PM at TICAD Summit:
African countries are growing investment destinations

African continent is the land of opportunities, says the Prime Minister

Registration of families living in extreme poverty

Policy document on the Nine Year Continuous Basic Education

Cervical cancer: Mauritius introduces human papillomavirus vaccine for young girls

Setting up of Business Development and Facilitation Centres

Findings of the VET-GOV Pilot Project shared with stakeholders

Setting up of a Company to implement Polytechnics project

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“There is an urgent need to ensure that African countries have the required financial resources and technological know-how so that appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation measures can be initiated” he said.

Chagos Archipelago: Mauritius intends to submit resolution at the United Nations General Assembly

In the course of TICAD VI, the Prime Minister had bilateral meetings, among others, with the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma; the President of the Republic of Djibouti, Mr Ismaïl Omar Guelleh; the President of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, Mr Alassane Dramane Ouattara; the President of the Republic of Ghana, Mr John Dramani Mahama and the Chairperson of African Union Commission, Dr Mkosazana Dlamini Zuma; and sought their support in respect of the resolution that Mauritius intends to submit at the United Nations General Assembly so that the decolonisation process of Mauritius is completed, and that Mauritius is able to exercise its effective control over the Chagos Archipelago. The request was positively entertained by all of them.

TICAD, initiated by the Japanese Government since 1993, was held in Africa for the first time so as to refocus international attention on the importance and urgency of African development issues as well as to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners.

TICAD VI has been serving as a pioneering multilateral forum for international cooperation on African development, and a platform for promoting private investment and trade in Africa.

The theme of TICAD VI was “Advancing Africa’s sustainable development agenda - TICAD partnership for prosperity”. The conference addressed Africa’s emerging development challenges, and responded to pertinent continental and global agreements, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

TICAD contributes to the facilitation and promotion of high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and Africa’s development partners on issues pertaining to economic growth, trade and investment, sustainable development, human security, peace and stability and government. Being a multilateral partnership, TICAD process also actively promotes South-South and triangular cooperation, in addition to traditional cooperation.


The main objectives of TICAD are to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and their partners, and to mobilise support for African-owned development initiatives.
The African continent is being increasingly referred to as the land of opportunities and the next frontier of growth, said the Prime Minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, while addressing the 47th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region Conference at the Intercontinental Hotel, Balaclava on Wednesday 24 August 2016.

While this is certainly so, we feel aggrieved by the level of poverty in many parts of Africa, he underlined, adding that the SDG goals, if even partly attained in Africa, can change the face of the whole continent.

Referring to Mauritius as a small island developing state, Sir Anerood stressed that Mauritius is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. “We are fully aware of the dangers we face and that is the reason why we have been at the forefront in international forums to make a plea for financial and technical assistance so that countries like ours and Least Developed countries can implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures”, he said.

My Government has made of sustainable development the lynchpin of its socio-economic strategy, the Prime Minister stated, adding that preserving our environmental assets and promoting inclusive development top our priority list.

Speaking about an economic development which will benefit one and all, he recalled that Government is fighting absolute poverty in an unprecedented manner and in this year’s budget, a scheme under which every adult on the Social Register will be entitled to a monthly subsistence allowance based on a threshold of Rs 2 720, has been introduced.

According to one of the Resolutions passed during the Conference, committed to the Principle of Sovereignty of Nations, the CPA commended and supported the Government of Mauritius for the legitimate steps it has taken to challenge the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America for the occupation of the Chagos Archipelago, culminating in tabling the case for sovereignty of the Chagos Islands before the International Court of Justice by way of a United Nations General Assembly Resolution.
The registration process of families living in extreme poverty, with a total monthly household threshold not exceeding Rs 9,520 and listed on the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM) started on 16 August 2016. It is being carried out in the Citizens Advice Bureau offices around the country by officers of the National Empowerment Foundation and will last till 10 September 2016.

The budget 2016-2017 makes provision for the introduction as from December 1st 2016, of a new scheme under which every adult on the SRM will be entitled to a monthly subsistence allowance based on a minimum threshold of Rs 2,720 with a maximum threshold of Rs 9,520 for a family of two adults and three children. This is higher than the current threshold of Rs 6,200 which was determined in 2012 and which is considered no longer adequate.

International prevailing methodologies have been taken into consideration for the determination of an appropriate poverty threshold for Mauritius, including Rodrigues.

The new poverty threshold has been calculated taking on board all incomes derived by the poor households which stand at Rs 2,720 per adult per month. This is 40 % higher than the World Bank threshold of USD 3.10 Purchasing Power Parity equivalent to Rs 1,938 per person per month for developing countries. Children under the age of 16 have been considered half of that amount.

The proportion of poor households, based on the World Bank threshold, is 1.73% equivalent to 6,400 families or 2.7% of the number of poor persons representing 34,200 persons based on total income of the household including Rodrigues.

The new scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Monthly income threshold on adult basis (Rs)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One adult</td>
<td>2,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One adult, one child</td>
<td>4,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One adult, two children</td>
<td>5,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One adult, three children</td>
<td>6,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two adults</td>
<td>5,440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two adults, one child</td>
<td>6,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two adults, two children</td>
<td>8,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three adults</td>
<td>8,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two adults, three children</td>
<td>9,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three adults, one child</td>
<td>9,520</td>
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<td>Three adults, two children</td>
<td>9,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three adults, three children</td>
<td>9,520</td>
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</tbody>
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The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research has produced a policy document on the Nine Year Continuous Basic Education.

The document includes an implementation plan covering the following areas:

- Curriculum Development for Basic Education and Upper Secondary Education
- Professional Development Assessment
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training
- System Governance and Accountability
- Communications

Amendments will be brought to the Education Act to provide for the implementation of the Nine Year Continuous Basic Education to be effective as from 1 January 2017.

Moreover, the first assessment leading to the award of the Primary School Achievement Certificate will be held in 2017.
Mauritius has introduced the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for young girls to prevent cervical cancer.

The vaccine is available for Standard 5 schoolgirls and will be administered in two doses with at least six months interval between doses. The launching ceremony was held at Barkly Government School in Beau Bassin on 18 August 2016.

The vaccine, which guards girls against the four strands of HPV most associated with cervical cancer, forms now part of the Expanded Programme of Immunisation in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations.

Some 9,000 school girls in Mauritius and 500 in Rodrigues will benefit from free vaccination against HPV.

According to the WHO, HPV causes cervical cancer, which is the fourth most common cancer in women, with an estimated 266 000 deaths and 528 000 new cases in 2012.

HPV can also cause other types of anogenital cancer, head and neck cancers, and genital warts in both men and women. HPV infections are transmitted through sexual contact.

The primary target group in most of the countries recommending HPV vaccination is young adolescent girls, aged 9-13.

Business Development and Facilitation Centres will be set up around the country to provide an array of facilities and services to the micro, small and medium enterprises.

The Centres will not only focus on the setting up of a support infrastructure of business services aimed at boosting the initiative of young entrepreneurs, but also provide them with the expertise, networks and tools needed to make their ventures successful.

A first Business Development and Facilitation Centre set up in Mahebourg has received some 51 clients, including 20 start-ups, and carried out 87 interventions relating, among others, to mentoring, coaching and capacity building. Three additional Centres are expected to be fully operational by the end of 2016.
Findings of the VET-GOV Pilot Project shared with stakeholders

A workshop to share the findings of the VET-GOV Pilot Project “Evaluation of Basic Veterinary Care in Mauritius” with stakeholders was organised by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security on 10 August 2016 at Le Labourdonnais Hotel, Port Louis.


The aim was to look into and recommend ways and means to improve the quality and efficiency of basic veterinary care in order to increase the productivity of farmers in the country. The project brought together a range of stakeholders to make an in-depth analysis of the whole veterinary system in Mauritius.

The factors influencing the level of basic veterinary care were identified and solutions were proposed to counter those constraints.

The VET-GOV Programme had three main objectives, namely enhancing knowledge and awareness for institutional strengthening; enhancing institutional capacity for livestock policy formulation, animal health strategies and legislation; and enhancing institutional capacity for the implementation of policies and enforcement of regulations.

The Programme provides for the setting up of a National Livestock Policy Hub in each country and this national hub is to be a multidisciplinary group of persons created to ensure broad stakeholder participation in policy design and formulation.


An Action Plan has been drawn for the implementation of the National Youth Policy 2016 which aims at creating a dynamic and smart youth sector. It also lays emphasis on opportunities to empower youth to develop their resilience and sense of belonging to society.

The Action Plan has been developed around five objectives, namely Employment and Employability, Entrepreneurship, Recreational Activities, Wellness and Attitude, and Informal Education. A study for the elaboration of a Manual of Standard Operating Procedures for the youth sector is currently underway.

A Government-owned company will be set up with the responsibility to steer and implement the Polytechnics Project. The main objective of Polytechnics will be to provide work-ready diploma holders of high quality to spearhead the development of the country into a knowledge-based and skills-driven economy.

Courses that will be offered at the Polytechnics are as follows:

(a) Middle Management, ICT and other ICT-related fields at Réduit;
(b) Tourism and Hotel Management, including cruise tourism, at Montagne Blanche; and
(c) health care for nurses, technicians and trained personnel in the medical field, especially in the maintenance of sophisticated medical equipment at Pamplemousses.

The private sector is expected to support the identification of industry needs, designing of programmes, and placement of students for hands-on experience.
The State Land Coordinating and Monitoring Committee has been set up at the Ministry of Housing and Lands. Its mandate is to ensure that State lands required for development projects are released in a timely manner.

The Committee is deemed to be the right platform to address all bottlenecks and shortcomings in respect of applications for State lands, and to decide upon and take appropriate remedial actions. It will act as a driving force and make sure that these lands are being developed within the time frame imposed in the lease agreement.

The Committee, which will meet on a monthly basis, will see to it that applications for State lands are being processed within the time limit set in the New Policy Framework, and examine the reasons for the rejection of applications for State lands at screening level and re-assess same if need be.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee include:
- ensuring that all uncommitted State lands are used in a judicious manner;
- following up on progress achieved in the setting up of the Digital State Land Register, as well as on major issues and projects;
- monitoring gazetting of all State lands leased and updating the website of the Ministry accordingly;
- taking cognizance of all Letters of Reservation/Letters of Intent/Lease Agreements that have been issued or signed as the case may be and ensuring that follow-up in respect of compliance to all the terms and conditions are effected by the divisions of the Ministry of Housing and Lands and other relevant Ministries; and

It is recalled that the Ministry of Housing and Lands introduced in November 2015, a new Policy Framework for allocation of State lands with well-defined processes and procedures.

The aim is to ensure more accountability and transparency with a view to make certain that State lands are being allocated for viable projects having financial capabilities for implementation.

According to this new mechanism, an application for State land must be made on an approved form which has to be submitted to the Ministry together with a list of documents. In case an application is rejected, the applicant is informed accordingly. In line with the new Policy Framework, the list of beneficiaries of State land is posted on the website of the Ministry.

Land, a precious and scarce resource
Mauritius hosts regional workshop on “Communicating Scientific Information to Policy Makers”

A five-day regional training workshop on “Communicating Scientific Information to Policy Makers” to improve decision making and the development of policies based on the scientific data, products and bulletins that are generated under the Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA)-Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) project was held from 8 to 12 August 2016 at Aanari Hotel & Spa in Flic en Flac.

Organised by the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI), the workshop was attended by around 30 participants namely National Focal Point from Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) member states and Eastern African countries as well as the technical focal points from the National Beneficiary Institutions.

Participants received training on different ways to communicate scientific information contained in MESA products/bulletins to decision makers and policy makers by identifying the most appropriate policy audience, preparing policy briefs, preparing various types of written communication materials, and preparing policy presentations.

The MESA project

The MESA project is a contractual project between the MOI and the African Union Commission with funding and endorsement from the European Union.

The MOI has been entrusted by the IOC to be the Regional Implementation Centre for the IOC thematic action on “Marine and Coastal Management”. The overall objective of the IOC THEMA is to increase the decision-making and planning capacity of institutions mandated for marine and coastal management in IOC member states and in neighbouring countries of the Mozambique Canal, by enhancing access to and exploitation of relevant Earth Observation applications.

MESA utilises Earth Observation and satellite technologies to generate critical products and information services for the socio-economic development of African people as well as sustainable environmental management.

The project is not only supporting the African general public, scientists and institutions but also African decision-makers and planners in designing and implementing policies and development plans for sustainable development, thereby enhancing the socio-economic conditions of the African population.

The MESA programme is currently delivering products and operational services to African users in the areas such as: agricultural production; monitoring and assessment of droughts; wildfires; land degradation mitigation; coastal and marine resources management; water resources management; natural habitat conservation; rangeland management and forest monitoring.

Electricity Act 1939 to be amended

The Electricity Act 1939 will be amended to facilitate the issue of permits to households and institutions that wish to install electricity generation plants of less than 2MW.

This measure is in line with the objective of Government to bring about a more conducive environment for the development of renewable energy. The new procedures will significantly reduce the time taken to process and approve applications for the installation of solar PV plants by households and small enterprises.
Science and Research: Signature of MoU under the Ameenah Gurib-Fakim PhD Scholarship Scheme

Mauritius and Africa will benefit from ten scholarships offered by a Pakistani-based company under the Ameenah Gurib-Fakim PhD Scholarship Scheme. In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 26 August 2016 at the State House, Le Réduit.

The signatories were the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Planet Earth Institute (PEI), Dr Alvaro Sobrinho, and the Chief Executive Officer and owner of SAMHAN Group of Industries, Mr Saleem Hanif. The President of the Republic, Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, was also present on that occasion.

SAMHAN, based in Islamabad, Pakistan, is a company engaged in real estate development. The PEI is an international NGO and Charity based in London and working for the scientific independence of Africa.

These 10 scholarships come in the wake of the pilot PhD Programme launched on 6 May 2016 as part of the effort to promote science, technology and innovation as key drivers of growth and development. Ten scholarships have been offered by the PEI and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Initiative in partnership with the African Academy of Sciences with the assistance of private sector partners.

The PhD Programme will help ensure that research is industrially relevant and that researchers develop hands-on experience to ensure employability. The areas of research eligible for the Programme are those that underpin the sustainable development of Mauritius and Africa and boost the local capacity of scientists to answer the great challenges ahead for the continent. Research areas of focus are: water and sanitation, energy, agri-business, health and blue-sky research.

Implementation of Pre-market Test and Certification Scheme

The Pre-market Test and Certification Scheme managed by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) will be implemented to assist eligible enterprises in tapping additional and more profitable markets for their products, and ensuring delivery of safe food to customers.

Under the Scheme, a grant of up to Rs200 000 for a maximum of five products would be provided to micro and small enterprises with an annual turnover of not more than Rs10 million, and involved in the food processing activities. The enterprises should be registered with SMEDA.
The 2nd edition of Chief Information Officers (CIO) Networking Day on the theme ‘The Changing Mauritian ICT Environment’ was held on 11 August 2016 at Le Méridien Hotel, in Pointe aux Piments. The aim was to outline the enormous business value that ICT can deliver.

The event was organised by the International Data Corporation (IDC), in collaboration with the National Computer Board, SimpliVity, Maxtec, Dell, Intel, K2, Westcon, Juniper Networks, and EMC. Over 100 of the country’s most influential ICT leaders were in attendance. The IDC-CIO Networking Day drew on CIO feedback gained by IDC in the region regarding their key business and technology priorities to deep dive into topics that are critical to success in future.

During the networking day, discussions focused on the following themes: how to improve commercial performance by applying technology wisely; the emergence of cloud services and the Internet of Things, and the near and medium-term implications of these technologies on the working environments of organisations in Mauritius. The new role of CIOs as innovators, facilitators, and strategists within their respective organisations was also examined.