manufacturing goods for exports and holding a registration certificate issued by the Board of Investment. The total number of export-oriented enterprises operating at the end of September 2014 was 312.

Figures show that imports for the 3rd Quarter of 2014 amounted to R 7,427 million, 11.9% higher compared to the second quarter of 2014 but 3.0% lower compared to the third quarter of 2013.

Compared to the second quarter of 2014, total employment in EOE decreased by 222 (-0.4%) from 55 320 to 55 098. Some 711 new jobs were created whilst 933 were lost. The job losses were due to the contraction of workforce in some enterprises.

Infotech 2014

The 21st edition of Infotech, a major and annual event on the ICT calendar, opened on 26 November 2014, at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, in Pailles.

Organised by the National Computer Board, the four-day event brought together 32 exhibitors who showcased their technology and ICT products and services.

Infotech 2014 is estimated to have attracted more than 100 000 visitors.

Government Information Service
Level 6, New Government Centre
Port Louis, Mauritius
E-mail: contactgis@govmu.org
Website: http://gis.govmu.org