

SPEECH BY
MR KRISH PONNUSAMY, SENIOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND TRANSPORT AND
SHIPPING ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION ON
MACRO-LEVEL TRANSPORT MODELLING SOFTWARE BY
AFRICON AT THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF PORT LOUIS
8 MARCH 2007

Dr. the Honourable Rashid Beebeejaun, Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping

Honourable Ministers

Honourable Reza Issack, Lord Mayor of Port Louis

Permanent Secretaries

Mr. Theodore Genis, Representative of AFRICON Engineering
International

Members of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to you all and especially to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Lord Mayor, who despite their busy schedules have made it a point to attend this Presentation on the Macro-level Transport Modeling Software this morning.

We are at a crucial juncture in transport planning and policy making in Mauritius, where important decisions on investments in the Road Transport Sector are expected. With the assistance of the World

Bank and following a series of consultative meetings with stakeholders in the Transport Sector between July and September 2006, the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping came up with a package of 18 recommendations including demand management, institutional and investment measures over a period of ten years to address the chronic transport and traffic problems in Mauritius and especially in the conurbation.

The centre-piece of the proposed measures is the setting up of the Land Transport Authority, which is expected to become the key institutional mechanism for the implementation of transport strategies and will have a critical role in defining a coordinated and realistic vision for the transport sector and ensuring the timely implementation of transport projects and addressing urban transport problems.

One of the dilemmas facing transport professionals and policy makers is how best to predict the results or estimate the impact of various transport policies and measures.

The Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping has taken the step into modernity and has equipped itself with the latest state of the art transport modeling package, which can look at the national transport picture, as well the detail level at the junction level. Our new tool, the PTV VISUM is a program for computer-aided transport planning which serves to analyze and plan a transportation

system. As you know, a transportation system includes private transport (cars, pick up trucks, vans, trucks, motorcycles etc.) and public transport supplies (buses, and the future Alternative Mode of Transport) and travel demand - our travel needs of everyday. The PTV VISUM package supports planners to develop measures and determines the impact of these measures.

As you will see for yourselves in a while, the transport model will give us the pattern of travel in Mauritius, point out where on our network, private and public transport is causing major problems and delays. With the implementation of this project, Mauritius joins the advanced countries in transport planning. In fact, following the launching of international tenders for the procurement of Macro-Level Transport Modelling Software, two suppliers; namely Vela VKE Consulting Engineers Ltd and Africon Engineering International submitted their bids. The contract for the supply of the software was allocated to Africon Engineering International on 20 October 2006 for the sum of Euro 57, 995.50.

The first step in addressing the lack of capacity in this specialised area has been the mounting of a two-week training course with the assistance of AFRICON. A dedicated team made up of i.e senior officers of the Road Development Authority, the National Transport Authority, the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit, the Ministry of Housing and Lands, the University of Mauritius, the University of Technology the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and

Shipping has been mandated to pursue the long-winding and systematic task of gathering information to enable the updating, calibrating and validating of the transportation model. This is a necessary learning process through which our professionals will have to go through to ensure the effective use of the software.

Before concluding, I would like to congratulate Mr Genis of AFRICON, for the successful mounting of the training course and have much pleasure to invite him to proceed with his presentation.

Thank You.