

**Assistant Secretary General of COMESA pays courtesy call on Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Regional Integration, and International Trade**

*Port Louis, 26 October 2023* - The Assistant Secretary General of the COMESA, Ambassador Dr Mohamed Kadah, met the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Honourable Maneesh Gobin, on Thursday 26 October 2023 at the Ministry.

The Assistant Secretary General is currently in Mauritius for the COMESA 39th meeting of the Trade and Customs Committee.

Minister Maneesh Gobin and Ambassador Dr Mohamed Kadah discussed a range of issues pertaining to regional trade and economic integration.

Honourable Maneesh Gobin reaffirmed Mauritius's commitment to advancing the COMESA Regional Integration Agenda and pledged to collaborate closely with the Secretariat to promote the development of the COMESA region. Promoting regional trade is high on Government's agenda, he said.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade emphasised the importance of maritime and air connectivity in boosting trade and advancing economic integration within the COMESA region.

The Minister also highlighted the need for COMESA to encourage local value addition and processing activities in view to unlocking new sources of wealth for Member States and within the region.

The Assistant Secretary General, for his part, commended Mauritius for its socioeconomic progress. He also acknowledged the country's contribution to the development of the COMESA.

He expressed his appreciation to the commitment shown by Mauritius to implementing the COMESA Medium Term Strategic Plan (2021-2025), particularly its consideration of the specific needs of island states.

With regards to maritime connectivity, Dr Mohamed Kadah, said that the COMESA is conducting a feasibility study for the establishment of an Indian Ocean shipping line.

Discussions also revolved around the Tripartite Free Trade Area, an umbrella organisation consisting of three of Africa's Regional Economic Communities, namely the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; the East Africa Community and the Southern African Development Community.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade**





