

GIS Newsletter

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Land Transport

New body to be set up for more efficiency

The Mauritius Land Transport Authority Bill was passed by the National Assembly on 20 October 2009. The new body to be set up under this legislation will take over the functions of the National Transport Authority (NTA), the Road Development Authority (RDA) and the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit (TMRSU).

The Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping, Mr A. Bachoo, presented the bill as 'the most important reform in the legal and institutional framework governing the land transport sector'. There was a need for the systems currently in place to be revamped, he explained, in order to create a synergistic combination of the activities of the various departments concerned with land transport.

The new legislation is expected to create a framework which would be more responsive to the emerging needs brought about by the development of the land transport sector.

It will be recalled that the NTA, established in 1980, has been responsible for regulating the bus transport industry as a whole including grant of licences for bus routes. It has also been responsible for the registration, examination and use of motor vehicles.

The RDA, set up following the adoption of the Road Development Authority Act of 1998, has been responsible for the construction, maintenance and improvement of motorways and main roads, also known as classified roads.

The TMRSU has been the institution in charge of formulating recommendations to the Government regarding



road safety and road traffic planning.

The present institutional set-up, Mr Bachoo underlined, often gives way to either an ad hoc approach to address a problem, and brings about duplication of responsibilities in some cases, thus leading to dysfunctions and procedural obstacles to effective project implementation.

The setting up of the Mauritius Land Transport Authority, with an improved framework, is expected to make better use of resources to uphold the development of the land transport sector.

The MLTA will therefore be responsible for:

- the construction, care and maintenance of motorways and main roads;
- the effective management and regulation of land transport;
- the development and implementation of policies and schemes related to road traffic, safety and transport;
- the licensing and registration of motor vehicles and trailers.

Traffic decongestion Rs 10 billion to upgrade road infrastructure

Rs 10 billion have already been awarded to upgrade the road infrastructure in a bid to overcome the traffic congestion problem. Most of the projects concerned are already under way while others are about to start, pending the finalization of procedures.

The projects, detailed by the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping, Mr A. Bachoo, while explaining the objective of the Mauritius Land Transport Bill in the National Assembly, cover urban as well as rural areas.

Among the main projects:

- Goodlands by-pass, Rivière du Rempart - Poudre d'Or by-pass and Flacq by-pass for a total of Rs 440m.

- Upgrading works at Triolet, access road Camp Thorel - L'Espérance, access to JinFei economic zone, upgrading of Nalletambo road in Phoenix and Mare d'Albert – Grand Bois road for a total of Rs 353m.
- Dual carriage way from Pamplemousses to Forbach to be upgraded to the tune of Rs 230m. Works, under way, to be completed by April 2010. Works further to Grand Baie to cost Rs 400m and land acquisition process on.



- Access road to Réduit triangle, at cost of Rs 300m, completed at 75% and works over by end 2009.

- Wooton - Belle Rive road upgraded at cost of Rs 140m. Works nearly completed.

- Belle Rive – Quartier Militaire road to be upgraded at cost of Rs 700m. Tender to be launched in a few weeks.

- Phoenix – Beaux Songes road project to kick off in November and to cost Rs 280m.

- Widening of motorway from Pailles to

Land transport to be under new legal framework

Caudan; works start end October, costing Rs 206m.

- In the Phoenix and Quatre Bornes region, procedures initiated for the construction of a third lane from Phoenix to Shoprite, the enlargement of Tulipes Avenue and the construction of a third lane from Shoprite to Pont Colville on both sides of the road.
- For Verdun – Terre Rouge road project, of value Rs 2 billion, tenders to be opened shortly. For Ebène, Verdun and Valentina project, of value Rs 1.3 billion, tender documents being prepared.
- For Ring Road Phase I project covering 5 km, of value Rs 1.2 billion, contract to be awarded shortly.
- For second phase of Ring Road Project and harbour bridge, final feasibility report to be ready in a few weeks.

Access Road of 2.4 km to La Tour Koenig Industrial Park

Still in the of upgrading infrastructure, a 2.4 km access road to the new industrial park at La Tour Koenig in Pointe aux Sables was inaugurated on 14 October by the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment, Dr Rama Sithanen. Built to the tune of Rs 151 m, the road which will be the main access to the site, is essential to the development of the industrial park project.

In fact, the project was initiated in 2006 in line with Government's policy to promote the development of a modern industrial park for attracting Foreign Direct Investment and subsequently job creation. To date, a total sum of around Rs 211 million has been provided to fund all infrastructure works required.

The State Land Development Company will soon start the construction of a lateral access road with all amenities to the tune of Rs 60 m to connect the residential zone to the main access road.

Empowerment

Espace des Métiers: One Stop Shop for Jobseekers and Employers

Espace des Métiers (EDM), a permanent interaction platform for jobseekers and employers, serving as a one stop shop to respond and facilitate access to the emerging employment needs on the local market, is operational since 14 October 2009 at the 4th Floor of the Emmanuel Anquetil Building in Port Louis.

An initiative of the National Empowerment Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment, EDM is inspired and based on the model of the "Cité des Métiers" of Paris. Adapted to the local context, it is job space aimed at promoting and facilitating employment creation.

The primary objective is to provide maximum, timely and up-to-date information to jobseekers in terms of employment possibilities, career guidance and orientation, training, self-employment with possibilities of setting up enterprises while at the same responding to the human resources needs of employers.

Four career/training counsellors and a documentarian are assisting visitors. EDM is operational from 10 hours to 17 hours during week days and from 9 hours to noon on Saturdays. A forum space with interactions between employers and jobseekers to guide the unemployed and the youth towards the right training is also provided.

Espace des Métiers is also expected to support the National Empowerment Foundation, more particularly the Workfare Programme which focuses on training, re-skilling, special programme for unemployed women and initiatives relating to Small and Medium Enterprises. EDM will also serve to reinforce the operation of existing services such as the Employment Information Centres, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority and the Careers Guidance Service.



Pakistan - Mauritius MoU on fisheries signed in the margins of 8th Joint Working Group Meeting



A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the fisheries sector has been signed by Mauritius and Pakistan in the margins of the 8th Joint Working Group Meeting between the two countries, held in Mauritius from 5 to 7 October 2009.

The Joint Working Group between Mauritius and Pakistan, which is a formal mechanism for structured dialogue between the officials of the two countries, meets alternately in Mauritius and Pakistan. The main objective is to dynamise trade and economic relations between the two countries. The Joint Working Group has been instrumental in enhancing and broadening the spectrum of bilateral cooperation in the field of trade, investment and economic cooperation and is engaged in the establishment of a framework for deepening trade-trade and cross-border cooperation.

Deliberations centre on the steps and process that would transform the Preferential Trade Agreement, signed in July 2007 by the two countries, into a Free Trade Agreement whereby substantially all products will be traded on duty-free basis in the long run. The Free Trade Agreement will go beyond trade in goods and will encompass trade in services and trade-related investment.

During the 8th Meeting, the Joint Working Group also discussed a bilateral framework agreement for trade in services. A priority list of services sectors for market access negotiations is being identified.

At the opening session, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. A. P. Neewoor, stated that Mauritius and Pakistan need to identify a few competitive goods and services where the two countries have their respective advantage and competitive edge and must work out a

strategy for specialisation and development of niche segments.

Mr Neewoor also underlined that while the two countries work towards consolidating bilateral trade, they must remain alert to the opportunities that can jointly or collaboratively be tapped on the market of third countries. He also pointed out that the use of third-country materials is becoming an important trade policy objective in the new generation of Preferential Trade Agreements.

MoU on fisheries

The MoU on fisheries aims at developing and promoting cooperation between the two countries in the field of fisheries and fish trade through joint activities and exchanges.

These may be in such areas as exchange of scientists/technical staff/germplasm, technical and scientific information on the various aspects of the fisheries sector and in particular fisheries research, tuna fisheries development and management, aquaculture, monitoring, control and surveillance, compliance with international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, capacity building, fish trade information and facilitation, activities under



Agreement on fisheries boosts bilateral cooperation

the seafood hub and such other matters related to fisheries and marine living resources as may be mutually agreed upon by both Mauritius and Pakistan.

Sensitisation Programme on the Preferential Trade Agreement

In the context of the 8th Joint Working Group Meeting, a Sensitisation Programme on the Preference Trade Agreement between Mauritius and Pakistan was organised by the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Sir Harilal Vaghjee Hall in Port Louis.

In his opening remarks the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Dr. Arvin Boolell, said that relations between Mauritius and Pakistan are rooted in history, culture and geography.

Dr. Boolell added that by virtue of the Preferential Trade Agreement between Mauritius and Pakistan, the economic operators of the two countries now avail of the opportunity to trade with each other some one hundred tariff lines and although the list of tariff concessions may appear short, it does represent the thrust products having the potential for quick gains.

Branding Mauritius Mauritius, c'est un plaisir

The brand identity for Mauritius, **"Mauritius, c'est un plaisir"**, was officially launched on 8 October 2009 at the Citadelle by the Prime Minister, Dr. Navin Ramgoolam, in presence of the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications, Mr. Xavier Luc Duval.

The primary objective behind the development of a strong brand for Mauritius has been to obtain maximum international recognition and to better project our image not only as an established tourist destination but also as a preferred location for investment and business. In view of increasingly intense competition among countries, a strong brand had become essential in order to differentiate Mauritius from the crowd and to position the nation in the best possible way in the world system in order to bring maximum benefit to the people. Hence "Mauritius, c'est un plaisir" is seen as a single idea depicting 'the whole experience of life' in Mauritius.



In his speech at the launching ceremony, the Prime Minister underlined the need for Mauritius to have a strong, favourable and unique country brand that will attract investors for its opportunities, visitors for its leisure and hospitality, and buyers for its exports.

The Brand Mauritius Strategy belongs to all Mauritians and every component of society, Dr Ramgoolam pointed out, making an appeal to the private sector to unleash its creativity and take the lead in generating sustainable economic growth. He urged the public sector to release its imagination to design and deliver even more efficient and effective systems that facilitate the process, and added that civil society also must unwind completely its resourcefulness and actively engage in higher levels of development.

The Prime Minister recalled that Mauritius already enjoys a strong and positive image in many sectors, especially in the tourism sector as well as in the sugar, textile, clothing, jewellery, printing and ICT sectors amongst others. The goal is to focus on our strengths and show clearly our competitive differentiation, he added.

Green Data Centres**Mauritius Eco-Park Project ready by December 2010**

The Mauritius Eco-Park Project which aims at making Mauritius a choice location for data centres will be completed by December 2010. The project will be the first of its kind to make use of the deep sea water air-conditioning (SWAC) concept to support some 10,000m² of eco-friendly data centres.

This was announced by the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Mr. Asraf Dulull, at the Data Centre Strategies Conference 2009 held on 30 September and 1 October, 2009 in Ebène at the initiative of the Board of Investment (BOI).

The Eco-Park Project will exploit the position of the island situated on the path of a deep sea current and will consist of a system of pipes running some 4,900m from the shore and around 1,000 m below sea level where the temperature of the deep water samples is about 5 degrees centigrade. This green initiative is part of the Government's efforts to transform Mauritius into a global service delivery platform not only for the financial sector but also for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry, and to be at the forefront of sustainable development. It is to be noted that at global level, the carbon footprint of data centres is at par with that of the airline industry, emitting as much carbon dioxide as the aviation sector. Using the renewable and clean form of energy of deep sea water for air-conditioning instead of chillers will ensure that the Eco-Park Project features among the more energy-efficient green data centres in the world.

The project was presented during the Eco-Green session of the Data Centre Strategies Conference

2009. The Conference brought together local operators of the ICT sector and potential partners as well as investors. The event was organised in a bid to showcase Mauritius as the next emerging data hosting and business continuity destination. It included roundtables, case studies and site visits of enterprise data centres in Mauritius, 1-2-1 meetings with representatives of the BOI, independent evaluation of the country for data centre investment by experts, and international perspectives of disaster recovery and business continuity.

The Conference highlighted the numerous advantages of choosing Mauritius for IT and data centre services. Good governance, political stability and compliance together with a low fiscal regime have helped to position our island as a reliable and attractive business destination with the country ranking 17th globally in the World Bank Doing Business Report for 2009, and retaining its first place in Africa. Other advantages comprise the bilingual capacity of the country's population, an annual supply of around 500 ICT graduates through the implementation of ICT certification programmes, Cyber city infrastructure and a fully proclaimed data protection legislation that makes Mauritius an ideal location for disaster recovery and business continuity services and back-up storage perspective.



A privileged centre for data hosting and business continuity

Steps have also been taken to increase bandwidth, improve internet connectivity and reduce telecommunications prices. While Mauritius is already connected to the SAFE and LION cables, a linking up of the LION cable to Eastern African cables and the installation of a second international cable with 20 times more bandwidth are expected. The two planned cables were on exhibition at the conference.

It is to be noted that over a period of four years, the number of IT-BPO companies has increased from 90 to 260. Employment in the ICT industry has increased from 2,000 in 2005 to 11,500 at present.

Human Development Index 2009

Mauritius ranks 81st out of 182 countries

The UNDP Human Development Report 2009, released in Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 October 2009, places Mauritius, with a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.804, at the rank of 81 among 182 countries. The HDI measures the average progress of a country in human development.

The theme of the Human Development Report 2009 which refers to data for year 2007, is "Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development".

According to the report, between 1990 and 2007, Mauritius's HDI rose by 0.67% annually from 0.718 to 0.804. Changes in the Human Development Index over time are seen as indicating changes having intervened in three aspects of human development namely, living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and gross enrolment in education) and having a decent standard of living (measured by GDP per capita). The Human Development Index is actually presented as providing 'a broadened prism for viewing human progress and the complex relationship between income and well-being'.

All countries have not been assessed for all areas of human development, which means that the different rankings have been determined by the number of countries evaluated for given economic and social sectors.

Thus, as regards life expectancy at birth which is 72.1 for Mauritius, the country ranks 82nd out of 176 countries assessed. For an adult literacy rate of 87.4%, Mauritius ranks 83rd out of 151 countries. With a combined gross enrolment ratio of 76.9%, the country ranks 76th out of 177 and for the GDP per capita of 11,296 US \$, Mauritius ranks 68th out of 181 countries.

In the field of human poverty, Mauritius has a Human Poverty Index of 9.5%, placing the country 45th among 135 countries with relevant data.

The gender-related development index (GDI) determines inequalities in achievement between women and men. The GDI is compared to HDI to measure gender disparity. With GDI representing 99.1% of HDI, Mauritius ranks 84th out of 155 countries. In Gender Empowerment Measure, Mauritius ranks 71st out of 109 countries assessed.

Migration, which is the crossing of national and international borders by millions of people every year in search of better living standards, reached 195 million in 2007. Mauritius has an emigration rate of 12.5%. Mauritians migrate mainly to the European continent with 49.7% of emigrants living there.

China - Mauritius Cultural Cooperation programme for 2010-2012

The People's Republic of China and Mauritius signed on 26 October 2009 an executive programme of cultural exchange and cooperation for the years 2010-2012, under the cultural agreement between the two countries. The programme covers arts and culture, libraries, museums and archives, cultural heritage and cinema.

The documents were signed by the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources, Dr Vasant K. Bunwaree, and the Minister of Culture of the People's Republic of China, Mr Cai Wu, on official visit to Mauritius.

Minister Bunwaree thanked China for the assistance provided for the promotion of arts and culture and for considerable efforts made towards strengthening the historical and cultural links between the two countries.

For his part, Mr Cai Wu said that the bilateral ties between Mauritius and his country have undergone a smooth and healthy development ever since the bilateral cooperation between the two countries exists.

On the same occasion, the Chinese government donated two Dragon Boats with life jackets to the Mauritian government to support the Dragon Boat Festival regularly held in Mauritius.

NEWS IN BRIEF**NEWS IN BRIEF****NEWS IN BRIEF*****Customs and Excise - Mauritius hosts regional meeting***

The Customs Department hosted, from 19 to 23 October in Pailles, the 8th National Contact Point (NCP) Administrative meeting for Eastern and Southern Africa, organised by the World Customs Organisation-Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (WCO-RILO). The NCP meeting was held back to back with a Risk assessment/ intelligence training. Some 35 delegates from the 18 member countries of the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office were present.

Some of the key subjects of the meeting were the RILO report, the operation (code-named Operation Vala) geared towards addressing the threats/challenges posed by Africa (South Africa) hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2010, needs to address the challenge of commercial fraud in the region and challenges encountered by the NCPs during their duties.

Taxation - Commonwealth holds Workshop for Senior Officials

A four-week Commonwealth Management Development Programme (CMDP) workshop for senior tax officials from Commonwealth countries is being held since 19 October at the headquarters of the Mauritius Revenue Authority in Port Louis.

The workshop aims to enhance the leadership capability of participants so that they can more effectively manage people, processes and systems within their tax administration. It will also enable the participants to review and revisit their management practices and assist them in applying new skills in their workplaces whilst broadening their knowledge in certain key areas of tax administration, as well as in examining trends in Commonwealth tax administrations.

Forum promotes Mauritius as offshoring and outsourcing destination

Mauritius hosted the International Outsourcing Forum on 2 and 3 October 2009 at the Hilton Mauritius Resort and Spa. The main objectives of the forum were to showcase Mauritius as an emerging competitive offshoring and outsourcing destination and help local operators establish contact with potential investors in the banking, insurance, retail, manufacturing, supply chain management and telecom sectors.

The forum included an in-depth conference where independent speakers offered their evaluation of the local outsourcing industry. In his opening address, the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Mr A. Dulull, highlighted the main assets of the country such as quality, cost competitiveness, highly literate and bilingual workforce, political and social stability, the enabling business environment and adequate legal infrastructure for electronic transactions and e-commerce. He also stressed that with several major projects in the pipeline, the telecommunication landscape will be transformed, by end 2010, yielding more bandwidth, lower prices and greater efficiency in connectivity to the satisfaction of the end users.

World Post Day 2009 - First day cover on the theme 'Brand Mauritius'

On the occasion of World Post Day, Mauritius Post Limited (MPL) issued on October 9 a first day cover on the theme 'Brand Mauritius'.

The first day cover aims at publicising the new Mauritian brand and supporting Government's initiative of positioning Mauritius as an upmarket destination. Two stamps feature on the cover with the first one illustrating the new Brand Mauritius logo and the second one showing the Pieter Both mountain peak depicted in pastel tones. Both stamps bear the Brand Mauritius slogan: 'Mauritius – c'est un plaisir'.

The stamps are available at Rs 7 each in all post offices.



Francophone Games

Mauritius ranks 6th in medal table

At the Sixth Edition of the Francophone Games held in Beirut, Lebanon from 27 September to 6 October 2009, Mauritius ranked sixth in the final medal table with 3 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals.

Winners of the gold medals are Eric Milazar in athletic 400m race, Richarno Colin in Men's boxing – 64 kg and SR Dance Company in the cultural section – creative dancing. Stephan Buckland, the Mauritian relay team and Richard Julie won silver medals in athletic 200m race, relay race 4X100m and Men's boxing-54 kg, respectively. The Mauritian team in the 4X400m relay race and Nivesh Gyadin in Men's boxing-69 kg are the bronze medallists.

The Mauritian delegation of 23 athletes and 20 artistes participated in four of the seven sports disciplines including athletics, boxing, judo and table tennis; and in all seven cultural competitions (songs, storytelling, creative dancing, literature, painting, photography and sculpture).

Some 3,000 athletes and artistes from 42 countries participated in cultural and sports competitions of the Games based on the theme "Diversity, Solidarity and Excellence". The Games, which are held every 4 years, aim at strengthening the solidarity among the Member countries and at encouraging the spirit of North/South cooperation.

Fighting HIV/AIDS

Global Fund grants 3.6 million euros

A grant agreement for an amount of 3.6 million euros was signed between the National AIDS Secretariat and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), on 22 October 2009 in Port Louis. The signatories were Mrs K. Fong Weng-Poorun, Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Dr A. Pathack, National AIDS Coordinator, and Mr V. Bampoe, Country Portfolio Manager from the GFATM.

The agreement has been signed after the initial approval of the GFATM of a five-year HIV/AIDS country proposal to the tune of 7.8 million euros. The amount of 3.6 million euros will be spent over the next two years for the implementation of the first phase of the proposal.

Mrs K. Fong Weng-Poorun said that the signature of the grant agreement is the beginning of a long collaboration with the GFATM and that with its support Mauritius will definitely move ahead in its fight against HIV/AIDS.

Dr Pathack for her part underlined that this grant will help to complement the work already initiated by the Government in its fight against HIV/AIDS. The money will also be used to buy appropriate drugs and to launch sensitization campaigns with the aim to advocate against stigmas regarding people living with HIV/AIDS.



Energy Strategy 2009-2025

Towards the delivery of secure, affordable and clean energy

Democratizing energy supply, promoting economic growth and job creation, securing affordable and clean energy to consumers and ensuring the financial sustainability of the electricity utility: such are the long-term objectives of the energy strategy of the Government, as spelt out in the Energy Strategy Document and Action Plan, a policy document produced in the context of the implementation of the Maurice Ile Durable project to make Mauritius a sustainable island with less dependence on fossil fuels.

The document outlines the development of the energy sector up to 2025, laying emphasis on the exploitation of renewable energy sources in line with the Government's vision to turn Mauritius into a **green** island in the next 20 years. It also takes into account the ongoing reform in the sugar sector.

Reliance of over 90% on imported fuels

Mauritius is reliant on imported sources of energy to more than 90%. The petroleum import bill of Mauritius rose from Rs 6.5 billion in 2000 to Rs 27.6 billion in 2008. Imported fuels, namely petroleum products and coal, accounted for 81.2% of our energy mix in 2008.

Transport and manufacturing are the two largest energy-consuming sectors accounting for 48.3% and 29.4% of energy consumed respectively.

Renewable Energy: A five-pronged strategy

The Government has already put in place initiatives in a bid to depend less on fossil fuels and enhance the energy potential of renewable sources of energy to provide for 40% of the country's electricity supply within the next decade.

A MID Fund with a provision of Rs 1.3 billion was set up in June 2008 to support efforts to protect the environment through recycling, to encourage more efficient use of energy and to increase reliance on renewable energy.

The Action Plan advocates a five-pronged strategy covering bagasse, solar, wind, hydro and waste energy.

Bagasse Energy Strategy

Government strategy is to use bagasse more efficiently with a view to increasing the contribution of bagasse-based electricity in the medium-term from the present level of 350 GWh to 600 GWh annually by 2013.

Solar Energy Strategy

Promoters of development projects are being encouraged to



Dependence on imported fuels to be reduced

make maximum use of solar energy for water heating in buildings and photovoltaic systems for outdoor lighting. The target group includes new hospitals, hotels, IRS projects and private households. Furthermore, a new Grid code is being charted out to encourage all households and businesses to produce electricity with emerging technologies for renewable energy and guarantees that the Central Electricity Board (CEB) will buy their energy at a premium.

Wind Energy Strategy

Wind is the most commercially viable renewable source of energy for electricity generation. Mauritius and Rodrigues are exposed for the major part of the year, to the South East Trade Winds which are conducive for wind energy exploitation. A site at Curepipe Point has been identified for the development of a wind farm of 40 MW capacity. In Rodrigues, the CEB has installed two 275 KW wind turbines at Grenade at the cost of Rs 40 million. The objective is to increase the number of wind turbines at Grenade to ten in the medium term.

Hydropower Strategy

The hydropower potential in the country is nearly fully exploited with the eight hydropower plants which generate some 100 GWh. However, the Government is encouraging the setting up of mini and micro hydro plants at potential sites. In this respect, a 375 KW micro hydropower plant will be commissioned in

early 2010 at La Nicolière Feeder Canal, at Trente Chutes.

Waste-to-Energy Strategy

A 20 MW waste-to-energy plant will be set up at La Chaumière. The incinerator will burn up about 300 000 tons of municipal waste to provide some 144 GWh of electricity annually.

Other technologies that have potential application in Mauritius are geothermal, hydrogen-based electricity and the exploitation of very deep ocean water currents will be subject to further studies.

Increasing energy efficiency

Transport Sector

The transport sector accounts for 48% of total energy imports. The fleet of vehicles has increased from some 190 000 in the 1990s to nearly 359 000 vehicles in June 2009. The energy strategy for the transport sector aims to encourage the use of more efficient and lower emission vehicles and the use of bio fuels to improve the efficiency of transport provision and use.

Government is setting up a Land Transport Authority which will manage land transport more efficiently, introduce economic incentives to choose public transport over private transport, implement measures to lower the age of vehicle fleets, create high safety standards for new buses, introduce the mix of ethanol/gasoline at the pump by using E10 and promote the use of hybrid vehicles, amongst others. A Bus Modernisation Programme is also under way.

Electricity Sector

The CEB will be encouraged to increase its own production capacity and ensure security and reliability of supply at the lowest possible costs. The introduction of feed-in tariffs for electricity



Tapping solar energy - Part of renewable energy strategy

generation from renewable energy sources, increasing overall efficiency of the power system through the introduction of time-of-day metering which aims at moving daytime electricity loads to night time, use of compact fluorescent lamps and the replacement of old diesel engines at St. Louis and Fort Victoria power stations, amongst others, are measures, which aim at securing carbon credits from the market, saving energy and reducing the lighting load.

Public Sector

The Government is committed to the “Public Sector Leading the Way” in energy efficiency. The strategy is to reduce energy consumption of public sector to half the current level by year 2015. It proposes to introduce sustainable procurement as a mandatory practice for all public services, introduce a new Building Control Act to improve building design and equipment to attain high efficiency in terms of energy use. An Energy Efficient Unit, as a specialized governmentally-funded Unit, will be established for the purpose of clean energy financing and awareness raising.

Tourism Sector

The Energy Action Plan also encourages energy efficiency programmes for the Tourism sector such as mandatory use of solar hot water systems in hotels, retrofitting of existing hotels with the latest energy efficient technologies and mandatory introduction of low-energy airport transfer policies, amongst others.



Social Integration

A halfway home for rehabilitated youth

A halfway home which will address the social integration needs of former young inmates of rehabilitation youth centres will receive its first group of eight residents on 1 November, 2009. The home, situated in Vacoas, will cater for young girls aged 16 and above who overnight find themselves on the streets after their release from rehabilitation youth centres and probation centres and whose parents are absent or at risk. The home will also provide assistance to those girls discharged from shelters and similar institutions.

A Memorandum of Understanding detailing the terms and conditions of the implementation of the halfway home project was signed on 19 October 2009 between the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare and Reform Institutions and the Mauritian branch of the African Network for the Protection and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN).

The halfway home will act as an intermediate residential centre for the girls in a bid to enable them to develop their self-esteem and become self-reliant. During their stay, they will undergo a rehabilitation programme in an enabling and nurtured environment where they will be provided with literacy or vocational courses, support for job opportunities, psychological counselling and medical check-ups, legal assistance coupled with human warmth, care and affection. The girls will be encouraged to open a bank account, contribute some money for a housing project and gradually move out of the institution in their effort to become independent responsible citizens.