

Arvin Boolell in Cape Town, South Africa

Mauritius signs a MoU on Economic Cooperation with South Africa

Dr the Hon. Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, has signed on Thursday 5 February 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of South Africa, in Cape Town, South Africa. Honourable Mr Mandisi Mpahlwa, Minister of Trade & Industry of the Republic of South Africa, and H. E. Mr. Madumane Matabane, High Commissioner of South Africa in Mauritius, were also present during the signature ceremony.

The MoU constitutes an essential framework for the strengthening of mutual economic ties as well as promoting investment opportunities and enhancing trade cooperation between the two countries. With the conclusion of this MoU, potential investors will be offered opportunities on possibilities of the establishment, completion and/or rehabilitation of projects in various sectors as identified in the MoU. The MoU provides an important platform to strengthen relations between Mauritius and South Africa both at official level and between their respective private sectors. In partnership, both countries will try to develop industrial and technological cooperation between private sector organizations in the fields which are relevant to both their respective enterprises. In his allocution, Minister Boolell highlighted to need to maintain a momentum with regard to the excellent bilateral cooperation that exists between our two countries. *"It is important for Mauritius to conclude this MoU which will enable a better cooperation in various fields"*, he said.

The scope of cooperation between our two institutions with respect to defined projects within Mauritius will include identifying technically competent organizations in South Africa to implement those projects in partnership with their counterparts in Mauritius. There is a need to explore the possibilities of sensitizing potential investors who are residents of the Republic of South Africa that are willing and capable of establishing projects in sectors like energy; mining; transport and communications infrastructure; agro-processing; tourism; commercial farming; processing of natural resources; financial services; information and communications technology; marine and seafood; knowledge and health; fashion and textile; and manufacturing.