

PRESS INVITATION

DATE: MONDAY 2 MARCH 2009

TIME: 9 H 45 - 13 H 00

VENUE: VAGHJEE HALL, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, PORT LOUIS

EVENT: Brainstorming Session on the implications of a Customs Union for Mauritius - CHAIRED BY DR. THE HON. ARVIN BOOLELL, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

BRIEF:

A half day brainstorming session on the implications of a Customs Union for Mauritius under the Chairmanship of Minister Arvin Boolell will be organised on 2 March 2009 at Vaghjee Hall from 9.45 hrs – 13.00hrs. The objective of this brainstorming session is to enable the stakeholders to understand the intricacies of the Customs Union and to be able to take informed decision on our stand on this issue.

Mr Mathew Stern, the author of the "Study on the Evaluation of an appropriate Model for SADC Customs Union" has agreed to make a presentation. Mr M. Stern forms part of the Development Network Africa (DNA), based in South Africa.

The presentation of Mr Stern will be sequenced as follows:-

- Explanation of the regional integration process, that is, Preferential Trading Arrangement (PTA), Free Trade Area (FTA), Customs Union process.
- The technical issues to be addressed in the formation of a Customs Union including experiences of existing Customs Union.
- Reference to be made to realities in the region, i.e., members in dual membership of SADC and COMESA.
- Likely implications and challenges for Mauritius.
- Tripartite initiative of SADC-COMESA and East African Community (EAC).
- Way forward.